

## President's Message

*Sarah Quackenbush, CSJ*

On behalf of the Federation Executive, I am pleased to send our Easter greetings. From the words of his Easter Vigil sermon in 2013, **Pope Francis** encouraged us to:

*“Return to the Gospel, to the women and to take one step further. They find the tomb empty, the body of Jesus is not there, something new has happened, but all this still doesn’t tell them anything certain: it raises questions; it leaves them confused, without offering them an answer.... What was a simple act, done surely out of love - going to the tomb - has now turned into an event, a truly life changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of these women, but also in our own history, and in the history of (human)kind. Jesus is not dead, He has risen and He is alive! ...” \**

As Sisters of St Joseph, we have walked to the tomb time and again, searching for the message left by Jesus to move forward, to live the Gospels in the service of others. With the perseverance of **Father Médaille** and **Bishop de Maupas**, we became one of the first apostolic orders in France and worked with and among our “Dear Neighbour”. In recent years we have seen a decrease in membership and have moved from six to three Congregations, and from strong institutional based ministries to more global, social, ecological and community-focused services. Within all these changes, the tradition of the Sisters of St Joseph continues to seek unmet needs all around us.

By facing our present reality, letting go of what has been, raising questions, our life together evolves into something we have not known before. Our Congregational Chapters provide frequent opportunity

for this great act of “consideration”. These last months have also been a time of great “consideration” for our Federation. Following last year’s Annual Meeting, the Executive was asked to prepare a plan for moving the Federation forward. As part of our review we reached out to the Sisters through our committees, via teleconferencing, and by gratefully receiving your input and ideas. The Executive Committee has planned a teleconference with the three leadership teams on April 9 to consider how we might best move the Federation forward. Our three focus areas are global issues, a review of the Mission Statement, and the current committee structure. At the October 2014 Annual Meeting, the Federation Board will work with ideas and recommendations and make some decisions based on the reality of our smaller numbers and fiscal responsibilities. In addition, we will seek ways to keep communication with you, the members, current and informative.

We are grateful to our staff in the Federation Office, as they continue to serve the Federation with energy and dedication.

Our Easter wish for each of you is one of peace and wonderment. Like the women at the tomb may we recognize that “nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of those women, but also in our lives” and as Resurrection people. May we continue to be a message of hope and light in our world, as the apostolic women we were called to be.

*\*Excerpts from Pope Francis’ sermon for Easter Vigil 2013 – Fr. Z’s Blog*

# Message From the Interim Executive Director

*Nancy Sullivan, CSJ*



## **Easter Prayer**

***“Lord of Earth and of Heaven, thank you for the goodness of creation. Everything that you made is good.***

***Remind us today as we encounter the particular geographical place in which we find ourselves that you made all things, that you sustain all things, and that you love all things.***

***Let us share your love for this earth, for this place, for our home and our hearth.”***

*Used with permission from the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis and Friends, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, USA and taken from Chesterton, G. K., Thom Satterlee, and Robert Moore-Jumonville. 2007. Lent and Easter Wisdom from G.K. Chesterton: Daily Scripture and Prayers Together with G.K. Chesterton's Own Words. Liguori, Mo: Liguori.*

Speaking of beginnings, I write this in Lyon in France, from the building where **Mother St John Fontbonne** lived those many years ago. Being here for the spring meeting of the International Centre Board, with Sisters of St Joseph from France, Italy, Brazil, Wales and the United States, is truly inspiring. As we plan the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Centre in October of this year, we rejoice at the gift the Centre has been to participants over the years and we work at making the programs known so that others are encouraged, where possible, to enjoy this wonderful experience. Do check the website [www.centreinternationalsj.org](http://www.centreinternationalsj.org) to see this year's offerings.

### **2014 Chapters**

Many thoughts and prayers are with our Sisters in Toronto and Sault Ste Marie as they enter Chapter at the end of April and early May.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- As this issue is being prepared, Ecology Committee Members will gather at Invermara April 4-7 2014.
- The annual Associates/ Companions Leaders Gathering will take place at the North Bay Motherhouse June 1-3, 2014.

# G

reetings from the Federation Office

as we finally approach Spring days! Our February days were lightened when we had the privilege of hosting a lively teleconference call during which **Mary Duffy, Anna Tremblay** and **Marysia Kordas-Fraser** shared their individual experiences as CSJ Associates. Sisters and Associates tuned in and were touched by the candour of the presentations. It was an opportunity for all to hear and rejoice in how the charism is alive and well among the Associates and Companions of the three congregations.

For many years now the Canadian Federation has been associated with and supported the CSJ UN/NGO in New York. Through our UN representative, **Sister Griselda Martinez-Morales**, Sisters of St Joseph and our partners around the globe use their influence to persuade world leaders to make conscious decisions that will bring about systemic justice. It is exciting to realize and remember that we have an active voice, an awesome opportunity and a serious responsibility to do whatever we can to bring about God's world of justice and mercy. Our presence at the United Nations is a chance for our hearts to constantly expand to embrace the needs of the world just as our founding sisters did at our very beginnings. The website – [www.csj-unngo.org](http://www.csj-unngo.org) - will keep you abreast of what is happening.

# The Green Window—Part 15

From the Federation Ecology Committee

## Mining (Part 1): A Turning Point Needed—

Perhaps you grew up in a mining town, or in a family which has a history of links with mining. For many Canadians over the last century the link was with actual mines. We saw directly both the negative impacts on the environment and the benefits to families. For many Canadians today, the link is with investment and the stock market. We do not easily see how mining impacts the people, the environment or the well-being of the planet and its waters unless we seek out those answers. What we hear most is that mining benefits the economy. We live in a society that ranks economic benefit both as its bottom line and as the ideal in which corporations have more rights than individuals or communities of peoples. As long ago as 2007, Mining Watch Canada stated the following:

**Across Canada, communities and Aboriginal governments are saying they have had enough when it comes to the privileged access mining has to land under the existing system, which grants “free entry” to prospectors and mining companies under the assumption the mining is the “highest and best” use of land. Globally, communities are demanding a say in their own futures, and Indigenous peoples**

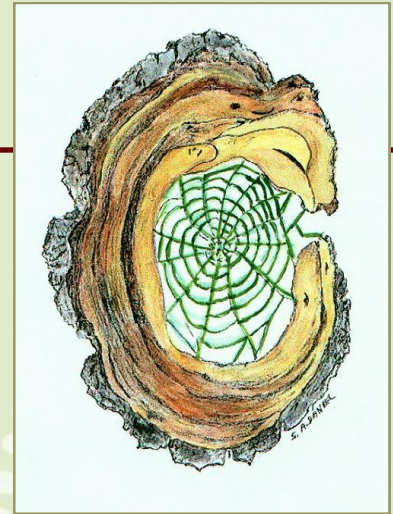
**in particular are increasingly demanding free, prior, informed consent for development projects that will affect them.**

**([www.miningwatch.ca](http://www.miningwatch.ca))**

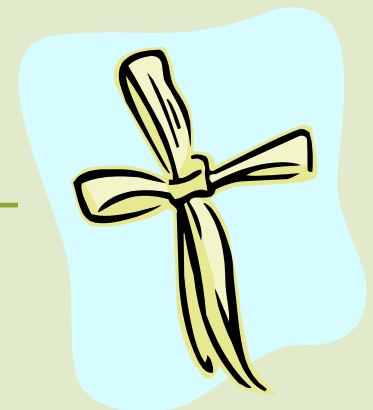
Canada has the highest number of mining companies in the world listed on our stock market. Canadian mining companies are increasingly accused of violations of human rights and violations of ecological integrity around the world. Development and Peace ([www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)) as well as Kairos ([www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)) and now, the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability ([www.cnca-rcrce.ca](http://www.cnca-rcrce.ca)), continue to call for an ombudsman for the extractive industry sector who could insist on responsible mining at home and abroad. They also seek legislation making Canadian companies liable in Canadian courts for injustices in other countries.

Some of the ecological devastation that has resulted from mining is documented in videos, photos and personal stories on the above websites. You can also type “impacts of mining” into your browser and find hundreds of pictures, some very disturbing.

It doesn't have to be that way. Currently there is much exploration in Northern Ontario, in what is called The Ring of Fire. I recently heard **Bob Rae**, the negotiator for the Matawa Tribal Council which



represents the nine First Nations in whose territory the mineral deposits lie. He has heard a wide range of concerns. It has moved him to say there is a triple bottom line to which we must attend, if we want the kind of new relationship with the Indigenous people and the land that is needed. The triple bottom line is: environmental, social and economic. Such a triple bottom line, so essential, can restore our relationship to the environment as well as the relationship with Indigenous Peoples and create a right relationship with the economy as well. New legislation, an ombudsman and the above tri-fold criterion for mining would indeed be a turning point.



*This is Part I of the Green Window on Mining, in the next issue Part II of Mining will follow on Fracking.*

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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**UNITED BY A COMMON STORY  
AND CHARISM WE  
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF  
CANADA FORM A FEDERATION  
WHOSE PURPOSE IS  
TO FOCUS AND EMPOWER  
ONE ANOTHER  
IN THE PASSIONATE LIVING OF  
OUR MISSION OF ACTIVE  
AND INCLUSIVE LOVE.**



*Designed by Valerie Raftrey Lemieux*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT WING BEATS OF HOPE—MONARCHS AND THEIR GIFT TO US AND ALL THE EARTH



and early fall. Their orange and black wings, exquisitely patterned, would be everywhere. If you walked near the Mountain Ash tree by the verandah the branches would suddenly flutter alive in a breathtaking dance of winged beauty and dazzling life. Each year their numbers have been dwindling and we have had the sense something was deeply out of balance

The recent Mexican postings reveal that the forest hibernation colonies have once again sharply decreased. There remain only nine hibernating colonies. Last year there was a total area of 7.4 acres and this year it dropped to 2.94 acres. This is a 59% decrease in population in one year. In 1997 there were 44 acres of colonies.

### Why is all this happening?

As you might imagine, humans have something to do with this. The dramatic drop in their numbers is due to the decrease in milkweed plants, the Monarchs main food source. Deforestation and urbanization have been significantly altered habitats. But the most critical is that of HT (Herbicide Tolerant) crops such as the GMO corn and soybean crops which are sown with weed killer in their genes. Without these, there was adequate room for milkweeds to pop up here and there in cultivated fields, providing nourishment for the Monarchs on their migratory route. But in the last 17 years there has been an incredible boost in corn and soybean

At Villa St. Joseph we would always look forward to the arrival of the Monarchs in late summer

acreage due to the increased prices for both corn and soybeans in Canada and the U.S. Ethanol production from corn has given farmers high prices for a crop that before didn't provide much income. Deforestation and illegal logging in Mexico have also destroyed the site of many hibernation colonies.

### Why does it matter?

Monarchs lead the most spectacular and incredible migration journey of any species, traversing thousands of kilometres navigating territory they have never seen. These iconic butterflies are key pollinators for many species besides milkweeds. And as the same habitats for monarchs, are essential for other pollinators, they are fragile prophets we need to heed. Without pollinators our own food sources will come under risk. What can we do?

### Ministry of Learning & Action :

**Monarch Waystations:** At Villa St. Joseph Ecology Centre we have left significant parts of our fields uncut to preserve the milkweeds for the nurture of monarchs .We are now a designated Monarch Waystation with signage, bearing witness. But anyone can create a designated Waystation, in a backyard, a congregational home, a church. There are lots of other plants that provide sustenance for monarchs. Check out: <http://monarchwatch.org>

### Ministry of Prayer & Presence:

Our thoughts and prayers have a special energy of the spirit that can lift the fragile wings of this butterfly and so many other species. Minds and hearts need conversion, to the sanctity of all life. *Let us pray wing beats of hope!*

*Linda Gregg, CSJ*



# SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA ~ Jubilarians 2014

Congregation	75 Years	70 Years	60 Years	50 and 25 Years
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto June 8, 2014	Sr Monica Downey	Sr Mary Michael Codarini Sr Patricia Conway Sr Helena Kenny Sr Jane MacDonald Sr Irene Murphy	Sr Peggy Bach Sr Josephine Conlin Sr Joanne Daley Sr Marie Kilcullen Sr Margaret Myatt Sr Loretta Rollheiser Sr Anne Schenck Sr Trudy Zunti	<b>50 Years</b> Sr Ann Delaney  <b>25 Years</b> Sr Susan Davy
Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste Marie October 12, 2014		Sr Rita Plante Sr Cecilia Mulcahey Sr Helen Gleason Sr Mary Sheridan Sr Margaret Smith	Sr Nona Dennis Sr Roberta Derochie Sr Marion MacDonell	<b>50 Years</b> Sr Bernadette Laframboise Sr Lea Joannis Sr Sheila Anne Spooner
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Hamilton Neighbourhood May 10, 2014— 50 <sup>th</sup> & 75 <sup>th</sup> June 7, 2014— 60 <sup>th</sup> & 70 <sup>th</sup>	Sr Katherine Godfrey	Sr Ignatius McLoughlin Sr Mildred Dietrich Sr Bernadette Flynn	Sr Joan Cummings Sr Theresa Piva Sr Jude Stradiotto	<b>50 Years</b> Sr Lucille Godfrey Sr Carla Marie Contestabile Sr Anne Karges Sr Pat Valeriotte
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—London Neighbourhood May 24, 2014— 50 <sup>th</sup> & 75 <sup>th</sup> September 13, 2014— 60 <sup>th</sup>	Sr Josepha Zimmer	Sr Thecia Martens	Sr Margaret Ferris Sr Mary Lillian Kuntz Sr Maureen Meloche Sr Cecile Bastien Sr Paulette Mellon Sr Doreen Kraemer Sr Mary Jean Klatt	<b>50 Years</b> Sr Diane Naud Sr Mary Sharon Kennedy
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Peterborough Neighbourhood June 14, 2014	Sr Alice Geneau			<b>50 Years</b> Sr Rosemary O'Toole Sr Sylvia Crowley
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Pembroke Neighbourhood June 21, 2014		Sr Mary Rice	Sr Theresa Lepack Sr Constance Lacroix	<b>50 Years</b> Sr Catherine Yantha