



Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

The Bridge

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

Le Puy Experience *That all may be one.*

by Thomas Nunan, Jr., Head of School



The Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston provided my wife, Nancy and I, with the opportunity of a lifetime. We were able to participate in a weeklong pilgrimage/conference in Le Puy, France, the home of the first Sisters of Saint Joseph. What an enriching, inspiring journey and what a blessed transformative time!

We shared this educational, communal, and spiritual experience with folks from around the world who are engaged in the Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. There were hospital executives from Toronto, Ontario; healthcare workers from Waterville, ME; and educational leaders from Baton Rouge, LA, and Cleveland, OH. Dolores Clerico, CSJ from Philadelphia facilitated the program with her wisdom, humor, faith and perspective which enriched each of us. We were treated to the incredible warm and gracious

hospitality of Sisters Line Rioux and Eluiza de Andrade, who oversee the Centre International. They were awesome!

Learning about the origin and history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, while creating community with other CSJ partners in mission, helped us to understand that we at Saint Joseph Prep are part of a sacred storied tradition of service to the dear neighbor without distinction. As we walked the narrow and steep streets, visited the historic sites, and prayed in the stunning cathedrals, we had the sense that the CSJ spirit was ever present—across time and space. We traveled and took in all the beauty of the French countryside and immersed ourselves in the French way of life and became more aware of how God touched the minds, hearts, and souls of the first Sisters and continues to inspire all of our ministries today.

From the workshops on CSJ spirituality, centered on being a “ministry of presence” reminded us of the continual call to assess both the needs of the city and the state of the heart to the tours of Le Puy and Lyon brought home the lived experience of Sisters in mid-17th century and the early-19th century. The trip enflamed the charism in each of us and we came to appreciate how this very local movement was also a global mission. Everything we did and saw and heard was rooted in the CSJ calling to unite neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God.

One of the most moving and memorable experiences was “the kitchen” in Le Puy, the place where the first six Sisters gathered together to begin their ministry of unifying love. What a powerful moment! As those women in 17th century France once revealed the presence of God to so many who were in such desperate need, we could feel their presence in that sacred space...and in our work. The metal plate behind the hearth reflected the heat and light of the fire, so too we are called to reflect the warmth and glow of the charism—the prayer of Jesus *that all may be one.* (John 17:21)

At the start of our 5th year at Saint Joseph Prep, I asked our community to reflect more deeply on the charism, on that deep desire for unity...among one another...and with the One who loves us. Despite our human longing for acceptance and affirmation and despite our spiritual hunger for peace and justice, we live in a world that is decidedly not united. Our world is divided and broken. So, amidst all the hurt, how are we to respond?

Let us respond by being *instruments of healing* and *signs of hope*. People—and the conflicts we have created—do not need to be fixed. We need to be healed. Our sisters and brothers—and the sufferings we both inflict and endure—call out for mercy and compassion, for respect and reconciliation. May we, by our care and concern, provide a reason to hope. May we be witnesses of unity and presence in our world, putting relationship at the heart of everything, continually creating ever-widening circles of inclusive love.

Builders of Peace and Justice

by Ann Marie Ghiloni, CSJ, Director of Mission Effectiveness

In the short time that Pope Francis has been Bishop of the Universal Church, he has challenged everyone to be people of Joy, Compassion, Mercy and Love to achieve Peace in our world. Our Sponsored Ministries have focused on his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium The Joy of the Gospel*, and *Laudato Si On Care for Our Common Home* in previous issues of *The Bridge*. The Ministries will focus on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia The Joy of Love* in the next three issues of *The Bridge*. The CSJ Sponsored Ministries serve people whose ages span from 18 months to centenarians. Included in this age range are our co-ministers, students, residents, employees and Trustees. All work to learn, live and witness to the importance of being Peace and Justice Builders in whatever manner they are able at the present time. We continue the legacy the founding Sisters of Saint Joseph in LePuy-en-Velay France left us to imitate in serving the dear neighbor without distinction.



A solid foundation is necessary in order to build a lasting structure. The CSJ Core Values are a means to be the support beams to transform lives and move us forward into the future yet to come. Gracious Hospitality, Love and Service to the Dear Neighbor without Distinction, Peaceful Resolution of Conflict and Care for All Creation echo the Catholic Social Teachings of service and action to care for the common good for all peoples, the earth and the universe. In 2015, 190 world leaders committed to help implement the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals to bring about the end of extreme poverty and hunger; deliver quality health care and education, renewable energy, clean water and sanitation; care for life below the waters and life on land; reduce inequalities, be responsible consumers; and promote peace and justice. As citizens of the world, faith believers and preachers of the Gospel values, co-ministers with the Sisters of Saint Joseph worldwide, we all have a role in achieving these goals. *We Are All One* when we build relationships with God and one another – connecting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. We live the Gospel mission “That all may be one.” Remember the words of Mother St. John Fontbonne, “Nothing is impossible, if God is involved.” Let us together make what seems to be impossible today be possible for those who will follow after us.

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<i>The Bridge is the official communication of the Office of Sponsored Ministries to inform, educate and inspire the community linked to CSJ Sponsored Ministries.</i>	
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Circles of Care

by Daniel Leahy, Director, Center for Ministry and Service

We make our way, slowly, to our regularly scheduled staff meeting on Wednesday, November 9, and we know we have a very difficult day ahead of us. It is the morning after the presidential election.

We are a new staff—a gifted staff. Last June I was hired as Director of the Center for Ministry and Service; our assistant director, Anabella Morabito, a recent graduate of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, joined us in August. Our graduate interns are: Jeff Parrish and Karen Marquez, while our anchor, Father Paul Kilroy, priest/chaplain has been ministering at Regis College for the past 10 years. We are fortunate to share space with Sarah Gallenberg Maloney, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Her support and common perspective have tremendously enriched our office.

As we join together for our staff meeting we begin our meeting by listening intently and compassionately to each other. Prayer is a plea for God to comfort and console us, and to offer us strength, understanding, and inner peace so that we can, in turn, devise a plan to accompany and support the Regis community. As we talk and pray we gradually begin to feel united and enabled to support others. We have a plan, a way to begin to be the Center of Ministry and Service for our Regis community—presence, along with Student Affairs professionals, for conversation in the Main Dining Hall, and for regularly scheduled “Thoughtful Thursdays” around the Peace Pole, (20 minutes of peaceful reflection each Thursday at 12:15 PM).

The circle has moved outward—from staff meeting—to colleagues—to students—to the entire Regis community. Our staff has been influenced by the gift of the call to love and service to “the dear neighbor,” found in an early Constitution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, as well as by the gentleness counseled by Francis de Sales.



Our staff prayer is emboldened by firmness of conviction in the Gospel, and tempered by gentleness and the humility of unconditional love. In that moment, I feel the gentle legacy of the Sisters, the founders of Regis, a moment to be contributors to the circles of love, service and peace.

As a newcomer to the campus, I am learning the charism and values of the Sisters of Saint Joseph—the significance of love and service to “the dear neighbor,” and the gentleness counseled by Francis de Sales, and welcoming the challenge of applying these values to the daily interests of the members of the Regis community, whether they be as public as a national election, or more particular cares of individuals and groups.



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: SARAH MALONEY, REV. PAUL KILROY, ANABELLA MORABITO, DANIEL LEAHY, KAREN MARQUEZ, JEFF PARRISH; **BELOW:** THE REGIS PEACE POLE

Thank you, Bill; You Taught Us Well!

by Trish Appert, Executive Director



I was recently reminded of how the Bethany Hill Place community shows its commitment to mercy, compassion and self-sacrifice after we came together to mourn the passing of a longtime resident, dear friend and neighbor William 'Bill' Blake. Bill lived at Bethany Hill Place for over two decades. He and his late partner, Kathleen, blended their families, raising children together and instilling in them the values so prominent in this community – love, kindness, respect and interdependence. With great pride and love Bill watched all of his children grow into adulthood, establishing careers and growing families. He beamed when showing pictures of his granddaughter, or sharing news about his children's accomplishments. He was an eloquent speaker, a fixture on the Education Advisory Committee, a regular at our Lug-a-Mugs, and an active participant in our seminars. Most memorably, Bill was devoted to sharing with and supporting his neighbors as he felt he had been supported.

A week after his funeral, we at Bethany Hill came together to remember him and celebrate his life. The room was filled. Longtime friends, newer residents and children who knew him only for a year, former residents, former staff, and, amazingly, three of Bill's children, Courtney, Duane and Drew, came to share the evening with us. I felt that they were honoring their father's memory, respectfully

taking part in a community that was such an important part of their father's life. I was wrong.

After many residents shared their stories of Bill, each of Bill's children spoke of what this community meant not just to Bill, but also to each of them. Amid tears, there were funny stories of growing up and getting into trouble at Bethany Hill; of Bill and Kathleen's resolutely egalitarian approach to raising each other's children; of not realizing what this community did for them until they had left. More residents described their memories: Bill emphasizing the rules to a mother with a child riding her two-wheeler down the hall while she did laundry then watching the child play safely on her bike while Mom finished with the clothes; his compassion, encouragement and support of a neighbor before and after hospitalizations; his understanding and enjoyment of a staff member's fanatical obsession with Red Sox statistics.

Many in the room were old friends, but all of us felt that way, recognizing we were unified in our understanding of this very meaningful loss. In the middle of all of these voices I understood how comforted his children were to hear our tales of Bill's doing for others, the love, respect and admiration his neighbors had for him, and, in turn, how proud this community was of his grown children. Bill would undoubtedly delight in the love and compassion he inspired, voiced by the people he cared so deeply about.

ABOVE: DENISE KELLY, CSJ; BILL BLAKE, MARY MITCHELL

Peace and Justice in our Daily Ministry

by Catherine E. Sabatini CSJA, Program Director

The ministry of commitment to peace and justice, mercy and compassion starts each time someone slides a badge through the side opening of a time clock. This is the first display of a staff member's acts of true compassion towards each resident and where their day begins to demonstrate empathy for every individual as person. There are many ways in which the staff carries out their daily service to the residents. These many works of mercy lie hidden or disguised within the daily assignments. Nevertheless, they truly express the gospel values of peace and justice, mercy and compassion. Every day staff members attend to the needs of our residents before their own.

The residents receive these generous acts of kindness graciously. They appreciate each quality that the staff person must acquire to carry out his/her ministry. The virtues of love and fidelity are lived throughout the day as demonstrated when a chef is able to prepare a delicious

meal within a budget; a housekeeper is able to keep a unit clean to maintain a safe environment; a certified nurse's aide shows gentleness and compassion while providing the most personal needs; an activity professional recognizes the need of a meaningful moment or a moment of empathy; or when a social worker is committed to ethical practices.



Neither age nor diminished capacity limits our residents' ability to live the mission of unity here at Bethany Health Care Center. They are able to participate in ongoing ministries by praying and fundraising, collecting items for the homeless and participating in other actions that shape our unit into a family home that is filled with love.

ABOVE: WALTRUDE, CSJ, ELBA SANTOS (NURSING)

Learning to Be Strong

by Jeff Waters, Theology Department



At Fontbonne Academy, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, we take seriously the dictum to Love God and the Dear Neighbor. Throughout their four years at Fontbonne, young women are taught not only the teachings of the Church but also the important role Scripture plays in informing how we understand ourselves and our world. In their senior year students select a special topic in their Social Justice course as a capstone project. They engage in related community service, advocacy and educating others about the topic. They also write a twenty-page paper explaining their topic, the problems that inhibit solving it and, most importantly, the solutions that can be found using a Christian lens.

On a spiritual level, the Social Justice Project provides an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their service experience using the theological training they have received during their years at Fontbonne. The service, paper, and training inside the classroom work together to form a cohesive experience that fulfills Christ’s command that we “love God...and our neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:30-31). This command requires that we not only help others but also asks how and why we help. Hence, the goal of the Social Justice Project is not to simply provide a service, but to develop an understanding of service that is based on their relationship with the people they serve while reflecting on the Gospel Message.

On an academic level, the Social Justice Project prepares students for college; their research, interpersonal and critical thinking skills are all highly developed at the completion of the Project. On a personal level, the Project is a time of immense growth in their lives. This is exemplified at the Social Justice Fair which takes place on Holy Thursday at Fontbonne Academy. On that day, the school celebrates what these young women have accomplished! The day provides an opportunity for them to teach students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees,

parents, and the general public what they have learned about their topic through presentations, displays, movies, scientific demonstrations, interactive activities, and the visual/theater arts. At the Social Justice Fair, Seniors become the teachers and preachers demonstrating the importance of their topic while advocating for real change through the Gospel Message! As their teacher, it is a profound moment to witness these courageous young women speak so passionately about their topic. The depth of their understanding, their ability to convince their audience through rational discourse, the credibility they demonstrate in the quality of their presentation, and the emotion in their voice - our Seniors embody the words of the Alma Mater of Fontbonne, to “seek wisdom and grace...and the truth she is teaching...to be women of courage...made strong.”

The Social Justice Project does not end at graduation. Many former students have attested how important and profound their Social Justice Project was to their life and the shaping of their careers. Whether they are doctors, lawyers, social workers, teachers, researchers or nurses, their chosen career becomes infused with what they learned in their four years at Fontbonne Academy. Saint Teresa of Avila once said:

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
No feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through
which he looks compassion on the world;*

*Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.*

Fontbonne women grow strong through serving those in need, educating those who need instruction, and advocating for those who have no voice.

NEEDS CAPTIONS



Peace, Kindness, and Generosity by Jean Behenna and Kathleen Berube, CSJ, Mission Effectiveness Facilitators



As the 2016-2017 school year began, it was very exciting to begin the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Jackson School and Walnut Park Montessori School. The celebrations began at our opening picnic as JWP enjoyed delicious food, great music, fun activities, and wonderful company. Celebrating with colleagues, family, and friends is such a great way to start off a new year. In preparation for a 50th anniversary project, students were recently asked to state some reasons why they were grateful for their school. Most of the students were grateful for their friends, their teachers, their good education, and their community. They love their school and they seem to understand the theme for the 50th anniversary: Joy, Gratitude, and Hope.

Jackson School and Walnut Park Montessori joined the world and celebrated the International Day of Peace on September 21. The students created and planted their pinwheels and the sixth graders led a beautiful Peace Day Prayer Service. Prior to Peace Day students were asked to reflect about what peace means in their lives. Out of this activity, a small group of sixth grade girls organized a project which they called "Random Acts of Kindness." The girls hung posters around the school and asked students to write down any act of kindness which they performed or any act of kindness that was done for them. The response was so inspiring. After about two weeks, the girls collected about 100 notes stating acts of kindness performed at Jackson School. Every year as Jackson School participates in International Peace Day it is the goal that the students understand that peace begins in their hearts, in their families, in their school, and finally in their world. It was great to see peace in action at Jackson.

The students at Jackson were very interested and engaged in this year's historic presidential election. Jackson School enthusiastically participated in the National Mock Election

under the leadership of the Grade Five teachers and students. Students turned their lessons about civic duties into a school-wide activity by coordinating Jackson School's involvement in a national student mock election. Materials for this event were designed by the Youth Leadership Initiative at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Students spent time designing ideal candidates, talking about campaign issues, and delivering their own plans for their future presidencies. The preparation and learning culminated on Wednesday, October 26 when the mock election was held. Students came down to vote in the "voting booths" that were set up in the foyer and received an "I voted" sticker.

A group of JWP parents organized a Candy Give Back program to support the troops. Operation Gratitude encourages the children to donate excess candy from Halloween and these donations are sent to the troops and first responders. What a wonderful way for the children to show their gratitude for the sacrifices made by these brave individuals!

The sixth graders have organized the annual winter clothing drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons. In addition to gently used winter clothing, the students are requesting donations of new socks which these children definitely need. As the year moves on, Jackson School is preparing for the Giving Tree Projects for Bethany Hill Place, the Literacy Connection, and the Women's Table. Reflecting on the first three months of school, it is evident that the Jackson School community is committed to peace and justice in our world, generosity and compassion for others, and the joy of love.

NEEDS CAPTIONS

A Positive Impact on the World

by Jaklin Ugras, Mission Effectiveness Facilitator

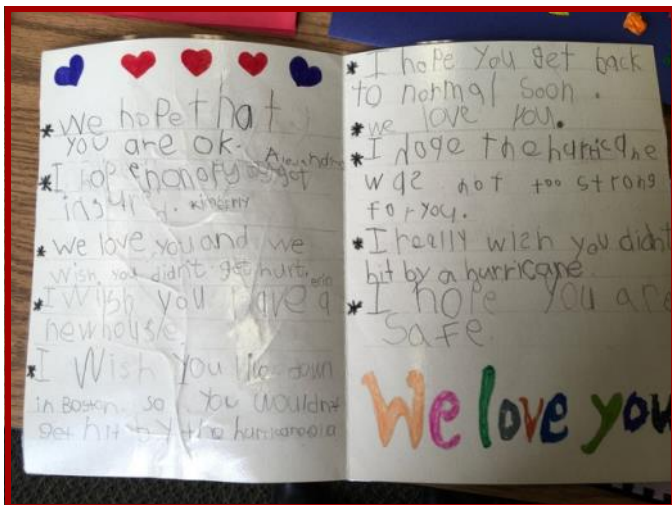


Author and lecturer, Leo Buscaglia, tells the story about a contest that he was asked to judge. His task was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Walnut Park Montessori children share the same empathy and generosity towards the people who were affected by Hurricane Matthew. Our children are very young, ranging between the ages of 18 months to 6 years of age, but they are strong and genuine in their efforts to reach out. Their sense of Peace and Justice at this developmental stage is growing stronger as they begin to understand how they can have a positive impact on the world.

The last week of October at Walnut Park is "Make a Difference Week." This year we talked to the children in our Primary classrooms (ages 3-6 years) about the children in Haiti who were affected by Hurricane Matthew. We first read the

book, *Elmer and the Flood* by David McKee, to learn how the excess of rain could generate flood and how friends could help each other. Then, we located Haiti on our North America puzzle map and found out that it was actually on an island! We used our Montessori island model to place objects on land and in the water and learn about the structure of an island. This work quickly became a popular one! We talked about different seasons and weather conditions where we are versus Haiti. When the children heard Haiti did not have foliage they created cards with fall leaves to share with the children of Haiti. They also created many other cards with hearts and drawings and wrote letters sending their best wishes and love. Just to share some of their own words :



- We hope that you are OK.
- We love you and wish that you didn't get hurt.
- I hope the hurricane was not too strong for you.
- I wish you lived down in Boston so you didn't get hit by hurricane.
- We hope the flood is over so you can go back to school and have fun.
- We love your country. It is really beautiful.

The children also created thank you cards to the volunteers who have helped the people of South Carolina affected by Hurricane Matthew. We had a circle discussion on what volunteering meant. It is absolutely amazing to see the children's openness and generosity to the needs of others.

Finally, we recently received a visit from Ms. Cherie Miot Abbanat, an MIT lecturer and native Haitian who is involved with a corporation (www.haitiprojects.org) focused on providing initiatives to empower women of rural Haiti toward self-

sufficiency. They provide access to jobs at fair trade wages, education, health care, and avenues for building a sustainable community. Ms. Cherie showed us pictures of Haiti, the families and the children that her organization is helping. The children had a chance to learn more about Haiti and also had the opportunity to present her with the cards. We cannot wait to hear back from our friends in Haiti.

NEEDS CAPTIONS

Building a World of Justice and Peace by Marilyn McGoldrick, CSJ, Director of Mission Integration

We live in a culture that is immersed in violence, greed and distrust of organized structures. We carry signs that speak of love, coming together, justice for all and peace. We witness every day the struggle between who we say we want to be and the reality that drives us to be less.

I wonder if the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and those who partner with us in ministry can be a source of radical healing in the midst of the conflicting tensions of a society caught in two worlds. I wonder if the longing for the unity of all people and all creation is so strong that it can help reposition the world toward life, justice and peace. I believe it is the charism of unioning love of the Sisters of Saint Joseph that invites us to relationship and it is in and through relationship that we will build a world of justice and peace. I see this happening and growing in our students and adults at the Saint Joseph Prep as each in his or her way strives to live the Gospel challenge of giving generously without expecting anything in return.



At this time of year at Saint Joseph Prep we see the myriad programs that witness to this spirit of giving generously...the annual Thanksgiving food drive, the collection to support our Veterans, the Angel Tree, helping at Christmas in the City, serving at homeless shelters and the Servants to the Dear Neighbor outreach. All of these programs are important in giving witness and developing a culture of service without any expectation of return. However, since “relationship is at the heart of our mission,” since it is why we do what we do, it is the daily interaction between and among all of us at Saint Joseph Prep that will “transcend and overflow the demands of justice, expecting nothing in return.” (*The Joy of Love- Pope Francis*)

Building a world of justice and peace demands that we grow that inner space of welcoming within us that allows us to be disturbed; that demands that we move out of the narrowness of ourselves and be present to new ideas, cultures, insights and people. It is this welcoming that invites all to the table that expands our ever-widening circle and sees none as stranger. This is evidenced so clearly at Saint Joseph Prep when numerous students and adults celebrate Thanksgiving dinner with the International students.

Building a world of justice and peace means that we begin to take seriously our relationship to and responsibility for creation. Thus, we understand the need to develop a deeper commitment to better recycling patterns and better choices in how we dispose of ‘waste’ products. Building an elephant and a fish tank out of recycled materials helps students to see the value in what is often just a throw away. It is this call to realize the union of all people and all creation with God and with each other that continues to evolve and shape the Gospel mandate to build justice and peace in our daily lives. And when we do, we will be known again as a people “united for the goodness, justice, and peace of all.” (*Pat Bergen, CSJ*)

CLOCKWISE: CAMERON FERANT (FACING CAMERA), DIANE CAMILO-CACERES, BRIAN MARTINEZ

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
In you we contemplate
The splendor of true love;
To you we turn with trust.
 (POPE FRANCIS, AMORIS LAETITIA)