

## President's Message

### *Trina Bottos, CSJ*

I have never tired of Spring! Winter, yes- by mid- March I want

the snow gone, the ice off the lake, the boots off my feet! But Spring- spring is new life- even if it means waking to the raucous sound of nest building crows. It might have something to do with Northern Ontario with its geography and climate but to me Easter could not arrive at a better time of year.

The forty days of Lent come and go when Winter is at its most tiresome. Somehow the heaviness of the days makes it easier to accompany Jesus on his way to Jerusalem and to his death on the cross. Everything around seems to be in mourning. The last days of Jesus which we call his "Passion", were times when he was the passive recipient of things done to him – he was not the doer but the receiver. He gave his all in love by receiving the worst done to him and He not only endured, He triumphed.

I have been struck by the attitude of so many proponents of physician assisted suicide which, here in Canada, has been euphemistically called Medical Aid in Dying. I've heard "I don't want to be burden to others"- "I don't want to have others have to care for me"; "I want to control my life." What a contrast to Jesus' attitude of willing surrender to what was done to Him -"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit".

The pascal mystery of Jesus moving through death to resurrection is the pattern of our lives and it is mirrored all around us- the death that is Winter gives way to the life that is Spring. The bulbs that seem like so much hardened and dead matter burst forth into green shoots and fragrant blossoms. Even those ubiquitous Easter Bunnies are symbols of prolific new life.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection tell of the confusion of the disciples, the incredulity, amazement and ecstatic joy they experienced as they gradually came to believe that He whom they loved who had died was alive!

*What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us?*

What we believe is this: if we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving Resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death –as the end. Never again will death have the last word.

Rom 6:6-9 (The Message Translation)

*May the new life that comes with Spring help you walk in newness of life as you experience Jesus' Resurrection. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*





## Message from the Executive Director— Loretta Manzara CSJ

As was announced in the Christmas Newsletter, our Federation Office is undergoing

a structural change, so this is my first opportunity to communicate with you, as Executive Director.

Transition times either unfold with a huge exertion of energy or with a slow leaning into the new experiences. Well mine is the latter. Be assured though that this slow beginning also comes with lots of energy to look toward the future of our Federation.

One of the reasons for such a slow entry is that the work of the Office continues under the very capable hands of **Margaret Magee** through into June. As well, during this first week of April, **Sr. Valerie Van Cauwenberghe** represented the Canadian Federation at the Spring International Centre Board meeting in Le Puy. As we move through these next few months, my commitment will be about two days a week. During that time Margaret, will orientate me to all aspects of the

Federation Office, local, provincial, and international. Sometime in June we will send out new contact information for the Federation Office.

Margaret brings such a careful and diligent approach to the work of the Federation, along with her very personable concern for our members and committees. We have much to be grateful for – BUT – she is still working with us and in due time we will be able to express our profound gratitude for her many years of service. In this newsletter, Margaret has the opportunity to offer a few personal words to all of us.

Since Christmas much of Margaret's time has been and continues to be focused on compiling the more recent history of the Federation. Our last history booklet told our story up to 1991. As well she and **Linda Wicks** have been scouring through files and artifacts to determine what may be moved to the Toronto Sisters of St. Joseph Archives which houses our history. It has been determined that files up to the end of 2014 will be moved. The remainder will find a home with me for easy access. Planning is also in process for the May meetings of the Archives, Associates/Companions, and Ecology

Committees.

The Cultural Diversity Program in Le Puy offers a session this year for novitiate personnel. We are very pleased that **Sr. Susan Glaab** will be in attendance May 9 - 19, and look forward to her report on return.

**Sisters Sue Wilson and Joan Atkinson** attended the first week of 'The 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women' at the United Nations, March 13 – 24. The theme was "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work." We look forward to their report in the next Federation Office of Systemic Justice Newsletter.

One thing we are all assured of in this world is that change is constant. The cycles of the day, the season, the year ready us for change in our communal life, our ministry and our associations. These natural cycles along with the ritualizing of our liturgical year, nudge our hearts with a sense of hope and trust. Let us breath into this transition time of change in our Federation, with gratitude for all that has been and an open loving heart for what the future will unfold.





## My 14 Years with Federation — Margaret Magee, Administrative Coordinator



Sometime in the early spring of 2003, I became aware of the staff opening in the Federation Office. I was interviewed by the then-President **Sister Margaret Myatt** and newly-appointed Executive Director **Sister Veronica O'Reilly** at Morrow Park in Toronto, and by the middle of May, I had commenced work in a position that would last for the next 14 years! That time in 2003 was a time of Federation restructuring, and now in 2017 (as you will have read in last year's Christmas Newsletter) we are entering another period of restructuring, with the closing of the Toronto Office, the setting up of a new Office to be run by our new Executive Director, **Sister Loretta Manzara**, and in turn the ending of my position.

It would take volumes for me to thank each and every one of you who has made these years so worthwhile and enjoyable, from Board and Executive members, to my several Executive Directors, and Federation Presidents. Added to this are the various Federation Committee members with whom I have spent many albeit hard-working but as well inspiring, fruitful and enjoyable meetings. Other events have

included the planning of a number of Federation Pilgrimages and many trips to Le Puy in the growing connection with the International Centre and the US Federation, Ecology Committee Retreats, and a number of major gatherings such as the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in May of 2006 and the recent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. And last but certainly not least, all Sisters in the congregational houses where I have always felt so very warmly welcomed, whether in the dining rooms or elsewhere. I am sure you all know who you are, but I am likely thanking all Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, including those who over these years are no longer with us and will not be forgotten.

As well, since the number is smaller, I would like to highlight and thank the generous and helpful congregational administrative staff with whom I have had regular contact along the way: **Linda Wicks** (our Federation Archivist), **Astra Gupta** and **Joe Gosse** in Toronto; **Theresa Murphy**, **Lorraine Mandula** and **Terry Wilson** in Hamilton; **Kathleen Robbins** and **Arlene Kubiak** in London; several Administrative Assistants in Peterborough; **Gerri Brunette** in

Pembroke; and **Sister Marlene Roy** and **Evelyn St. Pierre** in Sault Ste. Marie. My life has been made better by these great people! And there are so many Associates and Companions of Sisters of St. Joseph whom I have had the pleasure of meeting at their annual gatherings.

I will be sad to leave in June, but would like you to know how very grateful indeed I am to have spent these years here in the Federation Office. My warmest wishes go to **Sister Loretta Manzara** and the Federation Board and Executive members, as you approach this new phase.

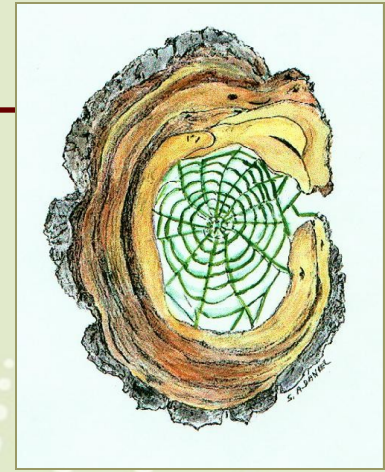
*To the Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Canada - I will miss you all!*

*Margaret*



# The Green Window—

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



## “Concern for Our Fine Feathered Friends: To Bee or Not to Be”

*“Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures, are dependent on one another” (Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, #42).*

As E.O. Wilson puts it, humans have “an innate affinity with nature.” We are to interact with the natural world with a profound sense of wonder and awe, along with deep appreciation to our Creator God. In creation, there is “an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore” (L.S., #221). “We cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention to the consequences of such interference in other areas ...” (L.S., #130-131).

In my research, I learned that there is a need to be able to assess the state of the environment and to use sensitive indicators to do so. Both birds and bees act as “the canary in the coal mine” in terrestrial ecosystems. Bird and bee monitoring have become essential parts of our adaptation to our changing global circumstances.

*“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all” (L.S., #23).*

On the David Suzuki Foundation website, I read that living beings, including birds and bees, “are moving, adapting and in some cases dying as a direct or indirect result of environmental shifts associated with our changing climate --- disrupting intricate interactions among species with profound

implications for the natural systems on which humans depend.”

The Nature Canada website stated that “climate change can alter distribution, abundance, behavior and genetic composition of birds” and, can affect the “timing of events like migration or breeding.” Habitat loss and alien invasive species make matters worse for birds. Extinction risks increase as a mismatch of birds and their environment takes place.

“How many songbirds would there be without the berries that result from pollination by bees?” Laurence Packer’s book, “Keeping the Bees” sheds light on this important topic. Climate change is affecting pollination by disrupting the synchronized timing at which bees pollinate. Flowers are blooming earlier in the growing season due to rising temperatures, before many bees have a chance at pollinating the plants. Thus, when bees finally begin pollination there is limited nectar available and competition for these valuable resources becomes more intense.

A report from Health Canada reveals that the bee population is in real danger due to the use of “new highly toxic systemic pesticides in agriculture.” We need bees for their role in pollinating many food crops on which we depend. David Suzuki declares, “bees are responsible for about one third of our food supply, and the consequences of not taking action to protect them are frightening.”

Pope Francis challenges each person alive today with these words: “Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is first and foremost up to us” (L.S., #160). He urges us to become a part of the “bold cultural revolution.”

### Suggested Resource:

“On care for our common home: A dialogue guide for Laudato Si’”  
Written by **Janet Sommerville** and **William F. Ryan SJ** with **Anne O’Brien GSIC** and **Anne-Marie Jackson**. Ottawa: St. Joseph Communications, 2016.





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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.***

## GOOD NEWS STORY – FEDERATION STATUTES

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The Statutes of the Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada were originally approved by the Sacred Congregation for Religious and for Secular Institutes in Rome in 1966. Revisions occurred in 1975, 1982 and 1984, for which Definitive Approval was received in May 1985.

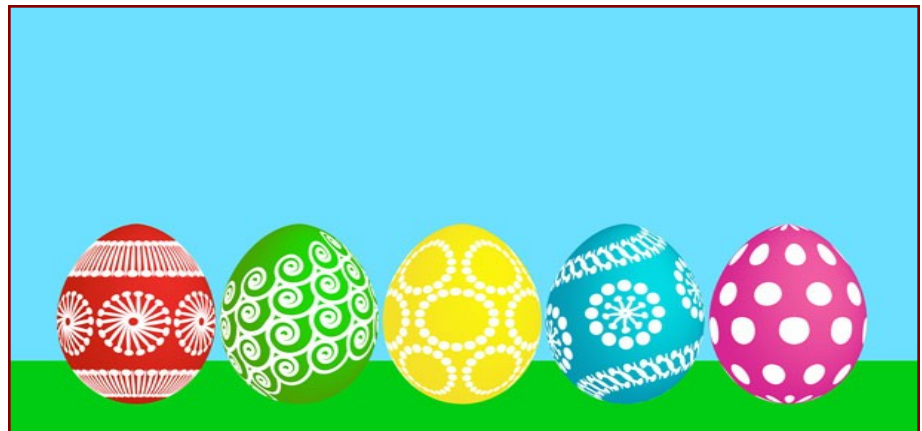
Given the change in configuration of the Canadian Federation in early 2013, to three instead of six congregations, it was deemed timely to consider revision. The new edition, managed by **Sister Bonnie MacLellan**, was approved in principle at the October 2016 Meeting of the Federation Board, and subsequently submitted to what is now named the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life & Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome on February 17, 2017.

Much to our delight, the Decree of Approbation dated March 21, 2017 was received in the Federation Office on April 6!

To quote from the letter: *"It is hoped that the Federation will continue to promote a more meaningful and deeper collaboration and mutual support among the members in the service of the local churches."*

And from the decree: *"May the Sisters who form part of the Federation always continue to live more authentically their common charismatic and spiritual patrimony, mutually helping one another as members of the same family, under the patronage of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary."*

Much gratitude is due to Sister Bonnie for her help and guidance over these many months.



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Watch out for our next Food for Thought in the Fall Newsletter.



## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA ~ Jubiliarians 2017

Congregation	75 and 85 Years	70 Years	60 Years	50 and 40 Years
Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto June 11, 2017	<u>75 Years</u> Sr Enid Selke	Sr Rita Marie McLean Sr Anne Marie Carey	Sr Therese Martin Sr Mary Lou Harris Sr Patricia Dowling Sr Mary Ellen Burns	<u>50 Years</u> Sr June Dwyer <u>40 Years</u> Sr Janet Speth
Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste Marie October 8, 2017		Sr Annette Guerette	Sr Catherine Paul Sr Shirley Grexton Sr Bernadette Sammon Sr Shirley Anderson Sr Marguerite Vick Sr Frances Carter Sr Deenie Farenzena Sr Jean Mongeau Sr Norma Zorzi	<u>50 Years</u> Sr Shannon Hickey
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Hamilton Neighbourhood May 13, 2017		Sr Audrey Burns	Sr Marion Downer Sr Marjorie Masterson Sr Anne Anderson	
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—London Neighbourhood June 3, 2017— 50 <sup>th</sup> September 16, 2017— 60 <sup>th</sup> & 75 <sup>th</sup>	<u>75 Years</u> Sr St. Bride Laverty		Sr Kathleen Lichti Sr Mary Diane Cahill Sr Corrie Daamen Sr Maria van Leeuwen	<u>50 Years</u> Sr Loretta Manzara Sr Ethel Steinkey Sr Jean Moylan Sr Joan Atkinson Sr Margo Ritchie
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Peterborough Neighbourhood June 10, 2017	<u>85 Years</u> Sr Rosanne Stupendek Sr Emerilda McNamara	Sr Mary Connelly		<u>50 Years</u> Sr Loretta LaPointe Sr Jean Perry
Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada—Pembroke Neighbourhood June 17, 2017		Sr Marie Meilleur Sr Kathleen Lyons Sr Nora Kelly Sr Clare Sullivan	Sr Margaret Mary O'Gorman Sr Rosenda Brady	