



Images

Spring
2016

A Newsletter for friends of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine



"All of us need to name the life that is and to make choices each day about the life we want now and for those who follow. Each day, we are creating the future we want by the decisions we make and actions we take."

(Donna Fyffe, "Unearthing the Potential of Uncertain Times.")

Embracing Our Now and Future Lives

It takes courage to look reality in the face and name 'what is' the necessary first step in developing positive future directions. So who are we as CSA? We are presently a community of 35 vowed women religious with a median age of 79. This has resulted in community living arrangements that are different from the past. For example, several of our sisters live alone due primarily to ministry needs. But though we are smaller in number, more conscious communal gatherings and communication among us brings us closer together within the Congregation.

The overarching choice we have made 'to live life to the fullest now' has influenced, and will continue to influence the choices we make regarding our lives together. Our cluster groups—small groups of sisters involving all CSAs—meet regularly to 'touch base' with each other, to socialize and to pray together. Celebrations such as Jubilees, feast days, and other community gatherings are a big part of our lives. Collaboration with our lay brothers and sisters in our ministries has always been, and will continue to be, a unifying component in our lives.

Each day we are 'creating our future by decisions we make and the actions we take.' Our active sisters are involved in a CORE Circle group which assists with community leadership and decision making. We are also looking at ways to simplify our governance structure by assessing responsibilities pursuing collaboration and delegation possibilities. Our Associates, who now number 60, planned an Assembly, an in-depth meeting, during which they assessed their future.



We, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, in faith and love, embrace the gift of our call and respond to this particular time in our history which moves us to transformation.

Sr. Evelyn Flowers, CSA and Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA



Portrait

Ms. Margaret Ann Jablonski

Margaret Ann Jablonski was installed as the Associate Director in September of 2009. Six and one-half years later some things are the same while others are in the process of transforming.

From the Cleveland area, Margaret Ann lived in Brooklyn, Ohio with her parents and younger brother, Steven. She was born at St. John Hospital, a Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) hospital, where her mother worked in the laundry. Her mother, who had daily contact with the sisters, often spoke about the sisters and all the good works the sisters performed.

Margaret Ann graduated from James Ford Rhodes High School and then entered St. John Hospital School of Nursing. It was there that she encountered the sisters her mother had so often spoken of. Margaret Ann also thought she might have a calling to become a nun but in 1983 both her father and uncle died making her the primary caregiver for her mother and aunt.



She continued in nursing and received her Bachelor's in Nursing from the State University of New York at Albany. She worked at several hospitals including the original St. John's Hospital, which is now closed and succeeded by St. John Medical Center in Westlake. She was the chairman of the Alumni Association of St. John's Hospital and it was through that organization that she became acquainted with the CSA Associates. She went through orientation and was accepted in September 2005. Four years later she became the Director. Her term expired in October 2015, but she has volunteered to continue until a replacement comes on board.

In January 2014, Margaret Ann had a major health crisis when she was diagnosed with lung cancer. While she is now cancer free, the illness caused her to take early retirement from Kaiser Permanente in July 2014. She had worked as an emergency room triage nurse. Her retirement was not necessarily welcome but it has given her more time to focus on her volunteer activity, directing the associates. She also has more time for crafting and traveling to see friends and family.

Margaret Ann is both dedicated and excited about the associate relationship. She has attended several conferences presented by North American Conference of Associates and Religious. She is very happy that the number of CSA Associates is growing. In 2015, seven lay people were accepted in South Carolina. This year there are 10 in orientation, five in Ohio and five in South Carolina. She sees this as a good sign of the continuation of the sisters' charism.

"The gift we receive from the sisters is the importance of prayer."

Like the congregation, the associate membership is also aging causing their individual participation to change. This has been a topic at several seminars, as has transforming the organization from an Associate Relationship to an Associate Community. To discuss all these changes and plan for the future, the CSA Associates had an assembly at the end of April. The Assembly and the task force, which was formed by Sr. Judith Ann Karam, are all important to the future of the Associates.

"The Associates will carry on the charism of the sisters because it is how we live our lives - 'In all things charity (love).'"

The vowed members also participated in the Assembly which was facilitated by Jeanne Connolly, Vice President of North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR). Jeanne came to NACAR from the Wheaton Franciscans St. Charles, Illinois, where she is a Covenant Companion.

With the new focus they hope to gain from the Assembly, Margaret Ann is very positive about the future. She plans to continue doing her job until a new director is installed. She says, "I love doing this - it perks me up."

A Jubilee Mass and reception was held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 for six Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA). The celebrant of the afternoon liturgy was Rev. Ray Sutter, pastor of St. Matthias Church in Parma, Ohio. The homilist was Rev. Steve Krupa, SJ, who is the Graduate Program Director for the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago.

Celebrating their 70th year with CSA were Sr. Helen Mary Frank (formerly Sr. M. Eugene) and Sr. M. Pauline Panik. Sr. Sharon Anne Yanak, Sr. Marian Durkin, Sr. Evelyn Flowers and Sr. Mary Bryan celebrated 60 years.



Sr. Helen Mary Frank entered the congregation from St. Joseph Church, Maximo, Ohio. Her ministries included cottage supervision at Parmadale, primary teacher at several schools including St. Luke, Assumption, Holy Family, and St. Joseph. She worked in the Finance Office at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron from 1967 until 1987, and then in admitting and outpatient scheduling at Mercy Medical Center (MMC) beginning in 1987. She began volunteering at MMC in 1990 and continued until her retirement to Mount Augustine in 2004. She is in prayer ministry at Regina Health Center.

Sr. M. Pauline Panik entered the congregation from St. Wendelin Church in Cleveland, Ohio. She served at several CSA ministries but is best known for her twelve years as a receptionist at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. It was said that she never forgot anyone she met at the hospital, and she prayed daily for each one of them. She was also a cottage supervisor at Parmadale. When she retired to Mt. Augustine, she spent her days in prayer ministry. Sister died on February 8, 2016.



(l-r) Sr. Marian Durkin, Sr. Evelyn Flowers, Sr. Sharon Anne Yanak, and Sr. Helen Mary Frank (seated)

Sr. M. Sharon Anne Yanak entered from St. Francis de Sales Parish in Parma, Ohio. An active participant in life at Mt. Augustine, Sr. Sharon Anne is a member of the local leader team. Her early years were spent teaching at CSA elementary schools St. Luke, Assumption and St. Joseph. Sister worked for a short time at Regina Health Center in the activities department and has also served in CSA leadership.

Sr. Marian Durkin entered the congregation from St. Mary Parish in Akron, Ohio. Sister spent many years teaching at CSA elementary schools and served as principal of St. Philip Neri School. Many former students recall her as a Cleveland Indians' fan. In 1993, Sister became the first director of "The Open House," a ministry of support, services and a safe haven to HIV+ men and women. She is a member of a team that puts on an annual retreat for Gays, Lesbians and their families. She also facilitates student retreats at several colleges. Sister currently is serving the congregation as a part of the leadership team.

Sr. Evelyn Flowers entered the congregation from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Broadview Hts., Ohio. Currently she is the Environmental Facilitator for CSA. Sister taught music at several schools including St. Augustine Academy and Marycrest. She was a music therapist at the Cleveland Music School. She has taught Spanish and spent time in El Salvador, and she also served in CSA leadership.

Sr. Mary Bryan entered the congregation from St. John Parish, Summitville, Ohio. Sister was a familiar face for those entering the Mercy Medical Center emergency department, where she served as Family Liaison. Her earlier years were spent teaching at several CSA parish schools in Cuyahoga Falls and Lakewood. For a time she was principal of the PSR Program at St. Joseph School, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. She has also served on the CSA leadership team. She is retired and lives at Mt. Augustine.



Jubilee 2015



CSA Associate A

The Sisters of Charity Associates held an Assembly at Mt. Augustine April 29 and 30, 2016. The theme was "Together in Spirit - Forming Our Future."

The Assembly was attended by almost 60, both Associates and Vowed Members, and included seven Associates who traveled from South Carolina and one who came from New Jersey. The travelers split into two groups and toured CSA ministries on Friday, April 29. One group went to St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, Joseph's Home and Centering Space. The other group saw The Catholic Worker Community and the Sr. Ignatia Heritage Center at Summa St. Thomas Hospital, both in Akron.

The Associate Director, Margaret Ann Jablonski, and the committee prepared for months in advance of the event, whose purpose was to plan for the future of the Associate relationship.

The guest speaker and facilitator was Jeanne Connolly, Director of Covenant Companionship with the Wheaton Franciscans. She has a doctorate in adult education with emphasis on human resource and organizational development. Jeanne is the Vice President of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR).

The weekend was successful and in the words of Margaret Ann, it "stoked the flames in their hearts" to continue with the process and move to the future.



Jeanne Connolly



Marie Brown and Amy Ditolla at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center with Sr. Miriam Erb and Sr. Ignatia Heritage Center.



Margaret Ann Jablonski



Marie Brown, Sr. Carol Kandiko, Amy Ditolla and Tony Scribellito visit Centering Space

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE ASSOCIATES

In order to become more fully the people of God, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine (CSA) extend participation to other Christians who desire to identify with their charism. Together they strive to "make the kingdom of God more a reality in our world." CSA offers opportunities to grow spiritually, ministerially and personally through becoming an ASSOCIATE.

Any person, who wishes to share in the CSA charism for a specific and renewable period of time, may apply to become an Associate. This person should: have a desire to live the values and goals shared by the Congregation in his/her own life; the capacity to make a commitment to the Associate relationship; and independence in financial matters.



Clare Dayton with her newborn Cadance Marie and Sr. Mary



Jocelyn Clarkson and Sr. Joan Gallagher



Marie Brown and Sr. Marian Durkin

Assembly



Spotilla tour
Medical Center
Sr. Jane Lab



Sr. Marietta Rohr and
Joshua Dayton



Don Davies, Peter LaHatte and
Sr. Nancy Hendershot



Marsha Denis and
Sr. Jane Lab



Bethany Perkowski and
Sr. Miriam Erb



Sr. Cheryl Keehner and Kathleen Ernette



Sr. Judith Ann Karam



Sr. Loretta Spotila



Spotilla daughter,
Grace Betzler



Interested in becoming an Associate?
Contact Margaret Ann Jablonski at 330-659-5100
or
Sr. Nancy Hendershot at 803-256-5599

April 29-30, 2016



Glimpses

Sr. Loretta Spotila, CSA was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Amadeus Rappe Award. She received it June 27, 2015 at the awards presentation during the Ursuline College Alumnae Reunion weekend. Landerhaven Executive Caterers was the site for the dinner. Sr. Loretta has been in Kentucky since 1993 where she was a nurse at Marcum and Wallace Memorial Hospital. After living there for a while, she saw a need for education on health care that she felt she could help fulfill. She founded Interfaith Wellness Ministry in 1996. She said "I always wanted to have my own store front where I could teach people how to be well."

The Amadeus Rappe Award was established in 1971 by the Alumnae Association and is presented annually to a graduate who has demonstrated an interest in the college and the association and who has made an outstanding contribution to their religion, profession, home or community. 🌸

Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA attended the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists, in Cleveland, Ohio, August 16-22, 2015. The following week she, along with Sr. Colette Livingston, OSU, traveled to Pittsburgh for the triennial conference of the Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) August 27-30, 2015. 🌸

The **Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland** dedicated their new office space November 5, 2015 with an open house. The conference room was named the Saint Ann Foundation Conference Room. 2015 Marked the 40th anniversary of the Saint Ann Foundation which was the nation's first health care conversion foundation. 🌸

Catholic Health World, the newsletter of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, featured "Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood" in a cover article of the March 15, 2016 issue. Modeled after "Harlem Children's Zone," Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood, under **Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland**, works to transform the educational and developmental outcomes of Central Neighborhood's children, closing gaps in achievement and creating cradle-to-career support for all youth. 🌸

In January 2016, **Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA** attended a retreat sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in Tucson, Arizona at the Redemptorist Renewal Center. The five-day retreat was entitled "Leading from Within" and was offered to leaders of religious women and provided them with opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious leadership today. 🌸

Sr. Theresa Bontempo, CSA and **Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA** traveled to Atlanta, Georgia in July 2015 to attend the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. They had been invited to accept the 35 millionth copy of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous on behalf of the Sisters of Charity and as a tribute to Sr. Ignatia Gavin and her work with AA. Terrance M. Bedient, Alcoholics Anonymous' general service board chair, presented the book before a full house at the Georgia Dome. This convention marked the 80th anniversary of AA.



Sr. Judith Ann Karam, Sr. Theresa Bontempo and Terrance Bedient

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is a newsletter published by
The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

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Visit our website:

www.srsfcharity.org

Sister Marian Durkin, CSA is the chair of JPIC-Cle (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation). Four of the six members recently attended a conference near Tampa, Florida. The conference was sponsored by the Leadership Council of Women Religious (LCWR) and was titled "Imagining Justice."



Back l to r: Sr. Kathleen Ryan, SND, Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA; front: Sr. Josie Chrosniak, HM, Ann Scholz, SSND, and Sister Mary Pat Cook, HM. Ann Scholz, SSND, is LCWR staff member.

Sr. Mary Denis Maher, CSA was asked to write the forward for *Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels the Daughters of Charity to Civil War Nursing*, by Sr. Betty Ann McNeil, DC. The book is a compilation with commentary of all the documents related to the experiences of the Daughters of Charity, Emmitsburg, MD., who served in the Civil War. The book was available for purchase in September 2015. Anyone traveling to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in New York might be interested in touring the excellent exhibit of the work of the Sisters during the War as well as other exhibits of the ministry of the Daughters of Charity. 🌿

The Catholic Health Association installed **Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA** as board chair at their centennial assembly in June 2015. The Catholic Health Association's mission is to advance the Catholic health ministry in the United States in caring for people and communities. It is comprised of more than 600 hospitals and 1,400 long-term care and other health facilities. 🌿

Associate **Vanessa Griffin Campbell** was selected as the recipient of the Acacia Award from the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Multicultural Ministry. It was presented March 5 in Louisville, Kentucky. Several Associates and Sisters traveled by bus and made the 5 hour trip to attend the event, including **Ms. Dianne Phillips, Ms. Margaret Ann Jablonski, Sr. Joan Gallagher, Sr. Cheryl Keehner, and Sr. Catherine Walsh**. Established in 1989, the award is named after the acacia tree. Native to Africa the tree is known for providing food, shelter and protection while surviving under inhospitable conditions. The award is given to an individual or organization to recognize their years of service, support and fidelity to the African American Catholic community. 🌿



Sr. Judith Ann Karam and Giesele Greene, M.D.

Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, Congregational Leader for the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, received the Health Legacy Award for Excellence on October 11 at the 2015 Health Legacy of Cleveland award and scholarship dinner. Every other year, Health Legacy of Cleveland hosts the dinner to present the award and name individuals to its health equity honor roll. This is the first time the recognition was given to a non physician or dentist. The event also raises funds to provide scholarships and purposeful public programming aimed at inspiring African-American Cleveland area students to become physicians and dentists through education. 🌿

Requiescat In Pace

Sr. M. Justine Sendelbach, CSA
Sr. M. Pauline Panik, CSA

Address service requested.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

The theme of this issue of IMAGES is "Transformation." How are we as a religious congregation about transformation? I recently had the opportunity to be on retreat with other women religious from across the United States. It was a time of sharing deeply with others the similar common experiences of the changing dynamics of religious life. One of the retreat directors suggested that we should banish the word "diminishment" as it is too small a story of religious life. Deaths, losses and denials are just a chapter in the story. We cannot deny the resurrection. The word "transformation" reflects the ongoing process with a big enough vision to tell the whole story.

When I think of transformation, I think of the life cycle of the butterfly with its four stages of metamorphosis. Each stage is separate and has its own goal. Over the life of the Sisters of Charity, we who are living in God's love cannot but change because of the Spirit. Right now many in religious life feel that we are in the "middle space" not knowing exactly the vision for religious life into the future. It can be a chaotic time. We are in the "cocoon time" of transformation. We cannot recognize the gradual, constant process of emergence into the new. Yet without the cocoon there is no butterfly.

Recently we made decisions regarding our Congregation that could be called transformational. The decisions involved our ministries and were deep losses experienced by our Congregation. We are called to apostolic religious life to serve God's people. There were two separate unique needs that led us to withdraw our membership in St. John Medical Center and sell Providence Hospitals to LifePoint Health. The loss of both organizations was significant to CSA because of the living mission and ministry present throughout our history to serve the people. The Boards, Medical Staff, Employees, and Volunteers are the heart and hands of the mission of service. We are so grateful and know that we could not do it without them. If there is any gift to grieving such a loss, it is the real hope that the vision of the future of these two ministries will be strong and that the Catholic identity, as part of the Church, will continue vibrantly.

A real exciting adventure is on the horizon as our Associates members enter into a visioning process for their future. At the end of April they and the vowed members participated in an Assembly with a speaker who is familiar with the call of Associates in the life of religious congregation and the Church. Both the Congregation and Associates looked forward to this special event.

Operated by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Saint Augustine Academy was closed as a high school several years ago. The CSA Congregation discerned long and hard regarding the property and potential uses. At the same time, a vision was created by several west side Cleveland parishes who sought through collaboration to provide high quality elementary education. Their current schools had financial challenges with much capital needed to replace or repair the facilities. The notion of having a single elementary school with an excellent faculty to serve the children enabled a Faith-focused opportunity for the parishes which they wholeheartedly supported. A lease and a lot of prayers from the Sisters of Charity to Lakewood Catholic Academy, enabled this ministry to go forward in August 2005. They celebrated the 10th anniversary of the school in 2015.

Our Congregation is going through transformation in many ways – our governance, living community, ministry, associates, collaborations among women religious, etc. Through it all, we live our lives fully as we are called. The new emerges from and transforms the former. Another message of my retreat was, "We may not be recognized by externals. We will be recognized by our hearts." We do not let go of the essentials of our religious life. Jesus let go so that the Spirit could come. We let go because of the religious life of the future.



Sr. Judith Ann Karam, CSA

