



Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

The Bridge

BETHANY HEALTH CARE CENTER + BETHANY HILL SCHOOL + FONTBONNE ACADEMY
JACKSON SCHOOL + REGIS COLLEGE + SAINT JOSEPH PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL + WALNUT PARK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Building Relationships with a New Genre of Theater

by Kathleen Ryan, Student

In the halls of Fontbonne Academy, this past summer was quite dramatic, to say the least. Fontbonne Alum from the class of 2013, KJ Moran and current Fontbonne student Kathleen Ryan developed an idea to create a theatre company specifically focused on promoting social justice. Within a few months, the Justice Theatre Company was established, the first production chosen, a cast selected, and the inaugural performances of *Shakespeare Behind Bars* was performed to rave reviews on August 15-16.



KJ Moran, currently a freshman at the College of William and Mary, and Kathleen Ryan, a senior at Fontbonne, founded the Justice Theatre Company with the idea that “young people can change the world by using the medium of theatre to perform plays that expose and raise awareness of social injustices.” The Justice Theatre Company plans to donate the proceeds from its productions to organizations that work to end the injustices featured in the show.

This past summer’s inaugural production was focused on the issue of education in prison. A memoir written by Jean Trounstein, *Shakespeare Behind Bars* describes Jean Trounstein’s experiences teaching English and directing Shakespeare plays in a women’s prison in Framingham, Massachusetts. With the author’s permission, KJ, Kathleen and Larissa Jeanniton, the show’s director, spent countless hours adapting the memoir into a script specifically for the Justice Theatre Company’s production. A thrilling tale that follows seven women and their journeys through life, literature, lock-ups, litigations, and larceny, *Shakespeare Behind Bars* reveals the humanity of these women prisoners who, with help from their teacher Jean, overcome the obstacles of performing Shakespeare in prison.

While the national recidivism rate is 67.5%, education in prison reduces this percentage by 29%. Prisoners enrolled in college classes in prison commit 75% fewer infractions than incarcerated people who were not enrolled. Education also offers an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and

inequality, making it less likely that children of prisoners end up in prison. Through the loss of Pell Grant Funding in 1994, almost all education opportunities in prison were eliminated. In 2008, some funding was renewed, but not enough. To directly target the problem, the Justice Theatre Company partnered with the *Prison Books Program* in Quincy and donated all proceeds from the show to support the education of prisoners.

In addition to putting on the play, the Justice Theater Company hosted a question and answer session with the author of the memoir after the opening night performance and a panel discussion about the state of education in prison following another performance.

The Justice Theater Company is just one of the many ways that Fontbonne Academy reaches out to the dear neighbor and builds the kind of personal relationships that not only unite us with one another but that help to make our world a better place. The students, the alumnae, and all those involved in this past summer’s performance would agree that the relationships they built with one another and with the author of the memoir, Jean Trounstein were transformative and life-changing. The opportunity to learn about such an important justice issue was eye-opening to the cast as well as the audiences who attended this amazing production!

ABOVE: THE CAST OF SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS

Experiencing the CSJ Charism in Le Puy and Lyon

by Mary Mitchell, Associate Program Director, Mission Effectiveness Facilitator

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Mission Statement:

The Bridge is the official communication of the Office of Sponsored Ministries to inform, educate and inspire the community linked to CSJ Sponsored Ministries.

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In the first weeks of October, I traveled with Sandra Selvarajah from Walnut Park Montessori School to Le Puy, France, for a week of instruction, reflection and discussion at the Sisters of Saint Joseph International Center. Surrounded by breath-taking cathedrals, ancient cobbled streets and soaring volcanic hills, we gathered with eight other participants from CSJ ministries across the United States and Canada to learn more about our CSJ roots and charism. It was a profound and sacred week for us all. Led by Delores Clerico, SSJ, in the workshop, "Charism Alive in Ministries Founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph," we worked hard and learned much.

I feel honored to have participated in this once-in-a-lifetime experience and grateful to our CSJ Leadership Team for making it possible. In a series of guided tours, Sandra and I walked in the footsteps of the first six sisters in Le Puy and of Mother Saint John Fontbonne in Lyon. We learned of their courageous beginnings, their unique, enduring charism, and the meaning of each in our own work in our sponsored-ministries. It would take a book to share with you the ways in which this week changed my thinking and my heart. I came to a deeper understanding of the meaning of spirituality and of how, for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the essence of God is to be in relationship with others. Committed then, as they are now, to the love of God and of the Dear Neighbor without distinction, the first Sisters lived their charism by daring to nurse the hungry, the orphaned, the ill and impoverished in post-famine, post-plague France. Re-founding the order in Lyon after the French Revolution, Mother Saint John Fontbonne continued to "turn in love toward God and others" as she and the Sisters found the inherent dignity in each person they served. Isn't this the charism that all of us working in sponsored ministries strives to live each day?

I returned to Bethany Hill School revitalized by my experience in LePuy and Lyon, grateful for the gift of my fellow-staff members who live out our charism each day. I can identify our charism in the loving presence we offer our residents, and in the loving way they turn toward each other in friendship and support. I can see the vision of those first six Sisters, weaving lace and dreams in their small stone kitchen, continuing to express itself on our little hill in Framingham.

ABOVE: SANDRA SELVARAJAH AND MARY MITCHELL IN THE ORIGINAL 1650 KITCHEN OF THE FIRST SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH IN LE PUY, FRANCE.

The Joy of the Gospel

by Rachel Sansone, Student

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

Six months ago, if I were asked about a place where I was perfectly content, I would have said my home without hesitation; however, after stepping out of my comfort zone further than I ever could have envisioned, I no longer have a specific comfort place.

During this time, the core value of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, "serving our Dear Neighbor" was the focus of my journey. Daily almost every person I know searches for a place where he or she feels safe. When I traveled to the Dominican Republic with ten individuals I hardly knew, I set off full of trepidation. I knew the purpose of my trip was to serve those less fortunate, but I couldn't help but feel a sense of unease. How was I going to make it through the week in an unfamiliar, developing foreign country with people who were strangers to me! I thought, "The Sisters of Saint Joseph fulfill this core value every day, so I should be able to make it my main focus for a week."

As the date of our departure approached, I grew more apprehensive. Gazing out the airplane window, listening to the commotion of the flight attendants and a little boy with nausea, I repeatedly asked myself, "Why did I sign up for this?" Despite my concerns, the moment I stepped foot in the Dominican Republic I disregarded the scorching sun as it glared off my skin and realized there was a purpose for my service. As my eyes scanned the poverty that surrounded me, something changed inside of me. I had never seen such devastation but that was not what made me feel so unsettled. I reminded myself what my purpose was: to listen to God's call, to make my community proud, and to serve my Dear Neighbors. It was to see how people handled, with optimism and hope, obstacles that faced them. From then on, none of the minor aspects of my life, which I had always fretted about, seemed to matter anymore. I no longer cared nor worried about what I looked like, what I smelt like, or even how I felt. It was not about me anymore. I realized that the purpose of my week in the D.R. was not to concentrate on myself, but rather to focus on making difference for the people struggling just to survive.

To my surprise, I felt completely content. The people I met were the most accepting people I had ever encountered. For the first time in my life, I understood what community meant. From the moment we stepped foot into the village, I was surrounded by unconditional love. I experienced this in Filomena a mother of two children. We moved her from one poor village to a better place. Her joy was

more beautiful than the decorations of her new home. I realized that serving my Dear Neighbor, Filomena, and sharing her joy was a gift to me- one that I will always cherish.

I met children throughout the village and the simple act of playing games together taught me the real meaning of community...world-wide community. Whether they realized it or not, these innocent children taught me what it means to be a good person. We had the time of our life sharing those games! We were living the Core Values of the Sisters of Saint Joseph: "Care for the neighbor and perform all that is needed. Neglect no person." We loved each other and differences didn't matter. We were continuously looking out for one another and providing the most admirable amount of support.

The mission of this service immersion trip was now clear to me. I know that meeting my Dear Neighbors in the D.R. opened my eyes to the needs of all around me. I am now inspired to be more and to do more for others. I learned about the character and generosity of the Saint Joseph Prep people who went with me. They taught me more about myself than I could have imagined. For the first time in my life, I perceived that I did not need a place for myself to be comfortable; rather I needed to learn how to be comfortable wherever God leads me. This is the *Joy of the Gospel*. I want to thank the Sisters of Saint Joseph for showing me I can serve the Dear Neighbor in my daily life and around the world. Thank you for teaching us for 140 years that our lives can make a difference.

BELOW: RACHEL SANSONE VOLUNTEERING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Unity and Love Connects with God in Every Age

by Ann Marie Ghiloni, CSJ, Director of Mission Effectiveness

God has found a way to unite with every human being in every age.

I have reflected on this line of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*, paragraph 113 many times during the month of October. Why October? This month has three significant dates for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, October 6, 1618, October 15, 1650 and October 2, 1873.

Jean-Pierre Médaille, SJ was born October 6, 1618. Little did his parents know that this newborn family member would be a Jesuit and a founder of a religious community of women. Médaille had a great love for God and for the poor, the widow, the orphan and the marginalized people who were forgotten by society. He was assigned to areas in southwestern France where he met and served women and men who desired to deepen their love for God and the people in need. A group of six women gathered in Le Puy-en-Velay, France to form a small community. Jean-Pierre served as their spiritual director. His relationship with the Bishop of Le Puy, Henri du Maupas, led to Bishop du Maupas recognizing this small group on October 15, 1650. He signed the lettres pattern and named them the Daughters of Saint Joseph. Small communities spread throughout France and they served the dear neighbor without distinction up to the time of the French Revolution. During the revolution many of the sisters secretly continued to serve the neighbor despite their property being confiscated, five sisters suffering death at the guillotine, others imprisoned and others returning to their

family homes. Despite this tumultuous time, God found a way to remain united with the Daughters of Joseph and the people they continued to serve.

God called Sister Jeanne Fontbonne to leave her family home in Bas-en-Basset in 1807 to live with a group of lay women known as the Black Daughters at the request of Cardinal Fesch, Bishop of Lyon. He asked Jeanne to



instruct them in the ways and spirituality of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. This band of women made profession after a year and thus the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Lyon came into being. The sisters “like a swarm of bees” formed new communities under the guidance of Mother Saint John Fontbonne who was elected Superior General. Many lay women and men became patrons of the Sisters which allowed them to expand their mission of connecting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. At the request of Bishop Rosati, Bishop of St. Louis Missouri, Mother St. John sent six sisters to the United States. A new chapter in the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph begins. Once again the God of Great Love makes a connection to unite with the people in the New World in 1836 that unites and transforms lives through the ages.

October 2, 1873 the Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Boston, Massachusetts to serve a new wave of immigrants who chose to settle in Boston. The ever-widening circles of the Spirit of God to serve and unite neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God continues today in Boston and beyond. In every age God has found a way for the Sisters of Saint Joseph to serve, connect and unite their neighbors with gentleness, love, and compassion.

ABOVE RIGHT: JEAN PIERRE MEDAILLE, SJ; LEFT: MOTHER REGIS CASSERLY, BOSTON FOUNDER

God by God's sheer grace, draws us to God.

Living into the CSJ Spirituality

by Sandra Selvarajah, Mission Effectiveness Facilitator



It was a moment of tremendous inspiration and wonder to walk the same medieval streets of Le Puy valley once walked by Father Medaille and our pioneer sisters of CSJ Mission. It is here that the Sisters served the community reaching out to the sick and the orphans, and visiting the prisoners. With such a spirit of service continuing to grow, now three hundred and fifty years later, the Congregation has spread its wings to embrace over 10,000 members in over 55 countries. The host for the conference, the International Center of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Le Puy-en-Velay, celebrated 10 years of existence on October 15, 2014. Over 1,000 visitors have passed through the Center to deepen their understanding of the CSJ history and to connect globally and locally.

The week-long experience with attendees and events gave an enlightening experience of some of the words we commonly use: spirituality, charism and unioning. Spirituality involves self-fulfillment, self-contentment, and living true to who we are in the deepest sense in relationship with God and others. In Greek, Charism means “gratuity” - a gift of grace freely given to God’s people. Unioning is to live and work to bring all people into union with God and with one another. A distinctive mark of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is the quality of “presence” - meaning being fully engaged with all of our senses in what is at hand, here and now. To live in the present moment is to live joyfully, aware of and in service to those who are in need.

It was exciting to be at the discussion on spiritual practice: developing a listening heart and mindfulness. However, it



*To live in the present moment is to live joyfully,
aware of and in service to those who are in need.*

takes nurturing and intentional practices to attain this state. Some suggestions were very valuable: keeping a personal journal even to include an entry as simple as the beautiful sunrise or a day’s events which may have caused some pain; reflecting on life’s enjoyment; living a simple and sustainable life; listening to music; taking time to go for a walk; admiring nature or stargazing; stimulating the brain through gardening, cooking, reading, sewing or painting. And the list goes on and on, but basically mindful living requires taking time for ourselves to reflect on how we can stay with what we are doing, what is working and what is not - in a word, discernment.

We live out the CSJ mission at Walnut Park Montessori School. Journeying to oneness/unity at work is exemplified by our daily interactions and by supporting one another. Such supports extend beyond the school, as we also find time to help some of the area communities in need of help.

ABOVE LEFT: MOTHER SAINT JOHN FONTBONNE; ABOVE RIGHT: LAY MINISTER PARTICIPANTS FROM USA AND CANADA AT INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, LE-PUY-EN-VELAY, FRANCE

and makes us one with God. - Pope Francis

Make a Difference Week

by Jeffrey Fiedler, Primary Guide and Mission Effectiveness Facilitator



The school year is in full swing at Walnut Park Montessori School. In the five primary classrooms and toddler community, the children are hard at work with the Montessori curriculum, learning new concepts and practicing those skills, while internalizing and mastering others.

What makes Walnut Park special is its sense of community. Everyone feels it the moment they step in the front door and are greeted warmly by the Head of School, faculty, classroom teachers, children, and their families. Community is maintained in the classroom by the writing of the Ground Rules. Each classroom's rules are written by the students to maintain a peaceful learning environment envisioned by the Dr. Montessori. Together, these peaceful classrooms represent the Walnut Park Montessori School community.

Each year *Make a Difference Week*, begins the process of expanding the idea of community to our neighbors in need of food and other resources. We held a drive for the Greater Boston Food Bank as well as a food, clothing, and toy drive for those affected by the October fire in South Boston.

Children and their families were encouraged to bring non-perishables and place them in a large bin located in the front entrance of the school. It was great to see families reaching out to help others by contributing soups, cereals, pastas, and other goods. The children were excited to help other children.

Right beside the drop-off for the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Walnut Park community donated non-perishables, clothing, toys, and blankets to people displaced by the South Boston fire. Again, people's contributions highlighted the common good of man: helping others in times of need.

Honor the Spirit that Resides Within Us

by Terry Hodge, Director of Human Resources

In recent years, several large corporations such as Google and Southwest Airlines have conducted research on company culture, and they concluded that: "We can bring people together in a facility, give them a mission, and have them produce results. But if we expect those results to be extraordinary, and we expect them to last over time, then we must honor that spirit that resides within us."

At Bethany Health Care Center we are blessed in that the people who live here and who work here have deeply compassionate, gracious and generous spirits. Employees and residents continuously propose reasons to gather as a community to celebrate each other and every good event that we can. As employees, we joyfully serve and honor our dear residents with celebrations large and small, including: Nursing Home Week, Saint Joseph's Day, Founder's Day, ice cream socials, and monthly birthday parties with students from the local high school. Our residents continue to embrace the mission of hospitality



and compassion by sponsoring celebrations to honor staff, such as the recent appreciation party we had for our outstanding housekeeping staff.

On October 9, 2014 over 100 residents, staff, guests, Sisters, and Board Members gathered in Bethany's chapel during our annual Employee Recognition Celebration. This is one of our larger celebratory events. Once a year we come together as a community to recognize individual team members for particular service milestones. Twenty-one team members were honored for their accumulated 260 years of service

to Bethany's dear residents. As with every event at Bethany, there were prayers, much laughter, hugs, and of course...cake. At Bethany Health Care Center, we welcome all members of the Congregation to come and visit, join in one of our many celebrations, have some cake, and see for yourself how we live out the joy of the Gospel every day.

ABOVE: SKIP MORAN, EMPLOYED AT BETHANY FOR 35 YEARS, AND JACQUELINE MCCARTHY, CSJ

Enjoying God's Creation

by Jean Behenna, Kathy Berube, CSJ, Mission Effectiveness Facilitators;
Mary Delaney and Nicola Sellitto, Faculty



world we were given. We were able to share our thoughts and reflections after the trip about many things, including the beauty of God's gifts on Earth.

Grade Six enjoyed a glorious fall day at Nobscot Scout Reservation located in Framingham, MA to participate in the "Learning for Life" program. The students participated in activities which helped to promote respect for self, others and nature through team building activities and exploring local history and ecology. The challenges required teamwork, respect for the ideas of others, and a great deal of trust. This experience has helped to bring the students and teachers closer together and develop a sense of community which has been a great way to start the new school year.

There have been many activities so far that have promoted our desire to respect and take care of all of God's creation and to connect neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God and there are many more activities to come. As we look ahead, we are preparing for our annual winter clothing drive, our food drive for a local pantry, and our Giving Tree Projects for Bethany Hill School, the Literacy Connection and The Women's Table. To follow the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to serve the Dear Neighbor without distinction and to proclaim the good news of the Gospel is definitely central to our work this year at the Jackson School.

ABOVE: COLIN GAUGHRAN AND JAVIER BLANCO ENJOY OUTDOOR COOKING AT NOBSCOT RESERVATION; BELOW: GRADE 1 STUDENTS, KATHERINE MACAULAY, JOSEPHINE LYONS, AND ZIA POSEY AT HONEY POT HILL ORCHARDS.

It has been a busy and exciting fall at Jackson School as we embark on another school year. Jackson School and Walnut Park Montessori celebrated International Day of Peace at our annual Pinwheels for Peace Ceremony as we joined the world to pray for world peace. After planting their pinwheels, the children sang songs and shared their wishes for peace at the Peace Day ceremony. The children proclaimed the joy of the Gospel with their prayers and wishes to promote peace in our schools, our community and our world.

The Jackson School First Graders visited Honey Pot Hill Orchards recently. The weather was picture perfect. Upon arrival at the farm, the children boarded an apple cart to travel to the orchards. It was delightful to see the excitement as the children filled their bags with plump apples with one hand while devouring a freshly picked apple with the other hand. After walking to the farm, the children were then able to enjoy delicious cider donuts and juice at the farm prior to lunch. The farm also had chickens, goats, and pigs. Watching the animals graze in the sunlight and the children explore the sights of the farm on such a glorious day just added the finishing touches to the beauty of God's world!

The third graders at Jackson School had the privilege of taking a trip to *Garden in the Woods* located in Framingham, MA. The field trip aligned with our new science curriculum and fascinating unit on plants and plant parts. *Garden in the Woods* is the nation's oldest plant conservation organization that strives to preserve plants and nature. The students had a wonderful experience, learning the importance of taking care of the



Defining a Library

by Mary Rita Grady, CSJ, Archivist and Mission Effectiveness Facilitator

When Regis College was established in 1927, the Library was in the loft of the Carriage House, and the tops of the study tables were taken from unused pianos. The Library's next venue was the third floor of the main campus building, College Hall, and the tops of the study tables were the same. In 1955 a free-standing Library was built near College Hall. Students of that time remember the human chain of faculty, staff and students which handed the books from College Hall to the new Library. Here in this new space there was ample room for study, as well as shelving for periodicals and for books. The Language Lab was situated there, as well as classrooms. There were small study rooms. The rooms were built so they could be reconfigured as Library needs arose.



But the Library was always seen by faculty, staff and students as the place where information about past and current persons and events was found—not on papyrus or ancient scrolls, but in the many encyclopedias, books and periodicals made possible with the invention of movable type. Through the years the Library changed to answer the need for information services, and the manner in which the need could be fulfilled—by books, microfilm, microfiche and computers for online research. The wooden card catalog has long been replaced by an online catalog, and by consortial agreements with various institutions. Access to a multitude of online catalogs, as well as to borrowing books from other libraries is now a norm.

Now, with the Director of the Library, Jane Peck, a Regis alum and seasoned librarian, the Library is changing again. At an institution whose motto is “The Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6), the Library particularly shows its reverence for the truth by seeking to make knowledge—ancient, new, and developing—and the search for wisdom easily available to learners of all ages and of all cultures.

It is still its mission which defines the use of the building: “to empower an interactive learning community integrating technology, information resources, community service, and social interaction.” In order to serve faculty, staff and students better, the Library now is reorienting its entrance, improving its wheelchair access, and presenting a new face to all, looking out on a green walking area. There is to be a coffee shop appended—much anticipated by collegiate staff. The Library staff is still accessible and welcoming to undergraduate and graduate students seeking sources of information and knowledge about the online and offline sources in so many fields. The welcome of the library will continue to be evident in its personnel and its resources, as well as its new construction.

CLOCKWISE: ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF THE LIBRARY RENOVATION; IMAGES OF THE CURRENT LIBRARY, CONSTRUCTED IN 1955.