



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – *Mary Anne McCarthy, CSJ***

A quote from Henri Nouwen which I read many years ago speaks to me of the Paschal Mystery: “Joy and sadness are as close to each other as the splendid coloured leaves of a New England fall to the soberness of barren trees. When you touch the hand of a returning friend, you already know that she will have to leave you again. When you are moved by the quiet vastness of a sun-coloured ocean, you miss the friend who cannot see the same. Joy and sadness are born at the same time, both arising from such deep places in your heart that you can't find words to capture your complex emotions.

But this intimate experience in which every bit of life is touched by a bit of death can point us beyond the limits of our existence. It can do so by making us look forward in expectation to the day when our hearts will be filled with perfect joy, a joy that no one shall take from us.”

As Lent ends and we begin the season of Easter, I find that this idea speaks to a reality for me. Even in the midst of sorrow and loss, it is always “right to give God thanks and praise.” Our belief is that the love of God has created us in the divine image and that death can't separate us from the love of God made present in the life of Jesus and we live in this life giving mystery. Eternal life is given to us out of God's great love and this we celebrate at Easter. We live our lives between the sorrows and joys. The grief and sorrow we experience are in a sense the price we pay for loving and being loved. Our relationships are gifts of God to us and how terrible for us if we did not feel bereaved at their loss. And this is how the Paschal Mystery presents

itself in our lives.

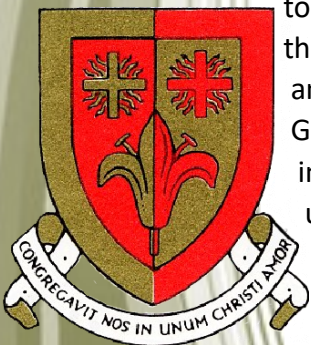
We might ask ourselves how do I, we, participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ? How are we as Congregations and Federation participating in the Paschal Mystery of Christ at this time in our history?

Father Michael Hayes says that “it is the good news that we don't have to wait until death to share in the resurrection. We can begin to do it right now in this life, at this moment...each time we love again after having our love rejected, we share in the power of the Resurrection; each time we fall and try again, we share in the power of the Resurrection. The Message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us anymore not pain, not sin, not rejection, not death. It is the good news that every Good Friday now has an Easter Sunday.” (*Wisdom from A Pastor's Heart: Reverend Michael T. Hayes*)

So in these days, we experience both the sadness and the joy in the life of Jesus and this experience can put us in touch with the mix of sadness and joy in our own lives, our living out of the Paschal Mystery in which “every bit of life is touched by a bit of death.”

In the coming days, may we be blessed in the Easter Alleluias we sing so that each one of us can be joyful and share that joy with others.

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!





## **MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Loretta Manzara, CSJ**

*“Transformative communities are grounded in a transcendent vision.”* This thought provoking statement is a quote from Mark Clarke

in *Community Works Inc.*, July 2018 and is a perfect anchor for this edition of our Federation Newsletter!

Our Presidents’ message roots us in the transcendent vision of the paschal mystery realized in our everyday lives. From there we look into the wide world of the United Nations where that vision is concretized in the power of women’s songs of struggle. That palpable energy enlivened Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, to urge women to take up their power rather than wait for it to be given. Sue Wilson (Federation Office for Systemic Justice) beckons us to watch for the communities of women all around the world who are creating change out of a grounding vision.

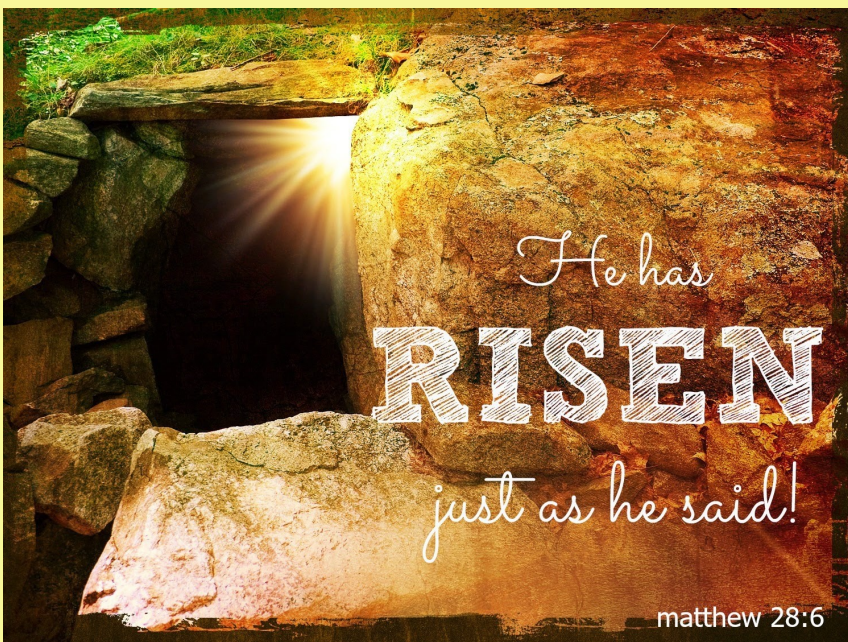
Our Ecology Committee provides a passionate cry to eliminate human caused emission of carbon dioxide. Faith based groups and organizations have the antidote

to the apathy. Will this paschal journey urge us on?

*“Collaboration is the ability to embrace diversity and partnerships for a transcendent good. A community is a container that links culture with collaboration to establish a shared vision, a place for belonging, and a means to act.”* (Mark Clarke)

Our CSJ Federation “community container” provides just such a place of belonging. In this issue we feature some snapshots of our shared vision of compassion for the dear neighbour who arrive as refugees. Our Vocation Committee describes a place of belonging for our younger members framing it as a dual citizenship. And Paul Baines, Blue Communities Coordinator, invites us to build a unity across our networks using the values of water as a human right, a sacred gift, and a shared commons.

Our Federation Community is indeed grounded in a transcendent vision. Perhaps we are invited to continue to ask: *“What is the capacity we need to immerse ourselves in a more diverse and collaborative network?”* (Mark Clarke)



The Easter Season offers us 50 days to rejoice in the abundance of new life promised and made visible. May each of you bring about new shoots of change in your everyday environment. Christ is truly risen!

Mary Anne McCarthy  
Mary Jo Radey  
Sheila Fortune  
Mary Mettler  
Loretta Manzara

## THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

### Sue Wilson, CSJ on behalf of the Office for Systemic Justice

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The Commission on the Status of Women took place in New York from March 8-22. For me, the most moving part occurred before the Town Hall event with Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General. The huge hall was filled with women as we waited for his arrival. Spontaneously, small groups of women broke out in songs of struggle from their region. One song followed another until the whole group stood to sing “We shall Overcome.” At that point, Antonio Guterres walked into the room. He seemed to feel the power in the room and urged us to take it up rather than waiting for power to be given over.



While the depth of commitment in that room left little doubt things will change, there is much work left to do. Consider these facts from the [UN Women website](#)

**Women are over-represented in informal and vulnerable employment.** Women are more than twice as likely than men to be contributing family workers.[12] From the latest available data, the share of women in informal employment in developing countries was 4.6 percentage points higher than that of men, when including agricultural workers, and 7.8 percentage points higher when excluding them.[13]

**Globally, women are paid less than men.** The gender wage gap is estimated to be 23 per cent. This means that women earn 77 per cent of what men earn, though these figures understate the real extent of gender pay gaps, particularly in developing countries where informal self-employment is prevalent.[14] Women also face the motherhood wage penalty, which increases as the number of children a woman has increases.[15]

**Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.** Women tend to spend around 2.5 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men.[16] The amount of time devoted to unpaid care work is negatively correlated with female labour force participation.[17]

**Unpaid care work is essential to the functioning of the economy, but often goes uncounted and unrecognized.**[18]. It is estimated that if women’s unpaid work were assigned a monetary value, it would constitute between 10 per cent and 39 per cent of GDP.[19]



Or consider these trends from [United Nations Human rights website](#)

*Gender-based violence* affects at least 30% of women globally.

Women [human rights defenders](#) are ostracized by their communities and seen as a threat to religion, honour or culture.

Women’s crucial role in [peace and security](#) is often overlooked, as are the particular risks they face in conflict situations.

Women’s rights are not just a women’s issue. These facts and trends signal some of the many ways in which the economy, society and environment are distorted by the lack of women’s full participation. The world will not move toward wholeness while women are excluded. Fortunately, there are women all around the world who are creating change.

## **Parliament of World Religions: Reflection on Climate Change— Janet Speth, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee**

*(Sometimes our submissions require a bit more space. For this issue, the Ecology Committee has chosen to present one article – a Reflection on Climate Change)*

The 7th Parliament of World Religions (PWR) was held from Nov 1-7, 2018 in Toronto...what an AMAZING experience...8,350 people representing 220 religions and spiritual traditions from around the world sharing on the theme: *The Promise of Inclusion, The Power of Love.*

First convened in 1893, it was reinstated 100 years later in 1993, and has continued every 3-5 years in different cities around the world. This year, six main themes were explored including Climate Action.

Repeatedly presenters cited the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has taken an even more radical stance than the Paris Agreement's 2 ° and is setting a new target of 1.5 ° above pre-industrial levels if we hope to mitigate the impacts of global warming. The current predictions are dire saying we have only 12 years to act to avoid reaching a point where these effects will be irreversible. This will require intentional personal action, political will and economic investment if we hope to reach

what is identified as net 0 (zero) of global human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide by 2050.

How can this be achieved? First we must recognize and acknowledge that the climate is a common good as are the forests, the oceans and all the natural world. This is at the heart of *Laudato Si'*, which was impressively referenced in many PWR talks by many religions and spiritual traditions. The key note talk, *Climate Science and Faith*, proposed a 2-prong approach to climate action. The first being stepping stones, with short term goals identified. The second they called bridging with longer term goals in place. Five paths were identified to reach 0 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 2050:

**Path #1: Energy Use:** using energy in an efficient way through personal and local institutional strategies;

**Path #2: Decarbonize energy:** shifting to alternative sources of renewable energy;

**Path # 3: Remove fossil fuels from electricity:** purchasing electric cars, using batteries powered by solar energy, increasing investments in technology and expanding this technology particularly to the transportation sector;

**Path #4: Address carbon removal from nature:** advancing small

local organic farms which use technology to re-capture the CO<sub>2</sub> they release, increasing number of reforestation projects. Key here is - rather than thinking of CO<sub>2</sub> as a waste, consider it a resource that can be turned into other energy alternatives. This technology is being developed;

**Path # 5: Limit the non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases:** e.g. controlling methane and using it as energy.

### **Signs of Hope:**

There are signs of hope. Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> to net 0 levels is doable with political will and economic investment. It would require only 1% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to achieve this goal. Furthermore, there is a shift to a green consciousness particularly in the younger generation; for example, Kehkashan Basu, the founder of the Green Hope Foundation.

We have the technologies available now.

However more investment needs to go into the developing the alternate energy sector.



*Continued next page*

### Looking at the Bigger Picture

It is clearly evident that there is a growing crisis in our world in which humanity is experiencing troubled relationships with each other and Earth. And, yet humanity also possesses the capacity, as well as the responsibility, to choose a future of peace, justice, and care for one another and Earth, an “ecological civilization,” which is grounded in the common core values of the world’s religions. The concept of an Ecological Civilization was addressed by many PWR presenters including David Korten and Matthew Fox.

In broad terms, an ecological civilization involves a synthesis of global economic, educational, political, agricultural, and other societal reforms toward sustainability. It is a relatively new consciousness, being raised in the 1980’s and now embodied in the Global Ethic Project.



The concept of an ecological civilization has been embraced by the Parliament in 1993 in a consensus statement entitled “Declaration on Climate” that concluded with these words: “The future we embrace will be a new ecological civilization and a world of peace, justice and sustainability, with the flourishing of the diversity of life. We will build this future as one human family within the greater Earth community.”

You are all encouraged to sign onto this declaration. Find the link to do so in the last endnote.

### Role of Faith Based Traditions

Faith based groups and organizations have the antidote to the apathy so prevalent in the world today; an apathy for which Science has not found a remedy. All peoples of faith are united by deep values that seek the flourishing

of creation, a concern for climate change and its planetary impact and a desire for a viable future for next generations. What is needed is a deep love for creation and a willingness to learn from Earth. An eco-spirituality of inclusion and compassion gives purpose and meaning to any actions taken on behalf of the planet. Faith communities are poised to build bridges between faith and science through ritual, education, the arts and advocacy that deepens the understanding that Earth (Universe) and climate are a common good which we all need to love and protect.

Leading by example multi-faith relationships must actively be fostered to ensure collaborative strategies towards net 0-CO<sub>2</sub> levels such as: continually raising climate change concerns, calling for political action; demanding sustainable consumption, funding green projects, supporting alternate energy initiatives, eating less meat and limiting food waste. A very important strategy is to develop Investment portfolios for the green energy sector.

**Take home message:** We need to make sacrifices for the planet. We must melt the ice in our hearts before it is too late. We can take heart in an Ecological Civilization knowing that there is an energy of spiritual ecology emerging in the world. The spirit within the Parliament of World Religions clearly tells us that God is raising up a multitude of people to care for our home, Earth and the cosmos.

For further reference here are some useful links:

[The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)  
[Women in Renewable Energy—Green Hope Foundation](#)  
[Ecological Civilization](#)

[The Global Ethic Project](#)

[Parliament](#) of World Religions: Declaration on Climate Change

<https://davidkorten.org/home/ecological-civilization/>

# DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS—AN EVOLVING REALITY

Mary Rowell CSJ on behalf of the Federation Vocation Committee

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In her 2017 Presidential Address to LCWR, entitled, “The Future Enters us Long Before it Happens,” Sister Mary Pellegrino, CSJ spoke of a need to move from a narrative of diminishment to a narrative of communion.

A narrative of communion points us toward a response “to emerging world and local needs through processes of collaboration,

partnership and simply coming together.” Many express this as a sense of “dual citizenship.”

The term “dual citizenship” in this context emerged from a gathering held in 2012 of members, under 62 years of age, from various CSSJ congregations in the U.S. At that gathering they discussed the creation of a future for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The group has continued to meet annually for this purpose. Sister Janet Mock, CSJ describes the gathering in the following way: “Originally, the Sisters imagined themselves creating a new ministry or doing something else together... As they met for prayer and reflection it became obvious that the most important thing they could do during this time was to share the *State of the Heart* with one another, thus building bonds and deepening relationships across congregations.



At one of these gatherings, one Sister said, “I feel I am holding dual citizenship. I am firmly committed to my congregation of origin and I also feel that this group holds my future. As Sisters in my own congregation are dying I find companionship and hope in my age cohort which spans congregations.”

Like our Sisters in the United States, those of our Sisters who entered after 2000, find gathering with Sisters their own age, with whom they share a common vision, energizing, promising, visionary, and supportive. While deeply committed to their congregation of origin, these Sisters from across the Canadian Federation, find the opportunity for developing relationships with one another deeply fulfilling as they move prayerfully into the future.

The reality of “dual citizenship” is expanding. Canadian Sisters are grateful for the recent events hosted by the U.S. Federation and in September this year, novices who had completed their Federation Canonical year came to Villa St. Joseph, in Cobourg, accompanied by their formation directors and Sisters living in

formation communities, to participate in a week-long program in eco-spirituality and charism. The present canonical novices and their Federation Directors recently participated in a similar programme at the Villa and with the Sisters in Toronto. All of this strengthens relationships for the future while affirming present realities.

Beyond our own CSSJ congregations, however, the idea of “dual citizenship” has encouraged members to participate in events for newer religious, women and men of other congregations to come together to share prayer, reflection and visioning. One example of this has been a retreat initiated by then novice, Sister Michelle Garlinski, SNJM, and supported by the National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors. The retreat has taken place twice in Saskatoon led by Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI and a further retreat with Father Ron is planned for this summer at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga. In such coming together the gift of dual citizenship is evolving for a hope-filled future for consecrated life in North America and beyond. It is also inviting us toward new expressions of charism with others and with partners in mission and ministry for a richness and diversity in a true “culture of vocation.”

In the information age of hyperlinks, blogs, podcasts, news feeds, and infographics it's easy to feel "drowned out" by the amount of water knowledge circulating around us. From the water in our bodies, to the rivers and lakes, to the skies and oceans, and then back again, there is much to learn and share on why water matters.

For a series of upcoming public events, I designed CSJ Blue Community flyers to give away and even a promo ad for the 2019 WaterDocs Film Festival. When working with such little space (as seen here with the WaterDocs ad) it's good to focus on the most important elements of this Blue Community project. While more research is always wise, increasing our reach takes more conversations and a language we can all agree on. People may differ on the solutions or the details, but how can we make these three principles resonate within us and our circles of influence?

#### **Water is a Human Right**

Everyone needs access to water and

sanitation. Access to clean water is a foundation to not only a life with dignity, but living. Here in Canada and globally, 2 billion people have contaminated water including 91 First Nations in Ontario because of poverty and



The flyer features a yellow background with blue wavy water patterns. At the top, it reads "Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada" in blue. Below the waves is a circular logo with a blue water drop and the words "BLUE COMMUNITY". The text on the flyer states: "We are united as a Blue Community to honour water as a:" followed by a bulleted list: "• human right", "• shared commons", and "• sacred gift". At the bottom, it says "Join us at: [www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org](http://www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org)".

government mis-management. Learn more on [our website](#) about Drinking Water Advisories and take action on water injustices within the Great Lakes and around the world.

#### **Water is a Sacred Gift**

Every culture uses water in sacred rituals of gratitude and renewal. Without water there is no life and no awakening to our calling. Water flows through all of Creation in

mystical ways including our bodies, which are 70% water. Getting active on water issues can include asking ourselves and others: How do we reciprocate the gift of water? How can our prayers and good intentions lead to better water guardianship?

#### **Water is a Shared Commons**

Water lives beyond borders and generations. It flows through all life and cannot be owned. Water is our source and thus our service needs to protect and reciprocate this gift for all and forever. Corporations are bottling and privatizing water and the efforts to stop them need our support. With our Blue

Community work, our community of care becomes a powerful agent of change and restoration.

Try using these three principles when reflecting on the real value of water. Let us build unity across our networks with these mutual values and connect the dots between issues when Talking Water.

<https://www.bluecommunitycsj.org>



## REFUGEE AND NEWCOMER MINISTRY -

In this issue we feature a few of the many ways our Federation community reaches out to the “dear neighbour” new to Canada.

### From our Sault Ste Marie Congregation



Associate Newcomer ministry

**Claudette McFarling**—retired Emergency Room RN; Regional

Co-ordinator of SSM Associates

“My experience with newcomers began 2 years ago. When I learned there were refugees settling in our city, I felt a strong desire to help in some capacity. I met with the family 3 times a week for more than a year. The opportunity to teach English opened up an array of shared life experiences and ongoing friendship. The English is coming very slowly as is my Arabic. We often communicate partly English, Arabic, and body language.....but always laughing. My relationship with the family has taught me humility and patience and gratitude ....while observing their perseverance and trust in Allah, even during medical situations. Whenever I go to their apartment, I am welcomed very warmly and they want to share with me their food and baking. I always leave them feeling happy and grateful for the opportunity to know them and share their experiences.”

**Rose Marie Valade** — retired teacher; currently on the National Executive for D&P.

“I joined the New Beginnings group from Zion Lutheran. We were expecting three families and they all arrived within weeks/days of each other. My responsibility was children's education, with the Balach family (Syrian - Mohammad, dad, Rokan, mom, and Moussa (4), Rahaf (3) Haydar (2) and Fatima 11 months. Rokan did not have a birth date but believed she was about 25 - Mohammad was about 26 - All the children except Moussa were born in the refugee camp. Mohammad and Rokan were illiterate in their own language - Arabic -and Mohammad had minimal English. So, I started with taking Rokan and the children to *Best Start* and working on getting Moussa into SK as he turned 5 in November. He was enrolled at Northern Heights and there were meetings with the principal and the teacher. He had a little trouble adjusting but once he realized what the expectations were, there was great improvement. Also, the kids did not have boots, so I bought them!! And backpacks, and....

Next there were meetings with the ministry advocating for free child care and finally we were heard and the three youngest were enrolled



in the day care program at Kiwedin. Then we had to get a system going for transportation. All three were in car seats and it was quite an endeavour to move them from car to car as we had volunteers for driving. There were times when there was lots of crying going to school and other times when they ran so fast to get into school, that I worried they would fall or hit something. Before day care, we also had a time at the Y with their child care.

When the Balach's moved I arranged for Moussa's transfer to Riverview, meetings with principal and teacher, and then got Rahaf enrolled in JK. There is another child now and I am going to be working with Mohammad to pass his grade 11 and 12 English courses.

I am overwhelmed with their courage and initiative and have learned far more from them than they have learned from me. They are so hospitable, always wanting you to sit with them, have tea and some tasty treat that Rokan has made.

I also really appreciated the coordination of the New Beginnings group: how everyone worked together, including their pastor Brad, who was a volunteer driver, among other tasks!! Some of the older volunteers had difficulty in recognizing that the Balach priorities were not 'Canadian' priorities. We have no idea of the



strength it took to come to Canada, a land so foreign to their home, and the perseverance to learn a new way of living.

As to our Charism - obviously "hospitality and care for the dear neighbour."

### From our Toronto Congregation

Many of our Sisters minister with the *Becoming Neighbours Joint Apostolic Ministry* of men and women religious in Toronto. Some accompany newcomer families and others are prayer partners for a specific family.

We continue to accompany according to needs of the two families from Syria that we have sponsored. Both are well settled in their houses. We are expecting another Syrian family of four that we are sponsoring to arrive fairly soon. The father of the family is part of the second family that we sponsored. Everyone in the community helps out by praying regularly for them and perhaps doing a little shopping for the family or providing gift cards for their arrival. We are also in the process of applying through the Office of Refugees of the Archdiocese of Toronto to bring the son of the first family we sponsored. For the last 2 summers we took the

Syrian families to Invermara and they had a wonderful time. They especially enjoyed boating, swimming and fishing. They were excited to find a plant that we consider a weed growing in the grass. It is something they really enjoyed in Syria cooked with onions and garlic. We gave them plants to take home for their garden.



The three single men from the Central African Republic who have been in a refugee camp in Ghana for five years have just had

their interviews at the Canadian embassy. We are sponsoring them also through the Office of Refugees. We know it will likely be many months before they arrive.

We are all happy to be doing a little something concrete to be addressing the severe problems in our world of so many millions of migrant people looking for a place to call home and to feel secure.

### From our CSJ in Canada congregation

LONDON NEIGHBOURHOOD: news from Sister Maria Van Leeuwen and

Sister Janet Zadorsky. First the good news: The Karen Family of 6 whom we are sponsoring with St. Michael's Parish, London, has just been accepted to come to Canada, and we'll expect them within the next couple of months. Another family reunification has come to a successful end with great rejoicing!

The news for our six young people from the Democratic Republic of Congo keeps being held up but we hope for a final good answer in God's own time. Please pray for them as they are in a refugee camp, housed in a dilapidated house - no roof over the kitchen part and no outside door - with mud and rain coming in every time it rains, and barely enough food to survive.

Another sponsorship: We helped the father pictured in the photo, sponsor his wife and daughter. Before they became Permanent Residents of Canada, baby Maria was born.



## REFUGEE AND NEWCOMER MINISTRY -

### PETERBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD

Although we have limited housing now, the refugee ministry is very much alive in the Peterborough area.

We have been able to support 3 families who have moved from our homes recently in their search for housing, and provide donated furniture as they settled in to new residences. There are two families

still with us, a Columbian couple with 2 children, and a single woman from Zimbabwe. We continue to journey with several families who ask for our support in times of need. We are also busy working with the diocese under

the Sponsorship Agreement with the government, interviewing people that want to sponsor their families coming to

Canada. The ministry here is still flourishing, and the welcoming spirit and concern for newcomers is evident in the response of Peterborough people. As one involved in Catholic education, I found great hope in a telephone call from a principal. The staff was aware that students from one of our homes was moving soon, and were asking what they could get for the family.



Such truly Christian responses happen often and that is what keeps this ministry alive.

*Ruth Hennessey, CSJ*

### PEMBROKE NEIGHBOURHOOD

In 2017 we, the CSJ Pembroke neighbourhood partnered with the Visitation Sisters and Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Pembroke to

sponsor two Syrian Refugee families.

The idea of three smaller groups working towards sponsoring Syrian refugees and their first year of life in Pembroke proved to be very enriching for all involved. The Sisters felt a need to work with a group that could be resourceful to them

and the families as they integrate into Canadian culture at various stages of the process.

There was massive goodwill



generated among the parishioners to support the Syrian crisis but like many situations the arrival of the families has been very slow. In 2018 we had the arrival of two brothers from one family and are still waiting on the third brother and another family of three to arrive.

Once Majd and Malkan (pictured at bottom of page) were here and received help with the language, paper work, and the setting-up of their apartment, they were free to find work and establish themselves as residents.

After that first year, they were very self-sufficient, but feel they want to continue to walk alongside of the many friends who helped to get them established in their new life adventure.

We are very proud of the advances made by the two brothers. By December 2018 they both were able to get jobs geared to their educational background.

### HAMILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD:

Last October the CSJ's in Hamilton accepted a family of four, originally from Ethiopia, but came to us as Refugees from camps in and around Nairobi, Kenya. They had been waiting a very long time to be offered a place in Canada and we were lucky enough to receive them. They are living in downtown

## **REFUGEE AND NEWCOMER MINISTRY -**

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Hamilton in an apartment we prepared for them. In our accompaniment of this family we have fitted them with warm winter clothing, enrolled them in school very close by, helped Mom get registered in ESL classes and introduced them to libraries, computers, after-school programs and many other supports they have needed since arriving. They are a delightful family with three young energetic boys, curious about so many things, and are learning the ropes of life in this new country.

What has helped us with their settlement is a committed group of Sisters and lay people who have skills in health care, education, shopping, and so many other day to day activities. The boys are smart, and so eager to learn. One of the big learnings has been that it takes a community of generous and creative people to help this family feel part of our wonderful country. They have only been living here for about 6 months, and know there are other challenges ahead of them, but as Amina the mother said, “life here is so much better than life in a refugee camp.” We are so lucky to have this opportunity.



## **International Centre Board Meeting**

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To the right is a Photo of Board members at the meeting, April 4 – 6, 2019 in Le Puy en Velay with:

Sisters Odile Gaillard, *French Federation*, Loretta Manzara, *Canadian Federation*, Claudia Frenca *Italian Federation*, Maria Goretti O'Connor *Annecy*, Catherine Barange *Lyon*, Idea Tomazini *Chambéry*, Patty Johnson *US Federation*, Barbara Bozak *facilitator*, and Simone Suagues *translator*.

A new program will be offered in 2020. “Roots and Wings” is designed for Sisters approaching final vows or having made that commitment within the year. Funding will be available from the Hilton Foundation. May 9 – 19, 2020. Other programs will be announced in the Fall.



For a reminder of programs for 2019 please visit the web site: [www.centreinternationalssj.org](http://www.centreinternationalssj.org) or ask for brochures from [can.csj-fed.@bellnet.ca](mailto:can.csj-fed.@bellnet.ca)

For further information about the Board meeting, click on the following: [Spring Update](#)

## ***New member on the Federation Executive***



Recently Sr. Mary Mettler's name has been added to various greetings from the Executive. Mary was welcomed to our March meeting as a member at large. The structure of our Executive includes one representative from each of our three congregations. With the cycle of Chapters we have found that there is always a period when the executive only has representation from one congregation. For this reason the Board agreed that we would ask each of the

leadership teams to nominate a person as member at large. Requirements are: previous service on the Board or on a Federation Committee. The position is for a 3 year period and is renewable.

Once the nominations were received a vote took place and Mary was elected for this position. We look forward to Mary's contribution as a non-voting participant, bringing her wisdom and insight particularly around past practice. Welcome aboard Mary!

## ***In memory – Sister Veronica O'Reilly***

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Sister Veronica O'Reilly and many of the Federation members were able to attend either the visitation, prayer service or funeral. Veronica served as Executive Director of the Federation from 2003 to 2008. Her vision and wisdom led us through "The Oneness Project – Wisdom seeks her Way," and the gathering of resources for our history project. Her dear friend Father Michel Cote described her ever so fittingly: "She was a woman for all seasons as coordinator, instigator, companion, and mentor. She was able to dream a dream, yet not get trapped in facile illusions." We are ever grateful for the life, faith and witness of Sister Veronica O'Reilly.



### **FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA**

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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.**