

Mission

Volume 20 Number 1

April 10, 2008

A Publication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield

Group renews Jamestown house, in & out

Ann Lynch, ssj

page 13.)



Sisters Mary T. Shea, Kathy Imbruno, Patty Murphy, Ginny Maitland, Elaine Moscal, Cathy Coyne, Cathy Morin, Irene Comeau, Elly Harrington, Maureen Charest, Maureen Griffin and Ann Lynch descended on the Jamestown House, March 29 to do its annual cleaning. (See pictures on

A good time was had by all as windows, curtains, mattress covers, walls, blinds, furniture, and floors took on a new shine after the winter.

Some outside work was also done including pruning the butterfly bush and picking up some of the remnants of winter to make way for spring.

Before leaving for a quick trip to Beavertail and time by the ocean, Irene Comeau, left, declared the house ready for summer.

Sisters to celebrate special anniversaries, June 10

60 Years Entered in 1948

Sr. Marguerite Blackburn
Sr. Catherine Hayes
Sr. Mary Lyons

Sr. Ruth Virginia Quinn
Sr. Loretta Scarlett
Sr Anne Marie Widenhain

65 Years Entered in 1943

Sr. Gertrude Conway
Sr. Rita Marie Emerson
Sr. Mary Fidelis McLee
Sr. Janice Molloy
Sr. Mary Ellen Murphy

Sr. Miriam Regina O'Connor
Sr. Ruth O'Connor
Sr. Patricia Francis Sharron
Sr Julia Marie Walsh

70 Years Entered in 1938

Sr. Ellen Therese Barry

Sr. Cecile Lafond

75 Years Entered in 1933

Sr. M. Beatrice Gauthier

Easter reflection celebrates resurrection, new life

Mary E. Harvey, ssj

A Friday afternoon at a Lenten Mass following more winter storms with snow, sleet, and rain. Through the cold outside measuring near zero, the sun illuminates the room and the small congregation with brightness.

In commenting on the Scripture readings of repentance, the homilist says we watch the evening news and see centuries and generations-long enmities and violence fill the television screens. We are tempted to turn away asking, "What's the use? Will it ever change?" Yet there are hope and promise as Jesus makes all things new.

Easter and its mysterious paradox of new life came soon after the icy grip of this severe winter edged its way to spring. Nature reflects the transformation. Edward Tyler, a Vermont author and minister, writes thus in the book *Prayers in Celebration of the Turning Year* to begin the meditation on the month of April for a rural church and community in the North Country.

The red flares of new life burn at the

In Memoriam

Please remember the following in prayer:

- Sr. Catherine Doherty
- Sr. Grace Mary Klenchik
- Sr. Charles Joseph Carr
- Eleanor Daly, mother of Sr. Sheila Daly
- Charles Carr, brother of Sr. Charles Joseph
- Helen Carr, sister-in-law of Sr. Charles Joseph
- Barbara Martin, sister of Sr. Helene Michael
- Nihill
- Peter Lucas, brother-in-law of Sister Fidelis
- McLee
- Robert Welsh, uncle of Sr. Nancy Welsh
- Winifred Menchise, sister of Sr. Mary Honnen

crests of maples/ In watery places marsh plants spread their broad leaves to the sun/ and the young grass lifts its frail lance/ Each day celebrates new life/ Each day glories You."

As the minute blade of grass, as the tiny unfurling leaf, contribute to the multi-colored tapestry of springtime's renaissance, in the spirit of Easter's hope and promise, each of us makes a difference in our world whether by creating a major change or even by the seemingly insignificant, but transforming gift of a kind word and a smile. All is in constant motion, flux, and change. The flutter of one butterfly's wing can be felt as a ripple radiating across the world.

"Let our love overflow into action/ God, make us so confident of Your providence/ and so rich in Your love/ that we freely give away/ What You have freely given us." (Tyler)



Mission is published monthly by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield as a source of communication within the Congregation. Readers are encouraged to submit articles which should be typed and sent to Mont Marie, Holyoke, MA 01040. E-mail acl@ssjspringfield.com

Ann Lynch, SSJ, editor

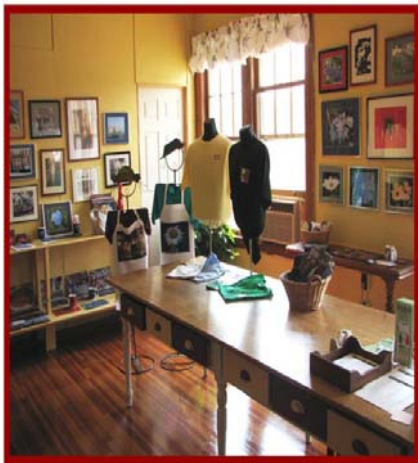
Communications Committee: Sisters Angela Deady, Mary E. Harvey, Mary Lou Lacey, Ann Lynch, Elizabeth Matuszek, Paula Misitano, Patricia James Sweeney and Jeanne O'Shea.

Weston expands products, features recovery

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

As the days grow longer and warmer, we move into the season of jubilees, graduations, and weddings. If you are looking for gifts that are original, beautiful, and reasonably priced, visit the Creative Works Gallery & Marketplace at Weston Center for Women.

There you will find just what you expected: T-shirts, sweat shirts, aprons, tote bags, caps, and mugs, but that's not all. More surprising are new lines of attractive and useful items. Mouse pads, coasters, cutting boards and clocks display such things as



amazingly beautiful flowers in vivid colors, European scenes, or photos of your own choice for these items.

Weston is now introducing a line of recovery products using the Serenity Prayer and other recovery-related messages, in keeping with Weston's focus on sobriety.

Those who are familiar with the Jubilee House of old will be surprised at the transformation of the room that is now the Gallery. The floor has been sanded and varnished, and windows shine brightly beneath new "treatments." The walls are decorated with framed scenes of famous European sites - Cathedrals, towers, canals, and more. Cupboards salvaged from the Conference Center fit perfectly in the Gallery, doubling as display sites and storage space.

Weston welcomes customers on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open on Community Days.

Letter -- Letter -- Letter

Dear Sisters and Associates,

On behalf of the Martin family I say "thank you." Your presence at Barbara's wake and funeral, cards, Masses and donations to the SSJ Fund were an inspiration to all of us.

Barbara's faith, family and friends were dominant anchors in her life and sustained her to the end of her days.

Know that we are deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Gratefully,

Sr. Helene Michael
and the Martin Family



Pictured are some of the many items available at Weston.

Photos by Diane McCormick

Selected entries from Mother John Berchmans' Diary

In the light of possible floods from the rain and snow of the last few months, Sister Kathleen Kirley, archivist, sent the following material from Mother John Berchmans' diaries of 1936.

They begin:

Thursday, 3/5/1936 Snow

Wednesday, 3/11/1936 Rain

Thursday, 3/12/1936 Rain

And continue:

Saturday, 3/14/1936 Clear Day
Floods – Connecticut River overflowing- Ice jam

Monday, 3/ 16/ 1936

Cathedral Boys- Basket Ball.
Rally in hall.

Tuesday, 3/17/ 1936

School holiday

Floods- Ice

Basket Ball players leave for Chicago
1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/18/1936

Connecticut River overflows

Floods. Dikes and dams broken because of ice jams. North Adams dismiss school at 10 a.m. No water in Convent. Westfield Sisters safe. Northampton Sisters safe. West Springfield - Water rising rapidly. Thought safe until Midnight-Dike broken. Phone 11:45 p.m. Eleven Sisters leave convent at 3: a.m. in boats—Rescue Squad. A truck meets them at the Bridge and takes them to the Clinton Hotel for one hour.

Arrive at Elliot St. at 6:30 a.m. Thursday Assist at Mass. Breakfast and then to bed. Beds prepared at once.

Thursday, 3/19/ 1936

Mass 6:30- Most Rev. Bishop- Choir
Feast of St. Joseph

Sisters from West Springfield, Srs. St. Charles, M. Sacred Heart, M. Phillipa, St. Monica, Margaret Cecelia, Rose Columba, Miriam Joseph, Niceta, Helen Michael, Rose Agatha, Concepta Marie, arrive at 6:30 a.m. Mass just begun.

River continues to rise.

Cathedral Grammar School opened for Refugees. 10 p.m. Sisters attend Switch Board all night. Emergency And supply calls. Request of Rev. G.S.L. Connor.

All well until 2 a.m. when all electric lights go out to remain out. Candles used.

Friday, 3/ 20/1936

Candle Light only Flood Waters

Grammar School-closed; High School-closed at 9:30 a.m. St. Michael's Hall used for flood victims. Nursery arranged under gallery. Sisters help to prepare place.

Holy Name and Holy Family Schools open. Our Lady of Hope- no school no heat. Technical High School filled. St. Thomas School- Mittineague used for refugees.

No Electric Lights. Candles & Gas.

Sisters on Switch Board. All night service. Extra Sisters to remain up because of darkness of house.

Benediction 5:30 p.m.

Confessions 3 p.m.

Saturday, 3/21/1936

Candle Light only. Rain in a.m.

Refugees in school. First Communication with Mont Marie. Phone call. 8 a.m. again at night. Holy Rosary Phone call 7 p.m.

Supplies from Atlantic & Pacific. Special order: 200 loaves of bread, 5 boxes of crackers, 2 boxes coffee, 1 hank bananas.

Prayers 4:30 Supper 5:30 p.m.

Sisters attend Switch Board. All night service. Five extra Sisters remain up. Night Prayers- Candle Light.

Sunday, 3/22/1936

Candle Light only. Extra Masses in Mortuary Chapel. No Sunday Schools
Flood conditions prevail.

Sisters write home- Parents and Relatives. Phone calls-better service Holy Hour
Cathedral- Candle Light.

Generators used for light in Grammar School.

Do our investments, social justice mission connect?

Roberta Mulcahy,ssj

This question and others like it were challenges presented to those of us who participated in a Faith-Based Investors Forum recently in New York. Keynote speakers such as Amy Domini, founder of Domini Social Investments; Father Seamus Finn, Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate; Mark Regier, Mennonite Stewardship; Jeffrey Dekro, Jewish Funds for Justice; and Corinne Florek, OP, Mercy Partnership Fund, repeatedly spoke to connecting Mission and Investments.

They, among the many panelists of financial managers, consultants and advisors, called us to reflect on the Justice Mission of our institutes to see what impact our choices of investments make on our world, especially as they relate to the poor.

It would take several pages of this copy of *Mission* to cover the full scope of this forum. However, it would be remiss not to say how fortunate we are as a

Congregation to have an opportunity to take an active part in our SSJ Investment Committee and its justice philosophy and policies. Clare Lorenzatti and our managers are always open to our concerns about investment choices while at the same time keeping our portfolio balanced and profitable. Our Socially Responsible Investment principles are always part of their management of our finances.

Keeping this in mind we know that there is always more. Sr. Corinne Florek told us that we need “charity” as well as “justice” and urged us to participate in systemic change by increasing our Community Development funds. As a Congregation we participate in three Community Development projects and Clare recently reminded us that we could do “more.”

We welcome anyone interested in this or any other aspect of Socially Responsible Investing to join us in responding to the challenge of Investments and Mission.

A full report of this Faith-Based Investor forum will be available soon from the Justice and Peace Office.

Mother Berchmans' Diary continued...

Monday, 3/23/1936

Candle Light
Cathedral High School open
No Grammar School Classes
West Springfield closed
Night Service on Switch Board
Five Sisters remain tonight. Seven Sisters remain-Friday-Sat.-Sunday nights.
Dial in School for Red Cross.

Tuesday, 3/24/1936

Candles
Dial on phone in Grammar School
Sisters close Switch Board at 10 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/25/1936

Annunciation
Candle Light No Choir
Feast – Benedicamus

Centenary of Order in America
St. Louis 1836-1936 Special Day
Absent from Lenten Devotions because of Darkness in Gallery Cathedral

Thursday, 3/26/1936

Candle Light
School
Prayers
Death-Sr. M. Petronilla 11:30 a.m.
Death-Mother M. Evangelist-Worcester

Friday, 3/27/1936

Candle Light Rain
School
Confessions 3 p.m.
Benediction 5:45 p.m.
Electric Light 1:30 p.m.
Supper and Prayers- regular time

Cathedral High School Honors Sisters of St. Joseph

Cathedral High School held the Annual St. Joseph Dinner to honor alumni, former faculty and friends of the school, March 8.

As the school prepares to celebrate its 125th Anniversary (in September 2008) the school presented the first St. Joseph Medal to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, who have taught and administered the school since its inception.

Also honored with the St. Joseph Medal were: Rev. Francis J. Manning, Class of 1943; Ann M. Dryden, Class of 1953; Christopher J. and Barbara A. (Powers) Hoppin, both Class of 1960, Martin J. Pion, Class of 1968 and Daniel R. Roulier, Class of 1971.

The St. Joseph Medal is the highest honor bestowed by Cathedral High School on alumni, former faculty and friends of the school. It celebrates a life of professional success, dedication to service and commitment to the Catholic values that are at the core of the Cathedral High School mission.

The outstanding traditions at Cathedral are intimately entwined with the dedication of the more than 300 Sisters of St. Joseph who have taught at Cathedral. Throughout the evening the names of many of the Sisters were recalled with admiration and thanksgiving for their exemplary service to and encouragement of youth from the earliest days of Cathedral to the present.

Sr. Mary Quinn, SSJ President, speaking on behalf of the community said, "We are grateful for this honor in part because it reflects the hard work and dedication of hundreds of women who gave their lives to serve the young people of Cathedral. We are especially proud of

Cathedral and its special place in our community's history, and we continue to support this school and its place in the wider Springfield community."

Fr. Manning was honored for his sixteen years of service to Cathedral as teacher, counselor and administrator, and for his 24 years of service to St. Mary's Parish in Ludlow. In his reflection, Fr. Manning shared the story of Sr. Mary Josepha who he said, "is the reason why I am here this evening."

Ms. Dryden, a 50-year teacher and administrator in the Springfield Public School system, recalled the impact that her experiences with the Sisters of St. Joseph at Cathedral and The Elms College had on her and her sister, Mary Dryden.

Cathedral has honored several Sisters of St. Joseph individually in the previous seven Alumni Dinners, including Sisters Veronica

Brown, Mary Lynch, Mary Frances Honnen, Alice Kenney, Kathleen Keating, Catherine Hayes, Patricia James Sweeney, and Mildred Marengo.

Pictured are Paul Stelzer, chairperson of Cathedral's Board of Trustees, Mary Quinn, ssj, and John Miller, Cathedral principal.



Team Talk

SSJs join diverse women in complex struggle

**Sisters Mary Ferguson
and Denise Granger**

Our fragile and war torn planet can feel very large and difficult to deal with or it can feel small and deeply interconnected.

We experienced just those conflicting elements as we took part in a few days of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women from February 27 to 29.

The threads that bind women together no matter where they are from or what their life experience is like are strong.

Women from Tanzania, Egypt, Guatemala, Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Great Britain, the United States, India, Ireland, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Canada, Pakistan, and Kenya spoke of their universal hope for peace and discussed ways to gain the financial stability to be able to provide their children, especially their daughters, with food, education, and health care. They often addressed one another as “my sister.”

The solution to much of what ails our human societies and economies (sustained economic stability) is relatively simple to articulate and approve but so complicated to set in motion and achieve.

We attended six presentations and learned a great deal as we sat in rooms with these beautiful and strong women from around the world.

We heard how pornography is a major engine driving the trafficking of women and children.

A woman from a remote village in India said that no one leaves their homes after dark because nearly everyone has a gun and killing is rampant, a result of the arms trade.

At a session entitled “Financing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Leadership for a Sustainable Future,” Dr. Augusto Lopez-Claros said that gender equality is held back by: old prejudices and taboos, perverted interpretations of religious teachings, and ingrained patriarchy. He feels that every area of human endeavor will benefit from improvement in gender equality.

The other five presentations were equally as informative and when the texts of the presentations at this session make it to the UN website, we’ll let you know.

We did get on the subway and head in the wrong direction once– a four dollar error quickly corrected.

There were 3000+ people in attendance and each one had to have a special badge that required a photo and storage of a lot of data in the UN computers – a process that took a loooooong time. Denise was issued a badge that expired in the time it took to cross the street! And for any of you who ever attended an NCEA convention, the UN has the NCEA beat hands down for giving away materials.

Construction continues on Senior Residence



During August the inside of the building as we knew it was totally changed.

In November new windows were put in.



An overview of the two construction projects at the Mont.

Photos by Jim Willemain and Wendy Hammerle



Now the kitchen cabinets are in place on the third floor and the finished sheetrock is ready for a first coat of paint.



Health Care new entrance, elevator project progresses



The project began by creating the new parking area.



The cylinder for the elevator is put in place by the crane. Workers in the elevator shaft guide it into place.



The entrance begins to take shape.



SEED members sing, pray, read, organize

Sally Marsh, ssj

Ten members of the SEED Committee gathered at Mont Marie, February 2, a day which traditionally evokes in us images of light and shadow, to journey to Jamestown for our yearly overnight. The day, which followed on the heels of a generous rainstorm, dawned replete with sunlight.

On our way to Rhode Island, we detoured to Crystal Spring in Plainville, MA, to participate with composer Carolyn Mc Dade and several other women in a "sing." In a sprawling, old farmhouse owned by the Dominicans, we were warmly welcomed by Chris Loughlin, OP. Carolyn led us on several of her songs, among which were selections from her CD "My Heart Is Moved," a collection of songs inspired by the Earth Charter.

As sunlight poured into the room we sang and reflected, our hearts were so moved by Carolyn's lightness and hope, even as we pondered the challenge of our planet's peril.

As late afternoon shadows fell, we continued our journey. At our warm and cozy house in Jamestown we were met by Cathy Coyne and Irene Mizula. True to form, Cathy was outside trimming the butterfly bush. Though darkness was spreading its mantel, the house was aglow with light. That evening, we simply relaxed and enjoyed being together. By ten o'clock, all lights were out.

Sunshine greeted us again on Sunday morning. After spending some time reading various articles including one on Climate Change from the Federation, and another on the negative effects of

bottled water from the NCR, we began our meeting.

We discussed ideas for the annual Earth Day celebration at the Mont and decided to make water our focus for the year. Roberta Mulcahy and Ann Lynch updated us on landscaping at the Mont, which would include a visit from David and Mary Hoijsic, February 15-17 to prune trees. Reports were given by Lorry Villemaire and Sally Marsh regarding the labyrinth and Moleworks, respectively.

Lorry will be doing a six-week labyrinth program which will focus on self esteem, positive thinking, relaxation, peace and forgiveness at the jail in Northampton. Sally, thanks to Nancy Welsh's sister Kathleen, has been selling books in Chicoteague Island in Virginia, and thanks to Associate Priscilla Sicard, in Baltimore.

Cathy Coyne, who will be doing a

Continued on page 15



SEED Committee, Lorry Villemaire, Irene Comeau, Nancy Welsh, Roberta Mulcahy, Irene Mizula, and Maureen Charest (seated) Ann Lynch, Sally Marsh, Joan Dumais, Cathy Coyne and Connie Daub (standing),

Elder recalls lengthy schedule of prayer

Sr. Patricia James Sweeney

Thanks to the upcoming Presidential election, the word “change” has become a part of the daily news. One promises to “bring about change” while the other claims to, “have already brought about change.” Still, the word itself is open to multiple definitions if the dictionary is to be believed. So when I asked Sr. Mary Richard to tell me about those changes she has seen in her lifetime in Community, she could fill pages with examples.

From the time Sister entered on July 2, 1926 she recalled the day being filled with prayer. Nor was she alone in that. Once the Novitiate was reached the day began with Cell Prayers which one Sister recited while the rest were dressing after kissing the floor, the Habit, veil and cincture. Then, in the Chapel, Morning Prayers and Meditation followed. The Morning Prayers were said in unison, but one Sister read the points to be considered in the 30-minute Meditation after which the Sisters assisted at the Community Mass.

According to our Spiritual Directory, (even the modified 1957 edition) we were directed to remember 31 separate intentions after receiving Holy Communion.

Eight o'clock Prayers could be said before Mass “if time permits or after thanksgiving before leaving the Chapel.” The noon Angelus, One o'clock Prayers, Three o'clock Prayers, the Rosary, Spiritual Reading and Reflection brought the Sisters to supper. A hymn to St. Joseph brought us from the refectory to the Chapel for Night Prayers.

Along with prayer, the importance of daily recreation was recognized as there was a mandated hour for recreation before an hour for study (correcting papers or

preparing for the next day's classes). The recitation of the Veni Sancte brought us to silence which lasted until the morning ritual began again. Of course, praying in unison was possible in those days because we were all engaged in either teaching or cooking and living in groups in our convents.

Silence was much valued in those days as the Directory stated, “Not only is it necessary for a religious to be silent in words, but it is doubly important to be silent in action. As religious we must always seek to edify not disedify. A becoming gravity and modest reserve should ever characterize a true Sister of St. Joseph.”

Sr. Mary Richard remembers that when they were still in the Novitiate program Sr. Bertille would bring them to a large room after supper for recreation. Sr. Agnes Angela would play the piano while the group would sing. However, before leaving them Sr. Bertille would caution them, “Remember, Sisters, no love songs.” As Sister Mary Richard laughingly told me, “I'm still waiting to hear a good song that does not have love in it.”



In the “Old Motherhouse” rotunda, Sisters gather around St. Joseph for the

Giant Indoor Tag Sale

Info: (413) 536-2964

Sat. April 26

8:00 - 3:00



Bargains galore on furniture, household items,
toys, books, tools, clothes and more.

Baked goods and refreshments. FREE admission and
parking.

Mont Marie Gym

Mont Marie Child Care Center
34 Lower Westfield Rd., Holyoke

Due to bridge reconstruction, access via Route 5 only.

TAM distributes seed money to eight ministries

Kathleen Keating, ssj

A group of children from many different cultures will make beautiful music, and four inner city elementary schools will receive the services of a campus minister, thanks to seed money provided by the Apostolic Ministry Fund. In all \$80,000 will be distributed to these two projects as well as six others in the fiscal year, 2008 to 2009. All eight projects will serve children and teens at risk, thus carrying on the great educational tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield.

Through the leadership of Sr. Ann Keefe, St. Michael's Parish in Providence, Rhode Island has created an ensemble that includes both instrumental and vocal renditions of music from the various cultural groups represented by the children. The money from the fund will be used to purchase instruments native to the countries of origin of the families of the children.

Sister Catherine VanHouten successfully presented a proposal by which she will set up a campus ministry program for the cluster of four elementary schools in the city of Bridgeport, CT. Sr. Catherine has served as principal of one of these schools, St. Ambrose, for many years. In preparation for the implementation of this project Sr. Catherine studied part time to complete a spiritual direction course of studies to help guide her in developing programs for the children, the teachers, and the parents. Mont Marie residents remember the delightful children's bell choir Sr. Catherine brought to entertain us.

The other grants distributed by the congregation include some familiar programs. The Kids' Club, an afternoon and summer program, serves poor children who come to the Gray House in Springfield. The Teen Girls' Project of the City Arts agency develops a sense of the artis-

tic for inner city girls in Providence, RI. Another grant will provide internships for young girls from the streets of Providence to help them earn a living and absorb the principles of non-violence. Also in Providence, Sophia Academy, an alternative for middle school girls supported in part by our congregation in its foundation, will receive funds to help pay for a high school placement coordinator.

The three Step Programs at the College of Our Lady of the Elms,—Step Forward, Step Ahead, and Quest—will also receive funds for the general development of the programs. Co-founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Elms College as Step Forward, this supplemental educational project now includes not only Step Forward for middle school girls but Step Ahead for high school students and Quest for boys. Our associate, Eileen Kirk, co-directs this program and receives assistance and support from our sisters at the college.

Among the programs sponsored by Church Outreach to Youth (COTY) is the Kids' Upward Bound Academy (KUB). KUB Academy is an after-school and summer program to assist children who are not performing at grade level in school. Sr. Eunice Tassone reports that this program continues to be successful in improving the reading and math abilities of the children.

All of these programs have a member of the congregation involved either on staff or as a member of the Board. The members of the sub-committee of the Team for Apostolic Ministry (TAM) who studied the proposals expressed the inspiration they felt as they recognized the creativity and hard work that went into these projects, which is a small representation of all the good work done by so many of our sisters involved in ministry.

Apostolic Ministry Funding Distribution 2008 - 2009

AGENCY	PROJECT	GRANT
The Gray House	Kids' Club	\$12,000
City Arts	Teen Girls Art Project	\$11,000
Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence	Girlfriends' Group	\$10,000
Sr. Michael's Parish	Multi-cultural Peace Ensemble	\$ 9,000
Sophia Academy	High School Placement Coordinator	\$ 5,000
Step Programs at Elms	Standing on a Foundation of Success	\$10,000
Church Outreach to Youth (COTY)	Kids' Upward Bound Academy (KUb)	\$ 6,000
Bridgeport Cathedral Cluster	Campus Ministry Program	\$17,000
Total		\$80,000



Sisters Elly Harrington and Elaine Moskal clean the front porch.

Jamestown Cleaning

Among other tasks, Kathy Imbruno, ssj, pledged the furniture.



Mary Shea, ssj, spent the day getting the kitchen spic and span.



Sisters Maureen Charest, Maureen Griffin and Cathy Coyne take care of the trash!

Retired teacher goes back to school in Haiti

Angela Deady, ssj

We've all seen or heard the very clever sound bite – “50 is the new 40”, “40 is the new 30” - and on and on. Without a doubt, some of us believe it, some of us are a little skeptical and some of us think we know better! There is, however, one example that lends credibility to the idea. Sr. Mary Magdalen Ward, ssj, makes 80 look like the new 60!

Sister Magdalen is just back from two weeks in Haiti where she worked as a volunteer for the COTY project. Sister taught English as a second language to nine students. Those students came from villages surrounding the city of Port- Au-Prince and those same students will spend this coming summer working in the United States.

COTY (Church Outreach to Youth), based in North Adams and supervised by Sr. Eunice Tassone, SSJ has been working in Haiti for over twenty years. The project is staffed by high school and college students and volunteer professionals. Over the years, COTY volunteers have built schools, a church, a store, a latrine. They have helped build cisterns, pave roads and teach basic English and Math to young



Sister Magdalen is preparing classes.

Haitians.

COTY workers also built a dormitory residence and kitchen for the volunteer staffs. Sr. Magdalen lived in that dormitory with fourteen college students and Sr. Eunice from December 28, 2007 to January 8, 2008. The students came from Westfield State College, Berkshire Community College, MCLA in North Adams and Yale University. Several of the volunteers had already spent a number of school vacations and winter breaks in Haiti with COTY.

Sr. Magdalen and her team began each day with prayer. They took turns cooking (rice and beans) and cleaning the common areas. Each day when morning classes were finished, the volunteers traveled up the mountain to remote villages to introduce COTY's latest project to the people of Haiti - planting trees! Sr. Magdalen didn't participate in this activity as climbing steep and narrow mountain paths was left to the younger team members. Sometimes 80 is only the new 70!

Sr. Magdalen felt that her time in Africa prepared her for her visit to Haiti, but she was struck by the poverty of the Haitian people and their gratitude for everything that is done for them and with them. Sister is especially grateful to the Community and the Office of Ministerial Resources which awarded her a grant from the “Developing World Experience” fund, thus enabling her to be part of the COTY team.

Sister is right back at work at the Dominican Monastery in West Springfield where she is employed as a receptionist. Shortly after her return home, Sr. Eunice called to ask if she might consider a return to Haiti next year with the COTY team. “She might!” was Sr. Magdalen's immediate response!

Anniversary celebration to begin in August

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

With the 125th Anniversary of our presence as a Congregation in Springfield approaching, many members are giving time and energy to plan a year-long series of events to include friends, relatives, co-workers, benefactors, former members - in a word, everyone!

The overall theme for the year will be Graced by God's Great Love. These words will be on all mailings and will be featured on a ceremonial banner to be displayed at events such as the Annual Golf Tournament.

The celebration will open on August 8, 2008. Organized by the Team for Membership and Association, the day will include prayer and a picnic. An effort is being made to locate former members, and a notice to save the date will soon be sent to all.

The Congregational Calendar given to each house in September will focus on ministries, with a variety of photos, and

SEED Weekend continued from page 11

presentation on ecology at St. Lucy's Parish, informed us about her ongoing work for the Earth at St. Lucy's School, where she is a teacher's assistant in Grade two, and in Newport where she is on an environmental council.

The meeting had begun with prayer and reflection. Among the treasures brought to prayer was a picture postcard of a painting in the Louvre, entitled Saint Joseph Charpentier by Georges de La Tour. In the painting, it is Jesus who is seen, while Joseph, who holds a candle, is in shadow. As Maureen Charest explained, it is the play of light

will also include events significant in the life of the congregation.

Plans are being considered for an event in November that would serve as a fundraiser.

In March, 2009 a Liturgy open to all will be celebrated on a date and place to be announced, and will also be televised. The Justice and Peace Committee is planning this day.

Arrangements for Founders' Day in October, and the conclusion of the year on August 9, 2009 are still under consideration.

Fifteen committee members are engaged in this planning process. "We want to incorporate the spirit of celebration into events and observances that are already happening," noted Patty Murphy, ssj. "We appreciate the time, thought, and efforts of all concerned, as together we rejoice that we are Graced by God's Great Love. "

and shadow that enhances the meaning of the work.

On the way home that afternoon, we learned that poor old Phil, who had been dragged from his burrow, had seen his shadow. We, on the SEED Committee, had willingly left our homes that weekend. Beneath the shadow that looms over Earth, we had seen and heard the light at Crystal Spring and in Jamestown.

May each of us and all of us do what we can to spread that light. Let us hope, as Jane Goodell says, that we have enough time.

SEED offers some facts about water availability

Ann Lynch, ssj

The SEED Committee's focus this year is on the quality and availability of water. We are not alone. Let's look at some of the facts.

Fact: More than one in six people around the world lack access to enough water, according to *Corporate Accountability*.

Fact: Last year, according to information in the *National Catholic Reporter*, the National Coalition of American Nuns went on record with a resolution urging members to abstain from bottled water, whenever possible.

Fact: At least four billion pounds of plastic bottles end up in waste facilities across the country each year.

The availability of water itself is a special issue. Suzanne Golas, speaker at

our annual Woman's Spirituality Day (see page 9) spoke on the sacredness of water, and our need to be stewards of Earth.

Fact: Nestle, Coke and Pepsi are marketing their bottled water as more pure than tap water.

Recent news reports, however, have uncovered the fact that Pepsi's Aquafina comes from public water sources. Bottled water has fewer restrictions than municipal water sources.

Fact: In recent decades, corporate control of water has been presented as a cure-all for the global water crisis. The World Bank has been the engine behind this corporate takeover of water systems and services.

There are communities throughout the world without clean, drinkable water while large corporations earn large profits selling a resource that should be available to everyone.

Now your change can make a difference

The Justice and Peace and SEED Committees, with support from the Leadership Team, have engaged in a project sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of PA, "Change for Global Change."

The goal of this project is to address the ecological crisis of water scarcity. The money collected will provide grants for water sustainability projects where Sisters of St. Joseph minister.

Beginning with the March Community Day until Pentecost, we have an opportunity to put some of our change or bills in a container at the Mont for this project. Those unable to attend the day may send a check to the Mont made out to Sisters of St. Joseph, attention: "Change for Global Change."

Change for Global Change is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to collect change (coins or bills) in order to bring about sustainable *change* in areas of need.

