



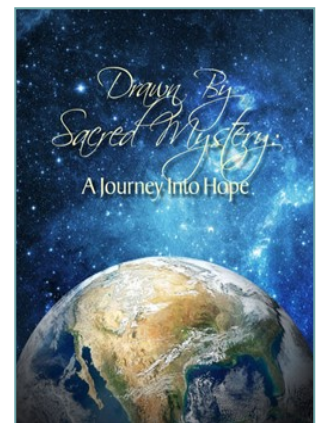
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Mary Jo Radey, CSJ

For four days we were surrounded by images of the cosmos...swirling galaxies, a myriad of constellations, stars in amazing detail and colour! Nine of us from the Canadian CSJ Federation had the privilege of attending the Annual Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) from August 8 to 11 in Dallas, Texas. The theme, "Drawn by Sacred Mystery: a Journey into Hope" was captured in these cosmic displays on huge screens where 800++ leaders, lay partners and invited guests gathered each day. Speaker after speaker used this theme to offer us their insights into where religious life is today. I'd like to offer three glimpses into that week from this star-gazer that may be relevant to us as a Federation.

Brian Swimme joined us by Zoom to speak of how cosmogenesis is the spirituality of the "collective we" and that the death of a star is their generous loving into life of the new galaxy being born. He noted that women religious, drawn by sacred energy, through our generous giving of our lives in love, unto death, are part of that natural process of allowing new galaxies to be born, as well. He concluded with a litany of women religious who were part of his own journey and development of a cosmological spirituality. He reminded us that every atom of our skin was fashioned by a star...an explosion of love that held nothing back...just like religious life...the generosity of a super nova!

Theologian Sophia Park, SNJM, captured my imagination by using the stories of Alice in Wonderland to embrace this precious moment, speaking of how she was full of "holy curiosity" that can take us down the rabbit hole, but couched the whole adventure in the contemplative call to the "long, loving gaze at the real." Later, Sophia noted how the Korean tradition for funerals were to put four figures with the beloved deceased: the "pathfinder" who shows us the way along the journey, the "protector" who helps you to keep your identity along the way, the "caregiver" who consoles us in the turmoil, and the "clown" who entertains us along the way...reminding us to not lose our joy in leadership!

The final moments of the conference were at the banquet where Donna Markham, OP, was given the Outstanding Leadership Award. In her acceptance speech, she told the tale of the early days of the pandemic when people were dying of the Coronavirus, including young members of her staff at Catholic Charities who were working with the vulnerable migrants at the U.S./Mexican border. She reached out to LCWR as the vaccine was just coming out and being offered first to seniors who were 75 years and older...the



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Continued

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exact demographic of most women religious in the U.S.! Over three hundred vaccinated Sisters went to the border to help, in desperate and unknown times, and they not only helped, they got in there and did the job!!

This conference reminded me of our star-power as a Federation, in our generous “yes” to this life where the death of a star is the natural process of new life; that we have a “holy curiosity” going into this rabbit hole of a new way of being as religious and lay partners, and that

in our communities we have the pathfinders, protectors, caregivers, and even the clowns to help us on this journey into hope. And most especially, that there are times when our demographics are the very thing the world needs in a crisis, bringing our experience and abilities that are drawn to this precious time by Sacred Mystery.

To hear the fullness of each of these talks please click on this link, and enjoy the vast expanse of what the cosmos had to offer us in Dallas! <https://www.lcwr.org/calendar/lcwr-assembly-2023>



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Carole Umana

The other day, I visited with a former colleague – an Elder and life-long activist who has been involved in Indigenous rights and the environmental movement

since the 1970s. As I lamented on the current state of the world, she reminded me that while sometimes challenging and slow, the ‘beautiful and loving work for justice is never done.’

Later, thinking about some of the youth activists whom we discussed – the Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, Afghani education-for-girls advocate Malala Yousafzai, and 17-year-old Canadian Indigenous chief water commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation, Autumn Peltier - I was uplifted by those wise words which reminded me of the need for patience, love and tenacity.

Indeed, ‘the lace is not yet finished.’

Thus far, 2023 has seen a worsening global environmental crisis, acrid smoke from uncontrolled wild-fires, violence and war ... and the list goes on. And yet, amidst this barrage of troubles, we can also find beauty and strength in the commitment of those who, despite all of the challenges, continue to work to weave

that important ‘lace of justice.’

In a Congregational blog¹, Sr. Joyce Murray (In Canada) once wrote of her visit to Le Puy, “... from the very first days of our foundation and into the 21st century, have we not been about lace-making, literally and figuratively, as in our various ministries we weave the diverse threads of a design known as the Congregation of the great love of God. Over the centuries, Sisters, Associates/Companions and lay colleagues in ministry have followed the pattern, devoting themselves to our common mission of active and inclusive love...”

As I read the articles submitted for this Federation newsletter, I was reminded how the combined missions and service of Sisters, Associates, partners-in-mission and CSJ staff -- like sweetgrass which becomes virtually unbreakable once braided together – continues to weave new tapestries of hope and justice. For example, in this issue Sr. Sue Wilson describes the efforts of the Office of Systemic Justice and the JPIC offices for CSJ-Toronto and the Loretto Sisters as part of a larger group calling on our federal government to advance the U.N Sustainable Development Goals in Canada, Mark Calzavara (of the Council of Canadians) shares an update

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of the power of working together to preserve water as a human right, and Sr. Nancy Sullivan shares news about the Peru Mission and the beautiful relationship between Sisters, Associates and local communities.

So, as I think back to that dinner conversation, I am comforted to know that despite all of the troubles in

today's world, we are indeed blessed to be entrusted with the work of peace and justice that we continue to weave together – Sisters, Associates/Companions and communities.

[1] [The Lace Is Not Yet Finished — Congregation of Sisters of St Joseph in Canada \(csjcanada.org\)](https://www.csjcanada.org/)

BLUE COMMUNITY - An International Movement



by Mark Calzavara, Council of Canadians National Water Campaigner and Guest Writer for this newsletter issue.

Would you trust a large multinational company to provide your tap water? They would surely jump at the chance to buy up any public water utilities that they could get their hands on, because there is tremendous profit to be made in the privatization of essential services such as the provision of drinking water. In fact, there is no shortage of big investors seeking the guaranteed profit that comes from selling something that nobody can live without- clean water.

A decade or so ago, a few cash strapped municipalities were persuaded to sell their utilities but the promised service improvements and cost reductions never materialized. Nowadays, blatant attempts to privatize water infrastructure are rare in Canada. But the “privatization virus” hasn’t gone away. Like other viruses, which adapt to survive, it has mutated into Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and other schemes that allow the private sector to extract profit from operating, financing, building, and owning our critical infrastructure. All levels of government continue to support the idea of P3s, despite the recent history of boondoggles in public transportation and healthcare P3s across Canada.

One way to prevent the privatization virus from taking hold where you drink the water is to vaccinate- by becoming a Blue Community! The Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation was one of our earliest Blue Communities and certainly one of the most ardent proponents of the program.

A “Blue Community” adopts a water commons framework which treats water as a common good that is shared by everyone and the responsibility of all. Our Blue Communities Project encourages municipalities and other kinds of communities to embrace the following principles through the passing of resolutions or similarly relevant commitments that:

1. Recognize water and sanitation as human rights;
2. Ban the sale of bottled water in facilities and events controlled by the community; and,
3. Promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water services.

There are more than 100 Blue Communities that have been designated world-wide. Most of the Blue Communities designated in Canada are municipalities such as Vancouver, London, and Montreal, but we have also designated many faith Congregations, university campuses, and colleges as Blue Communities.

The process of becoming a Blue Community is as important as the designation itself. Usually, local activists and community groups work together to

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BLUE COMMUNITY Continued

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educate their municipal council and the public about the importance of rejecting privatization, respecting the human right to water and banning the sale of bottled water.

The Blue Community Project acts as a kind of nucleus for local organizing, bringing people together to work with common cause - and we need a lot more of that! Any community that is ready to undertake to defend

and promote water as a public good and a human right can seek designation as a Blue Community. To learn more about the Blue Community Program, check out the resources on our website www.canadians.org/bluecommunities

And, if you want to work towards a Blue Community designation where you live - please contact me! I can help you develop a plan and find other folks you can work with to make it happen.

FEDERATION OFFICE FOR SYSTEMIC JUSTICE - Pushing Boundaries, Deepening Community **Sue Wilson, CSJ**

The [UN High Level Political Forum](#) took place in New York in July 2023. It was an opportunity for governments and civil society groups to reflect on how the global pandemic had impacted progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and to chart a path toward greater wellbeing for people and planet. Its core mandate is to leave no one behind.

The Federation's Office for Systemic Justice (FOSJ) was part of a delegation from Canada which also included the JPIC office for the Toronto CSJs and the Loretto Sisters. We also invited a young woman from a racialized community and a former migrant worker to join us so they could speak about the barriers they have experienced in Canada. If we are to leave no one behind in our country, we must both understand and dismantle the barriers which people face when they try to participate in our society and economy.

Together, the FOSJ, along with the JPIC offices for CSJ-Toronto and the Loretto Sisters, were part of a larger group which crafted a [Civil Society statement](#) to respond to the [Canadian government's report](#) on how well it is advancing the SDGs in Canada. Our three offices also wrote a "shadow" report focusing on how migrant workers, workers without documentation, and youth (especially youth in families without documentation) are in danger of being left behind.

Then, in New York, we met with staff at Canada's Permanent Mission to the UN to highlight our concerns. It's the work of political advocacy but it's also the work of deepening community bonds.

For the most part, the SDGs reference human rights. The framework of human rights is important because it identifies what we owe each other as co-members of community, and it puts a spotlight on the drivers of inequality. For instance, human rights insist that each worker should have access to well-paying work with good working conditions as well as freedom from discrimination rooted in gender, race, or other cultural biases. Human rights also highlight the resources and opportunities which form the foundation for each person's wellbeing: a safe environment; access to adequate food, housing, education, decent work, and retirement income; economic support during job transitions; health care including pharma-care and mental health; access to child-care, elder-care, and more. It's the material substance of community on a social level.

That's the vision. It can feel like an elusive dream because so many energies in the world are working against this vision: Soaring corporate profits, the growing gap between rich and poor, the erosion of democracy, weak responses to climate change, the

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disproportional impacts of climate change on communities in the Global South, and backlash against women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights. People living in homeless encampments are often ignored or attacked, Indigenous rights are disregarded, and workers' rights are undermined.

But there are also graced-filled and transforming energies which have the potential to make a difference. Youth, from all around the world, are pushing the climate change agenda and advancing our understanding of LGBTQ+ rights. People with disabilities are clearly identifying the barriers they face. Civil society groups, including religious orders, are insisting that governments pass accountability mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of their policies and to monitor policy impacts on diverse sectors of the population. Workers' unions, understanding the deep interconnections in the workforce, are advocating for a better wage and working conditions for all, not just their own workers. Indigenous groups are calling out colonial attitudes and actions where they see them. Governments are committing to greater biodiversity protections. And groups working on financial



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

transparency are seeking a new international tax structure to address tax avoidance by multinational corporations.

These are all important dynamics for protecting human rights. They push the boundaries of what we understand as fair and just. They strengthen communities.

But the intersecting crises affecting the planet today (climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution) call for more.

Boundaries need to be pushed further.

One boundary is already being pushed. Former Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg chief, Gilbert Whiteduck, is spearheading a process to get the Gatineau River legally recognized as a person. It's part of a [global](#)

[movement](#) that is largely led by Indigenous communities, environmental groups, and scientists; a movement which intends to give rivers and other ecological features stronger legal protections by granting them rights normally reserved for people.

It could become a game-changer in terms of protecting species and their habitats. And, just as important, it pushes the boundaries of community to include all in earth community.

It deepens our sense of 'the dear neighbour.'

(Photo L-R: Varka Kalaydzhieva, CSJ-TO Program Manager, with Srs. Sue Wilson and Joan Atkinson of the FOSJ)

VOCATION ALIVE - The Other – A Vocation Perspective Pat Carter, CSJ, on behalf of the Federation Vocation Animation Committee

Who is "the other" for you? The one who is immediately suspect? The one who causes you to be apprehensive? For whom do you instinctively build walls, real or virtual, for self-protection? Are you more likely to see an "other" in a person who does not look like you? Are the differences in experience or culture unknown and therefore questionable? Is there a

challenge in communication, in language? I have read a lot this summer and it seemed in every story, there was a pattern. When two characters initially meet, they "other" each other and as the relationship grows, attitudes evolve and acceptance grows. In one story the person begins to defend the one she previously

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VOCATION ALIVE - Continued

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othered.” Does spending time with a stranger, coming to understand who they are, change the “othering effect?” Is this tendency to “other” a protective mechanism in our brains which has become reflexive? What do we need to do to change the neural pathways? Why not just start with acceptance? Looking beyond differences and

anticipating the discovery of dignity, integrity and humanity. As women religious with a charism of unity and reconciliation, we are committed to witness to the grace of unifying love. Let us meet people with openness and acceptance. Let heal those around us of the disease of “othering” and by our example teach trust and inclusion of all individuals. And when we fail, which we will, let us ask forgiveness and begin again to grow in freedom.

Into the Future Collaborative – a gathering of Oneness



L to R: Srs. Suzanne Franck (Brentwood), Mary Jo Radey, Lisa Balcerek (Baden), Pat Murray (West Virginia), Pat Carter, Charlene Kostuk (Philadelphia).

Thursday, July 27 to Saturday, July 29, 2023, 27 CSSJ Sisters from the Canadian and US Federations were led through a process of reflection by Kristen Mattes, a School Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. Sr. Kristine Fernandes, of the Toronto Congregation, was a member of the planning team. Sisters Mary Jo Radey and Pat Carter, of the SSM Congregation, have participated in a monthly Sharing of the Heart online group and were invited to participate in this event. It took place at the Carmelite Spiritual Centre in Darien Illinois, just outside of Chicago. Initiated originally as a means to support the younger sisters of the Atlantic

region, the gathering became inclusive to all who desired to meet. The theme of the event was *Weaving the threads of Our Collective Beauty* and that was indeed what took place. We prayed, we shared reflections, questions, meals and we enjoyed each other’s presence. The space was so filled with grace, comfort and joy. And we were very grateful for air conditioning!

LITTLE DESIGN COMMUNITIES: A WAY OF LIFE FOR ALL PERSONS – a new book by Sr. Rosemary O'Toole

We believe this Little Design movement contributes to that quest of so many seekers longing for belonging, safety, and community. These newly emerging Little Design communities have become that graced opportunity to initiate and celebrate these small gatherings, that over time, deepen bonds of spiritual friendship.

This small book offers guidelines for how to start your own Little Design community; outlines for eight monthly gatherings; commentaries for discussion on The Eucharistic Letter; and directions for the personal sharing of hearts.

Sold on [amazon](https://www.amazon.com) for \$10.46 CAD. To purchase a bulk order of 10 or more copies, please contact Sr. Rosemary O'Toole at upperroom@sympatico.ca. Cost will be \$5.00 each plus shipping



FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Fair Trade Coffee **Mary Mettler, CSJ, on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee**

How was your cuppa coffee this morning? Do you know where it came from? Did you notice if it was labelled “fair trade” OR Fairtrade” (no space in between) with this logo.

And what difference does it make?

These two words look like they are interchangeable but not so for farmers and producers of coffee. And for those of us who do not want to be involved in the exploitation of these farmers, it’s important to be aware of the differences and understand how these terms are used.

The coffee bean industry is a very lucrative business and one of the largest sites of forced labour around the world. Forced labourers have little or no rights and millions of them are children. They endure long hours with little or no pay and are often exposed to dangerous chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The battle for fair trade justice has never been more relevant.

The term “Free trade” emphasizes the reduction of borders, restrictions and tariffs on goods and services passing through countries and continents. Fairtrade (one word) involves ensuring that the workers behind these goods and services are treated fairly and paid justly, and that human rights are maintained throughout the supply chain. It means you are helping to protect people and the planet and importantly be addressing the challenges of the climate crisis. Fair Trade, the two - word version, is not a protected term and can be used by anyone and so does not necessarily have any real environmental or societal value.

Fairtrade came about in response to the struggles of Mexican farmers following the collapse of the world coffee prices in 1988. Fairtrade International (FLOCIERT) established in 2003, is an independent system and works directly with the farmers/growers. It set up standards which protect workers’ rights, ensures that the farmer’s earnings cover their costs and more, and that improved knowledge of sustainable farming practices are



encouraged and maintained. Many of these farmers choose to go organic as well; it’s seen as a way to support the environment and ensure that their workers are not exposed to harmful chemicals.

Fairtrade works with close to one million farmers across 32 countries with Columbia being the largest producer of coffee. In addition, growers of cocoa, bananas, sugar, tea and chocolate are also supported with the Fairtrade label. Fairtrade products continue to fund and support workers in communities around the world. Fairtrade growers are guaranteed the minimum price; if market price exceeds this, then farmers receive the market price. When market prices drop, they still receive the minimum which covers all costs of production.

Fair trade has a market share ¹of 25% which means that it receives this percentage of the total revenues or sales in a particular market such as coffee sales. The remaining 75% therefore, does not necessarily offer any price security to the farmers. This makes them very vulnerable to the fluctuations in the market.

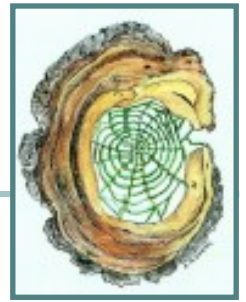
When you see “Fairtrade” as a single word, it certifies that the goods are produced ethically and sustainably under fair trade principles. Fairtrade coffee brands have made it an integral part of their mission to develop lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships with the farmers who cultivate their crops.

How to be a more aware customer when making choices in the superstore? When “fair trade” is written on the packaging as a two word term and lacking the Fairtrade logo, it’s being used by companies who are deceiving the purchaser.

When we choose to buy “Fairtrade” coffee we are casting a vote for the ethical treatment of the labourers who are responsible for our daily cuppa coffee.

1. Market share is the percentage of the total revenue or sales in a market that a company’s business makes up. For example, if there are 1000 units sold per year in a given industry, a company whose sales were 250 of those units would have a 25% share in that market.

GREEN WINDOW - Tree Roots and Our Lives **Linda Gregg, CSJ, on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee**



From when we were young, as we trace the memories of our human story, we often find that the lives of trees have been intertwined with our own. One of my warmest memories is of a towering weeping willow that graced the front yard of my grandparent's home. My grandfather was not one given to warm acts of affection but he loved to root and plant willow trees whenever he could. To my younger brother and I, the giant willow tree that he planted long ago at their home was a friendly, towering giant that could sweep us up into its ever flowing willowy arms and hold us in a magical place. Within the willow tree's world we were safe and embraced in wonder. We chased one another gleefully in and out of its playful branches weaving in the wind. And when exhausted we would collapse on the ground looking up through the overlapping willowy branches to catch sight of the blue sky and puffy white clouds, a glimpse of heaven and, for a moment, we were held in eternity's embrace.



Timeless moments like these have been a part of most of our lives. I know how my home on the West Coast birthed the towering spires of Douglas Firs that glanced toward the sky and made my spirit soar, in unmistakable wonder. The Red Cedar, Spruce and so many tree families of scent and strength, fresh life and enduring stubborn life that shaped who I am. Trees have been rooted my heart in troubled times when no human

was near. Trees ground us and help us remember that we are a part of an unfolding and wondrous universe, rooted in earth.

When my youngest sister died suddenly by suicide there seemed no sense and we gathered and stumbled to try to find meaning and hope. We only knew she was close to trees and had been a tree planter. We were able to find a forest bower that was a private cemetery. It was there we laid her and found a wood burl that a friend inscribed with the only words that made sense. Words from Bertrand Russell - "Love is a tree whose roots are deep in the earth, but whose branches extend into heaven."

So we planted hemlock trees in her memory, for the hemlock is known as the "princess of the forest." They still grow today.

We live in a cosmos that knows this paschal mystery that life is born of death and love does not die. These words echo what we read in scripture, for in both the First and Second Testaments from Genesis 1:1 "God created the heavens and earth" to Isaiah 37:16 and Matthew 28:18. It is not a dualistic or hierarchical universe that our God created but a unitive cosmos that yields a vision that we are only just comprehending. Into that mystery all creation speaks of this unending secret and often trees are the bridge between the worlds, speaking in ways that need no words.

Photo by [Pascal Bernardon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

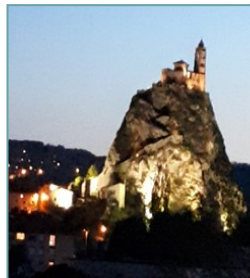
Invitation to Visit the Federation's Website

The [Federation's website](#) has been undergoing some changes recently – with a new homepage design including links directly to the important work of the Office of Systemic Justice and to the beautiful prayers created by the Ecology Committee and Vocation-Animation Committee. A new homepage design, an inner-page template redesign, new imagery as well as a refreshed colour palette and fonts – all serve to highlight Sisters' important missions and ministries. Over the coming months, additional changes will be made such as refreshing an 'About Us' section and adding other images. As an important aspect of this project, special thanks to CSJ Sisters and Congregational staff who kindly provided the new images!

FOOTSTEPS FOR ALL TIMES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
- New Programme launched in Le Puy
Mary Rowell, CSJ

On the evening of Friday May 28 this year Sisters Mary Rowell and Donna Smith with Associates, Colleen Ona Williams (Sault St. Marie, North Bay) and Debbie Scott (Toronto – now living in Cobourg) excitedly boarded the night flight to Paris en-route to Le Puy. In Lyon, we met up with Associate Eva Lados (In Canada, London) and our dear friend, Suzanne Liptay and in Le Puy our friend from the U.S. Sister Pat Lynch (Brentwood) involved in Agrégée accompaniment and formation.

It was a small but significant beginning to a new programme launched by the Board of the International Centre in Le Puy; a programme intentionally designed to receive the richness of widening the tents of our charism. The programme, in addition to providing presentations on the history and evolving spirituality of the Congregation with pilgrimage opportunities, invited a new focus based on the shared experiences of those living the charism as Associates, Agrégée and friends of the Family of Joseph.



As several of the participants said, “there is nothing quite like the experience of stepping onto the cobblestones in the narrow streets of Le Puy and placing our feet into the footsteps of the first women of the Family of Joseph”; a mixed group just like ours.

Such a programme involves remembering in an historical sense. It also opens horizons to a “remembering” of our identity for the future as the vision of charism evolves and expands into a new day together. As Sister Ilea Delio has remarked, “We are not interested to hold onto the past but to cherish the past while engaging the future. In an unfinished universe, where God is ever new, tradition must



acquire new meaning of core values, if it is to continue shaping our lives.” An amazing experience of such “transitions was the gift of the Le Puy programme.

The programme includes communal prayer, times of silence for contemplative reflection, presentations on Congregational history and spirituality including visits to significant sights related to history, sharing of experiences of living charism today in ever widening circles, visioning for the future and sharing of the heart. Visits include the famous “kitchen” where all were moved by a time of silent reflection and prayer, the streets of Le Puy where we could imagine the mission lived fully over time, the house of the Fontbonne family in Bas-en-Basset and the memorable sights of Lyon that captured the experiences of Revolution, refounding, and the sending out of Sisters steeped in courage and faith to North America and across the globe. There was, of course, also much enjoyment, laughter together, wonderful French cuisine and friendships formed.



Our special thanks to Sister Eluiza de Andrade, SSJ (Chambery, Brazil) and Olga Bonfiglio (Associate – Congregation of Joseph, U.S.A.), the staff of the International Centre who so warmly welcome all visitors. What a great time you gave us!

The programme is planned to take place again next year: May 27 – June 2, 2024.

Mark your calendars! Detailed advertising will appear in the International Centre newsletter in December and again in our Federation newsletter. We are hoping that many more friends and Associates will be able to join us for this wonderful experience that brings with it shared

voices, French enjoyment, future hope, and a new vision for a mission yet to be. All welcome!

(Thank you to Sister Donna for photographic memories)

VISITING OUR SISTERS IN CHINCHA, PERU - A Heartwarming Experience

Nancy Sullivan, CSJ

Sisters Margo Ritchie, Pauline Coulterman and I were pleased to have the opportunity to visit our Sisters in Chincha (Peru) earlier this year. We were warmly welcomed not only by our Sisters Gloria and Maria but also by many others and in particular the members of Sr. Gloria's extended family. Since COVID



Front L to R - Sisters Maria Chóquez-Céspedes (In Canada, Chincha) & Margo Ritchie (In Canada); Back L to R - Sisters Mauritzza (Lima), Gloria (Lima), Nancy (In Canada), Gloria Muchaypiña-Salhuana (In Canada, Chincha), Zaida (Lima) & Pauline Coulterman (In Canada).

began Sr. Gloria's sister and her mother have lived with the Sisters. This has turned out to be a good experience for all as Sr. Gloria's mother and Sr. Maria - who is not able to walk- are good company for one another.

We were able to meet some parishioners and visit their homes. Sr. Gloria is very active in the local parish which is one of the largest in the diocese as well as in the community at large. For example, she leads the rosary on Facebook and loudspeaker onto the street each afternoon.

We were able to meet with 9 Associates (see image) ranging in age from 36 to 85 years old. Due to COVID, they hadn't been able to gather in person until then. They renew their commitment annually and this year, they joyfully celebrated their 40th anniversary, a



legacy started by Sisters Nicole Aube and Nora Kelly.

Sisters Pauline Coulterman and Gloria operate an extensive scholarship program for children who need financial assistance. Sr. Pauline fundraises in Canada and she and Sr. Gloria meet and distribute the funds when she visits each year. She looks for Canadian sponsors who will sponsor a child through the years of school at a rate of \$250 Cdn per year per student. While we were in Peru, some of the scholarship students asked if they could entertain us Canadian visitors so a date was set and we were treated to some fine Peruvian talent from the upcoming generation. (See image of girls dancing). We also visited a farm where there were some children who were getting the scholarship funds. They raise guinea pigs.

We also had a brief, sad visit with a 34-year-old woman, Rosa, who is in a wheelchair and has serious pressure sores. When she was 22 years of age at the time of the last major earthquake, a wall fell on her and paralyzed her from the waist down. Sr. Gloria and the parishioners do what they can to help.



There are Sisters of St. Joseph of the Carondelet Congregation who live in Lima, Peru and they came for a visit one day. Needless to say, we are concerned about our 2 Sisters going into the future and are glad of their/ our good relationship with the Carondelet Sisters who are always willing to assist our Sisters when needed. A

renewed Memorandum of Agreement between our Congregations was signed by Sisters Margo and Gloria Sepata (Provincial Leader) indicating that when our Sisters no longer need the house, that the

Carondelet Sisters in Lima will accept it if they have capacity when the time comes. If not, we will invite them to discern with us the best use of the house.

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CSJ ASSOCIATES/COMPANIONS' AGM - Sharing, Learning and Growing as Contemplatives in Action

This year's Annual General Meeting (May 31-June 2) of the CSJ Associates and Companions was another great success – thanks to the Toronto Associates' Leaders who hosted the gathering and to Sr. Mary Rowell (In Canada) who led an insightful and moving retreat entitled "Contemplatives in Action." Sr. Mary's presentation began with an overview of the founding and history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, drawing comparisons to the societal issues present when the community was founded in 1650 (i.e. poverty, war, epidemics, hunger, and civil strife) and our current times. "Like the Sisters in 1650 who expanded boundaries (from the cloister to becoming contemplatives in action), what boundaries are we willing to expand today?" Sr. Mary asked the 30+ Associates/Companions who joined the Zoom-based retreat.

Sharing slides sprinkled with scripture, quotes, music, videos as well as small-group breakout conversations, Sr. Mary informed, moved, and inspired everyone in attendance and reminded us that 'in troubled times, we become a home for people's souls, a service of retreat.' Next year's AGM and Retreat will be hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Congregation Associates' Leaders, with dates and details to be provided in the spring 2024 Federation Newsletter.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS - Series Features Federation Foundresses From the Federation Archives and Heritage Committee

Led by six General Superiors, in 1966 the Canadian CSJ Congregations established the Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada. To honour their legacies, the Federation's Archives and Heritage Committee developed its 2023-24



Historical Highlights series which, every other month, profiles one of these visionary foundresses.

In July, Sr. Noreen McColgan (photo left) – who became the General Superior of the Sault

Ste. Marie Congregation at the young age of 42 –

was featured. And, in September, you can read about Sr. Julia Moore (photo right) who was General Superior of the London Congregation for 12 years.



In early-November, Mother Alacoque Hayes (Hamilton Congregation), who presided over a time of transition following Vatican II, will be profiled (photo middle).



All of these biographies can be found on the [Federation website](#) (under *Latest from the Federation*).

VISITING OUR SISTERS IN CHINCHA, PERU - Continued

Continued from page 10

Our Congregation's roots in Peru extend beyond Chincha to the Zana Valley, where the original London Congregation once had a mission. An active group of Associates continues to minister there and maintains close contact with some of our Sisters, especially Sr. Janet Zadorsky.

Life in Peru is not easy for the people there with some political unrest, poverty, and the onset this year of dengue fever which has been particularly daunting for all.

Please continue to pray for our Sisters, our Associates and all in Peru.

CSJ LIFELONG TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

Mary Rowell, CSJ

Live out your life with one desire only: to be always what God want you to be in nature, grace, and glory, for all time and for eternity

Many of you will be aware that in recent years the Canadian Federation has been working closely with the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the United States in the area of continuing formation. Perhaps you have been a part of some of the programs that have been launched as we walk together. Maybe you have enjoyed and contributed to the three past Founders' Day prayers and events on-line that over 1000 of us have enjoyed. Each of these has been initiated by the former Lifelong Formation Committee of the U.S Federation that includes Canadian membership and participation.

We are all invited, in these days, to transformation in our self-understanding, our lives lived, and in our communities and families for God's mission expressed anew in our CSSJ charism. Not least, such transformation impacts our concepts and practices concerning, ongoing and comprehensive formation.

Over the past year, the members of the Committee, one of two standing committees of the U.S. Federation, have been discerning role and practices. We have reflected on the nature of formation and have studied developments in the field. We have listened to your voices. We have become increasingly conscious that the term and idea of formation is no longer adequate as a description for vibrant and respectful integration into the charism for the whole family of Joseph. As a result, the name of the Committee has been changed to the **"Lifelong Transformation Committee."** The intent is to better reflect a commitment to a continuing "becoming" at a personal and a communal level, a realization of the expanding tent of living charism and a reception of the beautiful diversity entailed in that movement of the Spirit, and to enliven our mission in and for the world today.

Following a recent meeting, the Committee has begun

planning ahead for some exciting new, transforming initiatives "for-mission" that we hope will be enlivening and enjoyable for many. Current Committee members are Sisters Joannie Cassidy (Philadelphia), Sue Dunning – co-Chair (Orange), Joanne Fantini (Boston), Deirdre Griffin (Springfield), Rose Ann Heffner (Congregation of Joseph), Mary Rowell - co-Chair (Sisters of St. Joseph In Canada), Kate Theriot (Congregation of Joseph). To enrich the work of the Committee we are looking forward to the gifts of new members who have graciously agreed to be part of the Committee: Sisters Joan Gallagher (Brentwood), Michelle Leshner (Philadelphia), Mary Jo Radey (Sault St. Marie, Canada). We also look forward to working with many of you to reach for new horizons and to develop fresh initiatives for the flourishing of CSSJ Mission in our times. If you would like to suggest ideas to the Committee please feel welcome to contact one of the members or the Federation.

In Memoria -- Sister Trina Bottos

On July 14, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie (SSM) Congregation announced that Sr. Trina Bottos, having completed her earthly journey, returned home to God whose friendship she enjoyed all her life. Sister was born in Fort William (now known as Thunder Bay) and baptized "Catherine" in honour of Italy's patron, Catherine of Siena. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie in 1960 and trained as a teacher – later serving as an elementary school teacher, educational resource person and faith animator. Sr. Trina served on the SSM Congregation Leadership team for several terms as well as held the position of President of the Federation Board between 2016-18.



Sr. Trina's full obituary can be [read here](#).

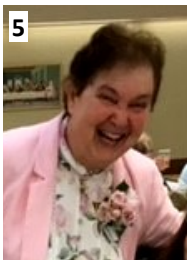
Happy Jubilee to: HAMILTON, PEMBROKE, PETERBOROUGH and TORONTO SISTERS

This past June, three joyous Jubilarian celebrations took place: on Saturday, June 10th the In Canada Congregation celebrated its Peterborough and Pembroke Sisters at the Peterborough Motherhouse; on Sunday, June 11th the Toronto Congregation honoured Jubilarians at their 2 O'Connor residence; and In Canada Hamilton Jubilarians were celebrated on Saturday, June 24 at Holy Rosary Parish (Burlington).

These jubilant events bring Sisters together to share memories, reflect on their loving commitment to religious life, and enjoy a special day of prayer, song, and celebration. Many congratulations to all of these special Sisters! Below are some photos of these joyous events.

From the **In Canada Congregation** (*Pembroke and Peterborough*), Jubilarians include: Srs. Joan Driscoll (70), Marjorie Fitzpatrick (60), Ruth Gosselin (70), Hilda Maloney (75), Ann Regier (25), Annetta Ryan (75), Anna Summers (70), Eunice Summers (75) who passed away on June 14, and Shirley Tapp (80). *Hamilton* Jubilarians included: Srs. Rita Bohnert (60), Michaela Sinclair (70), and Kathleen O'Neill (50).

From the **Toronto Congregation**, let us celebrate: Srs. Pat Boucher (60), Anne Delaney (60), Roberta Freeman (70), Marie Edmund Gibbons (75), Monica Marie Kelly (60), Helen Kluge (60), Ruth Leddy (75), Mary Carol Lemire (75), Sue Mosteller (70), Anne Purcell (60), Theresa Rodgers (60), Grace Sauvé (75), Dorothy Schweitzer (60), and Virginia Varley (75).



1. Peterborough and Pembroke Jubilarians celebrate with Congregational Leader, Sr. Margo Ritchie. 2. Peterborough-Pembroke Jubilarian cake with (L-R) Sisters Ann Regier, Joan Driscoll, and Ruth Gosselin. 3. Toronto Jubilarians (L-R) Sisters Helen Kluge, Anne Purcell, Dorothy Schweitzer, Pat Boucher and Ann Delaney enjoy the delicious lunch. 4. Toronto Jubilarians share prayer and music together. 5. In Canada (Hamilton) Sr. Kathleen O'Neill. 6. In Canada (Hamilton) Sr. Rita Bohnert (with Sr. Loretta Manzara and staff). 7. In Canada (Hamilton) Sr. Michaela Sinclair (with Sr. Audrey Burns).



Images graciously provided by CSJ staff Maia Patterson (In Canada) and Ibrahim Ng (Toronto).

SEASON OF CREATION 2023 – Let Justice and Peace Flow



With much gratitude to the Federation Ecology Committee, this year's Season of Creation Prayer theme is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*. With a mighty river as the symbol of biodiversity at risk, each of the five prayer service themes -- the mighty river, the swimming ones, the standing ones, the four-legged ones, and the winged ones -- invites you to new awareness, to reflect on the biodiversity and uniqueness of creatures, to lament the harm done and to express gratitude to God for all the various species of life on earth. You can find the 2023 Season of Creation Prayer on the [Federation website](#) .

FEDERATION BOARD UPDATES



The Sault Ste. Marie Congregation's 2023 Chapter meeting resulted in changes to the Federation Board, as follows: we say goodbye to **Srs. Bonnie Chesser** (left) and **Cecily Hewitt** (right) who have been wonderful (!!!) Board members in addition to serving on other Federation Committees, such as the Blue Community Steering Committee. Over their terms, Sisters have generously offered guidance and insights, and provided much wisdom to

Federation initiatives and activities with a special commitment to environmental issues – we are most grateful for all that they have contributed! The Federation also warmly welcomes four new Board members representing the Sault Ste. Marie Congregation: **Srs. Linda Maclsaac, Costanza Romano, Priscilla Solomon** and **Josie McKechnie** - all of whom have extensive leadership experience. We look forward to benefiting from their knowledge, and thank these Sisters for taking on this important ministry!



FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

United by a common story and charisma, we Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, form a Federation to empower one another in the passionate living of our charisma of active and inclusive love.

Urged by God's spirit, we collaborate with Sisters of St. Joseph globally and respond to the evolving reality of our world, bringing healing and hope to all creation.



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