



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Mary Anne McCarthy, CSJ

“Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains, and
the mountains in reply echoing their
joyous strain, Gloria, Gloria ...”

One of the most beautiful joys of the Christmas and Advent season is the music.. Joan Chittister says that “music gives us balm. It touches our soul...it takes our noisy, crowded lives and quiets us in the orbit of the sublime.” Commenting on the importance of music in our lives she goes on to say: “sometimes music is the only voice we have to know how we are feeling. Which means that everyone ought to listen to music alone for at least thirty minutes a day.”¹

Listening is not the only way that music enriches us. She quotes Hildegard of Bingen who wrote: “There is the music of Heaven in all things and we have forgotten how to hear until we sing.” So, whether listening or singing, how about that for an Advent practice this year?

Our world today is very much in need of the gift of hope, both to cultivate it in ourselves and to share it with others. Joyce Rupp quotes Pope Francis in one of his homilies: “if there is no hope, we are not Christian. That is why I like to say: do not allow yourselves to be robbed of hope.” She goes on to say: “Jesus was a carrier of hope. We are meant to be the same. The world’s suffering and lack of peace can challenge our confidence.... Are we hope-filled? How do we keep this essential virtue alive?” (Joyce Rupp, *Constant Hope*)

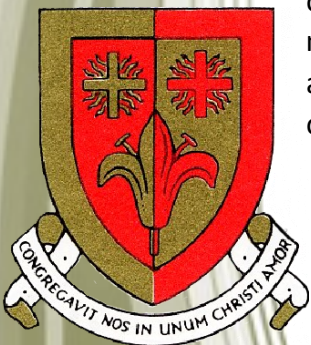
One way, during this darkest time of the year is to listen to the beautiful songs of Christmas and to ponder their meaning. The hymn ‘O Holy Night’ sings: “a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and

glorious morn” and ‘O Come Divine Messiah’ sings: “the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flees away.” Music and hope support each other and lift our spirits.

During this year, because of COVID restrictions, society and ourselves included, will not be able to experience the activities that usually accompany this celebration. But perhaps we will be able to pay more attention to the universal symbols of Christmas such as hearing church bells, gazing at ever greens covered in snow, a bright red cardinal at the bird feeder in the neighbours’ yard, flickering candles and the beautiful music of Christmas. I have always found that these signs of God’s presence take me more into the spirituality of Advent and Christmas, especially the music. Perhaps we could think of these and other hymns as a kind of scripture that we can ponder. You might want to think of your own favourite hymn or song and pray with it or even sing it!

For Christians, Christmas is centered on the birth of Jesus, and that brings us joy. All people can celebrate the joys of this season and maybe feel something of the hope that celebrating Christmas brings to our world. Charles Dickens writing about the significance of Christmas for both believers and non-believers said: “I

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Loretta Manzara, CSJ

So what have I learned about our Federation Vision Statement: *to empower one another in the passionate living of our charism of active and inclusive love*, as I gathered the articles for this December newsletter?

I heard our writers crying out for a sustained hope in the mystery of our incarnated God, (President), and in the synergy of relationships with all creation – humanity, plants, and animals. (all articles)

I heard a cry for right relationship with wildlife, protection and preservation of their habitat. (Green Window)

I heard a plea to share our abundant food resources, and restrain waste. (Food for Thought)

I heard a strong encouragement for advocacy for a greener planet. (Office for Systemic Justice)

I heard the chronology of hope outlined in the growth of our Blue Community activities.

I heard that relationships across borders enliven spiritual life and ministry. (Friendship for Mission, Vocation Alive)

In paraphrasing the song, *I heard the bells on Christmas Day*, I just might sing “I heard the bells of hope ringing throughout the Federation”. But where does this sustained hope find its source?

Contemplation, action and community are the environment where hope rises. All three are needed for us to mirror Christ’s presence, God’s abounding love. Being nourished daily with the Word of God, the Bread of Life, with shared faith, and with the prodding of our companion sisters, shakes us out of complacency. Courageous people throughout the world strive for

change, strive to offer healing and to create right relationships. Our place in history, and this now time, still immerse us in the evolving world scene – but, immerse us into the depths of God’s compassion, a rooted centre radiating Love’s initiative every day, each day, where ever we are.

Over this past year, our committees have raised awareness of change that is needed, spirituality that is craved. And you, the whole Federation body have reached out in prayer to 45 countries where Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates are ministering. You have through your prayer, created threads of relationship with Sisters, Associates/Companions, Agrégées – persons you will probably never meet, but persons who have grown into an awareness that the Sisters in Canada know about them, care about them and their missions.

Because of your prayerful concern, Sisters from Italy, France, Brazil, and Mozambique have responded, sharing some of their deep struggles with violence and Covid.

The second portion of our Federation Vision Statement challenges us: *Urged by God’s spirit, we collaborate with Sisters of St. Joseph globally and respond to the evolving reality of our world. . .*

When we reflect over the past year, no doubt the struggles will loom large, but let’s treasure the way Spirit is weaving together our prayer, action, and advocacy. Let’s treasure the awareness that God urges us to find ways to collaborate with others to *bring healing and hope to all creation*.

The image that comes to mind is the pregnant Mary, waking each day, bearing love in a world of struggle, oppression and violence. This Advent Christmas season, let’s open ourselves to hold each new day in expectant hope.



BLUE COMMUNITY

Paul Baines, CSJ Blue Community Coordinator

Protecting water as human right, shared commons, and sacred gift is a continual effort. Here are some milestones to remember.

5 Years

In 2015, the Federal government promised to end all Drinking Water Advisories (DWAs) on First Nations reserves by March 2021. In 2015 there were 133 different boil-water advisories on reserves. In 2020 Trudeau announced his government can not end the DWAs as promised. Indigenous Services Canada has not updated its progress since February 15, when they reported 61 reserve DWAs as still active. These numbers only include long-term (rather than short-term) DWAs and also do not include British Columbia. [Water Today](#) also calculates DWAs and includes B.C. and non-Indigenous communities as well. As of this writing 920 communities in Canada were on a Drinking Water Advisory.

5 Years

Vatican's Encyclical Letter, "Laudato Si'" (On Care for our Common Home) was released linking social and environmental justice. Access to safe water is the foundation for all other human rights and is a political and moral challenge.

4 Years

In 2016, the Ontario government implemented a 2 year moratorium on new bottled water permits after most of the 20,000 public submissions were against expanding this industry. In September of 2020, the government announced another extension of this ban until April 1, 2021.

3 Years

Water unites. The three

Congregations of the Federation committed to becoming a Blue Community and to deepen their charism for water justice and reverence. Visit the website for updates and invitations. After three years, see how we are collaborating across watersheds and issues.

2 Years

Our CSJ Blue Community Coordinator finished his tour of the Congregational Houses with a last stop in Toronto. During the day Paul Baines co-presented at 2 O'Connor with Anishinaabe water teacher Deb Denard. Deb let the group in a water ceremony, while Paul gave his presentation on what the Blue Community project is about and why it matters. In the evening, Paul joined the Theology on Tap pub night for a presentation and some cheer. [Read all about it with photos here.](#)

1 Year

A cross-Canada investigation about lead in our tap water was released. Spanning 32 cities, 20,000 samples and tests were taken. 39% of these samples exceeded the Federal government's lead guideline. There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. [Read a through report on this issue here.](#)

Today

At the end of 2020 we can reflect on the stream of efforts that have come before us. This COVID year reminds us that mutual aid is key for our collective survival. With water as our first medicine, let us remember not every human or every life has access to this medicine and that water is a powerful source of unity, justice, and gratitude.



FROM AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ACTION FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION

Federation Office for Systemic Justice—Sue Wilson, CSJ

Canadian churches and organizations, including the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, have launched *For the Love of Creation*, a faith-based initiative for climate justice and a just recovery.

This summer, the initiative collected 2,500 signatures on an **e-petition** that calls the Government of Canada to:

- Reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 60% of 2005 levels by 2030.
- Invest in a just transition to a fair, inclusive, green economy that creates good secure jobs and strong social protections.
- Implement, in legislation, the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the Global south by paying our fair share.
- Respond to the pandemic in the Global South through multilateral debt cancellation and increased grant-based support for Canadian international NGOs.

Click on the link to see further details on the [petition](#), which was [presented in the House of Commons](#) on Nov. 5, 2020. The government must respond by Dec. 20, 2020.



Tell your MP how important a green and just recovery after the pandemic is to you:

You can help keep up the momentum for change by calling or emailing your MP to reiterate the importance of supporting a

global recovery to the pandemic that builds a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Members of Parliament have a duty to listen to their constituents. When a high number of constituents email or call about the same issue, it can have a big impact. It will make a difference if your MP knows that, for you, this is the moment to transform our society and *not* return to the old “normal” of poverty, inequity, climate change and ongoing violations of Indigenous rights.

How to contact your MP:

[Find your MP's contact information](#) and get in touch. You can send an email, leave a message with their office, or request a longer in-person phone or online meeting.

What to say to your MP:

Here is a **sample script** for your phone call or email to your MP. Please adapt it to reflect yourself and your concerns:

I am _____, a resident of your riding, and a member of _____ Church. I am very concerned about the pandemic and climate change. I know that vulnerable people, including those living in poverty, refugees, women, and Indigenous Peoples, are facing the worst impacts of the pandemic, and of climate change. Canada is investing billions in responding to the pandemic. These investments should benefit the most vulnerable people both in Canada and around the world.

I am calling because I would like you to insist on a green and just recovery. I want Canada to respect its climate commitments and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. I want Canada to cancel the debts of the poorest countries. I want Canada to increase international aid for climate change adaptation and pandemic recovery.

Like many other people in Canada, I dream of a greener, more just world. I am asking you, as my representative, to do everything you can to make this dream a reality.

Thank you for listening. You can reach me by email at (spell your email) or by phone at _____. Have a great day!

If you would like your email or call to be tabulated as part of wider advocacy effort by **For the Love of Creation**, send a follow-up email to swilson@csjcanada.org to let her know you were in touch with your MP.

The world is at a critical juncture. We can come together to support a global recovery which moves us towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all. To learn more, visit [For the Love of Creation](#).

GREEN WINDOW - HEEDING MOTHER NATURE'S WARNING

Nancy Wales, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee

In these articles we reflect upon the critical issues of our day through a green or ecological lens. Our CSJ spirituality aligns with fostering sustainable development and right relationship with the earth, allowing God's Spirit to inform our minds and hearts as we engage with the most critical issues of our times. We desire to behold earth anew, wonder at it, celebrate it, and take practical steps toward healing and preserving it for future generations.

Today, Mother Nature is warning us dramatically to respect and keep our distance from wildlife. COVID - 19 is challenging humans to giant rethinks across a broad spectrum of areas. One area for review is ongoing habitat depletion. Eric W. Sanderson in his article, "Ecology in the Time of Pandemic" creatively stimulates the reader's reconsideration of the interplay between human activity and wildlife by presenting his readers with an interview between Mother Nature and himself.

Mother Nature wisely points out to Eric that our common home, Earth, has been changed by the course of our actions with little regard for their impact on the plants, the animals or in fact upon ourselves. Habitat degradation through pollution, deforestation, invasive species, logging, mining, destructive fishing practices have resulted in the decrease or destruction of numerous and varied natural habitats. One negative impact of our human short-sightedness and interference with natural habitats is the resultant consequence of putting other species in much closer proximity to ourselves.



Much has been said of the need and value of social distancing to lessen and contain the spread of the current virus. The article asserts that the same holds true with viruses in general concerning human interaction with wildlife.

The saga of this present virus, which has upset our lives, is credibly believed to have been first present, without much difficulty among a few cave-dwelling bats. It is presumed that a downward turn of events occurred when at least one of the bats



hosting the virus was captured, caged and placed next to a pangolin or some other distressed animal in a Chinese live-animal marketplace full of people. Next, this virus which didn't much bother other mammals found a new host, human beings.

Members of the scientific community support the belief that COVID-19 originated as a result of cross-species transmission. Wikipedia highlights that cross-species transmission (also called interspecies transmission, host jump or spillover) is the ability for a foreign virus, once introduced into an individual of a new host species, to infect that individual and spread throughout a new host population. Over 40 million COVID-19 cases globally are concrete evidence of interspecies transmission and the effectiveness of its ability to spread within its new host species' community.

Zoonotic diseases (zoonoses) are infectious diseases, such as Zika, Rabies, Ebola, H1N1, and Avian Flu that were first transmitted from animals to humans. The BC Centre for Disease Control states the fact that over 60 per cent of infectious diseases that we contract are zoonotic, and 75 per cent of new, emerging infectious

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diseases are zoonotic.

The Lancet, a most reliable scientific journal, in its article, "Nested Ecology and Emergence in Pandemics" highlights a way forward to deal with interspecies transmission. It states: "The COVID -19 pandemic might change

policy on preparedness for future zoonotic infectious outbreaks by enforcing constraints on the wildlife trade, being more circumspect about the interactions between domestic animals and wildlife and regulating wildlife markets more carefully."

Prevention of future zoonotic

infectious disease outbreaks also underlines the need for thoughtful consideration. Actions must be taken for humans to keep a respectful distance from wildlife by taking concrete steps to preserve their natural, often more remote habitats. Our CSJ spirituality fosters right relationships with all creation, including wildlife.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Continued

have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that – as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time."

In the incarnation, God has made everything sacred and beautiful. As Philip Newell expresses in one of his prayers, "whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face in the light of the moon and patterns of stars, in mighty seas and creatures of the deep. Whichever we turn, O God, there is your face in the light of eyes we love, in the salt of tears we have tasted. Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face, there is your face among us."²

Listening to the music of Advent and Christmas, can stir our hope this year of 2020 as we wait for a vaccine to help stop the spread of COVID and just may bring a new harmony in our world.

Perhaps, we could, as Sisters of St. Joseph, pray this

prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson:

"Loving God, help us to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door

of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from every evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen."

Merry Christmas!

1. From the October 2020 Monastic Way by Joan Chittister. Used with permission. JOANCHITTISTER.ORG; Benetvision <http://www.joanchittister.org>
2. Philip Newell, [Praying With the Earth](#). Reprinted by permission of the publisher: Wm B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI



Graphic" Angels singing in white ~ J Kirk Richards

FOOD FOR THOUGHT– “Waste Not Want Not!”

Kathy O’Keefe, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee

All food is a gift. In these articles we share our thoughts about the source and sustainability of this life energy.

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the foreigner: I am the Lord your God.” (*Leviticus 19: 9-10*)

The Earth belongs to God and has been entrusted to us. For the benefit of people and our planet, we who are blessed with an abundance of food are to share it with those who are in need. We are to work towards food security for all. Pope Francis declares: “You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works.” This year September 29 was declared the first International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction.

Being raised on a farm, I was taught the value of food. Hard work went into the planting, tending and harvesting. Having lived through the Great Depression and the Second World War when rationing and food shortage was the norm, my parents led by example. In order to provide for a large family, they carefully managed our resources by meal planning, teaching us to only take what we could eat, creatively using leftovers, preserving and freezing food so that there was always enough.

Have you ever thought of how much food you waste and the impact it has? The wisdom of the proverbial saying “Waste Not Want Not” calls us to pay attention. Food waste affects us all. Worldwide, we already grow enough food to provide for everyone. At the same time, millions of people are underfed and malnourished. In order to make the most of the food we have, we need to effectively redistribute what we do not use. As global citizens, we all have a role to play.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, up to a third of the world’s food is wasted before it can be eaten: this amounts to 1.3 billion tons around the world every year. This is a

shocking reality and an ethical outrage! We are facing a global crisis! Climate experts have identified food waste as one of the top sustainability problems worldwide and the UN environment program has an ambitious goal of eliminating one half of all food waste by 2030.

Whenever people discard food, all the resources to grow, ship and produce it are squandered, including massive amounts of water. Careless disposal of food happens in processing, transport, supermarkets and kitchens. Diverting food waste to composting is better than sending it to a landfill. Canada’s 2.2 million tons of annual avoidable household waste is equivalent to 9.8 tons of CO2 and 2.1 million cars on the road!

To provide immediate hunger relief, protect the environment, and avoid economic fallout, there are scientific and innovative solutions being developed for combatting food waste. In France, since 2016, it is unlawful for large grocery stores to throw away edible food. Second Harvest is Canada’s largest food rescue charity. Their mission is to recover fresh, nutritious, unsold food from across Canada: then, redistribute it to charities, non-profits and indigenous communities in every province and territory. This free, essential service provides food to school programs, seniors’ centres, shelters, food banks, and regional food hubs. The Flashfoodbox app alerts people in Toronto of available, affordable, misshapen fruits and vegetables that are home delivered.

Crisis can often bring out the best in humanity. During the present Covid-19 pandemic, there are countless examples of this truth. The exhortation to “share your food with the hungry” (Isaiah 58:7) remains. God will provide for people in need through us. To work to lessen food waste, there is a need for sacrificing for the common good; for sharing, and cooperation. God’s bounty is not to be wasted.

How is food being redistributed in your city?

Online Resources through Google: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, David Suzuki Foundation, Oxfam Canada, Love Food Hate Waste Canada, FoodRescue.ca Flashfoodbox, Community Food Centres Canada

VOCATION ALIVE – A Gathering of Spirits

Costanza Romano, CSJ on behalf of the Vocation Animation Committee



Tree of Hope

Sisters of St. Joseph from Canada and the USA who are involved in vocation and formation ministry met together October 19 - 21, 2020. Using Zoom, we were able to come together to explore our ministries, our wishes, our desires as well as our fears. We also wanted time with our Federation reps and the members of our leadership teams to hear our stories.

Our gathering was facilitated by Sisters Mary Dacey and Janet Mock. We thank them for their wisdom and guidance as they helped us plan the gathering and then guided us through our time together.

Monday evening we opened our conference with a prayer service

using scripture and reflections from Maria Cimperman's book *Religious Life for Our World: Creating Communities of Hope*. This prayer reminded us that we stand on the shoulders of great women. A special thank you to Sister Mary Southard, CSJ and her team who provided us with authorization to use the logo for her painting *Tree of Hope*. A beautiful image of our world.

On Tuesday, Sister Janet led us through a reflection on the context of our times and the proximity of God in all of our lives. During our breakout rooms and in the large group, we reflected and shared on "What excites you? What do you fear? Why?" It became clear that some of the very things that excite us also can cause fear. What became evident also is that there were a great deal of common themes from the Sisters regardless of where we lived or what community we were a part of. As a larger group, we recognize the need for deep spirituality and living in a contemplative way.

On Wednesday, we had guests from the US and Canadian Federations join us as well as members of leadership teams. We heard from our Federation representatives about the history of the relationships of the

vocation/formation groups with the federations as well as what we hope to achieve. A huge shout out to Sister Loretta Manzara who did a fantastic job and energized the group with her presentation. Thank you Loretta!!

It is very clear in our reflections, sharing, and discussion that there is a genuine need for the Sisters in the vocation and formation ministries to be heard and responded to. Working together enriches all of us and that is a call that we have heard throughout our time together. It is also important for us to come together. There is much passion and excitement as we all look at ways to enrich the lives of everyone we encounter.

As with all things, communication is so important and one of the most necessary tools to attend to the prophetic nature of religious life.

The organizing committee recognizes that this cannot end here. We have already planned for some follow up and a meeting with the two federation representatives, Sisters Loretta Manzara and Lyn Szymkiewicz from the US Federation in January.

We ask for your prayers as we continue on in our ministries to be animators for all in their spiritual journey.

FRIENDSHIP FOR MISSION - Widening Horizons for Vocation and Formation Ministries

Special Feature, Mary Rowell, CSJ

The Vocation Alive article written by Sr. Costanza Romano highlights so well a recent gathering enjoyed by Sisters working in Vocation and Formation ministries from across the Canadian and U.S. Federations. Sr. Costanza along with Sr. Marie Mackey (Brentwood) did a remarkable job in planning and facilitating this excellent workshop attended by all the members of our Federation Vocation Committee.

The gathering described is now held annually. Its context is within an ever expanding expression of relationships across Congregations and Federations. These relationships might best be expressed as relationships of “friendship for-mission.” There is great energy being released for life from the heart of these friendships within our own Federation as our three Congregations are working ever more closely and creatively together within the Vocation Committee. Not only has this work yielded supportive and empowering relationships between us it is now generating practical steps for moving forward.

Already, fresh new vocation materials have been produced for use by each of our Congregations and in our initiatives together. This past new year, for example, we gathered together to attend the “Rise-Up” Conference in Toronto, a meeting of some 1500 young people. Here, both our combined presence and the newly minted vocation materials enabled us to enter more deeply into the animation of a culture of vocation in Canada. At this time, we are beginning work, led by Sr. Mary Jo Radey, on the development of vocation videos to bring a liveliness to our Websites and to engage others in our becoming anew, “communities of invitation” and “welcome”.

Recently, we saw the first appointment of an Associate to the Committee, Laurie Corrigan. Laurie, is a very active associate and senior educator from Lindsay.

Together we have worked closely with Faith Connections (the Toronto Sisters’ ministry with young adults) and have held pilgrimages in London, Hamilton and North Bay. While this year’s scheduled pilgrimage couldn’t be held due to the pandemic it was substituted

by a zoom reflection day with the hope of holding the face-to-face pilgrimage in Cobourg in 2021.

These energizing and productive friendships in ministry are also increasingly friendships across borders as described by Sr. Costanza and these relationships are growing exponentially. Notably, the Federation Novitiate Programme, attended by most novices from Canada and the U.S. and held in the U.S. has crossed borders. For the past 2 years Canadian input has joined the existing and rich novitiate content. The fact that this year’s contributions had to be offered by zoom didn’t dampen the spirit at all. During it we were able to add a presentation by Sr. Priscilla Solomon who beautifully deepened the novices’ appreciation for Indigenous Wisdom. In 2019 Villa St. Joseph hosted several days with the novices and their directors with input by Srs. Linda Gregg and Mary Rowell on ecology and the CSSJ charism. A visit to Toronto was also incorporated into the novices’ time here with excellent sessions on our history offered by Srs. Mary Anne McCarthy and Penny McDonald. Srs. Rosemary Fry, Mechtilde O’Mara, Pat Macaulay, Dotsy Schweitzer, Betty Lou Knox (all part of the Toronto Vocation and Formation community), and Rosemary McGinn amplified the input and the senior sisters at 2 O’Connor warmly welcomed the novices for dinner and conversations. What gift!

What gift, also the presence of the novices and their dedicated directors – all women of call, maturity of spirit, a diversity of gifts and intercultural and professional backgrounds.

At this time, creative conversations are being held as preparations are made for the 2021 novitiate programme. These conversations invite the thoughts and reflections of many Sisters from across the U.S. and Canada. Notably, Sr. Kristine Fernandes (initially professed in Toronto) is participating with her very thoughtful ideas and experiences. So too is Sr. Mary Rowell in her role as Co-Chair, along with Sr. Sue Dunning (Orange, CA.), of the U.S. Federation Integral

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Formation Committee.

Now, in her second term of appointment to this Committee of the U.S. Federation, Mary, works closely with Sr. Joannie Cassidy (Philadelphia) and with the two Federation novice directors, Srs. Michelle Leshner (Philadelphia) and Jean Marie Gocha (Carondolet: Albany) in the development and evaluation of initial formation programmes. The mandate of the Committee, however, is wider. Its purpose is to: "Provide opportunities that assist member Congregations in their responsibility to nurture and care for vocations and the various expressions of our shared charism by focusing on the Life-Long Formation of Sisters, Associates and Agrégées." Even now new opportunities are being created within the Committee for sharing. Membership of the Committee includes Sisters, Associates and Agrégées. Soon it is set to look to new horizons with the inclusion of those involved in the

Joseph the Worker programme for young people and with partners in mission. In this "organic moment of unfolding" existing boundaries too are being crossed. Already, novices have experienced sharing the state of the heart with Sisters on global zoom meetings and when professed have themselves initiated similar opportunities. Mission and charism are very alive in friendship! Special thanks are due to Srs. Loretta Manzara and Maryellen Kane (Brentwood), Executive Directors of our two Federations for encouragement and contributions to these vital developments.

As the book of Proverbs (7:9) reminds us, "Friendship refreshes the Soul". For all of those engaged in vocation and formation ministries in these challenging days our growing friendships for mission do indeed refresh each of us and in turn have the capacity to refresh the charism of the family of Joseph for a new day.

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.

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Photos submitted by columnists.

*As God poured Love out upon our world,
in the compassion and mercy of the
incarnate Jesus may each of us become
that flow of mercy and goodness to
all persons and created things.*

Christmas blessings to all!

From your Federation Executive: Sr. Mary Anne McCarthy,
Sr. Sheila Fortune, Sr. Mary Jo Radey, Sr. Mary Mettler,
and Sr. Loretta Manzara