



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

The recent Reflective Journal from the LCWR, 'Navigating Uncharted Waters' contains many images of water, boats, lighthouses, life boats, storms, waves etc. As I read through the thoughtful reflections I was beginning to feel a little swamped by all the metaphors and similes. Just when I thought I might drown in the images, I realized the image of navigating through uncharted waters was a very good one for where we are in our Federation.

As you know, we did not receive any applications from Sisters in the Federation for the role of Executive Director. This circumstance has led us to a new place. In recent years the possibility that we might come to a point where a CSJ would not be available for this role had been discussed at both the board and executive levels. In 2018, a plan was approved by the executive toward the eventual hiring of a non CSJ and that is where we find ourselves today. Your executive and Sister Loretta Manzara have updated the position description that was approved in 2018 for an applicant other than a CSJ.

On the one hand we can view this reality with a certain sadness but on the other hand we can sail into this new reality with hope and trust in the Spirit of Jesus to guide us. As I write this, the process is underway for the posting and interviewing of candidates for the Executive Director position. So let us pray together that the right person will be inspired by our charism to apply.

And speaking of the right person, I want to thank our present Executive Director, Sister Loretta Manzara, for her years of

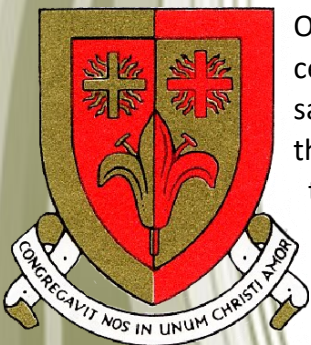
dedicated service to the Federation. To paraphrase Elizabeth Browning, "how do I thank you, let me count the ways?"

I asked other members of the executive to express what they were most grateful for in Loretta's leadership and here are some of the responses: "I appreciate Loretta's broadening our horizons by connecting us to Sisters of St. Joseph from the International Community. I love reading about their lives and ministries and knowing that our charism is loved and lived out and integrated in their lives and ministries."

I am grateful for "the work done by Loretta on our Federation Website and her interest and enthusiasm in learning everything she could to make the necessary changes."

"The Federation Committees benefited from Loretta's commitment to the work involved and her support and encouragement to the membership."

Loretta "has always been most gracious, thoughtful, generous and dedicated to the task at hand. As a member of the executive, I have found her to be very supportive of my learning curve and wise in her vision of the bigger picture of the Federation. She brings a great sense of humour and delight in working





## **MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Loretta Manzara, CSJ**

What an exciting edition we have with this September newsletter! Some articles offer timely reflection as we face into the coming

election, as we walk tenderly through the reality of Indigenous relationships. Others open us to the grace of relationships in nature, the soil's capacity to thrive but only on its own time, and the search for authenticity in the retail sector. Conferences and book clubs have fed the soul; anniversaries are celebrated, and life continues to unfold through the slow process of engagement.

At the recent LCWR Leadership Assembly there was talk of *making space* for the future. From Mercedes L. Casas Sánchez, FSpS address I quote:

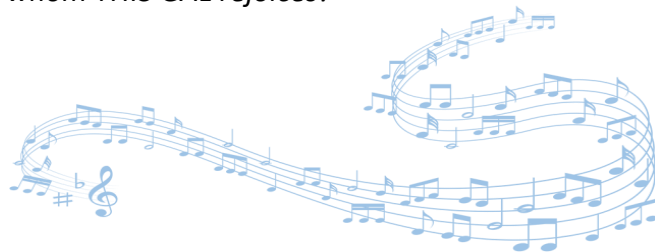
“Creating spaces suggests attitudes, like willingness, discernment, and seeing for what or for whom you want to make space. ....What spaces do we want to create for the future?”

In the four years that I have served the Federation, I have watched us create space for celebrating the sacredness of water, being startled by the inequality of clean water accessibility, and the global cry for public water infrastructure. We have opened space for Sisters of St. Joseph throughout the world to enter our computer screens, to awaken us to some of their struggles, to allow us to be in relationship through prayer. Our Vocation Animation Committee has created space for telling our stories, these will soon be posted as vignettes on the federation website. We have made space to listen to people exploring the richness of our charism and emerging ideas: Nones and Nuns, Angie and Casper, Katie Gordon and Adam Horowitz, Sister Mary Jo Nelson, Krista Tippet. We have made space to welcome significant births through our *Calendar of Remembrance*. We have made space to learn the intricacies of Zoom so that Associates/Companions and Sisters can continue to meet. We have been challenged to use our voices for systemic change. The good work of all our Committees nudges us through

the slow process of engagement.

Whenever an organization moves through transition, Spirit is working overtime! What new spaces might our federation create particularly for the “dear neighbour” as we welcome new gifts into our “house”. Linda Gregg tells us it takes seven years for soil to be nurtured to fertility, each year adding different nutrients, watering, growing with the sun. With great expectation we look forward to our new Executive Director’s gifts and wisdom to help nurture us further through the process of engagement.

For all the affirmation and collaboration each of you have sent my way over these four years, I express grateful thanks. *Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom THIS GAL rejoices!*



*Clipart Library: free download*

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Continued**

with members of the executive and committees. Loretta is always willing to help, to take on new learnings and when she masters a particular skill, she happily shares her success and enthusiasm.”

“Besides being incredibly organized, succinct and accurate in her minutes, Loretta has a wonderful sense of humour, that often has a musical nuance! A laugh with a lyrical lilt!”

On behalf of all members of the Federation, I thank you Loretta for your dedication, hard work and love for all things Federation. May your years in leadership be joyful and fulfilling ones for you. Bon Voyage and happy sailing!

## **BLUE COMMUNITY - A Community of Practice: water justice this Fall** **Paul Baines, CSJ Blue Community Coordinator**

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For the past few weeks I have been lending my time and expertise to the Wellington Water Watchers to develop a critical conversation between non-Indigenous people who are working to protect water as a human right, shared commons, and sacred gift.

As a Blue Community, the Federation has created both the resources and intention to join a larger water justice movement and to model how a faith community can reciprocate the gift of water and activate care for our common home.



On September 29, there will be an online event called 'Decolonizing Settler Led Water Protection'. The format will be dedicated to hearing from and responding to people's questions and will include a Moderator and several panelists from various organizations, including me. I hope you can join us at 3pm that day and look out for your email invitation. The event information will also be posted on our Blue Community website.

[www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org](http://www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org)

Persistent Indigenous leadership has been calling on Canadians to decolonize their institutions -- which

includes courts, schools, media, charities, maps, and more. Non-governmental organizations in general and environmental ones in particular, have been slow to adjust their aspirations and practices to meet this challenge, but are starting to work together to accelerate this type of reconciliation. How might environmental groups re-inforce colonial relations and concepts?

- They may perceive the lands and waters as just a collection of non-human assets and services in need of protection for human wants and needs.
- They may have a Land Acknowledgement written, but have not integrated how this statement can deepen their relationships with Indigenous nations and with the places they advocate for.
- They may build and reinforce ties to settler leadership and authority with their advocacy, while not recognizing Indigenous leadership and authority.
- They may increase their financial and human capacity for change, while not helping to increase Indigenous capacities.

And the list goes on. Join us on September 29 to ask and to hear about how various environmental groups are responding to these timely challenges.

The Catholic Church's role in the 'settling' of Canada creates a special and sensitive response-ability for change. The Blue Community program and pledge is an opportunity to not just protect water, but respond to this moment of reconciliation.

Water is the first medicine -- not just for healthy bodies and spirits, but for all our relations.



# DECOLONIZING MINDS, HEARTS AND SYSTEMS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

*Federation Office for Systemic Justice—Sue Wilson, CSJ*

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I recently read an [article](#) by Tanya Talaga, an Indigenous journalist with the Toronto Star. She pointed out how, almost half-way into the federal election campaign, the issues highlighted by party leaders were disconnected from crises unfolding in Indigenous communities. A few days later, the Assembly of First Nations announced [their priorities](#) for the election, putting them in the context of the discovery of thousands of unmarked graves at residential schools.

The juxtaposition of these two events served to make a point: The social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, as well as the transformation of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, are still seen as ‘Indigenous issues;’ not yet understood to be ‘Canadian issues.’

The disconnect between ongoing Indigenous crises and current election priorities is also a clear indicator that colonialism is not a thing of the past; a reality that’s important to acknowledge if things are ever going to change.

For non-Indigenous persons, the acknowledgement of ongoing colonialism highlights the need for us to de-colonize our minds, hearts, and social systems. De-colonizing minds and hearts might look like this:

- Committing to learn and understand the impacts of colonization on Indigenous communities (e.g., loss of language, culture, and spirituality due to forced attendance at residential schools).
- Recognizing the physical and emotional violence associated with racism
- Quietening our own voice and opening mind and heart to listen deeply to Indigenous voices so that truth might be heard.
- Acknowledging wrongs, asking forgiveness, creating systemic change, making reparations.
- Opening to suppressed wisdom in Indigenous perspectives and spirituality.

And then there are the systems which must be changed:

Recognizing the systemic racism which exists, including but not limited to examples from -

- health care system ([Joyce Echaquan](#)),
- law enforcement ([MMIWG](#)),
- legal system ([Colten Boushie’s mother](#)),
- prison system ([Indigenous persons are 5% of population in Canada but more than 30% of inmate population](#)),
- lack of basic resources ([safe drinking water, safe housing](#)),
- labour market ([average income gap between all Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is 33%](#)),
- environmental racism ([water and land pollution impacting Indigenous communities](#)),
- and the political system ([UNDRIP, Indian Act](#))

The evidence of ongoing colonialism can be disheartening but, with a closer look, we see how it also lays a path for transformation. We know what needs to change. The key will be to listen to Indigenous voices and follow Indigenous-led actions for political change. It’s not just about an election. It’s about the soul of Canada.



## ***GREEN WINDOW - A Little Wiser and Less Likely to Be Fooled Nancy Wales, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee***

I was leafing through my recent copy of Good House-keeping, when an article contributed by its editors caught my attention. My eye was first attracted to a graphic of a clothing tag. After reading the article, I realized that the words on the tag, “100% Bamboozled”, had provided a clever, concise, and creative summary of the article’s content. The article not only disclosed the truth about Bamboo plant content, but furthermore it was coupled with a product alert. The text pointed out, how we, as consumers, can be unknowingly hood winked or deceived by labels or claims.

What I learned from the article, “The Truth About Bamboo Sheets and Plant Based Fabrics”, and further googling was the following information.

Like many other consumers, I am trying to be a more conscious buyer. I am on the look out for products that are more environmentally friendly, such as those made from natural fibres such as bamboo. This article got me wondering about the wisdom of my recent purchase of bamboo socks. After reading the article, I know it would be more correct now to say my rayon socks. As you may or may not know rayon is the umbrella term for fibers made from plant cellulose. There are various types of rayon that include viscose, lyocell and modal. The specific type of rayon is indicative of the manufacturing process used to extract it.

According to BBC Bitesize, cellulose is the main substance found in plant cell walls that helps them maintain their stiff, strong structure. Cellulose is used in the making of clothes and paper. Upon further checking, cellulose is what is in my socks. Through my black socks began with pieces of bamboo, in the end they contained no bamboo fibers whatsoever.

According to Lexie Sachs, the GH Institutes Textiles Director, through a multi-step process “... the raw plant materials are chemically dissolved to the point they no longer exist in the final fabric.” Chemicals are at the core of what amounts to processes within the yarn producing process. In summary, the harvested bamboo

is chopped into pieces, the pieces are chemically processed into pulp, leaving out most of original plant. The pulp is liquefied by a further chemical treatment which removes any remnants of bamboo. Next, the resultant liquid goes through small holes in a device called a spinneret, where in a chemical bath, it finally becomes man made fibers. The resultant fibers are cleaned and made into yarn ready to be used in the manufacturing of clothing. I am left asking myself, “How environmentally more friendly can a product produced from a triple chemical process be?” What seemed like a good idea in the beginning is not as it first appeared to be. I think I was hood winked.

The acceptable use of bamboo in advertising and labeling as established by the Competition Bureau of Canada is only if the textile fibre has been mechanically processed from natural bamboo fibre. <https://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/>. It is incorrect to use the term bamboo, If the product is not made directly from bamboo fibres. Bamboo plants are a legitimate source of rayon but should be correctly labelled as such, “Rayon from bamboo.” (Hyperlink to <https://youtu.be/F9zmk31ztBE>)

Checking again on the Amazon website, my socks are made of rayon derived from bamboo plants. Reading the details revealed that they were bamboo viscose dress socks.

As the magazine editors alluded, many products should more correctly be labelled derived from bamboo rather than misrepresented as made from bamboo plants. This misuse of the term bamboo is beyond semantics and the law. The improper use of the plant name instead of the correct name is a trap for the green conscious shopper. The English language has coined the term, Greenwashing, for this endeavour to convey a false impression or providing misleading information about how products are more environmentally sound than other similar products.

My parting advice is do not be tricked into buying an item by fancy labels such as “Bamboo.”

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT – Finding Harmony in the Garden**

**Linda Gregg, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Ecology Committee**

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Yesterday, I gazed out over the summer breeze ruffling the leafy tops of the growing potatoes, watching the bees busy with their pollinating and felt the warm sun glance across the tomatoes and corn growing well in the adjoining plots. This is our vegetable garden at Villa St. Joseph during the summer. A year of Covid and many surprises- super wet, super dry and super hot. Yet our organic gardens have weathered the variations, and are going to yield a good harvest, having been blessed by vital soil health, beneficial insects and an inter-relationship of harmony among species and humans.

Its not perfect, but its in harmony with all that is. It makes me reflect on what we consider “perfection” to be. Being involved in agriculture in my early years in our market garden farm in B.C., I know well the strict grading systems of marketing vegetables in today’s commercial world of food production. So often quality is graded by the “perfect” size, blemish free skin and travel hardiness. Wholesome flavour, learning to live with imperfections and family values were often lost along the way.

When we started this vegetable garden, some 20 hears ago now at Villa St. Joseph, the soil was a sandy loam with little humus, meagre nutrient capacity and poor water retention capability. Crops did not grow that well and insect infestations happened often. In Organic Agriculture it is a well known axiom that it takes about 7 years to develop a harmonious interrelationship between soil health, crops grown, beneficial insects and humans learning to listen to Nature’s promptings. Humans learning to listen to Nature’s promptings might be the most difficult piece! Typically, humans decide what they’d like an environment to be and try to make Nature fit into it. It’s the story of our beleaguered Earth today. But as anyone who’s tried to push & pull a stubborn cow into a barn knows, “that just ain’t the way its done.”



*Photo from Villa St. Joseph website*

Today Organic Agriculture has a “new name.” Its now called Regenerative Farming. At first, I wasn’t that keen on the change and now, the terms are used interchangeably. But changing the name allowed organic farming to be introduced to a new generation of farmers and invite on-board an older generation of farmers who were realizing that chemical farm production doesn’t have all the answers, especially in today’s era of climate change.

Indigenous Agriculture was practiced for millennia by Indigenous Peoples across the Earth. Each Traditional Peoples learned the ways of their land, what it was saying to them and grew crops in usually small areas sustainably managed. It is the basis of what we know today as the practices and disciplines of Permaculture, Organic Agriculture and Regenerative Farming.

My own beginnings with growing began when I when I was apprenticed to a gardener” named Dell when I was 3 ½ years of age. My mom was a single parent left with an infant and 3 ½ year old child. She took my baby brother to work in a playpen and I was a bit of a handful at 3. So, our neighbour Dell, who was the local gardener, took me on as often as she could. My first lessons were in “looking and listening to the plants”. If I didn’t understand something or questioned her interminably, as 3 year old’s do, her response would be to tell me stay put - just look and learn to really see what was happening in the garden. Sitting there, nestled amongst the plants, I would find a whole world in nature to explore. She taught me well about “listening to what the land and the plants were saying.” I’m still learning. And learning how blessed that kind of being nurtures the soul.

Perhaps you might like to spend some time with the plants on your balcony or the flowers or vegetables in your garden today. They have much wisdom for our human souls. Its about a perfection of the heart. Its something we keep growing into.



## VOCATION ALIVE – Virtual Book Club

*Dotsy Schweitzer, CSJ on behalf of the Vocation Animation Committee*

A recent initiative of the Federation Vocation Animation Committee was the “Vocation Alive Virtual Book Club,” using the book *Religious Life for our World: Creating Communities of Hope*, by Maria Cimperman, RSCJ. We opened the project first to Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates/Companions in our Canadian Federation, and then also invited Sisters and Associates from the U.S. Federation.

We had eight sessions, from late April to mid June, beginning with a “how-to” session on April 29 (to help those of us who might be a little technically challenged). This first meeting was expertly handled by Sister Mary Jo Radey. In subsequent sessions, the six members of the committee each took a turn as facilitator. The pattern we followed at each ninety minute session was to begin with a prayer, then a brief introduction by the facilitator, giving some main ideas from the section being covered. After that we went into random breakout rooms, and finally back to the large group for sharing. A special thanks here goes to Sister Costanza Romano for her ease in moving us in and out of the small and large groups.

The choice of this book was serendipitous (!), as it led

the participants back to basics – our *raison d’être* as consecrated religious is to be **for the world**, and the gift we are able to give is the gift of hope, a gift so needed today. We were blessed, again thanks to Mary Jo for making good connections, to have Sister Maria join us twice, first at one of our initial sessions, and then at our final gathering. (The pandemic **has** provided us with one good thing, namely the ease with which we can connect across great distances!) Maria’s enthusiasm and joy was infectious, and it was a privilege to have her join us and to share further with her.



In our initial planning, we felt that the purpose of the book club was to animate us in our vocation, and also to help move religious life into the future. And in this book Maria continuously reminded us to ‘open ourselves to conversion, transformation, and revitalization.’ I feel strongly that our purpose has been achieved. We were animated by the rich sharing each week, and especially being able to get to know other Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates/Companions. We were reminded of the basics of our life, and the call to be open-minded, creative, and even prophetic as we follow Christ into the future.

### **WORKING AND PRAYING TOGETHER FOUNDERS’ DAY PRAYER 2021**

For the celebration of Founders’ Day this year, **October 15**, at 2pm Eastern, the Lifelong Formation Committee of the U.S. Federation (Sister Mary Rowell represents the Canadian Federation on this Committee), is preparing a special 1 hour prayer and video for members of both our Federations to share together. Sisters Mary Diesbourg, using some of the historical text she beautifully prepared recently, and Costanza Romano (Chair of the Federation Vocation Committee) will be participating in the video. The prayer will be held using zoom. We will communicate the zoom link and further details very soon. It is hoped that as many Sisters and Associates/Companions of the Canadian Federation will be able to come together with members of the U.S. Federation to celebrate this important day in our lives together. Please mark your calendars!

# ***“CALLED TO DREAM” - The 2021 Conference of the National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD)***

***Mary Rowell, CSJ on behalf of the Federation Vocation Animation Committee***

In a recent interview, Pope Francis, spoke of the impact of disappointments in life. He said that disappointment leads us, if we are open, to “emergency landing places.” NAVFD recently experienced such an “emergency landing place!” In 2020, due to Covid, we had to cancel our national conference to be held in beautiful Newfoundland. So we began to re-plan for 2021, confident that this year it would happen. Alas – ‘no go’ - a second disappointment and the need to hold the Conference on-line.



The wonderful local planning Committee in St. Johns comprised of membership of the Sisters of Mercy and of Providence

and led by their gifted Chair, Ms. Anne Walsh simply gave their all, working alongside the NAVFD Board to find the landing place that guided us to an outstanding conference. Although the disappointment that we would not gather face-to-face in Newfoundland was great, the transition to an on-line experience yielded numerous and unexpected gifts. Not least of those gifts was the creative way in which Anne and her Committee provided us with a true, warm, and wonderful flavour of Newfoundland and Labrador. They did this with great generosity, with beautiful photos, and wonderful East Coast “kitchen parties.”

One of the marvellous outcomes of the on-line conference was the diversity of attendance. Generally, the NAVFD Conference is attended by North American participants only. This year the on-line platform made it possible to go global. Participants came from Australia, Benin, Canada, Republic of Congo, Haiti, Ireland, the Ivory Coast, and the United States. This was truly a first for NAVFD and brought with it much hope for all those engaged in vocation and formation ministries.

The keynote speakers gave many gifts to us all. Sister Elizabeth Davis RSM facilitated the Conference sessions. Dr. David Deane of the Atlantic School of Theology speaking of the fundamental vocation given us in baptism, referred to the Early Christian community and to the works of Hildegard of Bingen as he guided us through deep reflections on the presence of the Holy Spirit. He said that, “The Holy Spirit is the gift” of God enabling us to open mind and heart to transformative understandings of vocation.

Dan Horan, OFM from the Chicago Theological Union spoke of discernment, vocation and formation through the recent works of Pope Francis. Father Dan emphasized Pope Francis’ call to us to “avoid the temptation of simple survival, reactionary behaviour and hiding out in our homes”. Instead, we are, as religious, to embrace radical relationality. We are to be open to being sent to the peripheries, creating spaces for the Gospel to thrive as we call out injustices in the world.

Our own Sister Margo Ritchie provided a thought-provoking presentation on the “adjacent possible and vocation.” Margo enlivened the conference with her reflections on the unfolding future in the present. Quoting American author, Howard Thurman, she invited us to dream because “a dream is a bearer of new possibility, an enlarged horizon, the great hope.”

The idea of dreaming toward an unknown future was embodied in the Conference logo which depicted a dory, the traditional boat of

Newfoundland and Labrador.

During the Conference “the locals” pointed out to us that to row a dory one faces the known shoreline but lets go of it in order to move out toward a new horizon unseen. Together, then let us row our “dory” into the unknown future that is already being revealed to us in hope.





# TORONTO CELEBRATES 170 YEARS - "Celebrating our Oneness with God, Creation and Neighbour"

At the start of 2020, our congregation began preparations for celebrating our 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We imagined joyous occasions in which people would join us in revisiting our first four Sisters' arrival in Toronto on October 7, 1851 and our journey to the present day.

We anticipated walking tours of our history, live audiences as we shared our charism, and in-person events for prayer and celebration. We didn't count on a pandemic making it impossible for us to bring people together physically. But despite difficulties, we sought to convey our mission, values, purpose and legacy as effectively as possible and as safely as we could.

We had planned to start our 170<sup>th</sup> celebrations with our in-person *Charism Alive!* event. We instead held it online as a webinar in which Beth Johnson, former Executive Director of Mission Integration at Unity Health Toronto, guided everyone through our CSJ history and how our charism shapes the work that Sisters, volunteers and staff do today. [Click here](#) to see the recording.

We had expected to have some special Novena of Creation events for participants to share prayers and reflections together. We amended our plans and shared nine days of Creative Novena reflections in the form of articles on our website at <http://csj-to.ca/170>.

We had looked forward to offering a walking tour of St. Michael's Cemetery, a place filled with history and memories for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto and for the city around us. We adapted this concept into a video production that we look forward to sharing in due time.

We had hoped for a 170<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Celebration on October 10, 2021, thinking that high vaccination rates might permit a large gathering for a special Mass at St. Paul's Basilica. Due case counts, we now invite everyone to register at [csj-to.ca/170massonline](http://csj-to.ca/170massonline) and take part through web video.

We are currently planning *The Waves of Change*, a January 8, 2022 event at which water activist Maude

Barlow will speak, and we will announce our format and venue soon.

Our 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations have taken place in circumstances that are very different from what we had expected.

However, we are glad to have taken every opportunity to share our CSJ charism and spirituality, and we have made full use our talents and technology during this challenging time to celebrate our *Oneness with God, Creation and Neighbour*.

## EVENTS:

- **Sunday, October 10, 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.**



A Special Mass celebrates the 170th anniversary of our arrival in Toronto. We invite you to join us online. Presider the Most Reverend Robert Kasun, CSB.

A web video program will begin with a 1:30 pm.

Salt + Light interview with the Sisters. Mass will begin at 2 p.m. Online admission is open to all. Please register at [csj-to.ca/170massonline](http://csj-to.ca/170massonline).

- **Saturday, January 8, 2022, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

The Waves of Change: University of St. Michael's College, Sam Sorbara Auditorium

Water: whether frozen around us or moving inside of us, it's everywhere. How do we protect it beyond eliminating single-use plastics or turning off the tap while we brush our teeth?

Join us as Maude Barlow, Canadian author and water rights activist, takes us on a look back at the history of water issues and helps us imagine what work awaits the next generation of leaders in water action and ecojustice. Admission is free. Please email [info@csj-to.ca](mailto:info@csj-to.ca) to RSVP.

## **100th Anniversary Celebration**

### **Pauline Coulterman, CSJ**

On August 25 our Sisters in Pembroke gathered at our Lady of Lourdes Parish to share in a celebration of praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do in the life of the Congregation.



We celebrated the Mass in thanksgiving for all who have been responsible for our CSJ beginnings and asked God's blessing on all who have journeyed with us throughout these 100 years and in a very special way our

deceased Sisters who have paved the path to this day.

Sister Pauline Coulterman opened with a message of welcome, and Sister Catherine Yantha followed with a brief account of the purpose of a "Rock" that was placed at the entrance to the church. This rock was very significant because it came from the land that was home to us for almost 100 years. Sister Helen Smaggus chose very meaningful music for the liturgy and Joyce Nelson and Anna Grace Wilson shared their musical talents with us.

The covid pandemic and other happenings in our society have affected very much how we chose to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We decided to share our historical journey without family and friends through an Anniversary Calendar that would hang in their homes all year round, and thanks to Mr. Tracey, through the Eganville Leader, we have shared monthly of our CSJ story with the local community.



Following the Liturgy, we gathered at the Westwind's Restaurant where we continued to Celebrate with all the trimmings of a "Thanksgiving meal." It was wonderful to have Sister Kathleen Lyons and her family as well as Sisters Kathy O'Keefe, Justina Graham, and Gerri Burnett and two of our Associates join us. Gerri read a very moving poem she wrote for the occasion. ***We are grateful!***

#### **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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