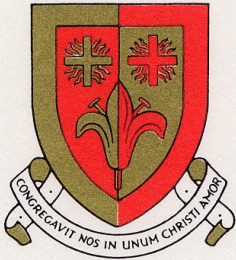


Volume 12, Issue 1

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FEDERATION OF SISTERS OF
ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA

Newsletter



President's Message

Loretta Manzara, CSJ

This message will arrive sometime near to the Paschal Feast. A time when we are, lingering through the mysteries of Holy Week, ritualizing the greatest model of service in the washing of feet, journeying with the Suffering Servant in his steps to Golgotha, waiting in the middle time until the new fire is lit and the Gloria peals out and the Eucharist gathers us once more around the festive table. That indeed is our liturgical ebb and flow of time. And our hearts, where might they be?

Perhaps we find ourselves aching over the horrors of the world situation, where brutality is as real as the crucifixion of Jesus. Perhaps we are holding in our hearts the care of the refugee whose journey has been a trek through desert land, hilly crag, and flooded plain, whose feet are bruised and aching with the struggle to arrive in a place of freedom. Perhaps we are empty in the face of absence of loved ones, stunned by the lure of radicalization of our youth. Perhaps our hearts are heavy with the strain of all that haunts our hope for world peace.

And then the new fire is lit and the Gloria peals out and the Eucharist is broken and shared. Small fragments – fruit of the earth, genteel sips of the fruit of the vine. We taste and hold dearly in our hearts the mystery of Presence, of Divine Goodness, of Hope for the future, where death and pain no longer hold court. This is what sustains us – that death is no more; that Christ-life is vibrant in the community assembled; that the reign of God enables us all to live as sisters and brothers.

It is difficult to hold out that hope in the midst of our fragile world, yet we sing *“When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain, Your touch can call us back to life again, Fields of our hearts that dead and*

bare have been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.” (CBW 403) This beautiful Easter text captures the middle time of buried seed in the dark earth groaning to sprout its new life. The text then leaps in verse 3 to the brilliance of the Easter Rising. The hymn weds a traditional Christmas tune, *Noel Nouvelet*, with this poignant Easter text, proclaiming in melody, the passionate in-breaking of God into our earthly reality, and in text, the passionate love of Christ drawing us into the heart of God. In this single hymn Christmas and Easter are united and together call us deeper into the mystery of God's reconciling love!

This is where we find the courage to live through these times. We have not been left alone adrift on this ever evolving planet Earth. The Christ, Love made visible, draws us into the heart of God, teaching us to be about creating Easter, about living fully God's mercy, compassion and inclusive love. It is a tall order, but it is the covenant that God makes with us and us with God. In the midst of turmoil and chaos, we are called to stand open to the next possibility that unfolds the revelation of the Risen Christ to the world.

May this Eastertide provide graced awareness to each member of the Federation – an awareness that urges us to hold strong the promise that *“All shall be one.”*

Holding each of you in our hearts, may we empower one another in the passionate living of our charism of active and inclusive love.

*Easter Greetings from Alice Greer,
Ann Delaney, and Loretta Manzara*



Executive Director's Message — Nancy Sullivan CSJ



This season of Easter evokes in me a spirit of thanksgiving for all the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada as each Sister ministers to the dear neighbour wherever she is planted, in whatever way her gifts can best be used. Our three congregations also are addressing some of the most pressing issues of our day and for that commitment and courage to take small steps, gratitude abounds.

On an even broader scope, the International Centre in Le Puy, France is abuzz with programs and visitors. For all the latest happenings, please check out the newsletter at www.centreinternationalssj.org/English/Newsletters.aspx and the webpage at www.centreinternationalssj.org

The International Centre is a joint project of Congregations and Federations of Sisters of St. Joseph around the world. Support of this global initiative is very much appreciated through your prayers, words of encouragement, and if possible, attendance at the Centre.

“Come to LePuy Where the Global Family of St. Joseph Gathers” is the invitation issued by the staff at the Centre: www.sistersofsaintjosephfederation.org/node/243

I will soon be off to Le Puy as your representative at the May Meeting of the International Centre Board and look

forward to connecting with our sisters on a global level.

Plans are underway to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Federation in 2016. It will be 50 years since **Mother Maura** (Toronto), **Mother Alacoque** (Hamilton), **Mother Julia** (London), **Mother St. Rose** (Peterborough), **Mother St. Thomas** (Pembroke) and **Mother St. Edward** (Sault Ste. Marie) gathered to effect a supportive association. The theme for the year is “Celebrating Our Story: The First 50 Years!” **Margaret Magee** and I from the Federation Office are working on plans to mark the occasion, with a capable Anniversary Committee of Sisters and Associates/Companions (**Sr Penny McDonald** and **Barbara Baptista** (Toronto), **Sr Mary McGuire** and **Joyce Young** (in Canada), **Sr Frances Carter** and **Anne Brisebois** (SSM),

and our Federation Archivist, **Linda Wicks**). An invitation will be issued to the congregations asking for your help to design a logo for this special year; the logo should be simple and

reflect the colours of the Federation crest, with the rest left to your creative imagination.

Looking ahead to warmer days, the Federation Archivists have a meeting planned in Toronto towards the end of April; the Associate/Companion group will hold their annual gathering at Invermara in early May, when they look forward to hearing from guests **Srs Mabel St. Louis** and **Ann MacDonald** who will speak on their work with the Human Trafficking Coalition in the Windsor area; and Ecology Committee members will gather for a meeting in Cobourg in mid-May.

Margaret and I wish you all a blessed Easter season.



L-R — Mother St. Rose, Mother Alacoque, Mother Maura, Mother Julia, Mother St. Thomas and Mother St. Edward

The Green Window—Part 18

Mary Rowell, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee

FROM LENT TO EASTER AND WINTER TO SPRING: THE JOURNEY OF HOPE AND PROMISE

As I write this short piece for the “Green Window” we are nearing the beginning of Holy Week and looking forward to the joy of Easter and Spring with all the hope that accompanies the liturgical season and the natural season – both times during which we celebrate resurrection and new life. The Paschal Mystery celebrated in our churches and reflected so clearly in the “nature of things” – of all created life, reminds us of continuity and wholeness: cross AND resurrection, winter AND spring.

This Lent I have been reflecting on (and trying to practice) some ways in which our traditional Lenten practices have been “greened” in churches. Four years ago, for example, parts of the Anglican Church proposed that rather than fasting from usual things like chocolate or other favourite food items, members consider participating in a carbon fast. Examples included carpooling or taking public transport or being more careful with the use of electricity, shopping for local produce and resisting items from far away requiring long-distance

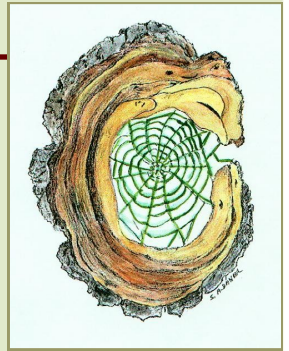
transportation to our supermarkets. All of these practices were recommended in light of the urgent call to Christians to respond to the devastating consequences of climate change

The following Lent, the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales recommended a return to Friday fast and abstinence. This was not solely about the externals of a former “Catholic identity” but was closely linked to current environmental considerations. In particular, the conference of bishops suggested that abstinence from meat at least one day each week during Lent as well as being a “spiritual discipline” reminds us that the over-consumption, especially in wealthier countries, of red meat leads to environmentally problematic farming practices and a reduction in grain so necessary to feed the hungry world-wide.

What was of special interest in the Catholic bishops’ recommendations was the proposal that the practice of Friday fast and abstinence be continued beyond Lent. The Lenten practices were about forming new

habits spiritually, or conversion, that could be linked closely

to ongoing contributions to wellbeing in the world. So rather than putting a “damper” on our Easter celebrations perhaps some reflection on traditional Lenten practices might lead us to a “green conversion” that will truly allow us and the world to rejoice in new life. What if my prayer became a contemplative prayer of thanksgiving and rejoicing in the gift creation? What if my lifestyle were such that my “fasting” from some things becomes “almsgiving” for the wellbeing of the environment and my poorer neighbours? This truly would be a celebration of resurrection: Lent into Easter, winter into spring, love for life!



CANCELLATION

Passionate Promises Retreat

JUNE 2-8, 2015—Invermara

Due to the small number of registrants, our Ecology Committee members have made the difficult decision to cancel this year’s retreat. Discussion and planning will take place on the offering of future retreats.



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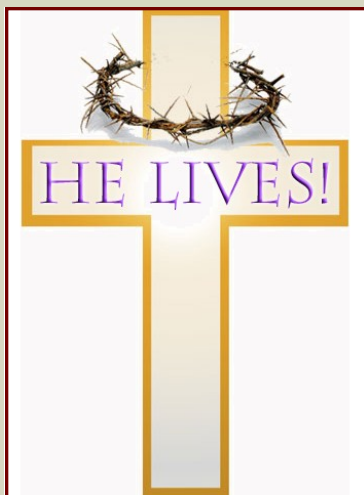
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***Our Mission Statement:
United by a common
story and charism, we
Sisters of St. Joseph of
Canada, form a Federation
to empower one another
in the passionate living of
our charism of active and
inclusive love. Urged by
God's spirit, we
collaborate with Sisters
of St. Joseph globally
and respond to the
evolving reality of our
world, bringing healing
and hope to all creation.***



Designed by Valerie Raftrey Lemieux

**IS THERE ANYTHING
TO EAT?**

**NANCY WALES CSJ ON BEHALF OF THE
ECOLOGY COMMITTEE**



One in nine Canadians - almost 3.9 million people - don't know where their next meal is coming from. Food Banks Canada published in its 2014 Donor Impact Report this dire situation of over 11% of Canadians facing daily hunger. Furthermore over 1/3 of these empty stomachs belong to children.

The Canadian Feed the Children agency reported that food insecurity for Aboriginal children (and adults) living on and off reserve ranges from 21% to 83%, compared to 3% to 9% for non-Aboriginal Canadians. These grim statistics point out that many Canadians are threatened by food insecurity. The meaning of the term, "food insecurity" is somewhat self-evident. As is frequently the way in offering more formal definition, we conversely refer to food security when defining access to food availability.

Food Security exists, "when people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life."

***Committee on World
Food Security 2012***

Food insecurity is an outcome of inadequate or uncertain access to an acceptable amount and quality of healthy food. Food insecurity presents a growing challenge in Canada, especially in the north and remote Aboriginal Communities. In recognition of this growing concern, the Federal Minister of Health appointed a panel of experts in October 2011, to assess factors influencing food security in the Canadian North and the health implications of food insecurity for northern Aboriginal populations.

The panel of experts, Council of Canadian

Academics, put forward the following initial findings concerning food insecurity:

- It is a complex issue with significant implications for health and well-being.
- There is no simple way to "solve" food security issues in the North. A range of holistic approaches is required.
- Many factors enable or serve as barriers to food security.
- There is a nutrition transition taking place in the rapidly changing North.
- There is no one experience of food insecurity.
- There is much solid research on hand but several knowledge gaps persist.
- Measurement methods used to date lack the ability to respond to the complex issue of food security within the northern Canadian Aboriginal context is limited.

It's an undisputed fact that food security is an issue of well-being. The executive summary of the Council of Canadian Academics begins on a positive note encouraging all of us to turn our attention to the issue of food security. "Canada is in a position of strength to address the challenge of food insecurity. We have the tools and knowledge to build food security in the North [and in the rest of Canada] which is our collective responsibility." Should we not consider that our CSJ call to oneness not only bids us to find everyone a place at the table (inclusivity) but also bids us to promote ample nourishment on the table (food security) for everyone...?



SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA ~ Jubilarian s 2015

Congregation	75, 80 and 85 Years	70 Years	60 Years	50
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto June 14, 2015	75 Years Sr Bernadette Naughton Sr Margaret McGrath Sr Mary Dailey Sr Marie Tremblay	Sr Catherine McCarthy Sr Bonaventure Sandford Sr Margaret Ann Hazelton	Sr Jacqueline Marie Louise de Verteuil Sr Mary Fatta Sr Kathleen Howard Sr Mary Rose Marris Sr Mary Macoreta Sr Nataline Bondi Sr Bernadette Robinson	Sr Ruth Anne Mowat
Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste Marie October 11, 2015	75 Years Sr Jeanette Lalonde Sr Jeanne Fortin	Sr Mildred Muldoon Sr Noreen Muldoon	Sr Patricia Hassett Sr Mildred Connelly Sr Doris Tosato Sr Marilyn Duff Sr Margaret Cushman Sr Barbara Ianni Sr Leona Spencer	
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Hamilton Neighbourhood May 9, 2015	85 Years Sr Josephine Bohnert 75 Years Sr Ruth Ditner	Sr Teresita McInally Sr Virginia Hanlon	Sr Lucy Strauss Sr Rose Gabriel Sr Rita Villani	
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—London Neighbourhood May 23, 2015—50th September 12, 2015—60th, 70th & 75th	75 Years Sr Mary Winifrid Dunn	Sr Theresa Carmel Slavik	Sr Anne Louise Cape Sr Patricia Hogan Sr Mary St. Louis Sr Theresa Mader Sr Esther Lucier Sr Caroline Martz	Sr Mary Zimmer Sr Wendy Cotter Sr Lynn Rouleau Sr Elaine Fayeski
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Peterborough Neighbourhood June 13, 2015	80 Years Sr Kathleen Corkery 75 Years Sr Kathleen Harrigan	Sr Noella Haddad Sr Vianney Voltner		
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Pembroke Neighbourhood June 20, 2015			Sr Pamela Bennett Sr Helen Smagugus Sr Mary McGuire	Sr Pauline Coulterman Sr Jane Fischer