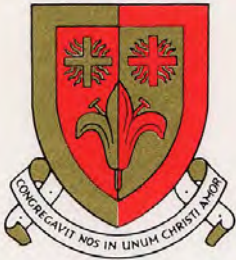


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FEDERATION OF SISTERS OF  
ST. JOSEPH OF CANADA

# Newsletter



## Acting President's Message

*Loretta Manzara, CSJ*

Very warm greetings to all members of the Canadian Federation! While we await the appointment of two new Executive members and the election of our new President, I have been asked to serve as your interim President.

At its 2013 Fall meeting, the Federation Board asked the Executive to look at the structure of the Federation Office, its committees, and resources, in order to enable the vision and purpose of the Federation into the future. **Sr Sarah Quakenbush's** leadership over this year has been insightful, wise, and clearly directive. With the collaboration of **Sr Nancy Sullivan, Margaret Magee, and Sr Pat Boucher**, we will be able to present our findings at the upcoming meeting of the Board in October. Self-examination is always one of those difficult tasks that requires not only clear analytical tools but also a good dose of perspective and sensitivity to the human reality. Our meeting in October will provide ample opportunity to work with our findings. We congratulate and thank Sarah for taking the lead through these challenging times.

Since our April Newsletter, so many of you, the members, have engaged in Committee meetings and gatherings that reflect the heart and soul of the Federation. Poignantly some of us made our way to North Bay to bid farewell to **Sr Monica Kulas** who for a period of her earthly journey helped to create the solid founda-

tion on which the Federation stands today. As our numbers wane, the strength of our relationships seems to increase. Technology certainly trims the distance as we realized in listening by conference call to the sharing of our Associates as part of last October's Board.

Our world holds both violence and creativity these days: beauty and terror. **Sue Wilson** has put this into perspective in her commentary addressing the anniversary of the Great War which we hope you all have read, and our Ecology Committee members continue to challenge us with the fragility of our earth itself. News reports over the summer months have shocked and horrified us, but we who live in relative peace have the luxury of time to reflect upon and breathe into the Gospel promise that all may be One. With the deepening awareness that all creation is one, and our charism of unity and reconciliation, let us strive each in her own way and in the small locale of our setting to be witnesses to the hope that spurs us on: **God's abundant and abiding love.**



# Kudos, Programs & Member Updates

**'Living Joy' - A Program for Young Adults** was a joy to behold in August at the London Residence as 22 young adults made the pilgrimage to experience the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph. Many thanks are due to **Vanessa Nicholas-Schmidt and Sr Mechilde O'Mara** for organizing the weekend through Faith Connections, an outreach program of the Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto. The program was offered in

conjunction with the Federation and a busy planning committee worked hard to make the experience a meaningful one. The group prayed together, did ministry together and reflected on experiences from various Sisters about our charism and how it is lived. **Sr Joan Atkinson** led the pilgrims to various local sites and spoke of their significance to the Sisters.

Other Federation Sisters prayed for and sent cards to participants, sharing the joy.

At the end of the weekend, pilgrims were asked what brought them joy during the experience. While planned activities were appreciated, it seemed that the greatest joy was in their interaction with the Sisters themselves. This reminds us of how our everyday presence and hospitality can make a significant impression on people in general and younger people in particular.

***We are delighted to share photographs of our two congregations—Toronto and Sault Ste Marie—who held Chapters in the late spring. Many congratulations and good wishes!***



Sault Ste Marie (L-R) Sisters Bonnie Chesser, Trina Bottos, Bonnie MacLellan (General Superior), Alice Greer and Roberta Collins



Toronto (L-R) Sisters Nida Fe Chavez, Mary Anne McCarthy, Therese Meunier (Congregational Leader), Pat Boucher and Ann Delaney

***"The Lace is Not Finished, Yet"*** was a wonderful program offered by the US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in California in June and in Albany, New York in July. Several Canadian Sisters attended this special time of touching into the roots of life in 17th Century France and our early Sisters' response to the needs of their time. Time was spent reflecting on the original founding women of our congregation and what might have attracted them to give their lives in Community. We brought this forward to our own time, pondering the sacred threads that sustain us today, connecting our hearts to God, to our foundresses and to the dear neighbours we serve. Sharing the State of the Heart was an important part of the program and we also considered the "spirituality of place", especially the kitchen of Le Puy where our first Sisters would have shared their hearts' stirrings for the Gospel. Plans for sharing the fruit of this program with Sisters in the Canadian Federation are underway.



# The Green Window—Part 16

Janet Speth CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee

## Mining (Part 2): Resource Extraction—Fracking: An Environmental and Ethical Challenge

— In ancient seas, hydrocarbons of coal, crude oil and natural gas were deposited in sedimentary shale rock. Over the last century the ‘conventional’ shallow reservoirs of these fossil fuels, are being depleted and now *hydraulic fracking* is used to extract deeper ‘unconventional’ natural gas deposits. Like the tar sands extraction, fracking is raising new ethical concerns.

**What is Fracking?** A vertical well, reinforced with concrete, is drilled miles beneath the earth’s surface. It is then turned horizontally to run an equal distance into the shale where natural gas is trapped. Small fissures are made creating perforations in the rock. Several million gallons of water mixed with sand and chemicals to keep the fissures open, are then forced down the well under extremely high pressure, fracturing the rock and creating paths for the gas to flow towards the well. About 70% of the fracking water is brought back to the surface for re-use or as waste water.

Watch YouTube: "*Hydraulic Fracturing-Shale Natural Gas Extraction*" (3 mins) and "*Shale Gas Drilling: Pros and Cons*" (7 mins).

Supporters of fracking are motivated by economic growth and the desire for domestic energy security; thus, shifting power from the Middle East to democratic regimes. This is

a modern worldview. Scientifically well based, they advocate comparison analysis citing, e.g. using less water than agriculture. However, does this rationale justify the means? To its credit there is research to reduce the volume of water and toxic chemicals. Yet overall, the industry is severely under-regulated and is exempt from federal water management laws and other environmental legal obligations. Ultimately economic profit from the expansion of fracking remains the goal.

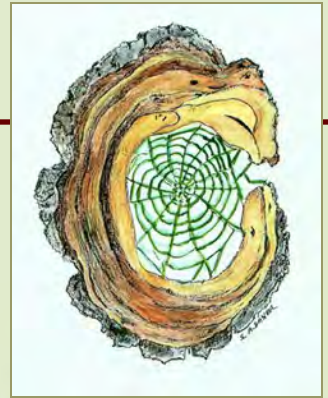
Environmentalists, challenging fracking, are in a post-modern worldview, advocating for ethical sustainable practices and responsible stewardship. Environmental and health issues are primary concerns. For fracking, vast amounts of water are used stressing current reservoirs with competing needs. The chemicals, many of which are carcinogens, cannot be safely removed from the waste water. A fear is that water not recovered will contaminate aquifers and ground water. The toxic greenhouse gas, methane, often leaks into the atmosphere impacting climate change. Fracking even appears to increase earthquake activity. In an era when the low cost of gas undermines development of renewable resources, new standards of sustainable goals are desperately needed to challenge fracking’s unprecedented pace.

**Thomas Berry** writes, “We can no longer live spiritually in any adequate

manner simply within the limits of our early

religious tradition.”<sup>1</sup> What is needed is an expanded “spirituality of intimacy with the natural world.”<sup>2</sup> As science and technology thrust humans into an increasingly complex world we must develop as “ecological sensitive personalities” with a new understanding of rights that shifts the preferential corporate influence to one that includes both the rights of local communities and of nature. This is the emerging integral worldview.

Beacons of hope are arising, probing the deeper dialogue, to give equal voice to humans, industry and the natural world as Quebec and Nova Scotia declare a moratorium on fracking pending environmental assessment and other countries ban it. As Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada ‘the more’ compels us to be counted among the prophets of an integral worldview with its, sustainable earth community spirituality. This moves us from polarization to inclusion, recognizing the values and shortcomings of any position. Inspired by **Father Nepper**, we are called to live into the “holy disquietude”<sup>3</sup> that begs a questioning and discerning heart.



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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Berry, *The Sacred Universe*; pg. 19

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 138

<sup>3</sup> Fr. Nepper, *Portrait of a Daughter/Sister of St. Joseph*

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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.**

### **Passionate Promises Retreat**

**June 2-8, 2015—Invermara**

Once again in 2015, our Ecology Committee members will present "Passionate Promises: A Vowed Planetary Presence". Brochures will soon be shared with your congregations.

*Designed by Valerie Raftrey Lemieux*

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **OUR ENDANGERED NEIGHBOUR**

RITA GODON ON BEHALF OF THE ECOLOGY COMMITTEE  
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My fascination with bees began at the early age of five when I started school. In our small unfamiliar library, perched on a top shelf, was a grey massive empty hive. I had to face the reality of this strange form whenever I reached up for a book. I was reminded over and over again that the hive was indeed empty. Over time I learned to respect bees. I got to love them. I was assured that they wouldn't bite me unless I disturbed them. I discovered bees were amazingly hard workers and creators of beauty. En masse, they cooperate so well with each other in achieving their goal of making honey to my amazement. In my later years I became aware that honey bees account for

80% of all insect pollinators. They play a vital role in our food chain. Bees have been very much in people's minds, hearts and prayers these days because of their high rate of death over this past winter. I cannot imagine life without bees for they have been with us for 10 million years. The Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists identified three causes: starvation from lack of food caused by our past cold winter, parasites (mites), and primarily exposure to pesticides (neonicotinoids).

Neonicotinoids, a family of pesticides typically applied as a seed coating, help to protect plants from insects and in Ontario are used primarily in

corn and soybean crops. Believe it or not, they are used in greenhouses! Neonicotinoids are banned by the European Union, but Canada is awaiting an interim report to come out next spring before considering a ban. Meanwhile, extra precaution will be taken to prevent neonicotinoid dust getting into the soil or air during planting season by the introduction of a new seed lubricant. As well, farmers and beekeepers will have access to an app that will notify each other when fields close to bee hives are about to be planted.

Sadly, beekeepers, farmers and seed-sellers are all impacted by the increasing annihilation of bees. These three entities need to work with each other to achieve a fair but successful outcomes - one that

would have bees as the first priority, not putting self-interest or the economy first.

To learn more about the challenges facing honey bees and what you can do to protect them, please visit [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org) under Issues, - ***Pesticides 101 A Prime – Food & Agriculture*** – and scroll down to find the booklet [Bee the Change](#).



***In the CSJ spirit to live one  
with our neighbour, let us  
'bee friendly'.***