

Agreee commitment follows long preparation

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

As part of our Community Day on August 9, three women will commit themselves to the Community of St. Joseph as Agreees.

Leadership Team member Mary Ferguson, ssj, notes that these women have spent the past year in intense preparation, including input, discussion, and reflection. "These women have prayed and discussed such topics as our history, spirit and spirituality, mission and ministry, and commitment," Mary said. The women also shared their story with community through articles on First Class.

The final phase of their preparation includes sharing a retreat and writing their commitments. As Agreees, each will meet regularly in a community circle consisting of sisters, associates, and others, with whom they will pray, reflect, and socialize. They will also make a financial commitment to the congregation.

The preparation of Agreees has been more extensive than that of Associates and their commitment also differs from that of Associates. For example, Associates are encouraged to participate in community events; for Agreees there will be an expecta-

tion to take part. This is an instance of difference in degrees of commitment and accountability, with the realization that all - Sisters, Associates, and Agreees - are committed to our charism.

The three women who will be Agreees have shared their backgrounds, their hopes, and their desires with community, most recently through written expression. Each one's journey is unique. Each person is responding to a call that is her call, and perhaps understood only by her.

In a 1981 Federation talk during a *Life I Program*, Phyllis DeFuccia, SSJ says, "Every person who joins us, at any level of association, is telling us who it is to be a Sister of St. Joseph." Those who will make their commitment as Agreees in August are Teresa Foley, Marissa Brown Ludwig, and Sherry Gendron Enserro.

Sisters to celebrate golden anniversaries



Sr. Jean Bostley
Sr. Mary Cadigan
Sr. Mary Patricia Carr
Sr. Gloria Corriveau
Sr. Patricia Curran
Sr. Mary Duffy
Sr. Mary Lou Gillon
Sr. Kathleen Imbruno
Sr. Margaret Kenney

Sr. Paula Misitano
Sr. Eileen Murphy
Sr. Miriam Francis Predom
Sr. Patricia Rahaim
Sr. Simone Rodrigues
Sr. Eunice Tassone
Sr. Madeline Tiberii

New publication to continue story of Joyous Service

Angela Deady, ssj

All of us carry the many stories of our Community in our hearts and in our heads. And those stories, which we love to tell, which we love to listen to, inspire us, make us laugh, make us proud to be Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Sister Kathleen Keating is presently at work writing the recent story of the Congregation. Her work concentrates on the years 1983-2008. Sister hopes to have the story completed and printed by March of 2009 as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of our Congregation.

Why 1983-2008?

In 1982, Sister Consuelo Marie, SSJ of Chestnut Hill wrote and published *Joyous Service*, the history of the Congregation from its founding in 1882. That publication marked our 100th anniversary.

Much has happened since 1982, in our world and in our Community and Sr. Kathleen is committed to telling the story.

Kathleen began her research in February, 2007. She searched through the community archives, through Mission, the community newspaper, and through the six-year reports of the leadership teams. She interviewed many sisters and em-

ployed her own vast knowledge of community events.

Although the format is subject to change, Sister envisions a magazine style publication of about 100-150 pages. The work will include at least four, and possible five separate but related essays. Those essays will deal with the topics of membership, ministry, future planning, leadership and government, spirit and spirituality. According to Sister Kathleen, there might be no need for a separate essay on spirit and spirituality as that is what gives life and meaning to the other areas.

Asked what she had personally gained from her research, Sister Kathleen said that she felt an "increased pride in our Sisters' accomplishments." In the years 1982-2008, ministries were created, with little resources to serve the needs of the "dear neighbor." And despite the increased median age of the Community, the smaller number of members, the congregation continues to be vibrant and viable.

Sister Kathleen is not sure at this point when the work will be printed and if it will be printed only for the archives and community members. Perhaps the work will contain pictures. And Sister is hoping to procure a grant to cover the publication cost.

Although Kathleen enjoyed the research and the writing, she said it is time to be done with it! That's good news for all of us who look forward to reading our story!

In Memoriam

Please remember the following in prayer:

Lillian Rancourt, mother of Associate Joan Richardson

Former Member, Alice Connolly Clancy
Aurelia Martin, sister-in-law of Sr. Maureen Martin

Patricia MacDonald, sister of Sr. Norma MacDonald

Gwendolyn Behan, mother of Sr. Mary Behan

Eric Knowles, nephew of Sr. Kathy Knowles

David Flanagan, brother of Sr. Kathryn Flanagan

Grace Moore, sister of Sr. William Agnes

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.

Team Talk

Reflections on our first three years ...

During the Chapter of Affairs and Election (2004-05), we used the theme and image of “journey.” Bruce R. Pullen, in his book *Discovering Celtic Spirituality* says this:

“The act of seeking something is a quest, a search.
Pilgrimage is an inward
as well as an outward journey.
Along the way we gain new insights on how we live
and also a better appreciation of those with whom we live.
The “thin places” of pilgrimage enable us to feel closer to God.”

During the first three years of our journey together as the Leadership Team we have experienced inward as well as outward journeys.

The inward journey is highlighted (and enlightened) by our opportunities to pray with you -

at community gatherings – happy or sad – when we pray together
and at our meetings, when we bring all of our intentions to the
heart of God;

to celebrate all manner of events with you -

your awards, your jubilees, your ministerial successes;

and to walk with you when life’s inevitable challenges present themselves -

the need to transition from work to new work or to retirement

the need to close a house and move

the joys/sorrows involved in aging

the anxiety and mystery surrounding illness and death.

It is at these “thin places” that the meaning and significance of community comes clear.

Each of us has grown in our appreciation of your good hearts, your generous spirits, and your array of talents; this knowledge has deepened and focused our desire to serve well. Your encouragement helps us breathe easier and your trust humbles and strengthens us.

The outward journey is more visible and has many tangents:

working with the Congregation’s Teams and Committees to address the
commitments we made together in 2005 (meetings)

conducting the Congregation’s business (meetings)

coordinating with our wonderful Mont staff to stay on top of the building
projects

(as much as possible, anyway – did we mention meetings?)

serving on boards and committees – some weighty, some not - but all involve
meetings...

Is it what we thought it would be? It is all that and more. Thank you.

Ministry expands with societal needs

Sr. Patricia James Sweeney

It seems strange that whether we study the ministries of the first Sisters of St. Joseph in the Springfield, Fall River or Burlington Dioceses, we see that each of them could be subsumed under the banner of education.

Before we founded schools we visited inmates in prison and families in distress using compassion, understanding, empathy, love and generosity to “lead forth” (educere) their innate God-given strengths. From these, patterns emerged that would eventually result in happy, successful lives.

Simultaneously, parish elementary schools were established in almost every Catholic parish and area high schools followed rapidly.

In Springfield, for example, Cathedral High School began in two rooms over the sacristy in St. Michael’s Cathedral. Our earliest Sisters knew that without formal education, children of new immigrants would remain below the poverty level. Consequently, our colleges in Chicopee and Vermont opened their doors.

Because of this orientation, girls entering in the 20’s, 30’s, 40’s and even 50’s realized that they would become teachers or cooks. Not until the 60’s did the full meaning of education gave rise to other ministries and expanded horizons. However it was not without some apprehension – and even pain- that we came to recognize that our schools would suffer losses as we moved to fulfill other societal needs.

As we look back now on those days of experimentation we have pride in the realization of the courage our Sisters displayed as they followed the Spirit into other fields while still remaining true to

the ideals learned in our formation as Sisters of St. Joseph. All of these differing ministries are really part and parcel of education, leading forth our best efforts through learning and practicing the spiritual and corporate works of mercy.

Our present ministries encompass the traditional elementary, high school and college teaching as well as Pastoral Outreach in parishes and hospitals, along with caring for our planet earth at Mont Marie and Maplewood Farm in Rhode Island.

Our own Weston Rehabilitation Center is preparing formerly incarcerated women not only to resume life in freedom, but also in gainful employment. Many of our Sisters are active Social Workers in clinics and Elder Care facilities.

Wherever one Sister of St. Joseph spends her days with and for the “dear neighbor,” each of us is there supporting her with prayer and love, grateful in the realization that our collective educational spirit is alive and well.

Letter -- Letter -- Letter

Dear Community of St. Joseph,

How can I thank you enough for the prayers and your presence to us on the death of our dear Mother. It meant so much.

The cards, Masses, memorial intentions continue to come in every day. I know the thoughts and prayers of our Sisters in the Health Care and retirement home most especially made her passing so gentle - a blessing for all of us.

Peace and love,
Mary Behan for Julie and Jim,
George.

Sisters celebrate Special Anniversaries

60 Years Entered in 1948

Sister Marguerite Blackburn (Jean) was born in Burlington, Vermont and entered from St. Mary Parish in St. Alban's, Vermont. She taught in the schools of the Burlington Diocese for 45 years. She also served in the Appalachia Child Development Program, Lancaster, Kentucky and the Foster



Grandparent Program at Christ the King School, Rutland, Vermont. She is the library coordinator presently at Christ the King School.

Sister Catherine Hayes (Sr. Catherine Edmund,) a Springfield native, entered from Holy Name Parish in Springfield. She taught at Cathedral High School for over 40 years and served at Alumnae Library of the College of Our Lady of the Elms for nearly 10 years. She was awarded the St. Joseph Medal by Cathedral High School in 2006. She is a resident of Mont Marie, Holyoke.



Sister Mary Lyons (Sr. Raymond Maria) was born in Holyoke and entered from St. Jerome Parish, Holyoke. She taught in the schools of the Springfield Diocese at St. Mary, Pittsfield; Immaculate Conception, Easthampton; St. Mary, Northampton; St. Joseph, North Adams and Cathedral High School, Springfield. She served in the Worcester Diocese at St. Ann, Worcester and St. Joseph, Leicester. Sister also ministered for over 20 years on the staff of Mont Marie as a nurse's aide. She is retired and



lives in Holyoke.

Sister Ruth Virginia Guinn (Margaret Mary) was born in Worcester and entered from St. John Parish, Worcester. She taught at Sacred Heart School, Holyoke, 1950-1968 and Holy Family School, Springfield, 1968-1972.



From 1972 to the present she has served at Holy Name Parish, Springfield as teacher and most recently as secretary for Religious Education. She was awarded the Daily Points of Light Award in 2004 for her extensive volunteer work especially at Ronald McDonald House and Holy Name Parish. She resides in Springfield.

Sister Loretta Scarlett (Sr. Vincent Joseph) was born in So. Barre, Massachusetts and entered from St. Thomas Parish there. Sister taught at Cathedral Grammar, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, St. Matthew and Holy Name Schools in Springfield; St. Agnes School, Dalton; St. Mary, Southbridge and Sacred Heart, Gardner where she also served as Principal and Pastoral Associate. She is a resident of Mont Marie, Holyoke.



Sister Anne Marie Wildenhain (Sr. Cecilia John) a native of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, entered from St. Joseph Parish, Pawtucket. Sister taught at Sacred Heart School, Gardner, Massachusetts, St. Joseph School, Leicester and Worcester Central Catholic School and St. Joseph School, Newport, RI. She has served as a Pastoral Assistant at St. Richard Parish, Sterling, Massachusetts. She lives in Worcester.



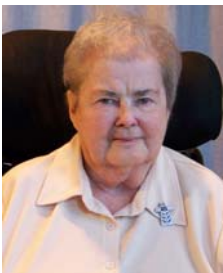
Special Anniversary celebration honors

65 Years Entered in 1943

Sister Gertrude Conway (Sr. William Marie) was born in Rutland, Vermont and entered from St. Peter Parish, Rutland. She taught at St. Peter and Christ the King Schools and Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Rutland and St. Francis de Sales School, Bennington. She taught in business departments of Bennington Catholic High School, St. Joseph College and Southern Vermont College, Bennington. She was active in the business community of Bennington and also served in parish ministry at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Bennington. Sister was a member of the Vermont State Symphony Orchestra as a cellist before she entered the Congregation. She is a resident of St. Joseph Residence, Rutland.



Sister Rita Marie Emerson (Rita Agnes) was born in Whitehall, NY and entered from St. Peter Parish, Rutland, Vermont. Sister taught at St. Charles School, Bellows Falls and St. Peter, Rutland. She served as Principal at Christ the King and St. Peter Schools, Rutland and Currier Memorial Graded School, Danby, Vt. Sister also taught at College of St. Joseph, Rutland and was the Elementary Supervisor for the Bennington/Rutland Supervisory Union. She was awarded the Certificate of Special Recognition of the Vermont Headmasters' Association. She also was named a police commissioner for the city of Rutland. Sister is a resident of Mont Marie Health Care Center, Holyoke, Massachusetts.



Sister Mary Fidelis McLee (Sr. Margaret Elizabeth) was born in Brooklyn,

New York and entered from St. Anthony Parish, Brooklyn. Sister taught at Christ the King School, Rutland, Vermont; St. Michael School, Brattleboro and served as Principal at St. Francis de Sales School, Bennington and was on the faculty of the College of St. Joseph in Rutland. She also served as Treasurer of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland as well as Congregational Treasurer. Sister was involved in ministry to the elderly in several parishes. She is a resident of Mont Marie, Holyoke.



Sister Janice Molloy (Sr. Elizabeth James,) a native of Auburn, Massachusetts, entered from St. Joseph Parish, Auburn. She taught at St. Thomas School, West Springfield and Holy Name School, Springfield. The majority of her teaching, however, was at Cathedral High School, Springfield where she taught for forty years. She resides at St. Joseph Residence, Mont Marie.



Sister Mary Ellen Murphy (Sr. Stephen Maria) a native of Holyoke, Massachusetts, entered from Sacred Heart Parish, Holyoke. She taught at St. Mark, St. Joseph and St. Charles Schools, Pittsfield; Holy Family, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Cathedral High Schools, Springfield and St. Mary School, Milford. She served on the Central Services staff at Elms College for several years before her retirement. Sister lives in Chicopee.



Sister Miriam Regina O'Connor (Regina) was born in Rutland, Vermont and entered from Christ the King Parish,

Sisters 1160 years of service

Rutland. Sister taught at St. Peter and Christ the King Schools in Rutland; St. Charles School, Bellows Falls; St. Mary School, Fairhaven and St. Francis de Sales School in Bennington. She served as a faculty member and administrator at the former St. Joseph College, Bennington and as Registrar at the College of St. Joseph, Rutland. For many years she was the archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Vermont. She resides in Rutland.

Sister Ruth O' Connor (Sr. Miriam John,) a native of West Springfield, entered from Immaculate Conception Parish,

West Springfield. Sister ministered in the Diocese of Springfield as a teacher at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Holy Name, Cathedral Grammar and Cathedral High Schools and as Principal at St. Matthew School. She served as

teacher at St. Stephen and St. Peter Schools, Worcester and at St. Catherine Academy, Newport, Rhode Island. She is a member of the retirement community at Mont Marie, Holyoke.



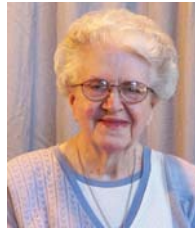
Sister Patricia Francis Sharron,

(Lillian) a native of North Adams, Massachusetts, entered from St. Francis Parish, North Adams. Sister taught at St. Mary School, Pittsfield and Holy Name School, Springfield. For many years she served on the diocesan staff, including that of the Bishop's residence. Sister



lives in Springfield.

Sister Julia Marie Walsh (Teresa Ann) was born in Rutland, Vermont and entered from Christ the King Parish, Rutland. Sister taught at St. Peter, Christ the King and Mt. St. Joseph Schools in Rutland.



She was a member of the faculty and administration at the former St. Joseph College in Bennington, serving as President, 1966-1970. She served as Executive Secretary to the President of the Congregation and worked in the Guidance Office of Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Rutland. Sister is a resident at Mont Marie Health Care Center, Holyoke.

70 Years Entered in 1938

Sister Ellen Therese

Barry, (Ellen Mary) a native of Bellows Falls, Vermont, entered from St. Charles Parish, Bellows Falls. She taught in Christ the King and St. Peter Schools, Rutland and St. Mary School, Fairhaven. She



served at Sacred Heart School, Bennington as teacher and also as Principal for many years. She resides in Bennington.

Sister Cecile Lafond (Sr. Veronica)

was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and entered from St. Matthew Parish, Fall River. Sister taught at St. Jean Baptiste and Blessed Sacrament Schools, Fall River and St. Michael School, Swansea.



She was on the faculty of St. Joseph Prep and St. Joseph Teachers Institute in Fall River. She served as librarian and instructor at Divine Heart Seminary, Donaldson, TX in the early 1970's. Sister was awarded a fellowship by the French government for study in France; she was also awarded a Fulbright grant by the United States government.

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Summer reflection for 'ordinary time'

Mary E. Harvey, ssj

It is a day similar to others, not a holiday, holy day, or day of any special event, just an ordinary day. This day is filled with the routine of rising, praying, eating, working, listening, talking, reading, writing, end-of-day thoughts and sleeping.



Nothing extraordinary, seemingly commonplace, yet a great gift. Often I think of Sarah Orne Jewett's words said by a character in her paranovel, **The Country of the Pointed Firs,**

" Ordinary day, let me be aware of the treasure that you are."

**

Nature Drawing class. My eyes follow the contours of branches as I draw. I study their shapes and textures as I sketch them. Observation, seeing are key here. Would I have looked at them as closely were it not an assignment? Is not each day a course in seeing?

**

Three small stones from a mountain stream lie in the palm of my hand. They feel cool and silk-like. For long years the mountain water washed them. I look at their outlines worn by time. Some colors are muted; others are dark. I think of perseverance, their faithful being down to this summer day. I think on human fidelity fashioned through the years by other waters and sands of time.

**

A rainbow arcs across late afternoon sky after summer rain. I watch its spectrum lighted by sun breaking through clouds. I remember Wordsworth's exultation, "My heart leaps up whenever I behold a rainbow in the sky." It takes both sun and rain to create a rainbow. Both are needed to bring its beauty and promise. I ponder this truth and its parallel in the ways of our lives.

**

I walk on a campus along a path cast alternately in sun and in shadow. Orange and black monarch butterflies hover over it. A lone yellow one joins them. As they fly in the summer air, their graceful movements seem a ballet.

Long have I been amazed by the beauty of butterflies. In Christian art, the butterfly symbolizes new life, Christ's resurrection.

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75 Years Entered in 1933

Sister Mary Beatrice Gauthier

(Edna Therese) a native of Bennington, Vermont, entered from Sacred Heart Parish, Bennington. She taught at St.



Peter and Christ the King Schools and Mt. St. Joseph Academy in Rutland; St. Charles School in Bellows Falls; Sacred Heart and St. Francis de Sales Schools in Bennington. She also served on the staff of Mt.

St. Joseph Convent, Rutland, where she now lives as a member of the retirement community.

From the Development Office

Connie Quinlan, ssj

It seems that one of the more difficult topics to have a conversation around today is the raising of money. What comes to mind readily on the subject is the price of gas, the price of food, the expense of general shopping and traveling, to name but a few obvious facts.

As one who is charged with the raising of money for the congregation, the above, while very realistic, are also great sources of concern since we depend on the raising of funds for the benefit of our retirement and ministry needs.

No surprise to any of us is the fact that our wonderful friends, benefactors, former students, co-workers in ministry and indeed our own sisters and associates continue to support, according to their means, the regular appeals sent out from our Development Office during the year. Added to these would be our fundraising endeavors like the 500 Club and the big money raffle, both held annually. The sacrifices so many make on behalf of our congregation are very humbling and indeed reason for us to take note and give thanks.

Letters received in our office during the year from benefactors across the country often touch on the fact that some are alone, not in good health, on fixed incomes and perhaps just about getting by. Yet, more often than not, a donation is enclosed with a request that their intentions be remembered in the prayers of our sisters. Truly, we experience people helping people day after day. We must not forget all those dear friends who believe in our mission and so graciously reach out to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The 500 Club and the Money Raffle are two very important drives held annually. Information on both of these fundraisers has been distributed to you. We hope all of you will join with our Fundraising Committee in responding to these important endeavors by getting the message out there and by doing all you can personally to make them both successful.

As one of our financial goal statements says: "For us to be able to continue to serve others, there is a greater need than ever to develop resources to generate funds."

Thank you to each of you for doing all you can to help this goal be realized.

Letter of gratitude

Dear Sisters, Associates and ALL who contributed to assist the Kenyan People,

I want to thank you ever so much for your monetary outreach to the Kenyan people during the recent violence in Kenya.

There are thousands of people who need to begin from scratch. I found it a paradox and a blessing that the check sent by the congregation, which you all made possible, arrived on March 19th, St. Joseph's Day!

There isn't a Sister whom I've greeted since my return home for leave who hasn't said to me, "I have been praying for you everyday."

I have seen the effects and felt those prayers very much over the past four months.

Please continue them for the Kenyans as they have a long road ahead of them.

With a grateful heart,
Pat Smith, ssj



Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield

Support our Sisters in ministry and retirement

Monthly drawings for
 each group of 500 members
 1st Prize \$500
 2nd Prize \$200
 3rd Prize \$100
 Christmas Drawing \$250!

\$10 per month for 12 months or pay \$100 upfront and SAVE \$20

Please return registration and payment to: **SSJ 500 Club**
 c/o Development Office
 34 Lower Westfield Rd., Ste 1
 Holyoke, MA 01040-2739

Or register online at: www.ssjspringfield.org
 Phone: (413) 536-0853, ext. 298
 E-mail: development@ssjspringfield.com

SSJ 500 Club 2008/2009
 (starts Sept. 2008)

Monthly (\$10) Yearly (\$100)

Payment: Cash Credit Card Check (Payable to: Sisters of St. Joseph)

VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number with area code: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

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Parish minister outlines history as school doors close

The following "Farewell to St. Patrick School" was given by Edie McAlice, ssj.

"As a former librarian, and a woman of Irish descent, I love a good story. St. Patrick's School has a grand one, a sacred history !

Once upon a time, in 1872 to be exact, a young, exuberant priest, Fr. Patrick Stone, was named pastor of St. Patrick's parish and celebrated the first Mass in the Falls when the church was dedicated on December 13, 1872. Within seven years Fr. Stone had reduced the debt on the parish, and purchased land for a cemetery.

By 1880 he realized a long-cherished dream to build a wood-frame school house on land he purchased on Columba Street. He besieged Mother Teresa, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, from Flushing, NY, for some Sisters to staff his school. After several attempts, he and then Bishop Thomas O'Reilly visited her. Their persistence finally wore her down, and on September 7, 1880 a proud Fr. Stone led a spirited procession of seven new teachers from NY. They rang the school bell for the first time as they processed up the hill to their new school. That bell was carried to the Altar today by Sr. Mary Quinn, the current President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, all of us successors to these first 7 Sisters. The original school building eventually became antiquated and inadequate to fill the needs of present day education. A new school was planned and built on Montgomery Street, and opened its doors on April 17, 1970. The buildings changed. The spirit within them remained the same.

Without students the buildings would have been hollow. Our students were the blessing that filled out the frame and gave meaning to the bricks and mortar. We will forever hear the echoes of their excited voices raised in joy and sometimes consternation, the calls for help, the offers to help, the scraped knees, the bruised egos, the unending questions, all that goes into growing and developing and learning. Several students were interviewed at school on Friday. Here's a tiny sample of their responses: "It's like my second home... "We kind of grew up here...

It's not just teachers and students. We were a family." That says it all... May all of our students always be at home in God's heart and in ours.

As a Sister of St. Joseph currently serving in the parish it is my privilege to thank several groups on behalf of my community. We thank God for the blessing of the many pastors who followed in the footsteps of Fr. Stone. We especially thank Fr. Rick for his years of boundless energy, and his unwavering, genuine love and devotion to our children. They will always treasure the memory of his presence in their lives.

Throughout the years, many Sisters of St. Joseph followed that original procession of teachers in 1880. Some of them are with us today, especially the two most recent principals, Sr. William Agnes and Sr. Connie Cawley. Our oldest living teacher is also here, Sr. Mary Richard, at the young age of 101. We thank all of You ! You served with dedication and distinction, loving our children while maintaining the standards

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necessary to send them forth to continued success in life and in learning.

When the time came that our Sisters were decreasing in number in the classroom, we welcomed many dedicated men and women who became partners with us in the Mission of Jesus, and our community's mission: "That all may be one." They accepted the torch from us willingly, and carried it with honor. Their competence was a source of pride for us. We want to thank all those who joined us here at St. Patrick's. We thank all who served as Directors of Religious Education, especially Patti Zygarowski, our current Director. You have all worked closely with the school in the faith formation of our youth.

We especially thank Mrs. Anne Sweetman, who had the distinction of being our first lay principal. She understood the trust and dedicated herself to continuing the faith traditions that have always endured here at St. Patrick's. We thank all of the devoted men and women of our current faculty and support staff who brought us success by your dedication to our children and to academic excellence. Our blessings go with all of you as you continue on the path of education. You will carry a piece of St. Patrick's with you as you venture forth.

We thank the thousands of parents for the sacrifices you made to entrust your children to our care. You also became partners with us in their faith and formation. We acknowledge with gratitude the countless volunteers whose willing service kept things running smoothly. A special thank you to Joanne Grenier for sharing her God-given talent of music making with us. We could always depend upon her to make any

occasion special. She never let us down. We are grateful to the long list of benefactors whose generosity helped us to maintain important programs and projects. Your kindness confirmed and strengthened our commitment to our goals and our mission. All of these groups, and countless others who made up our school family will forever be a part of St. Patrick's great heart.

It was said that in the 1880s Bishop O'Reilly liked to visit the school unannounced and to examine the children; he was so satisfied with their progress. The same can be said of any visitors to the school right up to last Friday, June 13. They had to be impressed with the quiet, clean halls, decorated with each grade's creative bulletin boards, each class and teacher working together within their classroom environment, learning about God, about God's world and all those who live in it, while learning the skills and knowledge necessary to becoming successful in life, as well as learning the importance of service to our sisters and brothers in need.

We may be exiting the building. We are not turning out the lights. They will forever burn brightly in the lives of all who have passed through these halls and classrooms.

In the words of Paul Harvey - the 'rest of the story' is in God's heart.

May we trust in God's promise to us as recorded in Jeremiah:

' Know the plans I have for you... I will give you a future full of hope...'

May we all be one in blessing and may we be forever held in the palm of God's hand."

Two committees act to improve crucial problem

Roberta Mulcahy, ssj

Water has been the theme for our Ecology (SEED) Committee's education emphasis during the past year. Unfortunately, there continues to be an ongoing need to bring to awareness this life issue at many levels. Almost every publication that arrives in our office has an article that speaks to the crisis of available clean water for drinking and hygiene.

Recently, an article connecting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the water crisis in many countries reminds us of how important water is to achieving all eight goals. Without improved access to clean drinking water and sanitation, the goals of poverty reduction, health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability cannot happen. Hygiene-related illnesses sap economic growth and cost billions of working days each

year. More than two million people in developing countries, most of them children, die each year from diseases associated with unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation.

As we continue our postcard action to Presidential candidates we are asking them to support the MDG's. These goals can only succeed if connections are made between the finite nature of freshwater resources, increasing demand, and the need to protect and manage water resources properly. Reducing poverty and addressing unsustainable consumption patterns are critical to halting environmental degradation and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The Justice & Peace and SEED Committees are both very grateful for your support and response concerning Water Issues and the Millennium Development Goals.

Document traces detailed process of merger

As announced by the Leadership Team in its May letter, an historical document on the merger of the Rutland Congregation with Springfield has been published. Titled "Walking Together in Faith: The Journey of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland to Merger with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield," its origin as a text developed from a proposal for such a document offered by Sister Mary Harvey to Sister Jane Morrissey and the 1999-2005 Leadership Team. They approved its writing which culminated in 2008 with the approval of Sister Mary Quinn and the current Leadership Team.

Sister Mary Harvey wrote in the proposal, "It seems important at this time in our history following the merger/reunification of the Springfield and Rutland Sisters

of St. Joseph to record the process in further written form not only for ourselves, but also as a reference and perhaps a guide for C/SSJ Congregations or others desirous of learning more about the process or who may be discerning a similar path for the future."

The 29-page document traces an historical time line stating the background, rationale, and process for the Rutland Congregation from 1989 to the reunification. The years of Springfield's interfacing with Rutland in early histories, time of discernment, and dialogue are outlined. With the Fall River Congregation we now form a congregation of three becoming one.

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Passing of time demands change, adaptation

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

As Sisters of St. Joseph have watched the changes taking place to transform part of Mont Marie into HUD housing for the elderly, many may not be aware of other changes, small or major, that have occurred in the present structure since its opening in the early 1960s.

A “mental stroll” through part of the building may hold some surprises. Imagine yourself coming in through the main front door. The foyer seems unchanged, except for decorations that may vary. But what happens when we walk through to visit the Development Office?

The space of this four-person office was originally a sewing room for sisters in the Juniorate. Now it is a hub of financial activity as Connie Quinlan, ssj, directs activities and appeals to generous donors. Working with her are Sisters Doris Graves and Christine Swords, and Amy Beaudry.

Continuing down the corridor, we come to the Communications Office, home to Ann Lynch, ssj, and Wendy Hammerle. Here Ann publishes *Mission on Line* and the quarterly issues of *Mission* on paper, complete with photos. Wendy serves as web-master, and deals with outside publicity. This space had once been a sewing/recreation room for senior sisters.

The final stretch of this hall now provides facilities for Anne MacGregor, Controller, in a small office, with Catherine Morin, SSJ and Patricia Ritchie, SSJ nearby. Here they go about their work of keeping in order financial business and the congregation’s Medicare Program.

Previously this office was the final home of the Mont Marie Gift Shop. Imelda Maria Fallon, ssj, long-time manager of the Gift Shop, recalls its wandering history. In the early to mid-seventies, she recalls, she assisted Rose Burns, ssj, in opening a shop in the classroom nearest “the coke machine.” As the Child Care Center expanded, the Gift Shop traveled to a small Media Room in the Conference Center, then to a small room near Borgia II, and finally to the above-mentioned site. Previously this had been a sewing room, home to Sisters Rose Alma and Helen Vivian.

Other sisters connected with the Gift Shop over the years were Sisters Joseph Edward, Rose Patrick, Margaret Goulet, Emma Guenette and Patricia Curran.

After the closing of the Gift Shop, Pat Curran, ssj made a new start with a Mini-Mart that opens from the long corridor behind the dining room. In this space Pat stocks a number of small items that can be daily necessities for sisters living at Mont Marie. These include cards of all kinds, batteries, candy and cookies, stamps, and cross-word puzzle books, to name a few.

Part of this space had served Beverly Rochford, ssj, as a site for selling candy; later a wall was removed, giving enlarged store space. The store serves sisters and Health Care residents.

Tucked away on the side corridor leading to the chapel, a room designated on blueprints as “altar-bread preparation and storage” now houses SEED and the Justice and Peace Office for Roberta Mulcahy, ssj.

Doubling back we enter the parlor section through the door near the

Community responds with creative adjustments

chapel. The first office on the left is occupied by Director of Operations Jill Keough. Continuing along the hall, we find working sites for Lynn Korza, grant-writer; Kathleen Keating, Coordinator of Ministerial Resources; Human Resources Director Lorraine Golio; Lorraine Durand, SSJ, Director of Congregational Services; and the Office of Membership and Association shared by Natalie Cain, SSJ and Sue Lavoie.

Many years ago the last mentioned space held artifacts, pictures, and photos depicting early years of the Congregation in Springfield.

On the other side of the hallway, it is easy to see why the “Blue Room” is now called the Heritage Room. Circling the walls are pictures of Reverend Mothers from Mother Mary Cecilia Bowen through Mother Mary Borgia Paquin, and of Presidents from Mary Dooley, SSJ through Mary T. Quinn, SSJ, along with

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In the Preface Sister Mary Harvey writes, “In journeying into the future, it is by walking that the path is created and the way is found. That walking is step-by-step- now forward, now seemingly back, now forward again- to the destination. The path is not always linear and lies over uncharted, challenging ground.” The document also addresses the “heart/feeling” aspects of this arduous journey.

Through much of their journey the Rutland Sisters received the gift of the presence of the United States Federation Congregations. In her opening remarks before the Special Chapter for Merger on October 23, 2000, Sister Miriam Francis Predom (Rutland President) said, “We have been supported in an unparalleled love of our sister Congregations, and we have

their council or team members.

Photos of those who served on the councils of Fall River and Rutland, Vermont at the time of their mergers are also on display: Estelle Santarpia, Fall River President in 1974, and Miriam Francis Predom, Rutland President in 2001.

Also on display are scenes of LePuy, a bust of Mother Fontbonne, and artifacts such as lace bobbins used by the Fall River Sisters.

The physical changes traced here illustrate our ability as a congregation to adapt to change and circumstances, and may remind us of the certainty at the core of our mission and ministry.

Note: Information for this article came from a variety of helpful sources. However, if “you were there” and have different recollections, please let us know.

been drawn into the circle of their life.”

Sister Mary Harvey extends gratitude to Sisters Mary Lou Lacey and Jane Morrissey for their input and editing, and to Sisters Miriam Francis Predom, Jane Morrissey, and Mary Quinn for their review of the text, support, and suggestions. Special thanks are expressed to Sister Mary Quinn for her Introduction to the document.

“The document describes God’s work and the work of the congregations now reunified in our common mission,” Sister Mary Harvey said. Copies of “Walking Together in Faith” will be placed in the Springfield Archives, the U.S. Federation Archives, and will be made available for reading by the members of the Springfield Congregation.

Kitchen discloses golden treasure

Sr. Patricia James Sweeney

Anyone who has ever eaten in the Mont Marie Dining Room realizes that there is something very special about it. The food is delicious, plentiful and well-presented. There are cards there to identify the individual selections. There are also several servers, as well, to assist those trying to decide their choices from many offerings.

Other workers stand ready and willing to carry the filled trays to the tables. What is very noticeable are the smiles and willing cooperation given to the Sisters and guests.

A trip to the kitchen after a meal will



find the area so clean that it is difficult to imagine that anything had gone on in there before noon. Yet, from 5:30 a.m., on, the place has been like a beehive. Not only are the

sous-chefs preparing vegetables and salads, the chefs following their recipes for meat and fish and the bakers dreaming up exquisite desserts (even those which are sugar-free), others are setting up the trays that are to be filled and then transported to three floors of patients in the Health Care Center, the second floor of St. Joseph Residence Center and those who take their meals in the dining room but need some assistance in carrying their trays to their tables. All of this activity goes on quietly (well, almost) before the Angelus sounds

twelve. By 12:15 p.m. the covers are removed from the warming tables and the Sisters in the dining room pick up their trays and move along choosing their favorites among the delicacies displayed.

Unfortunately, unless we are celebrating Jubilees, Anniversaries or special feasts, we accept our every day, every meal as ordinary/ natural rather than as exceptional as each one is. Today we stop to thank our managers at Mont Marie – Myra and Kate, who go to extraordinary lengths to make this an SSJ Happy Home - the often present and always helpful Sodexo representative, Ed Gabelof (he of the tantalizing special treats; all those who order, plan, chop, cook, bake, run, push carts, serve, clean and do accounts.

Finally, those outside our confines have chosen to recognize our very own “kitchen crew” with a Gold Unit Reward of Excellence 2008 !!!!! We here at Mont Marie know that the gold mentioned here is really found in these friends of ours who make us feel special everyday. Congratulations and special prayers of gratitude to:

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|-----------------------|------------------|
| Colette Andrezejewski | Laraine Fijal |
| Dawn Stamborski | Mike Nowak |
| Denise Bourbeau | Yashica Colon |
| Ryan McKenna | Nancy Walker |
| Lori Leblanc | Sue Stone |
| Carol Bracci | Jessica Colon |
| Taylor Robitaille | Jessica Badillo |
| Pauline Roy | Michele Thompson |
| Carmen Borden | Pete Cosme |
| Priscilla Brochu | Timothy Jordan |
| Kenneth Rosario | Luis Coriano |
| Ruben Melendez | Ernie Kowalski |
| Carlos Garcia | Aaron Leastman |
| George Leastman | Anthony Twining |
| Scott Twining | |