

Mission

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Golf enriches players, aids Health Care Center

Paula Misitano, ssj

The game of golf is viewed in many ways. It's the origin of memorable achievements for some. Numerous business deals originate over



At the Mont, May 25, Sisters and co-workers gathered to congratulate Cathy Morin, ssj, for graduating Summa cum Laude from Elms College with a major in accounting. Pictured are Sisters Patty Murphy, Claudette Sampson, Mary Quinn Denise Granger, Cathy Morin and Kathy Imbruno. **Photo Ann Lynch, ssj**

Spring meetings succeed

Angela Deady, ssj

The seventh and final Spring 2006 Area Meeting was held, May 11, at Mont Marie. Earlier meetings were held in Springfield, Worcester, Pittsfield, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The Leadership Team compiled the results of the seven meetings and information about each of the five agenda items and the discussion which followed each presentation is posted on First Class.

The meetings were well attended, well organized and well received. A sincere "thank you" to the Leadership Team and to all involved in the planning of the meeting and in the presentations.

tees and greens. The game provides joy and frustration all in one outing. And for some, it is a means of weekly relaxation.

On Monday, August 28, 2006, the Sisters of Saint Joseph will hold their 10th Annual Golf Classic at the Springfield Country Club. The Classic benefits the Mont Marie Health Care Center, a sponsored ministry of the SSJ community. Proceeds from past years have enabled the Health Care Center to purchase patio furniture, electric beds, a call bell system, and a handicap van, just to name a few. This year, the Center will apply the proceeds to retro-fit the elevator in the Health Care Center.

There are multiple opportunities for sponsorship in the Classic. Gold, Silver, Bronze, Tee, Green, and Cart Sponsorships are available. For those who golf, two flights occur, one in the morning, the other in the afternoon. The day is capped off with an evening buffet meal. A Silent Auction and a separate Raffle throughout the day entice supporters to test their luck. Prizes for golfing skill and Hole-in-One opportunities provide the impetus for competition.

The day engenders great fun and camaraderie with good natured competition, laughter, and "tall tales." Join us! Golfing spaces fill up fast, especially the afternoon spots. For more information and/or a brochure, call the Health Care Center at 536-0853, ext. 205.

**Missioning Day
August 12, 2006**

Save the Date



Child Care Tag Sale deemed successful

On April 22, customers were lined up at 7 a.m. to be first at the Child Care Tag Sale which was scheduled to run from 8-3 p.m. Sr. Eleanor Harrington was very pleased with the larger than ever turnout of shoppers seeking treasures at 34 tables of interesting and varied items.

The bake and refreshment sale along with the Sisters' table and the table rentals netted over \$2,000 for the center's utility bills. Elly is most grateful to those who donated items, helped with the additional advertising this year, the selling and the purchasing of goods.

Next year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever.



SSJ participants in the National Day of Prayer in Holyoke included Jane Morrissey, Kathleen Kirley, Kathleen Keating, Denise Granger and Joan Ryzewicz (front row) Maureen Broughan, Roberta Mulcahy, Patty Murphy and Cathy Coyne (standing).

Photo by Ann Lynch, ssj

Letters -- Letters -- Letters -- Letters -- Letters

Dear Sisters,

As a Vermont Sister, since the reunification community has grown in size and in blessing for me. In the loss of my sister Grayce, I thank you deeply for the blessing of your presence, care, prayers, expressions of sympathy, Mass requests, enrollments and donations to the Community in her memory which lives. Kindness is ever remembered.

With gratitude,
Mary E. Harvey, ssj

There are no words that adequately express our sincere gratitude to you for your tremendous outpouring of sympathy offered to us on the death of our dear sister Marie.

In Memoriam

Please remember the following in prayer:

- Sr. Catherine Kelley*
- Sr. Louis Joseph Bellenoit*
- Mary E. (Sullivan) Metterville, sister of our late Sister Mary Joan Sullivan*
- Augusto Lorenzatti, father of Clare Lorenzati*
- Ann Ward, sister-in-law of Sr. Mary Magdalen Ward*
- Emile Mengle, brother-in-law of Sister Patricia Anne*

Your prayers, cards donations, enrollments, and presence at the wake and funeral were a source of strength and consolation to all of us. We will forever remember your kindness.

Her children were deeply impressed by the support we received from you and they would also want to thank you for being there at a time when it was most needed.

May God bless you for all the thoughtful expressions of sympathy you extended to us.

Gratefully,

Sister Grace Belforti
Sister Claire Belforti
Frances, Ann and the Gaffney Family

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.

Commencement focuses on beliefs, principles

Mary E. Harvey, ssj

May 7 marked the 47th Commencement of the College of St. Joseph. Founded by the Rutland Sisters of St. Joseph, their vision continues at the College enlivened by their reunification with the Springfield Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Mary T. Quinn, Springfield President, gave the Commencement Address.

In the Spring 2006, CSJ alumni newsletter, Dr. Gary M. Lawler, vice president of academic and student affairs, said Sister Mary Quinn was asked to be the keynote speaker because of the extraordinary work she has done. "She is a true role model and her work is closely aligned with the mission of the College," he said.

She began with this question asked by poet Mary Oliver in "The Summer Day." "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Sister Mary Quinn said, "But this is your day, perhaps the first of many days in which you decide what you plan to do with your one wild and precious life."

"You are blessed, I believe, through the example of all those who brought you here, but also through the Catholic religious tradition of this College. For our Judeo-Christian tradition has a great deal to say to us about what we are called to do with our precious lives."

Mary presented three principles for every Catholic College and University articulated by Father John Jenkins, CSC, president of the University of Notre Dame. From these, she offered three challenges to the graduates.

She quoted graduate Kevin Wood, "My experience at the College of St. Joseph opened my eyes to the world around me like never before, and made me realize that it was time to stand up and take an active role in changing it for the better."

"What a wonderful commentary on the College's mission, a mission rooted in the tradition of its founding congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph. Our mission follows the example of Jesus as found in John's Gospel, 'that all may be one'.... How our world needs this mission of peace and reconciliation real-

ized," she said. (The complete text of Sister Mary Quinn's address can be read on First Class.)

President Dr. Frank G. Miglorie in the Invocation prayed, "God, we ask you to inspire these graduates to accept themselves with the giftedness and goodness which are theirs so that all will become those unique and beautiful persons they are capable of being... We ask that you give them the integrity and energy to make their contributions to justice and peace in this world."

Accompanied by Patricia C. Miglorie, Registrar, the Chorus sang "Celebrate Graduation" (P. Miglorie) and "Go into the World" (N. Sleeth).

Dr. Lawler presented the 115 candidates for Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degrees conferred by Dr. Miglorie and James W. Herlihy, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Miglorie gave the Farewell.

Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of the Diocese of Burlington, VT, offered the Benediction and brought congratulations from Bishop Emeritus Kenneth A. Angell.

"Our graduates we pray will now continue their life's journey in union with you... Having come to know you as the Way, the Truth, and the Light, may they reflect your presence in our world with a genuine sense of compassion, responsibility, self-sacrifice, justice and understanding.

Sister Mary Polworth, third president of the College and a current trustee, Sister Kathleen Imbruno and Sister Maureen Kervick, trustees, also participated in the commencement.



Sister Mary Quinn gives the commencement address as Dr. Frank G. Miglorie, president, listens. Photo by Jamie

Housing workshop offers insights, information

Paula Misitano, ssj

One of the changes in community living that has affected us all is the subject of housing; not only how, but where?

On April 29, the Life Planning Committee offered a day which provided information on types of housing, application process for state and federally funded housing, what is needed when applying, and eligibility standards. Close to 65 Sisters and Associates attended the day and, in the afternoon, heard from a panel of Sisters now living in state or federally funded housing.



Diane Gaudet, ssj, began the day by explaining the purpose of the day and the role of the Life Planning Committee. The content of the day arose from the many questions members were asking about housing. The committee researched the subject, talked with community members who were living in different types of housing, and compiled comments from a questionnaire sent to those presently living in Senior and/or HUD housing.

MaryAnn Hemenway, ssj, and M. Gill Reilly, ssj, shared their creativity and led the group in the opening prayer titled, *Nesting in God*. A reading from Joyce Rupp's, *All About Nests*, compared the elements of nature's nests, "a dwelling place to receive the gift of life" to the elements of our spiritual nest, "a welcoming place for God." People were asked to recall the dwelling places where they have "nested with God." Each participant took a plastic egg from the bird's nest on her table and wrote one word to share what she was looking for when moving into her next nest. After sharing the word, the papers were returned to the egg and the egg to the nest.

During the morning presentation, Marilyn Logan, ssj, and Associate Madonna McKinley shared their experiences with the group. Both have worked with elderly in finding housing and helping people in filling out applications. Madonna presently works with the Agawam Council on Aging and Senior Center as an Outreach Counselor. Marilyn previously worked with the Springfield Senior Center.

Both provided many insights into (1) the different types of subsidized housing (2) what is needed prior to applying for housing (3) the process for the application interview (4) eligibility for the state and/or federal housing (5) how is rent determined, and (6) what comprises the different housing rules and regulations. A Power Point presentation by Eileen Murphy, ssj, accompanied the presentation.

Anne MacGregor, Controller, also spoke to the group about the financial requirements asked of SSJ's when applying for subsidized/ HUD housing. She urged the group to talk with her before entering into any application process for Senior housing. "Sisters are agents of the Congregation," she said, "and the monies received are given into the Congregation, not kept in entirety for personal use." Anne provides each potential renter with a letter stating what is considered the amount given to that person by the congregation for support.

One question to consider in this area, according to Anne, is whether the amount stated in the letter she gives people needs to be changed. This will be discussed with the entire community before any decision is made.

Following a lunch break, the group reassembled for a panel presentation from four Sisters who are presently living in Senior

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Vermont Governor honors Sister Marguerite

Mary E. Harvey, ssj

Sister Marguerite Blackburn, a 10-year volunteer in the Green Mountain Foster Grandparents Program, received a Governor's



Recognition Award on April 29 from Vermont Governor James Douglas in Montpelier, the state capital. Sister Marguerite has assisted in the library at Christ the King School in Rutland after teaching primarily kindergarten

and first grade there and in other Southern Vermont Catholic Schools for 46 years.

The governor honored a wide spectrum of community volunteers of various ages and endeavors from across Vermont in this annual ceremony. The directors of the Foster Grandparents Program nominated Sister Marguerite. A letter from Christ the King librarian Amy

Continued from page 4: Housing workshop

Housing. The four community members who presented the panel were Esther Hannigan, ssj, from Rhode Island, Millie Marengo, ssj, from Chicopee, Eileen O'Neill, ssj, from



Holyoke, and Janet Provost, ssj, from Worcester. Each shared advantages and disadvantages of their living situation.

Each felt that their places afforded them opportunities for ministry and sociability, yet quiet time within their own

space was attainable. Age and culture diversity could be found in all units. Some handicapped units were also available in the housing apartments.

Each mentioned that while they did not visualize themselves living alone, it has proved satisfying. Some groups have Associations, others do not. Some housing units have many

Wright supported the nomination.

She wrote, "Sister Marguerite is the one who has kept the library working and organized as the school has changed librarians through the years. She is always available to find resources for teachers. They just have to give her a wish list, and she will track down every book...She is a wealth of information and an exceptional coworker."

"Most enjoyable for me is when she has a story or a song to share with the little ones. She relates especially well with the four and five year olds where they love to do holiday songs and stories." Noted is that her love of children and the work she does shine through in all her interactions. Her gentle, kind nature brings out the best in children.

In 1996-97 Sister Marguerite volunteered in the Christian Appalachian Project. She taught children Head Start pre-school in Lancaster, KY.

Vermont Governor James Douglas presents a Governor's Award to Sister Marguerite Blackburn in recognition of her volunteer work in community service. Photo by Debbie Roy

planned social activities, others few. Parking is a problem for some groups. Each panelist agreed that where and how they live right now is comfortable and fine for them.

A copy of the questionnaire that had been sent to those residing in Senior and/or HUD housing was given to each participant. On the final page, the committee compiled the answers and shared them with all. Questions included, "What do you like most? What do you like least? What would you change? How do you experience community? What are advantages? What are disadvantages? Noise? Privacy? Advice to someone making a change?" In the last category on advice, two phrases captured a second glance. They exclaimed, "great experience, come and see, Go for it!" and "Be open to the spirit and attentive to new community."

While not everyone was able to attend the day, those who came felt it was informative and helpful. Who can tell, perhaps a "new nest" waits!

Photos by Diane Gaudet, ssj

Team Talk

Prayer, laughter, community sustain leaders

As we come to the end of our first year in leadership, I am reminded of the image of "embracing again the journey of a pilgrim on a road." These words, taken from the prayer that we used as a preparation for our 2005 Chapter, continue to guide me and inspire me.

It is a privilege to represent our Congregation in a variety of settings, and a blessing to hear again and again how God's love is more real in our world through the ministries of our Sisters.

On a personal level, it has been a year of great joy and deep sadness for me. I am deeply grateful for your love and support and look forward to wherever the journey takes all of us in the year ahead!



Mary

To say "It has been a different sort of year," is a great understatement. The learning curve has been steep but worth the climbing (I have by no means arrived). It is a great blessing to work with our Sisters, to be present to them in many and varied circumstances, to listen and learn, to commiserate and celebrate. The challenges are many: multiple meetings,

learning finances and reviewing budgets, more meetings, the occasional difficult decisions, more meetings, and finding the "dressy" pair of running shoes. The continued love and support of community are invaluable. A great gift is this Team, these four women with whom I share this enormous task, this wondrous ministry. As Patty always says "We are one." The journeying together has made the journey quite unique, as we come to know one another, work together, and certainly laugh together. The next five years will continue to be challenging, growing, mystifying, as we all continue this road together.



Mary



How to put the impressions of a whole year in one paragraph? Impossible! For me it has been a year of much learning and much joy. The rate at which we had to digest knowledge of the



Kathy

inner workings of the Congregation

and the HUD project was astounding. I often wondered if I was too old for this job, being the senior member of the group, but I seem to be holding up.

Although the five of us were not strangers to each other at the time of our election, neither did we know each other well. Now we have spent a lot of time together -

in meetings and discussions, at prayer and sharing, on the road and at play - and we have grown to trust and respect one another and to work well together. The difficult situations which we have had to confront have been made lighter because we lean on each other for advice and support, and we have learned that laughter is the best medicine, after all. It is a joy to come to work every day.

Another source of joy comes from sharing in the lives of the sisters and associates of our wonderful community. In this position one gets to know firsthand of the deep dedication, support and love of this amazing group of women. I have come to a deeper level of knowledge and appreciation of our sisters in Rutland and in St. Joseph's Residence, as well as so many others in my area and beyond. The patient endurance of the sisters in the Health Care Center is truly

Continued on page 7

as they meet demands of absorbing ministry

awe-inspiring. They are a blessing to us and I am blessed in ministering to them.

My involvement with the Federation Leadership, the LCWR, the Montague Board of Directors, the Trustees of the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, the Sisters' Council, and several congregational committees and corporations has provided me with many enriching experiences that have helped me to grow.

At the beginning of this ministry, I remember being asked what I saw as the priorities of this leadership administration, and I replied that I thought that the care of our sisters, the implementation of our Chapter commitments, and the Mont building project were those areas that would require much attention. As we come to the end of this first year, I haven't changed my mind about that. That belief has only been reinforced.

Although the year has flown by, paradoxically it seems that we have been here for a long time. We have settled in and I am looking forward to year two.

How quickly life can change. For me, the past year has held many adjustments. I joke about having "no life," but in reality, I wouldn't have it any other way.

My first few months were anxious ones. I felt overwhelmed with all



Patty

there was to learn. I wondered if the five of us would

work it out.

A year later -- I am in the groove. All has fallen into place. At this fragile

time in community, the Church and in our world, we are faced with many challenges. Together we try to make wise choices and decisions. I hold the highest respect for my "teammates." They hold a special place in my heart. Our gifts complement one another. (As I was told-- singing is not one of mine.)

As I continue this journey, I pray to remain caring and compassionate, clear in mind and bold in heart, acting justly, forgiving freely and speaking the truth with integrity.

Spirit of God -- continue to guide me.

The first year of our term as the Leadership Team is quickly, and amazingly, coming to a close. It has been a year of new experiences and learning coupled with the privilege of having the opportunity of seeing the Congregation with new eyes.

As a team, we are keenly aware of the Chapter Commitments that frame our work. I believe that we've been truly blessed by one another's particular gifts, temperaments, and care. Our ability to pray together, work on a variety of tasks, discuss options, draw on resources, and make decisions came quickly. I've grown in the realization that "all things are as they should be" and that the sanest thing to do is go where the journey takes me.

Each of us took on some of the major responsibilities of congregational leadership and the

lot of being the president of the (still virtual) Senior Residence Corporation fell to me.

This has afforded me the rewarding benefit of working with Jill Keough, Jen Moscone, and the members of the Planning Committee. I've acquired some new vocabulary and developed patience with the funding process.

The role of area liaison taps my map-reading skills as well as my appreciation for the breadth and depth of the goodness of our Sisters and the work they do to accomplish our mission. Being with them as the circumstances of their lives change refocuses me on what is truly important in life and readjusts my perspective. I am graced and humbled by their faith and courage. In all, its been a good year.

Denise



Sisters, former members gather at Clementwood

Mary E. Harvey, ssj

About 30 Sisters of St. Joseph and former members of the Rutland Sisters gathered from throughout Vermont and elsewhere, May 20, at the Clementwood Spiritual Life Center on Clement Road in Rutland for a Day of Recollection led by Father Barry Meehan, SJ, pastor of St. Bridget's Parish in West Rutland.

The Spiritual Center is near Fontbonne Hall, site of the Novitiate for many of the



Awaiting the beginning of the conference are Sisters Shirley Davis, and Elizabeth Marie Morrissey, Anne O'Rourke Ratkus (S. Mary William), Carol Nash (S. St. Christopher) and Catherine Caggige Nugent (S. Robert Joseph)



As Cathy Coyne prepares the garden for the plants which have been growing from seed at the Mont, we pray from the Psalm for Midwives: "You will know when it is time to bring forth the new creation. The signs will be all around you, urging, insisting: now is the time. You have to know just when to bear down and concentrate on one thing only. It takes labor, hard, hard labor to bring forth something new." May the labor of our gardeners be blessed.

participants. Beyond Vermont, former members traveled from New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and New York to attend. Such is their strong desire to stay connected to their roots as Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Meehan presented a morning



interactive conference at the Center titled "Mary's Fiat" followed by the Eucharistic Liturgy held in the Chapel of Fontbonne Hall. Then the group shared a luncheon at Clementwood and visited into the afternoon.

Several sisters and former members planned the day. They concluded that it was very easy to do and not much work as everybody helped and worked together.

Catherine Caggige Nugent (S. Robert Joseph) said, "The aim for the day was to keep it simple, not to plan too much, and to include time for visiting and for sharing. The day's purpose was to reflect and to relax together."

In June of 2003 an historic "Coming Home" reunion event took place in Rutland among the Rutland Sisters, 30 former members, and the Springfield Leadership. The idea or "dream" for the day came from some former Rutland members. The group has since planned times of prayer, social events, and recreation with the Vermont Area Sisters.

Exchanging remembrances at the luncheon are Ann Lovett Chiango (S. Mary Martin) Sr. Margaret McDevitt, and Anne O'Rourke Ratkus (S. Mary William).

Rutland photos by Mary E. Harvey, ssj

Apostolic Ministry Fund Grants

2006 - 2007

| Agency | Project | Sister (s) | Granted |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Cape AIDS Social Ministries | Interfaith Caregiver Program | Joan Bellenoit | \$5,000 |
| Montague Catholic Social Ministries | Support for Family & Children Programs | Kathleen Imbruno | \$10,000 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Place | Food Manager | Maryanne Guertin | \$6,000 |
| Family Life Volunteers | Project Transition | Anna Marie Kane | \$5,000 |
| Homework House | Homework House Support | Maureen Broughan Jane Morrissey | \$10,000 |
| Weston Rehab | T-Shirt Factory Equipment, i.e., dryer | Eleanor Spring Shirley Campbell | \$4,900 |
| Berkshire County Sheriff's Office | Female Offenders Horticultural Program | Julie Sullivan | \$2,700 |
| Gray House | Kids' Club | Jeanne Branchaud | \$10,000 |
| Hope House | <i>Hope for Kids support Hopeful Families</i> | Maxyne Schneider Mary Frances Honnen | \$12,000 |
| Sophia Academy | Rites of Passage for Girls | Ann Keefe | \$10,000 |
| The Institute for the Study & Practice of Nonviolence | The Girl Friends | Teresa Foley Ann Keefe | \$12,000 |
| Total | | | \$89,600 |

Since 1981 the Congregation has distributed \$951,205 through its Ministry Funds, thus assisting 64 ministries in their joyous service to God's people.

Catholic social teaching supports immigration

Roberta Mulcahy, ssj

One of the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching is the fundamental right to life and to those things required for human decency. In the U.S. Bishops' statement: **Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, 2000**, governments are urged "to welcome immigrants, to provide for their immediate needs and to enable them to come to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible."

Network (A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby) expands the Bishop's statement and Catholic Social Teaching by putting U.S. immigration issue in a global context. The United States, as the world's economic

superpower, elects to develop its economy through contributions of non-U.S. labor both inside and outside its borders. It seems only just and moral to demand that our trade agreements and global relationships promote development so that all countries are stable, productive and self-supporting. And, that our U.S. policies regarding immigrants in our country include legalization, family unification, worker protections and human rights.

Two other tenets of Catholic social thought, the Dignity of Work and the Option for the Poor, also challenge us "to welcome immigrants" as we reflect, discuss and educate ourselves on the issue of immigration.

Ikebana creates friendship through flowers

Cathy Coyne, ssj

On a recent trip to Japan I was introduced to the Japanese art of flower arrangement or Ikebana. It is a disciplined art form in which the arrangement is a living thing in which nature and humanity are brought together. It is steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature.

Our group (representing the City of Newport, R.I.) was invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shinji of Shimoda (sister-city of Newport) for one of many events during our stay. While the men were asked to sit and watch us, Mrs. Shinji and her two friends guided the

women in this ancient art form.

Each of us was given a low vase (suiban) and a wooden holder with small, thick pins (kenzan). We were then given instruction on how to cut the flower stems and place them on the pins so they stand in asymmetrical form. Mrs. Shinji explained that every Ikebana represents the entire universe: the large, upright leaves reach to the heavens, the middle flowers symbolize the human and the smaller leaves in front bend down and touch the earth.

As we became more enthralled with our creations I noticed a hushed silence in the room. Even the men were quiet and intent on watching our compositions. This spiritual aspect of centering while doing Ikebana is very important to the Japanese. We were told it helps you to "live in the moment", to appreciate the natural world and to always expect the best in yourself.

Our magnificent afternoon at the Shinji's ended with a traditional tea ceremony called a chabana. Sitting around a low table we prepared our own green tea, ate a bit of sweet candy and drank to our achievements. Not only did we create items of beauty that day but we also communicated on a much deeper level with some new friends.



Berkshire Girls Incorporated honors SSJ

Sr. Patricia James Sweeney

Sister Julie Sullivan, Assistant Deputy Superintendent at the Berkshire County House of Correction, was honored, May 9, with the "She Knows Where She's Going" Award.

Perhaps we cannot foresee her future, but we certainly remember her journey. Julie served at St. Joseph Catholic Central High School in Pittsfield as teacher for nine years and as Principal for the following 13 years. After a year's sabbatical, she joined the Sheriff's staff. She still serves as a trustee on

the Pittsfield Catholic School Board and the community board of the Department of Social Services.

This annual Celebration Dinner which honors "women of achievement" is a program of the Gladys Alien Brigham Community Center. Fittingly, at this event scholarships are awarded to county high school senior girls who have exhibited similar potential for greatness. Sister Julie is a natural for this award as Sheriff Massimiano says, "Sr. Julia brings a wonderful spirituality to people of all faiths or of no faith. She brings a kindness in trying to help people to help themselves."

Surrounded by family, friends, former students, colleagues and Sisters of St. Joseph—all there because of pride in Julie's many achievements, she chose that time to encourage the young people there to become teachers, social workers and correctional officers to serve the community. With this last caveat, "As you travel, be gracious and respectful of those you meet along the way. Everyone deserves your care and concern and you may meet him or her later in the journey." Typically, with humor, she added that her "boss" at work is a former student of hers.

To quote the Sisters of St. Joseph wish from the program: "We walk with you, Julie, wherever you go... CONGRATULATIONS!"



Pictured are Sisters Linda Wilk, Julie Sullivan, Patty Murphy and Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen Massimiano.

Will voluntary disclosure of corporate responsibility work?

Roberta Mulcahy, ssj

News about Enron, fraud, and the lack of corporate responsibility, continue to be part of daily news reports. Enron, of course is only one of many major corporations facing stronger scrutiny from shareholders and the general public on the issues of corporate responsibility.

Proxy statements from several companies have institutional shareholder proposals addressing the topic of corporate responsibility. We consistently vote for such resolutions.

A recent article on **voluntary disclosure of corporate responsibility** discusses the

advantages of not ignoring the social context in which corporations do business. Ignoring the impact of environmental standards, for example, jeopardizes business and undermines value as seen by the effect climate change has had on many companies. Shareholders, managers and employees alike experience the negative results of this behavior.

Corporations who value managing risk positively respond to shareholder proposals for annual sustainability reports that speak the "truth." This would be a basis for shareholders and corporations to engage in meaningful and profitable dialogue that would benefit all concerned.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield



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2006/2007

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