

connecting and soundings have become...

FALL / WINTER 2015 | VOL. 1 | NO. 1

Sisters of Saint Joseph  
of Boston



*...moving always toward  
profound love of God  
and  
love of neighbor without distinction...*

**Features:**

**Everything is Connected!**

Laudato Si' - Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis

**Where do you experience "the MORE..."**

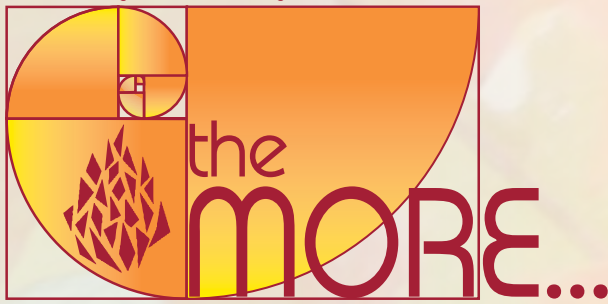
Reflections of Sisters, Associates, and Ministry Partners

**Tiny Stamps with Global Impact**

A CSJ Unity and Non-Violence Grant Revisited

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# enflamed

*with the compassion of God,  
we, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston,  
women of the Church, rooted in the Gospel,  
together with our Associates  
are impelled by the active, inclusive love of God to:  
deepen our relationship with God  
and the dear neighbor without distinction;  
foster prophetic communion;  
and journey into the future  
with Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates,  
throughout the world  
and with all God's Creation.*

We, Sisters of St. Joseph, are women receptive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit of Love. Together with our associates we are called to live in right relationship with all creation. We are a community of women whose mission is to realize the prayer of Christ that all may be one. In community and prayerful contemplation, we listen to this Spirit and move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.

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The author of Ecclesiastes gifted us with the often quoted passage, “There is a season for everything.” Whether we live in

New England with obvious seasonal changes or in a climate where change is more subtle, the reality that there are cycles and rhythms in life is clear. For some, these cycles are viewed in a more relative way while, for others, they are viewed as being imbued with Spirit’s movement, guidance and grace.

Leonardo Boff, in his recent book *Come Holy Spirit, Inner Fire, Giver of Life & Comforter of the Poor*, says: “To think of the Spirit is to think of movement, action, process, appearance, story, and the irruption of something new and surprising. It means thinking about what we are constantly becoming.”<sup>1</sup>

As Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates, we are consistently and prayerfully pondering the Spirit’s irruption and invitation to something new and surprising. As with the seasons, sometimes it is obvious and at other times more subtle. It can be as blatant as needing to take action to assist the tragic global refugee situation or as gentle as sitting vigil with someone who is making a final journey home to God.

While we seek to respond to the Spirit we come to know, as Boff says, that “Hiddenness is in the nature of the Spirit and that discovering it is in the nature of human beings. The Spirit blows where it chooses, and we do not know where it comes from or where it goes (John 3:8), but that does not free us from the task of unveiling it.”<sup>2</sup>

Pope Francis certainly seems to be leading by example in unveiling the Spirit in and among us, be it by promulgating his first encyclical *Laudato Si’* on the

environment, by journeying to those on the margins of the global community, by being more inclusive and welcoming, or by pausing to offer a smile and an affectionate tap on the head to a child.

Living into the seasons and rhythms of our life, may we remain open to the Spirit’s irruptions calling us to the new and surprising and may we seek, like Pope Francis, to unveil the Spirit to the world in which we live. As Sisters of St. Joseph, we do this through our charism of “seeking unity in the midst of diversity.”

For 37 years our congregation has published *Soundings* and, for 16 years, *Connecting*. They have been quality publications of the Communications and Mission Advancement Offices that evolved with the times. This inaugural edition of *the MORE...* is a concrete expression of changing cycles and rhythms. As social media and online communication expand, our challenge and responsibility is to respond and renew how we express who we are to the wider world. *the MORE...* is, in effect, an irruption of the Spirit. May it call each of us to new ways of being and acting in inclusive, ever-widening circles. 🌿



Rosemary Brennan, CSJ

## From Our President

### An Irruption of the Spirit

“Come Holy Spirit,  
Inner Fire,  
Giver of Life &  
Comforter of the Poor”

– Orbis Books, 2015, page viii

<sup>1</sup> Boff, Leonardo *Come Holy Spirit, Inner Fire, Giver of Life & Comforter of the Poor*, © Orbis Books, 2015, pg. viii

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

## From the Director of Communications



Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

### the MORE... Seeking Ever-Widening Circles

As this inaugural edition of *the MORE...* goes to press, two concepts are swirling around in my head.

The first is the image of a trapeze artist; the second is that of generations. In her introduction to *Transformational Leadership*, Pat Farrell, OSF, refers to "...trapeze artists needing to let go, to be suspended in mid-air, and to trust that something to grasp will appear, carrying them toward a future not yet visible."<sup>1</sup> While Pat is referring to leaders, it is also a lot like our experience of the process creating a new publication that stands on the shoulders of 37 years of *Soundings* and 16 years of *Connecting*.

The image of generations surfaces when recalling Anna Mary Kelly, CSJ, whose vision and determination gave birth to the original newspaper format of *Soundings* published 10 times a year as the primary source of communication for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. In 1978, this was a cutting-edge model for religious congregations across the country.

Since then, *Soundings* and *Connecting* have both experienced remarkable growth and expanded readership. In the past decade, we have also embraced new methods of electronic communication in an effort to "...listen to signs of life and death in our own lives, in the lives of those with whom we minister, and in the life of the world."<sup>2</sup> Visit our website, YouTube channel, Facebook page, or Twitter feed to experience this evolution and understand how *the MORE...* builds on the richness of *Soundings* and *Connecting* while responding to "...the ever-changing needs of the Church and the world."<sup>3</sup>

When we announced the title of this new publication, responses ranged from puzzled inquiries to immediate recognition of *the MORE...* as a spiritual cornerstone of our charism, spirit, and spirituality that dates back to the seventeenth century roots of the worldwide family of Sisters of St. Joseph. Our CSSJ Consensus Statement begins, "The Sister of St. Joseph moves always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction." The statement goes on to say that this is done, "In an Ignatian-Salesian climate, that is with an orientation towards excellence (*le plus*) tempered by gentleness, peace, joy."<sup>4</sup> The French "*le plus*" translates into English as *the MORE...*

Today, writers ranging from the fields of economics to spirituality invite us to reflect on the emerging future.<sup>5</sup> And so, like the trapeze artist, we are drawn by a future that is not yet visible. It is our hope that *the MORE...* will continue the tradition of *Soundings* and *Connecting* as a place to share stories of those who partner with us, taking to heart the words of our Constitution, "As a result of this collaboration, we assume the obligations of relationship with ever-widening circles of people..."<sup>6</sup> In the often quoted words of Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, Thanks. To all that shall be, Yes." 🌻

<sup>1</sup> *Transformational Leadership: Conversations with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, ed. Annmarie Sanders, IHM, pg. xiv

<sup>2</sup> CSJ Boston Chapter Directions, November 2012

<sup>3</sup> *Boston CSJ Constitution*, Life in Mission, Ministry, para. 2

<sup>4</sup> Consensus Statement from the central ideas of Fr. Jean Pierre Médaille, SJ, as drawn from the Primitive Constitutions

<sup>5</sup> See the writings of Otto Sharmer, Karin Kaufer, Ilia Delio, OSF, and more

<sup>6</sup> *Boston CSJ Constitution*, Life in Mission, Ministry, para. 3-2





Carol Mack

## From the Director of Mission Advancement

I am so excited to welcome you to this new publication! We hope this inaugural issue of *the MORE...* reflects the Sisters of St. Joseph today – their ministries, their spirituality and their connection with the greater global community. This publication merges the former *Connecting* and *Soundings* magazines to continue to reflect the ever-widening reach of the sisters, associates, ministry partners, and donors.

You will notice that our list of donors is not printed in this issue. As we have done with our tribute listing, our thank you listing of donors is posted on our website: [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org). To view the list, simply go to our website [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org) and click the circle in the lower left corner that says, “Donor List,” where you will find a comprehensive twenty-one page alphabetical list of our generous and supportive donors.

I want to thank all of you, our faithful friends. Your continued response to our appeals, your sponsorship, and presence at our events, the use of our card programs to honor and remember loved ones, and your efforts to include us in estate plans makes a significant difference. Each of you is remembered daily in the prayers of the Sisters of St. Joseph! 🌻

Thank you!

Carol Mack, *Director of Mission Advancement*

### Fall Luncheon

At our Annual Fall Luncheon, on October 20, 2015, more than 85 neighbors, friends, and members of the Allston and Brighton Boards of Trade enjoyed a beautiful dinner prepared and served by Devlin’s Restaurant of Brighton. Sharon Reilly, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons, Boston, was honored for her work of supporting children in our community with the supplies they need for success. Our guest speaker, Dr. Robert A. Lue, Faculty Director of the Harvard Education Portal, spoke of the importance of life-long learning. He said that learning is not an individual activity but is dependent on connectedness and the support of the whole community. The event was chaired by State Representative Kevin Honan.

Sharon Reilly receives the CSJ Community Service Award from Maureen Doherty, CSJ Assistant President



Here you see Boston City Councilor, Mark Ciommo, Boston City Councilor, Stephen Murphy, State Rep., Kevin G. Honan, Honoree, Sharon Reilly, Exec. Director of Cradles to Crayons, Boston, State Senator, Sal DiDomenico, State Rep., Sean Garballey, and State Rep., David F. DeCoste.

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## Everything is Connected!

By Elizabeth Oleksak, SP,  
foundress of  
Genesis Spiritual Life Center<sup>1</sup>  
Westfield, MA



Reading and reflecting on *Laudato Si'* evokes, in me, a real personal response, a huge “yes” to life. I am extremely touched that the leader of our Catholic community is calling our attention to the interconnectedness of all created beings and the responsibility to care for all of life.

Throughout history, monastic communities of women and men shared what they had with the villagers who were invited to participate in the beauty of their land, music, writings, art, and much more. It is through beauty that healing takes place and at this time in history, we are in great need of healing in many aspects of life. Beauty seen and experienced unleashes the beauty in each of us.

Pope Francis reminds us, “...when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one....Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven

together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.”<sup>2</sup>

I’m reminded of the story of the connection between the salmon, the bear, and the forest.<sup>3</sup> Salmon life “...begins deep in the ocean where millions of salmon grow and feed.”<sup>4</sup> As spawning salmon come upstream, they encounter seagulls, bears, water, trees – an entire ecosystem. It becomes a story of reciprocity. “The salmon return to the place of their birth to give birth, and *to give their lives* to the next generation.”<sup>5</sup>

*Laudato Si'* calls us to remember an experience where we were deeply touched and

Students at Walnut Park Montessori with Nancy Fish, Head of School





at one with creation. As a child, you came to know oneness. Reflect for a moment, what is your first experience of God? Usually it has some connection to nature.

The first moment I can recall was when my parents got me out of bed at eight years old to see the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). I remember thinking, “Wow! I’m part of something really big.” It was probably one of my first sacramental moments. Today, I begin each morning by going out to the chickens. It’s a morning prayer. I go to these creatures who can convert food into eggs – such a marvelous thing! Going back to them in the evening puts balance in my day. It’s like a vesper time.

As our children walk around with their electronic devices, I wonder if they are seeing what’s happening at this time of year as the seasons change and the falling leaves nurture microorganisms. *Laudato Si’* calls us to look and to see. “The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God. ...we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships. We understand better the importance and meaning of each creature if we contemplate it within the entirety of God’s plan.”<sup>6</sup>

This reflection on *Laudato Si’* is a beginning. There is so much more to this encyclical. We all need to continue to reflect and integrate Pope Francis’ message into our lives. Monica White, in her book about Thomas Merton’s environmental vision, expresses it well. “Our job is to become awake, to read, and to act. In the challenging words of the poet Mary Oliver, ‘Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?’ ”<sup>7</sup> Monica goes on to say, “It’s all about becoming awake, expanding our vision, and learning to act responsibly. In Merton’s words to Rachel Carson: ‘the duty of our age, the “vocation” of modern man [sic] is to unite them [technics and wisdom] in a supreme humility which will result in a totally self-forgetful creativity and service. Can we do this?’ Indeed, can we do this?”<sup>8</sup> 🍁

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.genesisspiritualcenter.org/>

<sup>2</sup> *Laudato Si’, Pope Francis’ encyclical on Care for Earth, Our Common Home*, © 2015, #92

<sup>3</sup> McKenzie, Liz, *Forest and Sea: The Salmon Connection*, Photos by Richard Nelson, <http://encountersnorth.org/wildexplorer/salmon/forest-and-sea-salmon.html>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Op cit. *Laudato Si’* #86

<sup>7</sup> White, Monica, *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton*, University Press of Kentucky, © 2011, pg. 156

<sup>8</sup> Ibid



Mary Ellen O’Connell, CSJ, in the CSJ Boston Motherhouse garden



## It's About Building Up the Soul of the World



By Dorothea Masuret, CSJ



What does *the MORE...* mean to you? A sobering question posed to me that left me pondering. Reaching for *the MORE...* is about the interior journey. It's not about doing more but about how I am willing to sit still, be in

God's presence and be open to what is going on both inside me and around me. It can be a very risky enterprise for it often calls for me to change. It is the place that I am compelled to bring the daily rub of the human condition and to see it with God's eyes. It's what Pope Francis is talking about when he speaks about moments when we have to be free to listen.

In the 1970s, I remember hearing a wise person speak on aging, saying that, the older we get our bodies may diminish but our soul and spirit does not. Aging does not diminish or excuse us from growing intellectually and spiritually, growing in *the MORE...*

As I look back on the last 60 years of religious life, the "stuff" of *the MORE...* changed but the interior journey did not. In the '50s we were riding high, the Church had all the answers, and vocations flourished. The '60s brought the social revolution – everything was questioned in the Church, in religious life, in the world, and authority was suspect. Entering into the '70s, life was changing at a rapid pace. It was the early stages of renewal and everything seemed to be erupting. Sister Catherine Murphy was elected CSJ president. Having recently studied at Catholic University, she was steeped in the spirit of Vatican II. What she realized was that the Vatican Council had a vision but our former ways of doing and living did not have the ability to carry the vision forward. Her first act was to promote the spiritual life by sending sisters to be formed as spiritual directors. They began

to organize and offer directed retreats and other spiritual experiences that would help integrate the vision with our daily life.

Since we live in community where shared decision making was the new norm, it was clear that we needed new tools to begin to share, reflect, discuss, and make decisions that were consistent with the calls of Vatican II. How do we share our experiences, test them in light of Scripture, our Constitution, and other contemporary documents in a prayerful, discerning way that will lead us to God's desire in these times? Catherine, in her wisdom, saw this need and called the Congregation to participate in the Corporate Reflection Renewal Process.

While personally making the journey inward is challenging, doing it together is more so. It takes trust in one another, very attentive listening, and an attitude that is willing to be changed by the other. We have done this over and over down through the decades regarding peace, nuclear disarmament, Congregation Chapter decisions and, more recently, decisions and directions we have made through our CSJ Planning Process.

This is living *the MORE...* to a very high degree! In the long run, there is no sweeter way to live when this works. When this happens, we feel we are building together, we are acting as one, we are living our mission to the full, we are helping to rebuild the soul of the world.

May we continue to have the grace to live *the MORE...* – to help build the Soul of the World! 🍁



# I had the pleasure of talking to Robert J. Gardella, current Treasurer, and Stephen J. Turner,

current Secretary, about the history of the St. James Association. This Association has been generously supporting the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston continuously for over 58 years!

Founded in 1957 as the “Saint James Convent Association,” by Charles F. Turner, Francis J. Trainor, Richard J. Sheehan, Walter Keating, Francis A. Bradshaw, and William Dorsey, it developed through the inspiration of Sister Ethna, CSJ. The first letter soliciting membership suggested a \$1 membership fee that would be used to. **“...assist the good Sisters who gave us our education and character training.”** Some of the initial members graduated from St. James High School in 1900 and joined out of gratitude for the excellent education they received at the hands of the sisters! I spoke with Sister Geraldine Shea, who was present at the founding meeting as Sister Mary Ferdinand. She remembers that, **“They were wonderful men dedicated to the Sisters of St. Joseph who did so many good things for us.”** At its zenith, the Association boasted more than 1000 active members. The Association was a combined effort of the parish men, school alumni and community in appreciation of the hard work and sacrifice of the sisters.

Robert and Stephen shared with me that, for the Irish community of Haverhill, the Association was more than

just a way to raise money. It was a way to connect with the spirituality of the sisters, and it functioned as social “glue” that kept the “Irish Acre” parish community connected. The Association had three main passions - religion, education, and appreciation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, several of whom came from St. James parish families. Membership was offered to the students of St. James High School at graduation. Although the school closed its doors in 1970, support for the sisters through the Association remained strong as did the annual celebration at which its members were able to reconnect with each other and with their beloved Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

After 58 years, the Association is winding down. Members are aging and families have moved to different parts of the country. We are grateful to the former members who continue to support the sisters through our annual CSJ appeals and special events.

On behalf of the Sisters, let me offer a great big THANK YOU to the members of the St. James Association both past and present, whose generosity has truly made them our partners in our work of unity and reconciliation! 🍀

## Our Donors

By Carol Mack

*This is the first article in a series highlighting our dedicated partners in ministry who, through their generosity and support, have assisted the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston to minister within the Greater Boston Community.*



Robert J. Gardella



Stephen J. Turner



Geraldine Shea, CSJ

connecting and soundings have become...



Where do you experience *the MORE...*  
being lived out in your ministry?

How has your ministry  
opened you to *the MORE...?*

Sisters of St. Joseph,  
associates, and all who  
partner with them, move,  
“...always toward profound  
love of God and love of  
neighbor without distinction.”

– Consensus Statement of the central ideas  
of Fr. Jean Pierre Médaille, SJ.



“ I never realized how much the CSJ spirit had been drawing me but I always kept coming back to Fontbonne Academy. I didn't know what it was until I became Head of School. I want to learn more about the Sisters of St. Joseph mission and spirituality and ensure it lives on at Fontbonne Academy among the learning community and students.”

– Sue Degnan, FBA '79, Head of School, Fontbonne Academy, Milton, MA

“ I had eight wonderful years with my Mother, as a resident of Bethany who passed away in 2013 at the age of 102. Through her I acquired the gift of Bethany, and the privilege of becoming a staff member in the Activities Department. I have never been happier or felt more fulfilled than when I am among the residents, whether it is bringing them to Mass, reminiscing with small groups, singing or even just sharing a smile in the elevator or hallways of Bethany. It is not a job, but truly a labor of love.”

– Evelyn Cotter with her mother at Bethany Health Care Center, Framingham, MA



“ A new need has emerged that compels me beyond companioning women released from prison to visiting men who are awaiting deportation at the detention center in Boston. It's about the hope I hear in the stories of detained immigrants dwelling in the possibility of release to their families in this country. Their trust in a God who can do more than they can accomplish offers more than I can imagine. Today, as I travel to the detention center, to be with immigrants, I keep in mind the possibility of what God is offering as I listen to their stories.”

– Maryann Enright, CSJ, Prison Ministry, Greater Boston Area





“ The Jackson School Mission Statement echoes the CSJ spirit and is well expressed in the Children’s Mission Statement: As students of Jackson School, we strive to love God and all creation. We take care of each other, work hard, and always try to do our best. The CSJ spirit and charism permeates the life at Jackson School, challenging all members of the school community to strive for *the MORE...* ”

– Kathy Berube, CSJ,  
Jackson School Latin Teacher, Newton, MA



“ Teaching is about relationship. Without that human connection no learning takes place on the part of either the student or teacher. The diversity of our student body challenges me to see the world through the students’ eyes, breaking down any boundaries or preconceptions. I believe that the core values of an education here at Regis College which flow from the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph allow for the development of a connectedness, a responsiveness, to the claims of community which is at the heart of an ethical life. I experience *the MORE* lived out in the lives of many of our students, who after going on mission trips to Kenya and Peru, return on their own to continue the work in which they were engaged.”

– Carmela Abbruzzese, CSJ, Education Professor, Regis College, Weston, MA



“ Walking through the hallways of Marian High School reminds me daily of *the MORE...* the diversity of the student body, their stories, their efforts, and their struggles in order to receive a Catholic education, their desire to belong to a community, the breadth of their needs. There is so much more to be done, so many ways in which we can simply widen the circle and open hearts to God’s all-inclusive love!”

– Cathy Clifford, CSJ,  
President, Marian High School,  
Framingham, MA

“ Implementing the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, ‘Disciples in Mission’ has challenged me to adjust my focus from attending solely to the pastoral needs of the existing parish community to imagining how to reach out in a spirit of welcome and hospitality to those who left the church. It is necessary to assess their needs and respond to them. At the same time it’s important to encourage those who come to church but don’t engage to deepen their relationship with God and offer their lives in service of the community. More, in the sense of a deeper faith commitment, is asked of everyone.”



– Kathleen Moran, CSJ  
Associate Minister, New Roads Catholic Community, Belmont, MA

“ The more I get to know my high school students, the more I discover the face of Jesus. The more love and patience I have toward them, the more they are transformed into excellent students.”



“ *Cuanto mas me acerco a mis estudiantes, mas puedo descubrir el rostro de Jesus en ellos. Cuanto mas paciencia les tengo y los amo, mas puedo transformarlos en estudiantes excelentes.* ”

– Magalie Rowe-Torres, CSJA, Youth Ministry, Everett, MA

## I Wanted To Do Something More

By Jim Spinale, Tutor,  
The Literacy Connection



Shortly after we were married, I became a lector at St. Ann's Parish, Somerville, Massachusetts. We called ourselves St. Ann's Parish Family which created in me the sense of connecting with people and with God through the parish. Eleanor Daniels, CSJ, was principal and Fr. Frank O'Hare was pastor. Fr. O'Hare had the ability to encourage people to be concerned for one another and become involved in ministry. He taught us that the laity shouldn't just rely on the priests and sisters to do things.

As my children progressed through school, Sister Eleanor asked me to serve on the school board. After she left the parish, I was asked to serve on the board of the CSJ Ministries Connection, Inc. This included Merrimack Montessori and The Literacy Connection. These ministries became special to me.

Through all of this, I recognized the importance of being grounded as a Catholic Christian who responds to the gospel call of service to the community. A gospel story that stands out is the one where the apostles argue about who is greater. At the end of the story, it's the one who serves the community. That passage, especially in the parish context, struck me. It gave me the motivation to serve and respond positively when asked to be a trustee.

When I retired, I wanted to do something more. During board meetings, Pat Andrews, CSJ, had spoken of The Literacy Connection's need for more tutors. I thought it would be a good fit. I was preparing this article a few days after the Pope's visit to the United States and saw the link in the ministry of The Literacy

Connection and how Pope Francis is calling the Church to go to the periphery, to reach out to immigrants. The Literacy Connection is a wonderful example of putting what he wants into action. I feel so good when I reflect on this link. I'm excited about his message.

How has all this opened me to *the MORE...* and why do I continue as a tutor? Especially since retirement, which coincides with my involvement as a tutor, I've become so much more. The importance of my faith has taken on greater meaning. I see it as trying to respond to Jesus' call to serve. Interacting with other board members provided an example that strengthened my personal faith commitment and desire to be of service.

It isn't just sisters and priests who carry the gospel. It has to be done by laity. The sisters have the foresight to recognize the importance of reaching out to lay people. This is our Church; our parish is part of the Church. That is still a driving force in how I think about parish, about service, and about my faith. 🍂





*Advent's Invitation*  
*moments of reflection*  
*of silence and listening*  
*of expectation and preparation*  
*of mystery*  
*of hope*

*For Reflection...*

As we embrace the spirit of Advent,  
let us offer the light of presence  
to those who walk with us day by day.

by Kathie Shute, CSJA

## Living the *MORE...* as a CSJ Associate

By Mickie Urban, CSJA

**G**rowing up, my dear mother was an inspiration and an example of how a true Christian should live. Her love and example inspired me to answer God's call to religious life. However, after several years I realized that religious life was not meant for me. I moved to Albuquerque, was hired by the Albuquerque Public Schools, and worked in a low-income area with a Black, White, and Hispanic population. There were always problems between the groups even with the little first graders. It was challenging. After teaching in various schools for 36 years, I retired in 1996. For two years, I volunteered in four third-grade classes and produced musicals. The parents enjoyed watching their children perform.

As I settled into my new life, I stayed in touch with the sisters in Albuquerque. Mary Cuning, also a former CSJ, spoke with Sister Joachim about starting a New Mexico Associate group. I became interested in joining this group. In 2003, with Sister Joachim's guidance, Mary Cuning, Tina Marquez, Rose Sena, Pita Sanchez and I, made our commitment as Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

My ministry is focused on branching out to the community. I have worked with the elderly, visiting, doing errands, and taking them to church. I worked with

an elderly couple. So the husband could have time for himself, I spent time with the wife who was bi-polar and schizophrenic. She loved music and remembered lyrics to songs from the past. We would sing together. If I forgot some words, she would chime in. These were happy moments for her. I also visited a widow several times a week. If she needed anything I would pick it up for her. Both the couple and this woman have passed away.

A ministry that has brought much joy to my life is caring for two precious children. When I moved to my condo, I met a newlywed couple who lived next door. Two years later they had a baby boy named Nathaniel. He was a beautiful child and easy to care for. I baby sat two days a week while they were at work which saved them money. Before long they realized the condo was not big enough for their family and they bought a home with a big yard where Nathaniel could play. Three years later Georgiana, a baby girl, came along. Nathaniel is now in second grade. The reading and math skills he learned while in my care made him more than ready when he started Kindergarten. I continue to care for Georgiana who will start Kindergarten next year. She is also very bright. It has been a great experience helping raise these children. I'm "Grandma" to them!

Last but not least is the care Sister Rose and I give to our 90-year-old sister, Katie. She cannot thank us enough for all we do for her. Katie is our **SISTER**. We love her and are there for her. 🍁







## Tiny Stamps with Global Impact\*

By Henry Lukas  
Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History

Ours is an era where texting, Instagram, and Snapchat as means of communication often eclipse the fine art of addressing an envelope, affixing a stamp to a letter, and placing it in a mailbox. So what could one of only the two public museums in the U.S. devoted to stamps and postal history possibly offer young inquisitive minds?

As the Director of Education for The Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History at Regis College in Weston, I learned of the “CSJ Ministries Grant for Unity and Nonviolence” from a few Sisters of St. Joseph who serve on the museum’s board. We applied for several grants over the years to develop a series of programs using postage stamps as a window into learning about unity and nonviolence.

Over the past ten years, two grants focused on relief efforts after the Haiti earthquake; another on peace and the use of the atom; and a third on Nobel Peace Prize recipients. Our 2014-2015 grant utilized United Nations stamps. More than 250 students in grades three through six from six different schools where Sisters of St. Joseph are present learned about famous peace advocates and participated in hands-on activities to learn how the United Nations works to help preserve peace and advance social justice. A representative from UNICEF also spoke to each class.

We are honored that the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History was selected for this inaugural issue of *the MORE...*. The grants we have received have allowed the museum, begun by Cardinal Spellman and Sister Fildelma Conway, CSJ, in 1960, to introduce

students to the depth and breadth of postal history and its connection to the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The children have been exposed to the study of stamps (philately) and how it can be a window into learning about issues of social justice facing our world.

The United Nations Postage Stamp grant required children to design their own stamps using peace symbols to communicate to future museum visitors about the work of the United Nations – and so the learning circle expands.

The wall outside the United Nations bears the inscription, *“And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.”* Isaiah 2:3-4. Using this quote with the students was a perfect way to relate our goals and objectives to the intent of the Sisters of St. Joseph in offering the CSJ Ministries for Unity and Nonviolence Grant.

As one teacher remarked, “Visiting the museum has opened [my students’] eyes to the value and importance of a tiny stamp.” As we look to the future, we hope to develop a grant that focuses on refugees and immigration. Through stamps, students would learn about the geography of immigration and its global impact. 🍁

\* The Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History on the campus of Regis College, Weston, MA and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. are the only museums in the U.S. devoted to stamps and postal history.

Students from Holy Name School, West Roxbury engage in hands-on learning about unity and nonviolence through stamps.



Are you planning to be part of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Event 2016? In July 2016, we will gather in Orlando, Florida, to engage in prayer, conversation, and celebration around the theme:

## Our Emerging Story of Being **ONE**...God's love unfolding

Saturday, July 9 - Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

We anticipate over 1,000 sisters, associates, agrégées, and partners in ministry and mission, will be part of this Event. Our keynote presenters will be Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, Pat Bergen, CSJ, and Sara Thomsen. In addition, representatives from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will companion us in our justice action during Event 2016.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers [CIW] is a worker-based human rights organization located in Florida and internationally recognized for its achievements in the fields of social responsibility, human trafficking, and gender-based violence in the workplace.

Visit the CSSJ Federation website:

[www.sistersofsaintjosephfederation.org](http://www.sistersofsaintjosephfederation.org)

to link to the section of the website Event 2016. It will give you information on how to register and much more.

Perhaps you are interested in Event 2016 but cannot be physically present. We are exploring ways to engage those who cannot be physically present. This includes sisters, associates, co-workers, trustees, students, and other ministry partners. Whether you are able to be physically present or not, we are hoping you will find your place in **Our Emerging Story of Being ONE...** you are a part of God's love unfolding.



Our Emerging Story of Being **ONE**  
...God's love unfolding



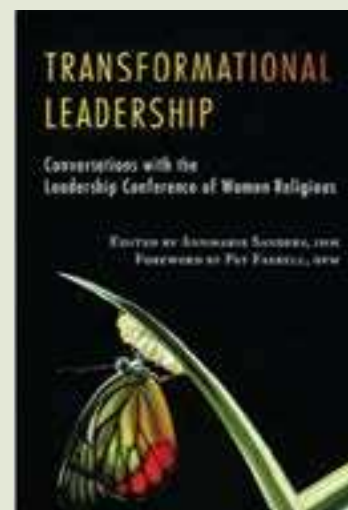


## Book Review

By Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

### Transformational Leadership: Conversations with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Edited by Annmarie Sanders, IHM



To meet Annmarie Sanders, IHM, is to meet a woman rooted in a contemplative stance toward her ministry as Communications Director for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious [LCWR]. So it is not surprising that the eighteen interviews by Annmarie and selected for *Transformational Leadership: Conversations with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, speak not only to the soul of vowed religious life, but also to a wider audience.

Women and men from all walks of life have found a relevant message in *Transformational Leadership*. This volume offers wisdom, insight, and food for deep reflection to those who yearn for a way of being in the world that is at once contemplative, courageous, and passionate about mission.

*Occasional Papers* is a journal published by LCWR that offers articles and reflections on topics pertinent to women religious leaders. Each issue includes an interview by Annmarie Sanders, IHM. About this new book, Annmarie comments, “What struck me in looking at the compilation of *Occasional Papers*, was the opportunity I’ve had to interview people with an important message for women religious. These interviews seemed significant enough to bring together in one body.”<sup>1</sup> “People noted marked differences between the way women religious practice leadership and the way it is often practiced by leaders in government, civic organizations, and churches, as well as in workplace and professional organizations.”<sup>2</sup>

There is also a study guide available on the LCWR website. This was created by a group of lay women and men called “Solidarity with Sisters,”<sup>3</sup> based in the

Washington, DC area. As they read the book, they saw so many applications in their own lives and communities of worship that they created a study guide for discussion and reflection.<sup>4</sup>

The following quotes from *Transformational Leadership* are meant to invite you into this book and inspire you to read more.

I think what is basic to all of this is the question: How can we just be with our hearts wide open and experience all the depth of that emotion without needing to react?  
– Margaret Wheatley, pg. 45

The question is more: How do I continue to engage with people who sustain my exploration of life and the discussion of that? – Lynn Jarrell, OSU, pg. 94

Two of my favorite questions to ask are: Who have we learned to be? ...And, who are we called to be now? This is the transformative question. – Lynn Levo, CSJ, pg. 120

“...the reflective material and practical suggestions for living a Gospel-centered life make this collection of interest to all people seeking to live with purpose and depth, whether or not they are serving in a formal leadership role.”<sup>5</sup> 🍀

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Annmarie Sanders, IHM, October, 2015

<sup>2</sup> Sanders, Annmarie, *Transformational Leadership*, © Orbis Books, 2015, pg. ix

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.solidaritywithsisters.org/> We are companions to Catholic sisters in the United States as we learn to live the Gospel in ways that transform us and our world in Christ.

<sup>4</sup> <https://lcwr.org/publications/transformational-leadership>

<sup>5</sup> Op cit, Sanders, pg. xii



## Called To Be the Face of Mercy

### Pope Francis - a Holy Year of Mercy

By Pat Boyle, CSJ  
Associate Director,  
Archdiocese of Boston Office of Pastoral Planning

Pope Francis announced on April 11, 2015 that there will be an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy." The Papal Bull, "*Vultus Misericordiae*" ("The Face of Mercy"), declares that this Jubilee of Mercy will begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. The Pope intends that this Holy Year will be an opportunity to encourage Christians to meet the "real needs" of people with concrete assistance as signs of God's love and mercy. Bishops and priests in dioceses around the world are being asked to conduct "symbolic gestures of communion with Pope Francis" by reaching out to those on the margins of society. There will be opportunities for people to experience a "true pilgrimage," and to send "missionaries of mercy" throughout the world.

One of the challenges Pope Francis puts before us for this year is to reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In response to this challenge, one of the new Archdiocesan Collaboratives on the North Shore is initiating a great idea to help people be the "face of mercy" in their community. The Pastor of the collaborative brought the idea first to the collaborative staff, then to the pastoral council, and then to some of the collaborative small faith groups: "What if the collaborative commits to performing 10,000 acts of mercy during the Jubilee Year?" That was the original plan. However, what the Pastor discovered was that the number kept escalating as they considered the diversity of the works of Mercy, and their desire to involve every parishioner in both parishes, even those who are

homebound and nursing home residents. Since there are about 2,200 registered parishioners and this is a full year activity, the number went from 10,000 to 100,000, and then to one million!

While this is an individual effort on the part of all their parishioners, it is bound to have a communal effect and I dare say even a societal effect. One million acts of mercy done in the name of Christ! It is a tall order but one these parishioners are eager to engage in.

Where are we being called to be "the face of mercy" to the people we encounter in our daily lives? How might we respond to Pope Francis' challenge in our lives? We may not set the goal for ourselves of a million acts of mercy yet we can be more intentional in our interactions with those close to us and those on the margins of society who need the mercy of God. In all of our activities and words, may the balm of mercy reach everyone we come in contact with throughout this Jubilee Year of Mercy! 🌿

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco\\_bolla\\_20150411\\_misericordiae-vultus.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html)



Pat Boyle, CSJ, chats with a parishioner during a pastoral planning meeting.



# Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston Card Program

## Memorial Cards



God our Refuge



St. Joseph



Madonna and Child



Mandala



Morning Rose

Choosing our cards is a generous way of celebrating the lives of relatives and friends.

Throughout the year, those you honor with a card are remembered in prayer by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston and Associates.

We encourage our donors to request that family members and friends remember the Congregation by sending donations "in lieu of flowers." All donations are acknowledged by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston Office of Mission Advancement. If you wish to make a donation, know someone who would like to, or are in need of cards for a relative or friend, please contact Cheryl Duggan, Mission Advancement Coordinator, at 617-746-2114 or email [Cheryl.duggan@csjboston.org](mailto:Cheryl.duggan@csjboston.org).

To make a donation online, visit [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org) and find the "make a gift" box. The cards here are a representative sample. More designs are available at: [www.csjboston.org/join-our-mission/donate-now/memorial-and-all-occasion-card-programs/](http://www.csjboston.org/join-our-mission/donate-now/memorial-and-all-occasion-card-programs/)

## Card Order Form



Happy Birthday (3)

## Cards for Other Occasions



Thinking of You (1)



Congratulations



Christmas 2015



Thinking of You (2)



Get Well (2)



Thinking of You (3)



Tulips (Blank)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Card Choices

#### Memorial Cards

- God our Refuge       Morning Rose  
 Madonna and Child       St. Joseph  
 Mandala

#### Other Occasions

- Christmas 2015       Thinking of You (1)  
 Congratulations       Thinking of You (2)  
 Get Well (2)       Thinking of You (3)  
 Happy Birthday (3)       Tulips (Blank)

Please write the number of cards you desire in the space to the left of the card description. After you have made your choice, clip the form and mail it to:

Cheryl Duggan  
 Mission Advancement Coordinator  
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston  
 637 Cambridge Street  
 Brighton, MA 02135

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and we will remove your name from all of our mailings.

## *Living the Dream 2016*



Annual Dinner to benefit  
the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston  
April 27, 2016 – Seaport Hotel, Boston

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### *Save the Date*

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For more information, tickets, sponsorship opportunities and photographs  
of *Living the Dream 2015* visit our website [www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org)

[www.csjboston.org](http://www.csjboston.org)