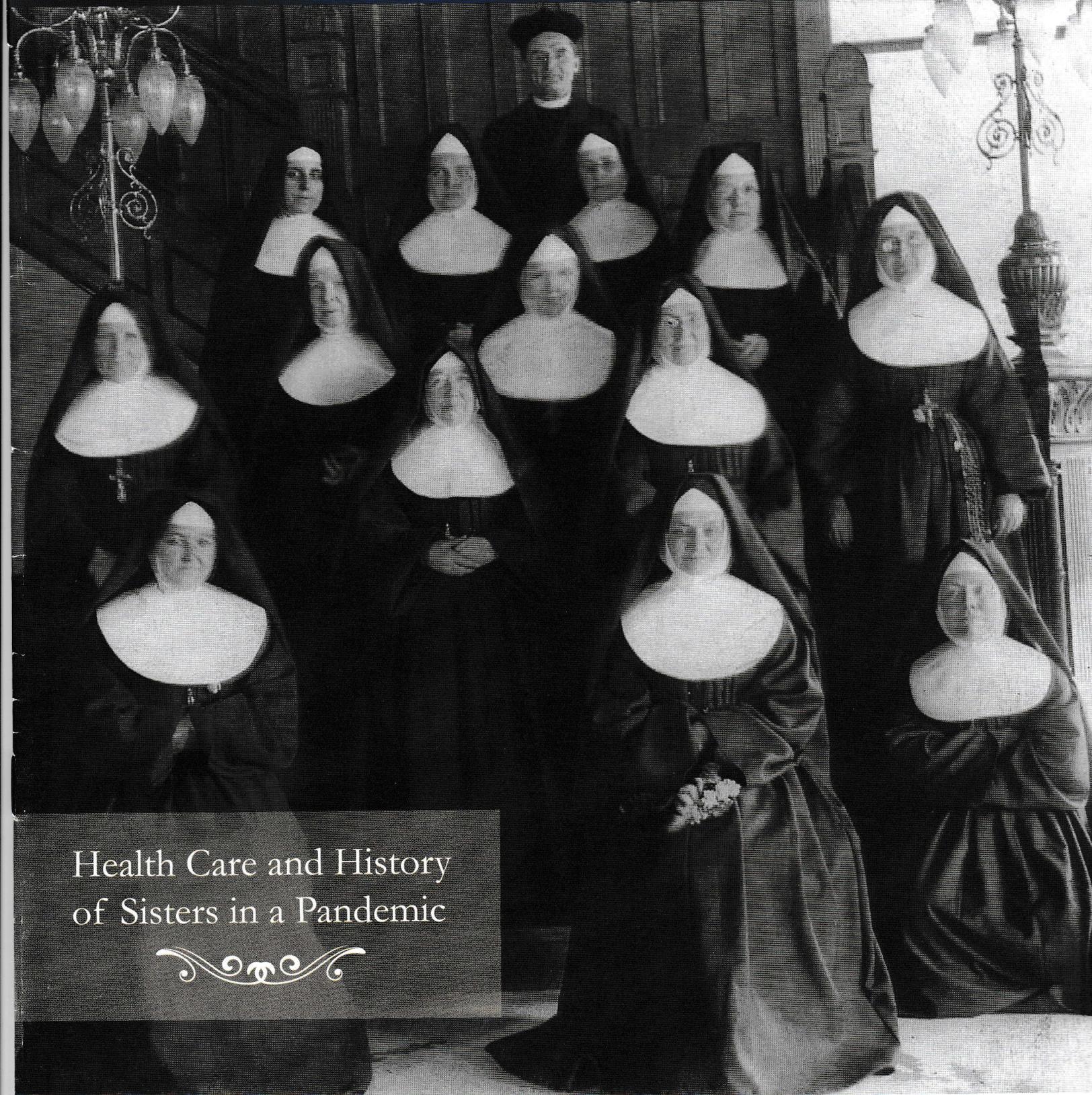


Presence

THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF BUFFALO MAGAZINE | SPRING 2021



Health Care and History
of Sisters in a Pandemic



A Message From the Leadership Team Sister Mary Lou Schnitzer, General Councilor



As I'm writing this, we have just reached the one-year mark of the global pandemic. Who would have thought we'd be experiencing a global pandemic? What a time it has been!

At the beginning of the pandemic, I thought of the plagues in the Bible. People complained and wanted them to come to an end. Many have been complaining about the restrictions placed on them. It's grown difficult to endure the pandemic.

I was once told that for every feeling I have, God has already experienced it- which is comforting to me. God knows how I feel—what I'm going through. I can go to God and talk about it, and God understands. Knowing this helps to get through this time.

One morning early in the pandemic, as I was praying, I looked out the window.

What I noticed was the trees were still standing. The wind was blowing through the trees. Nature is not disturbed by or in a panic over the pandemic. I am. (I was at that time.) Humans are questioning, wondering—feeling stressed about what to do—how to handle this—and nature is simply going through its cycle.... seemingly oblivious to the pandemic. There's something to learn from nature....to trust God is here—God will see us through.

With the passing of time, we began to realize how very important it is to be able to see one another and come together—with family, friends, and Community. FaceTime and Zoom were ways for us to see one another during the holidays and throughout these days. Still, the desire for life as it was—to be together—lingered in our hearts.

Many creative ways to be connected emerged out of our yearning for one another.

It was hard to decide not to celebrate St. Joseph's Day in 2020. Through people's creativity, Oktoberfest was a successful event. Even if we weren't dancing together or placing raffle tickets to win a prize, we were able to come together in a new way....to experience Oktoberfest in a new way.

Challenges presented themselves amidst the restrictions.

Many creative ways emerged to continue to be connected to one another. Also, during this time, people returned to a craft they did long ago. Others discovered or self-taught a new craft!

As time went on, following the guidelines seemed to help.

The development and distribution of the vaccines brought relief and hope—new life as spring approached.

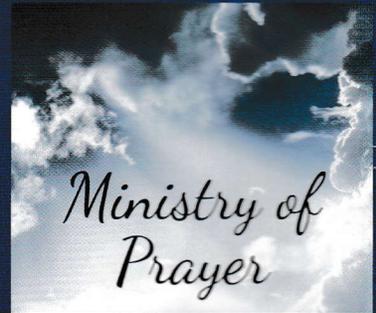
There are still many challenges amidst the restrictions as we slowly emerge from our cocoons.

Let us come together in gratitude for all that has been—as difficult and challenging as it has been. We are resilient—we're coming to a new life—a resurrection.

*New life struggling
to be born*

The seeds/bulbs were there
and now they are breaking
through last year's debris.

– Sr. Judy Justinger



The Sisters welcome requests
to pray for special intentions
or in memory of family and
friends.

Please contact:
Sister Marie Kerwin
(716) 759-6893 ext 102 or
mkerwin4975@yahoo.com

Sister Marie Kerwin, a member
of the Sisters' Community Life
Team, is Prayer Ministry
Coordinator.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to
justice everywhere. We are caught in
an inescapable network of mutuality,
tied in a single garment of destiny.
Whatever affects one directly,
affects all indirectly."

"Letter from Birmingham Jail,"

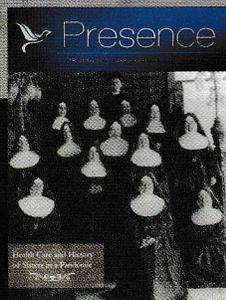
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 16, 1963



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Cover: The Sisters of St. Joseph with Father Baker at St. John's Protectors Foyer around 1900. Unfortunately, there were no names of Sisters recorded.
Read more on page 4.



*2020 is not the first
time the Sisters of
St. Joseph encountered
a pandemic.*

The History of Pandemics at Our Lady of Victory

by Jessica Anderson-Rath

The story of Father Baker's Missions at Our Lady of Victory draws attention to the impact pandemics had on shaping the history of those institutions. It's a story of resilience, perseverance, and adaptation.

St. Joseph's Orphanage in Lackawanna was originally founded in part as a response to the cholera pandemic of 1849. The outbreak that year in the Buffalo area had a high mortality rate, leaving behind many children without parents. Although there was an orphanage in Rochester, it was not considered safe to move children who had been exposed to the disease to another city.

Father Thomas Hines requested the assistance of the Sisters of St. Joseph in November 1856 to administer a new orphanage that was built on Limestone Hill. St. John's Protectors, a reform institution for teenagers, was constructed in 1864.

Many of the Sisters who were assigned to the orphanage and the protectory were young Irish immigrants. They grew up during the Great Famine of the 1840s, familiar with hunger and diseases. This set of life experiences helped them to cope with the hardships of the early years of Our Lady of Victory, where finances

were lean and food was scarce. It also provided them with practical experience on how to care for children who suffered from diseases such as measles, diphtheria, and tuberculosis.

Enter Father Nelson Baker. He became assistant pastor to Father Hines in 1864 and Superintendent in 1882. Father Baker entrusted the Sisters of St. Joseph to help establish Our Lady of Victory Infant Home in 1907. While reading a newspaper article, he became distressed at learning how many infants had been found buried under Lake Erie. He felt that Our Lady of Victory could help mothers and their babies who were in distress.

He entrusted Sister Marceline Brophy, Sister Josephine Hourihan, and Mrs. Amelia Matheson with the task of caring for the infants who were referred to Father Baker. The cornerstone of the Infant Home in Lackawanna was laid on March 25, 1907. The Sisters became the nurses and caretakers for both the infants and unwed mothers who stayed at the Infant Home.

The Sisters prevented disease outbreaks through quarantine and isolation. The Infant Home had a quarantine hospital on site. All children entering the home were sent there for a period of observation by the nursing staff. They were

allowed to leave only if the nurses observed no sign of infectious disease. St. Joseph's Orphanage, St. John's Protectory, and the Infant Home limited outside visitation when there were disease outbreaks.

The Sisters and Dr. Michael Sullivan, the head doctor for the orphanage, became convinced of the need to build a hospital for the Infant Home. Father Baker was initially skeptical about taking on the responsibility. During the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1919, a young girl was brought to the Infant Home with a bad case of influenza. Dr. Sullivan and the Sisters sent word to multiple

doctors to ensure that someone came to treat her. Five doctors arrived. While the child survived her illness, Dr. Sullivan used the opportunity to set up an impromptu meeting with them to plan the creation of a new hospital on site.

Our Lady of Victory Maternity and Infant Hospital was opened on October 1, 1919 by Sister Geraldine Jordan, Sister Josephine Hourihan, and Sister Concordia Friel. All three women had extensive experience in nursing. Although the hospital was intended for infants and mothers, it quickly attracted patients who were sick from the influenza pandemic. Father Baker and the Sisters realized



*The Sisters prevented
disease outbreaks
through quarantine
and isolation.*



that all people who came in needed proper medical care. Our Lady of Victory Hospital became fully accredited on October 14, 1932.

Fast forward to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sisters moved quickly to limit visitation to the Clarence residence. Only essential workers were permitted; they had daily temperature checks. Everyone wore a mask. Sisters left only for medical or other essential appointments. Quar-

Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, the Sisters continue to thrive.

antine procedures were put in place for any new resident or anyone returning from a hospital stay.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have stayed busy through the pandemic. They perform volunteer duties and participate in prayer ministry. They regularly reach out to the sick and housebound through phone calls and letters. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, the Sisters continue to thrive.



Sister Marion Zimmer

Teacher, Administrator, Social Justice Advocate,
Pastoral Associate and Inspiration

75 years as a Sister of St. Joseph

By Sister Judy Justinger



Sr. Marion Zimmer Srs. Judy Justinger, Marion Zimmer and Mary Walz Sr. Ann Oestreich

Sister Marion Zimmer was born in the Black Rock section of Buffalo. Her parents, Michael and Teresa Zimmer, were European immigrants who chose to settle among friends and relatives from the "old country." Her dad was an accomplished musician and multi-talented craftsman. Marion had three "much" older sisters (as she is fond of saying) and a younger brother. Marion was baptized at Saint Francis Xavier Parish, where she attended St Francis grade school, sang in the church choir, and graduated from Riverside High School. Her childhood girlfriends, playmates, and neighbors, the Skippers, have remained life-long friends and supporters.

One year after graduating from high school, she entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Buffalo. Interestingly, she stated that she was never overly pious and had no long-term intention of becoming a Sister. People were shocked when she announced she was entering the convent, but her friends were supportive, and so was her sister, who had moved back home with her two children when her husband unexpectedly died in an accident. Thanks to her friends, the Skippers, the Parish Pastor, and her family, Marion entered with one other young woman, S. Joan Campana (Mary John), on Sept. 8, 1945.

After entering, Marion attended Mount St. Joseph Teachers College (Medaille College), where she earned a Bachelor's Degree. After graduation, she taught in elementary school for five years. During that

time, she received her Master's degree in education and began work on a doctoral degree at the University of Buffalo. Marion taught at Medaille College for 19 years and held both teaching and administrative positions. She left the college when the congregation asked her to begin a Center for Justice to educate our Sisters and lead them to action. She was joined in this endeavor by Sisters from three other religious communities. Together, they acted as the liaison for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in Western New York. Marion served as Director for the Center for eight years. She was an active participant and leader in several local, national and ecumenical organizations dedicated to working for peace and supporting individuals' rights. She was among 25 American women selected by Church Women United to visit Northern Ireland for a "reconciliation experience" amidst Ireland's turbulent national conflict.

At the *Center for Justice*, she worked for the poor and marginalized people and advocated for them. After eight years as the Director, she took a sabbatical year to strengthen her commitment to social justice. She traveled across the country and stayed with various Sisters of Saint Joseph to see what they were doing. What she saw was "utterly amazing." During this time, she had the opportunity to travel to Mexico, Nicaragua, and Cuba as a part of the educational experience. At the end of this experience, she

committed herself to work as a Coordinator for Social Outreach in a parish in Tucson, AZ. She described this experience as "life changing" and said, "I had never worked in a parish. This became the most life-giving and beautiful experience." Marion remained in Tucson for 11 years.

Sister Marion returned to Buffalo to establish Hope Hospitality House at Saint Matthew Parish that became part of the congregation's prison ministry outreach. For more than four and a half years, individuals who had family members in one of our area's prisons had an opportunity to stay overnight, have a meal, converse, and receive transportation to and from the prison for visits. Volunteers also provided transportation to any individuals in Buffalo who just needed a ride to visit loved ones in prison.

Today, Sister Marion, who joined the congregation in 1945, lives at the Clarence Residence, where she enjoys lending a hand for anything needed. She is especially interested in the activities of the Sisters and Associates of The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee.

When asked how she felt about her life as a Sister of St. Joseph, she folded her hands in prayer, lifted them up, and said, "It's the greatest gift I ever received, over and over again. I cannot thank the Lord enough."

Drawn to the Community: Jim Mang, SSJ Associate

By Audrey Mang



I believe Jim's first regular connection with our SSJ community was in the late 1960s when he biked over to the convent at 66 Agassiz Circle for morning Mass and breakfast with Sisters Donna Sweet, Pat Reen, and Rita Kane.

Along with Fr. Ron Lord and Sister Philip Marie Cirincione, Jim was a part of the first experimental team ministry of the diocese. Established in the '70s, it served Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Boniface Churches in Buffalo's Central City. It was considered a big step at the time to have a woman religious working on equal footing with the priests.

When Sister Marion Zimmer was starting the Center for Justice in 1974 to provide resources and presentations on social justice issues, one of her first thoughts was calling Jim for his suggestions on focus and organizing materials. She put his library degree

and his justice and peace background to good use! In 1977, Jim began teaching part-time at Mount St. Joseph Academy and then became a full-time staff member at the Center along with sisters from the other supporting communities. The issues were huge: economic injustices, nuclear weapons, human rights, violence at all levels. And yet, Jim's great joy was to be welcomed every day to work with women who believed in Gospel values. He seldom talked just about "peace." It was always "justice and peace." Jim trusted the truth that we can't have the latter without first achieving the former.

The Center became unable to continue with all of its staff in 1980, and Jim moved to the WNY Peace Center as Director in 1980. He was indefatigable until his retirement in 2000 and was noted for never throwing away the signs after a rally. "You

never know when we'll have to go back again."

Following the community's adoption of the Corporate Commitment in 1996, Jim and I were asked to make several presentations to broaden and clarify what the commitment to non-violence might mean, individually and collectively. Drawn by that experience and seeking a fuller spiritual life, we became Associates in 1999. Our commitment to the community as Associates, and the personal relationships that grew stronger over the years, were very important to Jim and fed his spirit as they have mine.

The community wanted to develop a center devoted to nonviolence in Sister Karen Klimczak's name following her murder in 2006. Jim became a guiding light for the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence and assisted in making it a reality in February 2007. He and I served as co-directors until Vivian

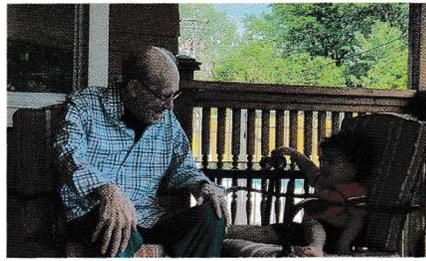


Waltz was hired in fall 2007, and he continued on the advisory board until late in 2019.

In 2008, *Peaceprints: Sister Karen's Paths to Nonviolence* was published. Included in it are several reflections by SSJ sisters and associates. Jim and I were part of the editorial committee that gathered and also wrote content under the direction of editor Evelyn Brady.

Jim served on many committees in the congregation: Spirituality, Earth/Justice, Paschal Model, and JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation). We were faithful participants in a monthly faith sharing group and in four chapters and special friends of the sisters at the Clarence residence, the Peace Pole erected at the Clarence Residence in 2018.

Representing the Buffalo SSJs, Jim attended annual meetings of the Federation JPIC around the country from 2006 to 2015. During those sessions, he introduced the 1452 Papal Bull known as the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and spoke of the damage it continues to cause to indigenous peoples around the world.



Jim's contact with the National Catholic Reporter editor led to a Special Report on the Doctrine being published in August 2015.

Often Jim was the only man involved in Buffalo and Federation gatherings, making a lot of gentle teasing irresistible to both Sisters and Associates.

Judy Cannato, author and spiritual director, always gave Jim a lot to think over. I found a 2010 talk by Judy among Jim's papers. The following quotes from her point to the spiritual guidance Jim was looking for when he became an Associate. "We must remember that we are the Spirit's intentions, each of us. Each of us is an expression of Incomprehensible Holy Mystery's intention to engage the world, to become more present in the world. ... We trust every challenge and opportunity that faces us, whether we have chosen it or it has chosen us.... We remember who we are ... co-creators with Spirit... hesitant and willing, reluctant and confident, fearful and free.



... [we are aware] of how connected we all are to the Holy and to one another, a deep knowing that this unity is best served through love and compassion and healing presence."

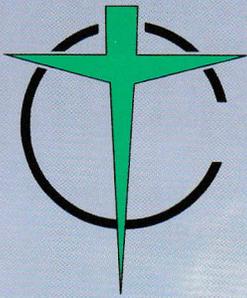
The challenge of working for justice paled beside the trials of Jim's last nine years. Alzheimer's disease robbed him of his handwriting, speech, and coherent creative thinking. Still, it never took away his gentle kindness or compassion for what my life as his caregiver had become.

Jim's favorite scripture was the Beatitudes, and people most often connected him to the one about being a peacemaker. This quote from Neil Douglas-Klotz invites us to a different choice: Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the consistent in heart: those whose passion is electrified by deep, abiding purpose; those whose lives radiate from a core of love; they shall see God everywhere."

And Jim did see God everywhere and, as much as humanly possible, in everyone.

Jim Mang was ordained in 1965, served parishes in Puerto Rico and Buffalo, and taught at the Diocesan Prep Seminary before resigning from the priesthood in 1977. Jim and Audrey have been active SSJ Associates since 1999. Jim died on January 8, 2021, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. The Buffalo News article on Jim can be found at buffalossj.org.



THE BUFFALO CURSILLO MOVEMENT

BY: CAROL A. STEIR, ASSOCIATE



Buffalo SSJs were in on the ground floor of the Buffalo Cursillo movement!

Sister Anna Kessen and future Associate Lenore Rosica participated in the first Women's Cursillo at St. Mary's Business School on Broadway (now closed) in 1966. Attending the second were Sisters Mary Anne Devine and Brigid Walsh, along with Bernice Bradley (now an Associate). I made Cursillo in 1969.

What did we experience?

"Cursillo de Cristiandad" (Spanish for "Short Course in Christianity") is a lay movement in the Catholic Church. During participants' opening weekend, the method learned is to be lived on their "Fourth Day" -- for the rest of their lives.

Apostles of God's love by baptism, Cursillo makes men and women part of a supportive community sustained through faith friendship groups and monthly diocesan reunions which include Mass, witness and doctrinal talks. It seeks to help participants grow in friendship with God and self-knowledge. They seek to evangelize their total environment by example (living a Christ-like life) or by open invitation. "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ."

With the Spanish church already in ferment after the country's Civil War, the movement began on the island of Mallorca, Spain, during

World War II. A young men's Catholic Action group headed by Eduardo Bonnin Aguilio (now Servant of God) developed the Cursillo method to bring people back to a lively faith.

The first Cursillo in the U.S. was held in Waco, TX in 1957; many followed. Until 1961, all were in Spanish. The same year, the first English-speaking weekends were held in five U.S. states. By the 1960s, Cursillo had total support from the American bishops. The movement came to Buffalo in 1965 via Louis and Elizabeth Pauly, who moved here from Erie, PA.

Carol A. Steir became the historian for the Buffalo Cursillo movement in 2008. Her requests to Cursillistats for material yielded an onslaught—"I felt like the Sorcerer's Apprentice!" Jessica Anderson-Rath, the congregational archivist, guided her in preserving materials and invited Carol to write an article for Presence.

A Year in the Life of the Sisters of St. Joseph

by Jessica Anderson-Rath

The Sisters of St. Joseph have remained active in many ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. From calls to loved ones, reading and playing computer games, our Sisters have adapted to the challenges this past year by volunteering their presence and their time to their community.

Sister Dorothy de Maria stays busy by attending a daily exercise program in the Clarence Residence. The LIFE program at Catholic Health sent various exercises that Sisters could work on independently. Sister Jeanne Eberle and Sister Dorothy began doing the exercises together last year, with additional Sisters joining the program over time. They meet at 2:30 PM most weekdays in the community room while performing the exercises from their chairs. Sister Dorothy states that the group gets to “spend a social moment together where we can laugh together and play games” while still maintaining CDC social distancing guidelines.

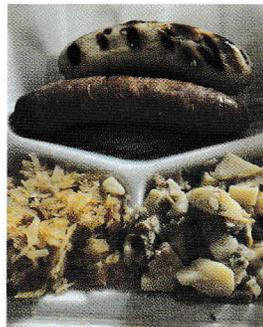


The Sisters in Clarence have adapted the format of their prayer services due to visitor restrictions. The services are indeed a group effort that relies on the participation of all who attend. Sister Meg Norris leads many morning communion services, and Sister Ellen McCarthy and Sister Jeanne Eberle facilitate

additional services each week. Sister Terry Moore and Sister Marie Kerwin contribute reflections about the scriptures and on current events. Sister Joan Wagner writes homilies, and Sister Judy Justinger facilitated programming for Lent, and Sister Eileen Joyce creates petitions for Communion services. Sister Eileen clarifies that writing the petitions involves: “extensive thought and preparation as they are based on Scripture and the other readings.”

Sister Virginia Young serves on the Board of Directors for St. Mary’s School for the Deaf Foundation Committee. This fundraising provides further educational and extracurricular opportunities for the students. The Board of Directors is focused on raising public consciousness about deaf culture and St. Mary’s School for the Deaf. She explains that she had her first meeting for the Committee this year on Zoom. She affirms: “I look forward to learning more about what goals that they want to be working on this year.”

Sister Dorothy de Maria has remarked that one positive change that has taken place for the Sisters of St. Joseph in the past year has been that they have further opportunities to “use their diverse talents and perspectives to help other people.” They will continue to have a great time doing that in 2021.



Oktoberfest 2020: *Different and Successful*

by Jessica Anderson-Rath

The Sisters of St. Joseph's 19th annual Oktoberfest on September 25, 2020, raised over \$34,000 for the congregation and its ministries. This is the largest total in the history of the event. The Sisters donated \$3,000 from this total to St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish's Food Pantry and \$500 to the food pantry at Clarence Presbyterian Church.

The drive-thru dinner from 1-3 pm at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Cheektowaga provided participants with delicious German cuisine at an affordable ticket price of \$10 per plate. Although this celebration was different from previous years, it was still enjoyable.

Given the COVID-19 Pandemic, Marilyn Peterson, Special Events Coordinator for the Congregation, and Sister Mary Ann Kolb, Pastoral Care/Parish Outreach Coordinator at St. Aloysius, began wondering during the summer about having Oktoberfest. Due to concerns with the pandemic, it was decided that a traditional indoor event posed to many health risks.

Marilyn recalls, "I figured out we could still send out letters with raffle tickets, and we could ask for sponsors." Marilyn and Mission Advancement Director Meghan Burke were delighted to receive many requests for raffle tickets and have the support of 373 sponsors. "Our donors are so vital to our ministries, and we were relieved to see their support despite not being able to hold the event to its standard capacity," Burke stated.

Marilyn decided that a drive-thru event could replace a sit-down dinner. Each dinner plate included two sausages, homemade German potato salad, sauerkraut, rye bread, and a dessert. Prospective volunteers would deliver food to cars while wearing face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Msgr. Peter Popadick, the pastor of St. Aloysius, graciously permitted the Sisters to use the parish lot.

Our Sisters express their most sincere gratitude to all of our 2020 Oktoberfest Donors. Thank you to each and everyone for making an impact in the lives of our Sisters, The Clarence Food Pantry, and at The Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Church.

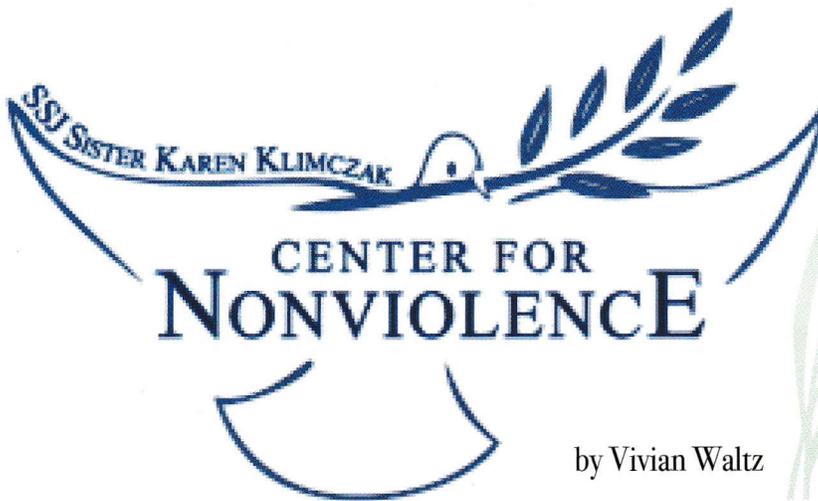
Configuring the logistics for this year's event was challenging. The customary preparation of food in the Clarence Residence kitchen by volunteers over a three-evening period held the potential health risks. Clearly, a new strategy had to be adopted. Several of the Sisters from the residence peeled potatoes and cut onions, while following proper social distancing guidelines. Longtime event volunteers Janet and Larry Vito offered to cook the potato salad and bacon in their home and prepare the sauerkraut at the church. As Marilyn recalls, "I do not know what we would do without them."

Another challenge for event organizers was figuring out how to prepare the sausages, a special menu feature. Denise Miller, Director of Dining Services at the Clarence Residence, stepped in. She grilled 100 pounds of sausage in the kitchen of the residence.

The sausage and other food were transported by event volunteers from the residence to St. Aloysius Gonzaga on Saturday, September 24, 2020. The following morning, a group of volunteers placed food into takeout containers. They soon became "runners," delivering the packages to individual cars. More than 260 dinners sold within an hour!

Oktoberfest has evolved over the years since the first celebration on October 17, 1999. SSJ Associates Dr. William and Donna Mae Braun organized the event. On October 28, 2000, the Sisters collaborated with Our Lady of Peace Church in Clarence. St. Aloysius Gonzaga has held Oktoberfest in recent years, a special place in the heart of the Sisters. Many taught at the school and fondly recalled their time there.

The Sisters appreciate everyone who came out to Oktoberfest 2020. They also want to thank Msgr. Peter Popadick and the Parish of St. Aloysius Gonzaga for their continued support. They greatly appreciate the participation of the volunteers and sponsors. A special thank you goes to Marilyn Peterson, Meghan Burke, Sister Mary Ann Kolb, Larry and Janet Vito, Denise Miller, and the SSJ Leadership for their contributions.



An update from the Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence

by Vivian Waltz

“Why are things so broken?” sang a voice in a video prayer that was part of the annual April event of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence. Presented via Zoom and Facebook, “Media Madness: Providing Youth Alternatives to Violence” featured Rev. Frederick A. Gelsey, Sr., who shared his belief that homicide is a learned behavior influenced by violent music, television, movies, and video games.

A new initiative of the Center whose aim is to counteract these negative influences was introduced during the event. The Youth Homicide Education and Prevention Media Arts Project will include education about the brainwashing effects of violence in the media, an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop focused on preventing violence, and the studio production of audio/video media with a positive, uplifting message. Fundraising for the project began at the online event and is ongoing.

The Sister Karen Center has recently begun an AVP workshop on Monday and Wednesday evenings at YO! New York, the Youth Opportunity Center in Depew. The workshop is part of their youth development program for young people ages 13-18 designed to assist youth in attaining their personal life goals, while teaching them critical life skills.

Plans are well underway for Camp Peaceprints™ 2021 in July. “Explore the World” will include each of the

seven continents, as well as the oceans and atmosphere/space, and then put it all together. Besides in-person or virtual field trips, we’ll share customs and culture, languages and arts, and peoples and their stories. Mother Earth and the creatures we live here with, geography and science, will enrich our appreciation of People and the Planet, and what we need to do for sustainable lifestyles that work together for the common good.

“Building relationships by working in coalition with community groups which promote nonviolence” is one of the four goals of the Sister Karen Center. We have been an active partner with the Buffalo Peacemakers in securing food for distribution to families in need during the pandemic. Although all volunteer programs are still suspended at NYS Correctional Facilities, our work with Free the People has borne fruit in the passage of the NYS Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act. As a member of Live Free, the Faith Leaders Caucus of VOICE-Buffalo, we have been focusing on police reform and working for fair and nonviolent law enforcement practices in our community.

There is no shortage of work to be done in healing the brokenness around us. We are grateful for all of your support in fulfilling the mission of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence to eliminate violence in ourselves, in our society and in our world. Together, we leave Peaceprints™!

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Marian Schwenk, SSJ

October 1, 1933 – December 30, 2020



Hearing about missionaries whose difficult circumstances require them to eat raw fish gave young and fish-hating Marian Schwenk a nudge toward religious life! “I thought, oh my goodness, how much they must have loved God to do all of that!” Loving God herself, she followed through by entering the Sisters

of St. Joseph in September 1951.

She pronounced her final vows in August 1959. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount St. Joseph Teachers College (now Medaille) in 1962 and a master’s in education from Medaille in 1970.

Sister’s 23 years in elementary education brought her to city and rural schools. In her last two assignments she experienced variety—moving from one year at a three-classroom school (St. Patrick, Java Center) to a 17-classroom school (Immaculate Conception, East Aurora) for nine years! She was principal at both.

Always interested in spirituality, Sister studied in the Institute of Spiritual Leadership Center of Theological Studies at the Jesuit School of Theology (Chicago) and received certification in 1976. She then served on the faculty of Mount St. Joseph Academy as campus minister and teacher of religious education until 1985.

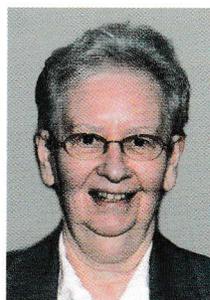
Sister Marian helped mentor young Sisters as a member of her congregation’s Formation Team for several years.

Called to administration at the Clarence Residence in 1985, Sister brought the gentleness and attention to detail to varied roles helping her retired Sisters. She served as co-coordinator of the Residence until 2003 and then as spiritual care coordinator. Whatever the tasks, she described them as “all helping the whole.” She retired in 2012.

Sister Marian entered into new life at the Clarence Residence after a period of declining health. She was 87. She is survived by five nephews and many great nieces and nephews.

Sister Mary Glose, SSJ, (Sister Michaeline)

March 3, 1932 – February 28, 2021



Sister Mary Glose died Feb. 28, 2021 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Residence, Clarence, after a period of declining health. She was 88.

Born in Buffalo March 3, 1932, to Clement and Henrietta (Miller) Glose, Sister entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in September 1947; she pronounced her

final vows in August 1953. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount St. Joseph Teachers College (now Medaille) in 1967 and a master’s in elementary education from Canisius College in 1974.

Sister’s 54 years in elementary education brought her to several city and rural schools, almost exclusively as a first grade teacher. She was principal of St. Aloysius Gonzaga School in Cheektowaga 1967-1974.

Beginning in 1977, she became a central part of St. Joseph University Heights parish. She taught first grade through 2005 and took on the added responsibility of Assistant Principal for five years. Sister then ministered as Pastoral Associate until 2009, bringing a calming presence to hospitalized parishioners.

Parents and older students often spoke of the patience and creativity Sister brought to her teaching. She enjoyed needlepoint and the sketching she did in art classes.

She moved to the Clarence Residence in 2013 and served as a driver for the Sisters for several years.

Sister is survived by her sister, Bernice Leising, nieces and nephews and grandnieces and nephews.

Sister Martha Joseph (Regina Marie), SSJ

July 15, 1922 – March 3, 2021



Sister Martha Joseph, a World War II worker, and a long-time teacher, parish minister and volunteer, died March 3, 2021, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Residence, Clarence NY. She was 98.

Born in Buffalo July 15, 1922, to Diab and Attaf Anne (Attea), Sister was the youngest of 10 children. She

worked in the rationing department at Buffalo City Hall during World War II before entering the Sisters of St. Joseph in Sept. 1944. She made her final vows in August 1950.

She received a bachelor's in education from Mount St. Joseph Teachers College in 1962 and a master's in special education for the deaf in 1972 from Canisius College.

During 59 years of active ministry Sister taught in Medina, Buffalo, Falconer and Alden. She was assigned to minister at St. Mary's School for the Deaf three times. Over those years (23), she served as teacher, supervisor of boys and girls, coordinator and manager of captioned films for the deaf. Flexible, she taught at all levels. "When they needed a Sister, I was there."

Active in St. John Maron Parish, Sister was bookkeeper and coordinated the religion program for several years.

Sister spent seven years in the Southern Tier, volunteering at W.C.A. Hospital, being a pastoral minister and teaching CCD at St. Patrick Parish, Randolph. She gathered lay people interested in the spirituality of the Sisters of S. Joseph and arranged for them to become Associates of the Sisters.

Although "retired" in 2005, Sister was active at the Clarence Residence, caring for her sister, Sister Thecla, and assisting with social programs for the Sisters. She embraced the ministry of prayer for many years and often said, "I never had a bad day in my life."

Sister is survived by many nieces and nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Sister Grace Cascia, SSJ (Sister Ann Christine)

July 17, 1927 – March 11, 2021



Sister Grace's friends and colleagues remember her as a generous, precise woman, always ready with a response. She ministered as a nurse and pastoral associate during her seven decades as a Sister of St. Joseph.

The daughter of Christy and Anna (DeMaria) Cascia, Sister was born July

17, 1927 in Buffalo. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in September 1944 and pronounced her final vows in August 1950. She taught primary and middle grades in parish schools in Buffalo, Medina and Dunkirk for eight years.

Lackawanna was Sister's home for two decades, with ministry at Our Lady of Victory Infant Home and Our Lady of Victory Academy. After receiving a B.S. in Nursing from D'Youville College in 1962, she served as a pediatric nurse and later a head nurse at Our Lady of Victory Hospital until 1974. Sister Susan Williams, who worked with her, recalls her as very compassionate and well-liked, an excellent mentor to new staff.

"Moving just down the street," she worked with Dr. James Dunn as an office assistant for several years.

Sister began a new area of ministry in 1978: pastoral associate. She served at St. Francis of Assisi Parish for 20 years, retiring in 1999. She died at the Clarence Residence at age 93.

She is survived by her sister Donata ("Dinny,") Battista, many nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.



Sisters of St. Joseph

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Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021, in his Apostolic Letter, the *Partis Code*. The Pope noted in his letter many similarities between the challenges Joseph faced and those confronting our hard-working people today – especially during this challenging year. The Sisters of St. Joseph are excited for this year of celebration for our patron saint.

Daily Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

– From Pope Francis, *Patris Corde*

A note from Meghan Burke and Sister Elizabeth Savage, editors and Jessica Anderson-Rath, contributor, and Sr. Judith Justinger SSJ, Presence contributor
Special thanks to Joyce Strobel for graphic design services, Bob Zotara for previous photography services and Meghan Burke for photos. It is the Sisters' sincere intention that all information is correct, please let us know if there are any errors. Please contact Meghan Burke at 716-759-6454 ext 220 or mburke@buffalossj.org.