

Mission

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Spirituality Day explores sacred changing world

Ann Lynch, ssj

Women from three states and as far away as Boston gathered at Mont Marie, March 31, for the 26th Woman's Spirituality Day as Medical Missionary Miriam Therese Winter presented *Spirituality in a World of Change*.

She began by calling participants to think big, to really look at the stars, to consider the 200 million stars in this galaxy alone and to consider the beginning and to reflect that beyond the beginning there was Something More. Since we often don't really "see" the stars we don't see the reality of the mystical around us around us.



She posed the question from the *Baltimore Catechism*, "Where is God?" The answer came easily to those of a certain age, "God is everywhere." As participants reflected on the concept of everywhere, MT observed, "we have spent all our energies putting God in place. What if we really believed that God is everywhere, in all creatures? Then we might ask, "What authority do we give to God speaking within us? Do we dare to trust the Spirit?"

She continued, "If God is everywhere, what is sacred? What/where is sacred space? Who are God's people?" As the answer to these questions, she noted that church could be considered a supportive framework. We don't lose the framework, yet we have to find ways to unite humanity, in today's war-torn world. All our frameworks are interpretations of the One who is so

diverse. Humans are inclined to put everything in boxes, she noted as she called for serendipity and spontaneity, all names for the Spirit.

There is something in the universe that connects all of us, yet we have been conditioned to limits and God is limitless Each person has something that is a blessing to me, she noted as she talked about the concept of neutrinos – the energy that we all take from and give to each other. She called women to think of eucharist (with a small e) as table gatherings in the home. In this light, ordinary meals can be sacramental.

As she explored scripture using the story of Moses and the burning bush, she noted that there is really only one story with many plots. Behind and scripture story is the message, "I will be who you need me to be."

She also noted that today's women have found their voice, but not found their public voice. We are people of the story, not people of the book. "The church was domestic long before they found a bigger house," she noted as she called those present to start circle gatherings in their own homes, to uncover the inner layer of wisdom for what God has done in the past God will do for us today.



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

Dear Sisters,

It is time for me to acknowledge your kindness and hospitality to me on January 30 when I returned to my roots.

I felt your warm welcome as the doors were wide open. Many who were present on that memorable day assisted me with my worldly goods. Prior to my coming, I found downsizing to be a challenge, but I did it.

I thank you for your kindness, your prayers, and your concern.

**Let us
celebrate
Earth
Day, April
22 and
every day!**



In Memoriam

Please remember the following in prayer:

Sr. Madeleine Marie Cormier
Sr. Mary Lou McKinstrie
Sr. Mary Christopher Power
Associate Margaret Provoda
Associate Joanne Cleveland
Walter Griffin, brother of Sr. Margaret Edward
Anne T. Pelletier, sister of Sr. Joseph Anna Hine
John Daly, father of Sr. Sheila Daly
Yvette Antaya, mother of Associate Claire Antaya
William Schilling, son of Associate Alma Schilling
James Kappenman, nephew of Sr. Jusith Kappenman
Roland Bertrand, brother of Sr. Lucille Bertrand
Stephen Harvey, Jr., nephew of Sr. Mary Harvey
Albert Branchaud, father of Sr. Jeanne Branchaud

*"Spirit of life, come unto me
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of
compassion ... Roots hold me close, wings
se me free. Spirit of life, come unto me."*

Sr. Kate McGurk

I am deeply grateful to all of you, for your cards, Masses, enrollments, prayers and donations, in memory of my brother Walter.

May God bless you for your kindness.
Sister Margaret Edward

Congregation of St. Joseph

Let us pray for the approximately 450 Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates gathering in Chicago, April 11- 14, for the first Congregational Chapter of the newly formed Congregation of St. Joseph.

They come together "to further the mission of the Congregation; to deepen their commitment to gospel living by sharing prayer, ritual and stories; to continue to build relationships; to allow delegates to approve the election process and *Provisional Constitutions*; to allow delegates to elect the first Congregational Leadership team; and to celebrate the 'birth day' of the new Congregation.

Key segments of the Chapter will be video broadcast to Community Centers in the seven founding geographies to allow Sisters and Associates who are unable to attend to participate in prayer and rituals and to view the keynote address by Margaret Wheatly, the elections process and other important segments.

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

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'Unless I See:' an Easter reflection

Sheila MacKinnon, Associate

Originally printed in the Parish Bulletin from St. Lucy Church, Middletown, RI. Used with permission.

Ours is a generation of skeptics, educated to think scientifically, accustomed to tele-marketing, and always demanding proof. "Unless I see," came from one of Jesus' disciples and never fails to bring us up short. In our own life of faith, haven't we thought that if only we were able to see Jesus in person or hear Him speak, how much stronger we would be.

The Scripture readings are full of irony as reality and appearance contend, and that in reality the ability to see or hear Jesus has always depended on faith! The Gospel shows that not all who saw and heard Jesus believed. Faith is not something we can do for ourselves. It is a Holy Gift, the result of the Holy Spirit's gracious action upon us.

Following the Resurrection, the disciples were fearful and afraid of what might happen to them so they stayed behind locked doors. Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace to you!" Thomas was not with them at this time. Jesus came a second time and Thomas was with them this time and Jesus invited him to touch his wounds. Thomas, who stumbled in doubt when the disciples told him that Jesus came to them in the Upper Room, resounded with, "My Lord, and My God! "

After the Holy Spirit came to the disciples they were radically changed people. Now, not only do the disciples go beyond the locked doors, they go out in public, they go out daily to the Temple, and they dare to go where they undoubtedly have most to fear. Their faith is such

that they now find themselves capable of performing signs and wonders just as Jesus did!

How is that any different for us? The story of Jesus challenges our life commitments and priorities, calls to question our attitudes towards others, and criticizes our failure to respond to the needs of those around us.

Like the disciples each of us is capable of performing signs and wonders if we just let faith work in us. We, also, received the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. We can begin by taking small steps, thus growing along the way: simple acts of kindness, bringing a friend to Mass, visiting a lonely person or someone at home who is ill, reaching out to the bereaved. These are not difficult actions. Faith only comes alive when it becomes a part of who we are as persons, when our commitment to Christ reveals itself in all we think and do. Yes. We must step out of ourselves and let our faith in Christ shape our lives.

Jesus Himself said in Scripture, "I come to serve, not to be served!"

Let us share our Easter Joy by reaching out to those who are not as fortunate as we are and help them along the way." Their way!

Let us respond as Thomas did: "My Lord and my God!" Alleluia!



1889-2007

SSJ influence still alive, well in Rhode Island

Sister Patricia James Sweeney

In the smallest state in our country, one small seed was planted and a magnificent tree grew and extended its blessed branches over the area. The genus - SSJ produced fruit which has outlasted the planters and bequeathed its rich legacy to continuing generations.

Sr. Mary Bisson, at a reunion of St. Catherine Academy graduates, remembers that she "...was humbled and honored as I listened to the sincere accolades given by so many to the influence the SSJs had and continue to have on their lives." The 21 Sisters of St. Joseph currently living in Rhode Island have similar tales to tell. Their presence recalls the spirit and concern of the first Sisters who worked there. Indeed, 13 of these SSJs are natives who have returned to continue the mission.

There are five Sisters still presently engaged in schools in Rhode Island and one involved in Adult Education. In addition to academics, three (plus one Sister of Mercy) coax food and flowers from Maplewood Farm in Portsmouth to sell in six weekly Farmers' Markets.

Four share their talents in parishes; two are involved in Home/Hospice Care and Administration; one in Prayer Ministry; two in Social

Work; one in Video Production and Telecommunications; two retired. All of these Sisters are treasured by their friends, neighbors, co-workers and employers. Fortunately, they have formed a close and supportive group since they are physically separated from much of the Community geographically. It is difficult to commit themselves to every Mont gathering because of their positions and the concomitant four-hour round-trip commute.

Individually and collectively, our Sisters in Rhode Island are striving in their varied ministries to fulfill our Chapter commitments to "be an informed, compassionate advocate for people who are poor and marginalized" and embracing a land ethic which demands our taking responsibility for the care of the earth.

They would gladly welcome anyone to visit them where they are "surrounded with so much beauty and peacefulness" Maybe it's time, as Sr. Judy suggested it was for her, to follow the poet's, "... I must go down to the sea again..."



Judy Cavalho, ssj



Eileen M. Shea, ssj



Sheila Murphy, ssj,

Ann Keefe, ssj, below



Mary Bisson, ssj

Local SSJ to aid young women in Tanzania

Ann Lynch, ssj

Dorothy Pilkington, ssj, returned to Africa, mid-March. She will be working in Mateka/Songea, in the hills of Tanzania with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, three from India and two from Brazil, who, for the past four years, have been working there to empower young women.

They seek to launch an educational program for poor orphaned village girls and build a hostel to accommodate them. The Sisters recognize the need to empower the young women so they are able to make choices for a win-win situation in a country where 13,500 new HIV infections occur every day and 74% of the young people living with AIDS are young women.

Dorothy, who will be working as a counselor, will be joining three Sisters from India in Mateka/Songea and two from Brazil in Mateka/Songea. Recent statistics from the region's health centers show that out of 100 blood donations 80% are infected with HIV, and most of these cases are women.

Their goals include:

- exposing the young girls to HIV/AIDS education, which helps to prevent HIV;
- providing psychosocial benefits for young women - helping them to build their self-esteem, promoting respect for themselves, and developing within them dignity for life;
- providing more educational experiences for young girls beginning at the primary level since no young woman can access secondary school unless she has the basic foundation;
- strengthening and developing financial arrangements for basic educational needs for the young girls so they can stay in school.

Their immediate goal is to reach out to at least 65 orphaned young girls and women in the area. The focus is to address girls' education:

- to create awareness of its importance

in the women's lives for who they are;

- to empower them for decision making;
- to offer them some skills training for employment or secondary educational experiences whereby they may even attend high institutions of learning.

During the last few months of 2006, the Sisters purchased land, equipment, and supplies for a house opposite the convent. In January 2007, twelve young orphaned girls began some education in a school nearby.

By the end of December 2007, the Sisters' dream is to have a dormitory, kitchen, dining room and lavatory/wash room completed.

The four Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery are involved with the education of young girls at a nearby school, plus an enrichment program at the hostel for the twelve girls. As the program grows, more enrichment supplies and materials will be needed for added activities.

One Sister is already involved as an outreach social worker for the local villages. Dorothy will join her. Their focus continues to be enrichment, empowerment and counseling for women.

Sister Dorothy Pilkington talks about her return to Africa with Sisters Richard Francis and Patricia Rumse before speaking to the Sisters in St. Joseph's Residence at the Mont. **Photo by Ann Lynch, ssj**



What goes around, comes around!

Angela Deady, ssj

In 1887, the first Sisters of Saint Joseph to minister in the city of Holyoke arrived at Sacred Heart Parish to begin teaching in the newly constructed Sacred Heart School on Chestnut Street.

Sacred Heart School was the first of many parish schools and high schools in the city of Holyoke to be staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph: Our Lady of the Rosary, 1902; Saint Jerome, 1912; Blessed Sacrament, 1923.

The most recent educational facility, opened in 2006 and staffed by Sisters of St. Joseph is the second "Homework House of Hermano Pedro" located (why should we be surprised!) on Chestnut Street in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (formerly known as Sacred Heart Parish.)

"What goes around, comes around!"

What came around to Holyoke in 1887 was a religious community of women committed to serving the varied needs of "the dear neighbor." And that commitment has never changed. Today, Sisters Maureen Broughan and Jane Morrissey, Sisters of St. Joseph, are doing what the Sisters always did. Jane and Maureen looked at the city, assessed what was needed and in February of 2006 opened the first "Homework House" in Immaculate Conception Parish in the "Flats" of Holyoke. The second Homework House opened in September of the same year.

Homework House is an after school, free, tutoring program designed to assist at-risk students of all ages in whatever area they need tutoring. The first Homework House in the country was opened in Orange, California in 1992 by Barbara Abouchar, a retired school teacher. The "Homework House of Hermano Pedro" begun by Sisters Jane and Maureen is the fifteenth site and the first in New England.

In February, 2006, thirteen students enrolled and were helped by seven volunteers. By spring of that year, fifteen tutors assisted twenty students. With the opening of the second Homework House, approximately fifty volunteers help over seventy children master language arts, science projects, reading, remedial math and homework assignments.

What would Jane and Maureen like to see come around today? Prayers... children ... volunteers ... financial assistance! Any and all of the above would be welcomed at Homework House of Hermano Pedro!

Save the date

Annual golf tournament

Paula Misitano, ssj

As March Madness evolves into April Action, Mont Marie Health Care Center turns its attention to one specific outdoor activity – the one we call Golf.

This year marks the Eleventh Golf Classic. Over the years, this endeavor has raised \$381,400. With the help of generous donors, sponsors, golfers and volunteers, the Golf Classic has funded many improvements and additions to the facility. These improvements have provided the residents with comfort (furnishings for the residents rooms), joy (a handicapped accessible van), and pleasure (outdoor patio furniture). Last year's Golf Tournament proceeds were put toward retro-fitting the Center's elevator

The tournament takes place Monday, August 27, at the Springfield Country Club. The day involves two tee times with Scramble format, one at 8 a.m., the second at 1 p.m. Players may sign up as part of a foursome, or come alone and be assigned to a foursome. A barbecue luncheon and buffet dinner are part of the day. A Silent Auction, raffle, and golf prizes help contribute to the day's fun.

For more information on how to be part of this fun-filled day – as a player, sponsor, and/or volunteer - call the Center at 413.536-0853, Ext 205 or 225.

Associate envisions promoting respect, peace

Ann Lynch, ssj

Congratulations to Associate Karen Hurd who has been chosen to participate in a study tour to South Africa this summer.

The Five College Public School Partnership is sponsoring the tour which is provided by the Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad Program. Funding will cover air and ground transportation, lodging and a stipend for meals.

Each school district selected two teachers based on their sensitivity to cross cultural issues and group dynamics; commitment to developing area studies curriculum and establishing a working partnership with a South African School; recommendations by fellow teachers and administrators; and willingness to attend all sessions prior to departure and participate in follow-up meeting on curriculum development.

Talking with Karen about this opportunity one hears over and over, "I am honored."

Karen sees this opportunity as part of who she is as a mother, an African-American woman, a teacher and an Associate. "This is like pieces of a puzzle coming together," she reflects. "I have had invitations to go to Africa before. And I wonder, why now? Why me? Why have I been chosen at this time? I am very touched, nervous and excited, honored and humbled.

"Being chosen for this Fulbright helps me to be who I am, to share my beliefs. I will be helping to bridge a relationship of peace."

While Karen is in South Africa her son Chris will be returning for his third deploy-

ment in Iraq. She spoke of the pictures she has seen of Iraqi women and their children and observed, it is time to let the mothers speak. Then there will be peace.

Looking back over incidents of racism in her own life, Karen stated she had a choice in how she reacted and she chose to be a peaceful person. In her classroom she conveys to the children that we are family, community, people of the world. We need to take care of each other.



She is especially looking forward to being in places connected with Nelson Mandela and visiting people suffering from AIDS. She sees the later as an opportunity to practice the Beatitudes. Karen, who is also a Reiki master, will be bringing educational packets from her school to South African teachers. She expects to be changed by what she sees and as she talks with people she never dreamed of talking with before.

Karen observed that she will be learning, respecting, promoting peace as she visits South Africa. "Doors have been opened and I thank God for this opportunity. I am open to what lies ahead. My faith got me here. God has work for me to do as a result of this. I am very touched."

Karen will leave from Logan Airport July 24 and return to Logan, August 24. A full itinerary of visits to historic and cultural sites, including schools of all levels, museums, farming areas, diamond and gold mines, AIDS centers, and a women's micro economic project, awaits the group.

While in South Africa, Karen will be visiting Johannesburg, Soweto, Durban, East London, Post Elizabeth, Mossel Bay, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Kimberley, and Pretoria.

Christian lives lead two to SSJ Association

Mary Lou Lacey, ssj

When Sheila MacKinnon and Eleanor Calcagno became Associates on June 22, 1997, the commitment put a name to a long-standing reality. These two women, residents of Middletown and Portsmouth, Rhode Island, had been rooted in the SSJ charism for many years.

“My love affair with the Sisters of St. Joseph began when I was five years old,” Eleanor recalls. “When my mother brought me to enroll in public school, I already knew how to read and write, and the principal advised her to ‘take me to the nuns.’ I received a wonderful education and I never met a nun I didn’t like.” Eleanor’s daughter Debbie was a member of the Congregation for a time.

Sheila’s connection with the Congregation goes away back to the founding of St. Lucy Parish; additionally, her daughter went to school in Newport. “Sister Charles Joseph was one of her teachers.” Sheila said. “I met her when we became associates, and she still remembered my daughter Marisheila. I was quite impressed,” she said.

Both women have been active members of St. Lucy Parish, Middletown. Both have been Eucharistic Ministers, and they are members of a Small Christian Community, *One Ohana*, with Sheila Murphy, ssj, and five other people. For 18 years Eleanor was editor of the Parish Bulletin; now, no longer able to do that work, she folds bulletins each week. “Old secretaries don’t die,” she says, “they just fold away.”

For many years the two worked at the SSJ Festival, and recall it fondly. “I worked on the baked goods with Sisters Mary Shea and Kathy Imbruno,” Eleanor said. “We had so much fun I was never tired.” Sheila was stationed at the grinder booth and also helped with the dollhouse raffle.

Previously, when SSJs didn’t drive, these women were most accommodating. Eleanor remembers that she often volunteered her mother as a driver. Later, her daughter volunteered *her!*

When Sheila’s late husband Joe was a Deacon, Sheila was further active with groups such as Pre-Cana, Christian Family Life, Marriage, and CCD. “We did interviews for annulments and marriage and I enjoyed that,” she notes. After her husband died, Sheila became part of a bereavement group with Sister Sheila Murphy, a ministry in which she is still active.

Another involvement for Sheila was that of Hospice. “When I was grieving for Joe, I was considering what the Lord was asking of me now,” she said. “Then I saw an ad for Hospice and I was interested. I thought I could do it for ten years. Sister Eileen Shea was the hospice chaplain and it was great to work with her.” At present Sheila takes part in the parish program, Living In Faith Experience (LIFE). “This is a big program,” she pointed out. “Parents come as well as children, and a meal is served. I work in the kitchen and then in the sharing and discussion.”

Through the years many SSJs have crossed the paths of these two women. Eleanor remembers Claire Dugan as “so full of pep,” and both speak fondly of Sheila Murphy. “When I was grieving for my husband, Sister Sheila had the gift of knowing the right thing to say,” said Sheila Calcagno. At different times they saw and admired how sisters were with people. When Sheila Murphy spoke to them about the Associate Program, they were immediately responsive.

“I saw it as a golden opportunity to be something besides an admirer of the Congregation,” said Eleanor. “It’s a good thing to help others and to support the Sisters.”

Continued on page 9

Do we know who our ancestors are?

Roberta Mulcahy, ssj

At a recent Employee Luncheon at the Mont, I represented the Justice and Peace Committee and shared some of the Committee's work on Immigration along with a "test" to remind us of our heritage as immigrants. In this article we offer a summary of the presentation given to our employees.

Our mission as Sisters of St. Joseph is to live and work that all people may be united with God and with one another. "That All May Be One." Every six years we come together to reflect on how we have carried out our mission and we set future goals to help us continue to make our mission come alive.

In the past we have made Public Statements on several social justice issues. Presently, our focus is Immigration. Education, prayer and conversation topics relating to this issue come from the

Associates: Con't from page 8

Sheila hadn't previously heard about the program. "I could belong?" she exclaimed. Already connected through prayer and many relationships, the two women now feel more a part of the Congregation, and recall their commitment ceremony as "a great event!"

The SSJs and associates who live on the island get together every few months for a social, a meal, and prayer together, often at the house of Sisters Judy Carvalho and Eileen Shea. Others in the group are Sheila Murphy, Mary Behan, Vivian Pyne, and Mary Bisson.

"Retired" on paper, these two associates are patterns of adaptability, perseverance, and generosity. Ad Multos Annos!

Another associate from the island was Susan Boutin who died on July 1, 2005.

Note: Special thanks to Sheila Murphy, ssj, for her help in setting up interviews.

Federation, LCWR, USCCB and state and local groups working on Immigration.

All social justice issues relate to "right relationships." This is both a challenge and a cause for concern. How can we say that we are committed to just relationships if we do not, in our own relationships, act justly? As we struggle with this challenge and concern we remember that we are part of the human race living in a world of chaos as well as a world of beauty. Some days, our SSJ mission and goals are evident in our lived practice and other days they are not as noticeable. We wait in hope for canonization!

The Church's pastoral, *Welcoming the Stranger*, reminds us that just immigration reform:

- Respects the human rights of immigrants, preserves the unity of the immigrant family, and includes due process, fair naturalization procedures and legalization opportunities.
- Addresses the root causes of immigration that permit the continuation of the political, social, and economic inequities that contribute to it.
- Does not sanction those who provide humanitarian aid for the undocumented.

A challenge for each of us today is to:

- Move beyond the anti-immigration stance that is popular in different parts of our country.
- Move beyond the belief that there is only one image of a real American.
- Move beyond any form of racism or nativism that continues to reassert itself in our communities.

In our conversations regarding Immigration, may we remember our ancestors, celebrate the diversity of all races and creeds and believe that we are one human family sharing in one earth.

Team Talk

Louisiana Sisters show southern hospitality

Mary Ferguson, ssj

Sr. Cecile Poitras, Sr. Rita Deschenes, and associate Mary Neubig, our SSJ Louisiana contingent, share both our SSJ charism and southern hospitality in ample measure with all they meet.

My visit in early February coincided with Sr. Cecile's 60th anniversary as a Sister of St. Joseph. The St. John the Evangelist "Cathedral on the Bayou" parish in Plaquemine honored Cecile with a liturgy including her renewal of vows and a reception featuring many delectable southern treats. The high regard in which the parish community holds Cecile was evidenced throughout this tribute. A particular highlight was a table featuring pictures of Cecile from her earliest days to the present, a real center of interest to those gathered.

Cecile and Mary then whisked me off to DeRidder, a three and a half hour drive, where I enjoyed a lovely visit with Rita. She gave me a tour of the entire St. Joseph parish complex, which is quite impressive. Of special pride to Rita is the religious education building (yes, building) as she was able to "have some say" in its planning. The four of us enjoyed a delicious



Sisters Cecile Poitras, Rita Deschenes and Mary Ferguson in Louisiana. (Above) Associate Mary Neubig helps out at the gathering for Cecile's anniversary. (Right)

lunch together. I was also able to see our former convent in Vinton, which I know holds many happy memories for many of our Sisters.

I have said that my visit was somewhat like visiting the Energizer Bunny. We visited Natchez, MS, where Cecile ministered at one time and still "looks in" on some. We traveled on the ferry to Galveston, TX, where the gulls ate from our hands, and the temperature reached 70 degrees.

Of special interest was a visit to the 9th ward in New Orleans. Though the buildings are either boarded up or sporting gaping holes where windows used to be, though the spray painted codes signifying where bodies were found are still very visible, though there was hardly a person to be seen, Cecile and Mary assured me that things were better. The entire area seems to have electricity and all of the cars which had been under water and abandoned were finally towed away.



Of course, while in New Orleans I was also treated to a visit to Cafe' du Monde, whose famous Creole Coffee and powdered sugar covered beignets were a treat even for a tea drinker.

As I reflect on my days in Louisiana, where I was greeted so warmly by so many, fed so sumptuously by our dear community and by the dear neighbor, I am reminded of "where one of us is, we all are." Cecile, Rita, and Mary embody our charism in all they do every day.

J&P group offers information on peace stance

Denise Granger, ssj

Last fall, Jane Morrissey met with the Justice and Peace Committee and told us about a visit from a group of Japanese Catholics to the Pax Christi group to which she belongs. In essence the Japanese were asking for Pax Christi to engage their resources to educate U S citizens about the current effort to amend the Japanese Constitution by eliminating Article 9 (the “no war” clause). Indeed, on January 27, 2007, *The Republican* carried a piece describing Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s desire to remove Article 9 within the year. The “no war” clause engenders deep feelings for and against removal in Japan and, while little known to the average US citizen, the practical results of this Article have concerned US administrations from Truman to Bush II.

Article 9 reads:

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

This phrase was written into the postwar Japanese constitution by the US officials who headed the occupation of Japan. The United States fought and occupied Japan primarily to ensure that it would not go to war again, and Article 9 was written to guarantee this.

While US occupation officials composed most of the ideas and words in Japan’s postwar constitution, the initiative for Article 9 appears to have come from the Japanese. The majority of Japan’s citizens approved the spirit of Article 9 and consider it personally important. They speak of their constitution as a “Peace Constitution.”

The US vision of an unarmed Japan living in peace under the supervision of a world government (the United Nations) was short-lived however, because the international scene changed rapidly in the late

1940’s. Chiang Kai-shek, the United States’ wartime ally in China, was defeated by the communists. Another ally, the Soviet Union, quickly came to be seen as a postwar threat to democracy. And in 1950 the Korean War pitted communist forces in the Far East against a UN force made up of largely US forces pulled out of Japan – leaving the islands without any armed protection. Thus, when John Foster Dulles was appointed to negotiate a peace treaty with Japan to conclude US occupation, he and most other US policy makers had come to see Japan as important to the defense of US interests and democracy in the Far East. To maintain order in Japan and repel any possible invasion from the outside, a 75,000 strong National Police Reserve was created. Eventually the NPR became the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) with well-equipped ground, maritime, and air forces.

During the late 1980’s, increases in government appropriations for the JSDF averaged more than five percent per year. Fears about rearmament remain strong in Japan. Concern is rising in Japan that the memory of the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be lost as the survivors of the bombings die. Prime Minister Abe would like to overhaul Japan’s pacifist constitution, increase Japan’s international security role, free itself of World War II’s political remnants, and bolster Japan’s security alliance with the United States.

The US maintains nearly 90 military facilities in Japan and Okinawa at considerable expense. Japan has become one of the most powerful economies in the world. As Japan’s economy continues to grow and its manufactured exports compete with and sometimes take markets away from US industries, many here have begun to feel that Japan should accept more of the burden of the defense of its own islands, the waters surrounding them, and help to maintain stability in the world.

As the pressure grows both in Japan and the US to abandon Article 9, the Justice and Peace Committee will be in touch with the Congregation about any actions that might be helpful.

CHS awards recognize, encourage excellence

Paula Misitano, ssj

Six years ago, Cathedral High School, Springfield initiated a *Dinner and Awards Night* celebrating the legacy of Cathedral High School as exemplified through alumni, former faculty members, and other school supporters. The annual dinner celebrates and honors individuals who uphold and carry on Cathedral's mission and values. Some honorees graduated from Cathedral, some served on the staff, and all have made an outstanding commitment to Cathedral High School and made their civic community a better place through their service.

At the Seventh Annual Dinner, March 3, five honorees gathered in the transformed school cafeteria to receive their well deserved award. Ned Hogan, Advancement Director for Cathedral, acted as Master of Ceremonies, aided by John Miller, Principal, and Paul Stelzer, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Springfield Bishops Timothy A. McDonnell and Joseph F. Maguire were in attendance, joined by Worcester Bishop Robert McManus.

Honorees for 2007 include three Cathedral graduates: Kathryn Hinkley Seward '56, Lawrence Kulig '77, and Monsignor Christopher Connelly '84. Dr. Martin Markey, an area psychologist, and parent of seven children (all of whom attended Cathedral), also received an award. Representing the Sisters of Saint Joseph was Mildred Marengo, ssj.

Sr. Millie came to Cathedral in 1960 after teaching in Springfield diocesan grammar schools. At Cathedral, Millie taught predominantly chemistry and physics. In 1975 she was appointed Associate Principal with responsibilities of co-curricular and extra curricular activities. She served in this capacity for six years.

After leaving Cathedral in 1981, Millie ministered as Campus Minister at the University of Massachusetts. She then went on to serve as Grant Writer for the Sisters of Saint Joseph Community, working out of her office at Mont Marie in Holyoke.

In her acceptance speech, Millie noted that since Cathedral opened in 1883, over 250 Sisters of Saint Joseph have served on its staff. She praised the Cathedral spirit and repeated the comment uttered about the first two sisters at the school, "they were dedicated to striving after excellence." She praised the quality of the faculty, administration, and students throughout her years at Cathedral. "Working side by side with extraordinary educators, meeting so many enthusiastic young people every year, challenging and being challenged by them, was an exciting time for me," she said. In addition, she praised the parents who "supported and encouraged their children to achieve their best."

Now, 124 years after its opening, Millie finds Cathedral High School still fulfilling the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph – educating students to service while preparing them for continuing their learning. One could hear the pride in her voice as she spoke of Cathedral High School, the Sisters of Saint Joseph, her close-knit family, and the many "remarkable people who have been a part of her life." She counts them all among her greatest blessings.

Millie returned to the goal of the early Sisters of Saint Joseph who first taught at Cathedral – "striving after excellence." She exhorted those in attendance... "Let us all strive for excellence, an excellence grounded in caring and compassion. Both we and the many people whose lives we influence deserve nothing less than that."

Building Energy 07: The Practice of Sustainability

Cathy Coyne, ssj

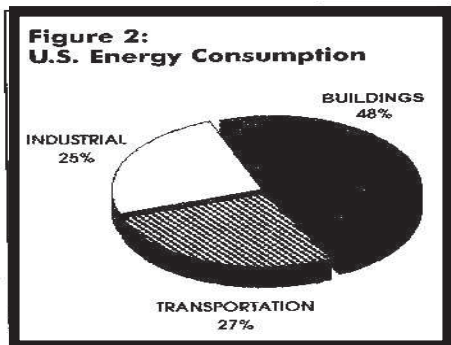
Clearly now is the time to address global warming and how that is changing our climate. The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, NESEA, did just that this past week in Boston.

I attended the 32nd annual conference with its nine tracks, 17 workshops and over 60 sessions tackling issues about building design and energy usage. NESEA brought together the most knowledgeable people in the Northeast to exchange ideas at the cutting edge of sustainable building design, renewable energy and the impacts of climate change.

Edward Mazria, the plenary speaker, is an internationally recognized architect, educator and author who employs an innovative environmental approach to design.

His constant question is: How do we dramatically cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, and become more energy-efficient without wrecking the U.S. economy?

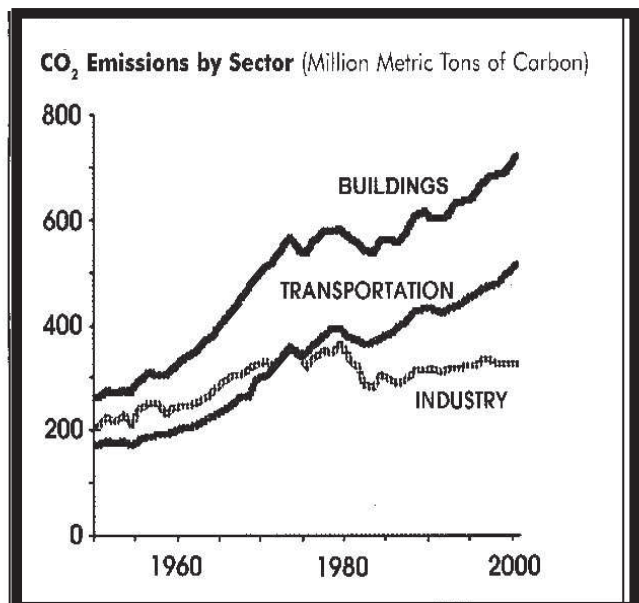
The answer, he says, is simple. Change the way buildings have been designed so they operate with less than half the energy of the average U.S. building at little or no additional cost. It is our buildings - residential, commercial, and industrial - and their construction materials - that account for nearly half of all the energy used in this country each year.



Mazria points out that it is the architects and building designers who hold the key to turning down the global thermostat. The American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council have produced a wealth of information regarding energy in building materials.

This information needs to be incorporated into a nationwide continuing education program for all design and science schools. And if they take up Mazria's Architecture 2030 challenge we can reduce fossil fuel consumption by 50% by 2010 and all new buildings and developments could be "carbon-neutral" by 2030.

By attending Building Energy07, I feel I have joined a community of people who are working to make a difference in the way we build and the way we generate and use energy. These are key issues for all of us as we confront the serious challenges ahead. For I believe if we build well, bringing the natural world into our environs with passive heating and cooling, our structures will endure and we will consume less energy. So let us be careful to choose to build what deserves to last.



Good news about SRI ‘in the neighborhood’

Roberta Mulcahy ssj

Recently the Solidarity Series at the Elms College offered a presentation entitled, Socially Responsible and Sustainable Business. Joe Sibilia, president and CEO of Meadowbrook Lane Capital, shared his values and vision for sustainable business practices to a full and attentive audience.

Joe is a graduate of Cathedral High School in Springfield and Providence College in R.I. He actively engaged his listeners with stories of his background, “conversion” to sustainable practices and an invitation to vision and set goals for future work that is consistent with values held at our deepest level.

A very tall man, Joe wore what he “preached” as he showed us his bamboo socks, hemp trousers and organic cotton shirt. This display followed a reminder of what corporations like Nike can do after they are called to accountability by those practicing socially responsible investing and advocacy work.

In the practice of sustainable businesses Joe has managed and advised 17 businesses that have worked to reduce pollutants, conserve energy and restore communities. Ben and Jerry’s is an example of one such business. Brownies now made for a B&J ice cream come from a bakery in New York that provides work for homeless people. A cooperative in Brazil provides nuts for another ice cream made by Ben and Jerry’s.

Joe’s local business located at Gasoline Alley in Springfield is an example of his philosophy of working with others young and old to align personal values with work, give value to that which has been abandoned, engage in economic accountability and be happy and creative in your work. His invitation to each to visit Gasoline Alley might be a bit overwhelming if we all show up on the same day. However, we were assured that we would be welcomed and that Joe would be happy to assist us if we are interested in future ideas for sustainable and responsible business practices.

Sister crocheters take part in ‘Warm-up America’

Sisters in St. Joseph Residence at the Mont have been taking part in the Warm - up America Project.

They gather each week and crochet squares. When they complete 49 squares of various colors, their handiwork is made



into a warm, colorful quilt that will be given to homeless shelters or to the Red Cross for fire victims,

Brenda Morse, one of the nurses, gave them the idea and sewed the first two quilts (which can be seen on the table) together for them.

The project is sponsored by Michaels. Individual squares can be taken to the store where they will be made into quilts.

Working on the project are Sisters Maria Edward, Sheila Daly, Veronica Brown, Helene Michael, Loretta Scarlett, and Cecile Lafond.

In Rutland**College of St. Joseph celebrates 50-year milestone****Mary E. Harvey, ssj**

The College of St. Joseph (CSJ) celebrating 50 years of excellence honored its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, and its history in Tuttle Hall on March 19 with prayer and a program followed by a reception. Faculty and staff received recognition of their years of service. Nanci A Gordon '83 received the Pour Le Merite Award for outstanding service in Rutland and beyond. Victoria Guetti was the recipient of the Mother Teresa Student Service Award.

In his welcome, President Frank Miglorie said, "In this 50th milestone I have had the opportunity to reflect on our founding congregation. When I think back to the 50's, and I think of a group of courageous women who followed a long line of courageous women, look at the history of the congregation. You can go back to



The 2007 Pour Le Merite Award was presented to Nanci Gordon '83, during the Founders' Day awards ceremony at the College of St. Joseph on March 19. Front row from left: Rutland City Mayor Chris Louras, Nanci Gordon, CSJ Trustee Chair Susan Englese, Sr. Mary Quinn, and President Frank Miglorie. Back row: Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Gary Lawler. (above)

Photos by Jaime Insinga, Communications Director, College of St. Joseph

France. You can see a group of women serving during the Revolution. You can see women who left their secure homes in France to come over to St. Louis to provide service in the United States and from St. Louis spread out to other states and serve regions having significant impact in education, health services, and other ways.

"I think of these women leaving their home, embracing this mission in another land, and finally somehow through turns in the road ending up in Rutland, Vermont responding to a pastor's request for a school in St. Peter Parish." Dr. Miglorie noted the Rutland Sisters' part in education in central and Southern Vermont. He said, "We have seen our founding congregation merge with another congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Springfield and Holyoke and see a strength that came out of that merger and the evolving congregation's interest in the college."

He added, "When I think back to a few women getting together and deciding they wanted to found a college in Rutland with little or no capital in hand, just a wonderful spirit, a wonderful idea, creativity, lots of courage, I am indebted to them for that first step."

Dr. Miglorie said one never gets to the twentieth step unless one takes the first step. He said, "The first step is the most courageous step on that journey to achieve a vision that at times is looked to be impossible, an impossible dream, but today we recognize as something there for our reach."

President Miglorie introduced Sister Mary Quinn, Springfield President, who gave a message from the congregation. He said she epitomizes in her ministries over the years the mission of the college allied with the congregation's mission.

Mary Quinn spoke of the dreamer

Continued on page 16

Sisters to celebrate Special Anniversaries, June 12

75 Years Entered in 1932

Sr. Mary Benedicta Cernauskas

70 Years Entered in 1937

Sr. Veronica Brown
 Sr. Ann Francis Burke
 Sr. Stella Burke
 Sr. Mary Dorothy Durett

Sr. Sr. Rita Eagan
 Sr. Maria Edward Farr
 Sr. William Agnes Gillet
 Sr. Margaret Edward Griffin
 Sr. Rita Rafferty

65 Years Entered in 1942

Sr. Gertrude Brown
 Sr. Alicia Maria Fairfield
 Sr. James Bernard Laughnane
 Sr. Therese L'Heureux
 Sr. Maria Louise Loudon
 Sr. Patricia James Sweeney

60 Years Entered in 1947

Sr. Grace Belforti
 Sr. Lucille Bertrand
 Sr. Gertrude Clark
 Sr. Irene Comeau
 Sr. Patricia Kane
 Sr. Alice Kenney
 Sr. Louise Thomas McIsaac
 Sr. Cecile Poitras
 Sr. Patricia Rumse

Rutland Celebration: Continued from page 15

Joseph in the musical Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and his proclamation, "Any dream will do." She said, "This theme of dreaming and acting on one's dreams is very appropriate for our gathering today on St. Joseph's Day." Mary Quinn noted the dreams of Joseph in the musical "sometimes brought him difficulty, but also his



dreams brought him freedom."

She spoke of St. Joseph likewise being a dreamer. Mary Quinn quoted Sister Mary Madeleva, CSJ (Orange) who said of Joseph, "...he had dreams. They weren't always clear or easy, but they were his. Eventually they changed his mind and heart."

Mary Quinn said the Sisters of St. Joseph began their dreams in Le Puy and have responded to various needs across

the years. She said, "This year, in a special way, we celebrate the dreams of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, who 50 years ago, dreamed of providing an education for their sisters so they could be of service to the people of the Rutland area. Through creativity, hard work, and God's grace, their dream became a reality. This dream was soon followed by the creation of this college that has educated many young men and women to be of service regionally, nationally, and internationally."

Mary Quinn said dreams change minds and hearts, and they can change the world in which we live. She said, "We honor students, faculty, and staff who have dreamed and have worked to make God's presence, God's love, God's compassion more alive in our fragile and vulnerable world."

A reception was held in the Tuttle Hall Lounge after the College of St. Joseph Founders' Day awards ceremony. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the college, Sr. Mary Polworth, Sr. Mary Quinn, and College President Frank Miglorie gather together for the cutting of the cake. (above, left) **Photo by Jaime Insinga,**