



CORPORATION FOR THE SPONSORED MINISTRIES OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF BOSTON
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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

CSJ Heritage Convocation 2015

Photo Credit: Darlene Rogers



An Amazing Journey

by Ann Marie Ghiloni, Director of Mission Effectiveness

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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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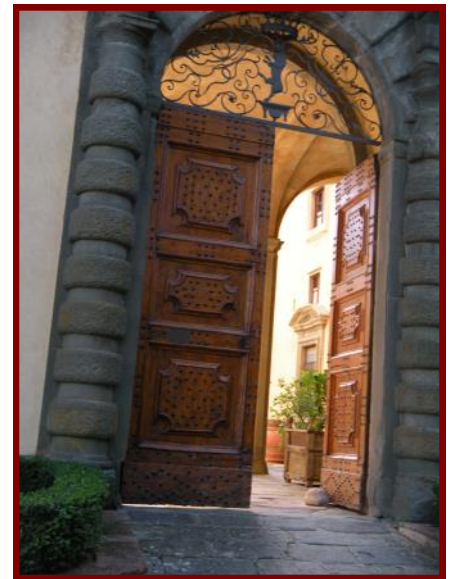
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I do not watch many TV programs but one that I enjoy is the "Amazing Race." It fascinates me to travel the globe with the teams and experience the culture and traditions of so many places that I may never have the opportunity to visit. My interest in travel began when I was six years old and preparing for First Communion. I had a Sister of Providence from Saint Mary of the Woods, Indiana and she told us that they had sisters in Japan. I thought that I would like to go there and teach. In sixth grade we studied World Geography and that clinched it. I was going to travel around the globe one day. Although my traveling days have been limited, wherever I have visited it has been an Amazing Race for me.

These past few months have been an Amazing Journey as I experienced the culture of many medical teams in one of the largest medical facilities in Boston and in one of our Sponsored Ministry, Bethany Health Care Center. At each stop on this journey I was greeted graciously and treated as the most important patient they were treating that day - always called by name and not a number, interested in me as a person and what I did before I "retired." This opened the door for me to talk about our wonderful Sponsored Ministries and how they serve the needs of the Dear Neighbor. This piqued their interest and in the course of conversation two team members revealed that they had attended Fontbonne Academy and Regis College. They remembered hearing about serving the needs of the Dear Neighbor without distinction. You never know when or where you will meet someone whose heart you have touched. My journey continues as I reflect on the quote below from Pope Francis.



The People of God is incarnate in the peoples of the earth, each of which has its own culture. The concept of culture grasps the various expressions of life present in God's people. It has to do with the specific way people relate to one another, to other creatures and to God. Paragraph 115 *Evangelii Gaudium*

Relationship is truly at the heart of mission. May you enjoy an amazing journey doing the work God has called you to do at this moment in your journey.

Living Lent at Fontbonne Academy by Katy Denning, Director of Mission and Ministry and Mission Effectiveness Facilitator

“Lent prepares us for the most important thing of all: welcoming the message of the Gospel into our hearts. It is a period of time in which we are aware of the personal and societal shortcomings that may be keeping us from spreading Jesus’ message of love, compassion, and inclusion. Lent takes on new meanings each year as we grow and continue to challenge ourselves to change for the better through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in order to allow Jesus into our hearts, minds, and lives. Change in our lives is not always easy, but the challenges we may face during Lent remind us how we are truly blessed to be Children of God and open our hearts to the loving message of the Gospel.”

With these words, junior Ministry Leader Meaghan Walsh ‘16 offered seasonal wisdom for her peers during a Lenten Prayer service in late February. This reflection not only invited the entire community to consider how they are personally preparing to “welcome the message of the Gospel into their hearts,” it also demonstrated how the Sisters of Saint Joseph charism of “active, inclusive love” is shown at Fontbonne Academy!

Despite the many snow days and a long winter, the Fontbonne community has embraced the themes of the Lenten season and its focus on reflection, renewal and reaching out while seeking hopeful signs of resurrection in the small purple crocuses beginning to bloom alongside the school building. A new Lenten practice for our community was to make a commitment to pray together. During the Lenten prayer service all students, faculty and staff were invited to write their own personal prayer intentions on slips of purple paper. These were collected and have become part of a “prayer wall” near the cafeteria so that each person who passes can pause to read the prayers of others and silently add their own prayer for that particular intention. It has been a powerful way of embracing a call to community.

In addition, Fontbonne has continued our annual practice of giving alms to an organization with a global focus. This year we joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph in their fundraising for Mission Haiti. Each day, during lunch in the cafeteria, students see table-tents with statistics about the students at Annunciation Grade School in Leogane and donation suggestions provided by the Lenten Journey pamphlet produced by the Office of Justice and Peace. A basket is then passed around the cafeteria to allow students to give not only their extra change from purchasing lunch, but “above and beyond” donations that demonstrate their own commitment to the CSJ call to “the more.”

Another great Lenten opportunity came on March 18 when the Junior and Senior Retreat Leaders hosted a wonderful half-day retreat for 7th and 8th grade girls from Saint John Paul II Academy Campuses in Dorchester. This was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their commitment to Gracious Hospitality as they welcomed these 60 girls into the school and led them in community-building activities, prayer and small group reflection on the theme of “Let your Light Shine.”

Finally, a St. Joseph Day tea was hosted by our National Honor Society students who served tea and gave beautiful handmade cards to all of the sisters who live at the Fontbonne Convent. This annual celebration is a fantastic way for our students to offer their gratitude and appreciation to our own next-door neighbors for providing our community with the spiritual gift of a commitment to reaching out to all “dear neighbors.”

Throughout all of this, it is clear that the Fontbonne community has embraced not only the season of Lent but also a commitment to living that season through the active, inclusive vision gifted to us in the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.



1954

FONTBONNE

ACADEMY



2014

CELEBRATING

60 YEARS

OF EXCELLENCE

Creativity, Collaboration, and Service at Jackson School by Jean Behenna and Kathy Berube, CSJ, Mission Effectiveness Facilitators

The winter months at Jackson School have been extremely busy not only with record-breaking snow but also with many exciting and innovative activities. Students participated in the 1st STEM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) during Catholic Schools Week. Each grade level selected an engineering problem and worked in collaborative groups to solve the problem by working through the engineering process. The students identified the problem, constructed a hypothesis, tested an hypothesis, designed changes based on the results of their experiments, and communicated their results at the STEM Fair. The projects were amazing. They ranged from Kindergarteners' programming Bee-Bots, 1st graders building bridges, 2nd graders constructing the Great Wall of China, 3rd graders engineering a human trap to catch an invasive species, 4th graders testing solar ovens, 5th graders designing ways to clean an oil spill, and finally 6th graders designing the best insulated container homes. Students and teachers both learned so much as they solved problems collaboratively by implementing the engineering process. There are certainly many future engineers at Jackson School!

For the third year, Jackson students have participated in the Destination Imagination program which is an after school activity offered to students in grades 4 through 6. In Destination Imagination students are presented with a challenge problem and they work in teams to create a solution to the problem. The challenge is that the students must plan, create, and make everything themselves. The students are encouraged to take risks, be creative, and be open to the ideas of others as they work through the problem solving process. This year there were 5 teams from Jackson with 34 students participating in the program. They worked on their challenges and practiced for the tournament every Wednesday for 1.5 hours. The students presented their solutions at the tournament held at Lincoln-Sudbury High School on March 15. All the teams did well and they demonstrated great teamwork, creativity, and sportsmanship.

For the second year, Jackson School received funding from the Star Grant for an "Artist in Residence." During February and March, our Jackson students experienced a unique two-part arts experience entitled Musical Vistas: A Performance in Paint. This project featured our own Art teacher Dorothy Simone who partnered with our Music



teacher Mrs. Caitlin Brighenti to create this special experience. Our fifth and sixth grade students had a chance to become apprentices to the "Artist in Residence" who directed and guided them through the process of creating large-scale oil paintings. Ms. Simone is also a representational painter who bases her work on her love of nature. Our music teacher Mrs. Brighenti selected a musical score reflective of the beauty of our natural world for the fifth and sixth grade chorus to perform at the unveiling of the works of art. At the culminating event on April 10, students had the opportunity to become the artists, performers and stagehands as the paintings appear to move onto the stage to the musical score. What a fabulous experience for all!

During the holy season of Lent, the Jackson community demonstrated their outstanding generosity and concern for the "dear neighbor" by participating in two service projects. The fifth grade sponsored a food drive for the Newton Food Pantry and the entire Jackson School collected school supplies to benefit Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy in Dorchester. The number of boxes of food and school supplies that were delivered as a result of these two projects was most impressive.

The mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to connect neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God and to serve the Dear Neighbor without distinction is certainly being lived here at the Jackson School as we connect with each other to solve problems, share the good news with others, and help those who are less fortunate.

The people of God is incarnate in the peoples of the e

Arrival of Spring

by Sandra Selvarajah, Mission Effectiveness Facilitator

With much joy and hopefulness we are able to see, smell, hear, feel this bright new season of spring and watch the earth awaken to its arrival. We are enjoying the warmer temperatures and the exciting signs of new life – both inside and outside the classroom.

Room 3 has kick-started with nineteen White Leghorn Chicken eggs. They arrived from Connecticut two weeks ago, and are set to hatch in a week! The children are enthusiastically caring for the incubated eggs and awaiting the young chicks to come out. They make sure that the door is gently closed so that they stay in a warm setting. With these activities around the lifecycle of a chick, the children are developing a responsibility for other living creatures.

Each day the children study a model egg that shows the chick's maturation. Independently, children love illustrating a chick's lifecycle. What's more, children are adding to their vocabulary by labeling the parts of an egg, chick, and chicken. We look forward to other classrooms visiting Room 3 and welcome the chicks once they hatch! Then they will be donated to a local farm, and so, *the circle of life* continues.

As always we celebrated Saint Joseph's Day with prayer and breakfast in our little kitchen. Nancy Fish, our Head of School, Sister Pauline, CSJ and at least one member from each classroom were there to start the day reflecting and being thankful to our Sponsors, the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

On March 16, Jackson Walnut Park Schools were entertained by an Irish group of performers, "Child's Play" to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. All of us enjoyed the music of violins, cello, piano, and mandolin, and of course, some step dancing. In one word the performance was "magnificent" or in Gaelic, "iontach." For our forthcoming Auction, the children of Walnut Park have created a collaborative painting of their thumbprints on a canvas to produce a beautiful **Peace Dove**.

The last week of February we celebrated Montessori Education (February 23-March 1) which gave us an opportunity to look at Maria Montessori's time line. This led us to revisit our own unique heritage. At the beginning of the year, we compiled the children's family heritage sheet in a binder for them to share. Each child has a name card color coordinated with the Montessori Map of the World. As an activity, children enjoy taking out their name or their classmates' name cards and placing them on the different continents of their families' homeland. This is another way of respecting and appreciating different cultures.

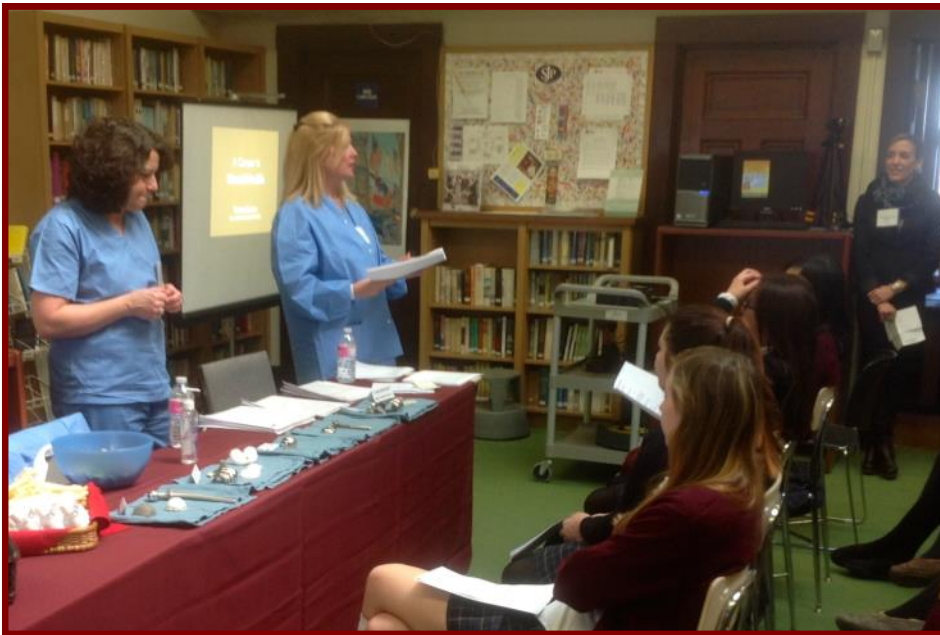
Throughout our Montessori curriculum there are many curricula opportunities for children to learn how to appreciate the World and how to relate to one another. Through the lessons of Grace and Courtesy and through environment education, we teach them to appreciate diversity of cultures, and all life forms and to instill in them that we are a one earth family. May we continue to enrich them with lessons of love, kindness, gratitude, peace, unity, caring and joy.



earth, each of which has its own culture. -Pope Francis

Sharing God's Gift of Love at Saint Joseph Preparatory High School

by Linda L. Walkins, Librarian



At Career Day in March, I hosted three of the guest speakers in the Saint Joseph Prep Library. Two nurses from the New England Baptist Hospital and a dance movement therapist spoke eloquently about their work in the medical profession. One particular idea from the session struck a chord with me. The women talked about the importance of considering the patient's perspective in all interactions. Viewing the situation through the patient's eyes, allows them to reach out in empathy and understanding.

Similarly, looking at the world through an unfamiliar lens helps us to understand and appreciate foreign cultures and extend God's gift of love to our dear neighbors here at home and around the globe. As Max Warren, General Secretary of the Anglican Church Missionary Council once noted, "Our first task in approaching another people, another culture is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy . . . More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival."

At Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, our students have many opportunities to learn about and celebrate other cultures. This semester, the seniors in Ms. Gabriel's French class have been corresponding with pen pals from Cameroon. Ms. Chiusano has encouraged her art students to participate in the Memory Project, in which student artists create portraits of disadvantaged youth from around the world. Our students are drawing and painting portraits of children from Ghana. During Lent, our Campus Ministry department has sponsored the Haiti Project to raise money for the education of young girls at Annunciation School in Leogane. In a few weeks, another group of students and teachers will make the journey to the Dominican Republic to serve one of the poorest populations in the world on our annual service immersion trip.

Through these international programs, our students are able to reach out lovingly to others and increase their own global awareness. However, with our diverse student community, the members of our Saint Joseph Prep family also encounter myriad cultures right here in our hallways. At our recent Multicultural Day celebration, our students shared facts, food and fun from their homelands. Showcasing the cultures of Vietnam, Italy, China, South Korea, Haiti, the Middle East and Lebanon, as well as the United States, the students showed their classmates the world and broadened their horizons by opening their eyes to unfamiliar and fascinating customs and traditions.

Whether they are writing to a foreign pen pal, serving the poor in the DR or talking to a friend about their homeland, our students strive to pay forward the sense of caring and security they benefit from every day here at Saint Joseph Prep.

ABOVE LEFT CAREER DAY AT SJP; RIGHT: MULTICULTURAL DAY.

Creating a Relational Diverse Community

by Courtney McSparron, Assistant Director of Programs

Bethany Hill prides itself on the diversity of its population. We are honored that our services and community can sustain and nurture people from so many walks of life and with such differing backgrounds. Experiences of homelessness, addiction, violence and loss are typical, yet each household story is so different. Our community is comprised of differing races and ethnicities, languages, ages as well as types of households (single individuals versus family households). Many struggle with issues of health, addiction, a history of abuse, or their own mental health.

How do these people come together to create a community of care, warmth, and safety? In the words of one of our residents, *“People are attracted to Bethany Hill because of the opportunity to better their lives. So you are always surrounded by people working on their goals, working on getting better.”* The knowledge that everyone in the building is working to better themselves creates the ability for each resident to relate to the other. A resident can see another resident as someone very different than themselves, but also as a person struggling to study for a test and take care of their children, just like they did.



‘Giving back’ through service to others is another hallmark of the community. We all feel more capable and empowered when we are able to do for others. Neighbors here offer to help each other with rides and chores because they know how hard it is to take care of a home and work on career goals. Residents cheer one another up on tough days, because they too remember days when everything seemed too overwhelming. This common goal means all members of the community have an underlying unity – the desire to get better and do more. This drive to reach one’s goals cuts through difference and leaves a community of thoughtful, giving individuals encouraging and supporting one another.

Concept of Culture at Bethany Health Care Center by Mary Nagle, CSJ, Mission Effectiveness Facilitator



Pope France wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “The concept of culture grasps the various expressions of life present in God’s people. It has to do with the specific way people relate to one another, to other creatures and to God.”

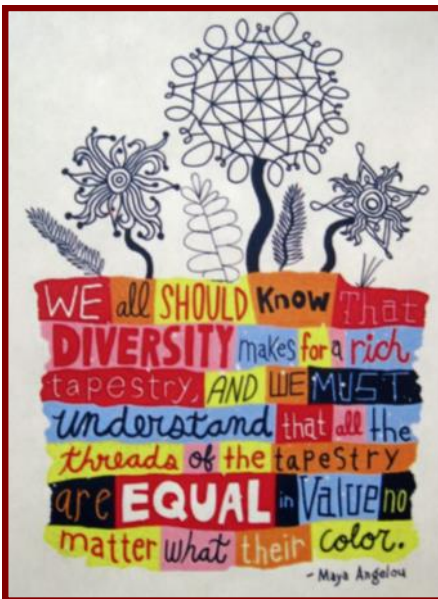
The Bethany Health Care Center culture is living testimony to these words. “Let me count the ways” Bethany brings God’s love to others! This could be an amazing project that never ends but continues with each new day. As you walk the halls of the health care center you see, experience and feel God’s presence beside you. The staff continually reaches out to the residents to make them feel special and the residents reciprocate with deep gratitude. There is not a single department that does not radiate kindness. Everyone is rooted in a deep care and concern for each other. Catherine E. Sabatini ADC, our Activities Director (pictured) on the Special Care Unit expresses it this way:

While at the Mass for the Anointing of the Sick with my friends from the Special Care Unit, I listened to Father praise all of you. I am honored to work in such a place. I look around and feel inspired to boost someone’s inner self. All of us have such an individual flair and that doesn’t change because our own personal health has declined a little. We still have so much to offer. I think this is a great time to reflect on how we can support our friends on the Special Care Unit named Cambridge Street. These are our friends in need of the simple things of life such as hand holding, being present, and helping with an activity.

The sentiments Catherine expresses can be heard throughout the halls of Bethany, in each and every department. People can and do make a difference. Every person cares deeply about the culture we live by at Bethany. Our Dear Neighbor is present in each and every person who lives at Bethany, works at Bethany and visits Bethany.

Signs of the Times

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



It seems that both the words and the person of Pope Francis, an Argentinian son of Italian immigrants, attract many people both within the Church of which he is now the acknowledged leader, and outside of it. He blesses children, appears on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, seeks to reform his own administration, speaks to leaders of nations, and holds views which engage the populace.

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, which was published in 2013 Pope Francis says that “the People of God is incarnate in the peoples of the earth, each of which has its own culture. The concept of culture grasps the various expressions of life present in God’s people. It has to do with the specific way people relate to one another, to other creatures and to God.” (¶115)

A walk around the Regis College campus, examining the signs posted at nearly every step, reveals much about the culture of the College and the people who form the college community. The letter-size posters give witness to the characteristics of the CSJ colleges which Kathryn Miller, SSJ, discovered by visiting each college in 1995.

“Welcome Week” signs for all occasions, as well as the national flags hanging in the college dining room, speak of **hospitality**. Messages about hidden characteristics, such as autism and abuse evidence a desire to be a **caring community**, as well as

caring for all without distinction. Invitations to meditation, calls for attention to diversity show a longing for **addressing the needs of the times**. Notices seeking contributions to the college literary and artistic journal *Hemetera*, as well as announcements of the availability of help in one’s studies indicate a **striving for excellence** in all endeavors. Signs for paying attention to social justice, for the Haiti Project for nursing education, as well as reminders of yearly trips to Peru and Mississippi show the desire to **make a difference in the local and world community**.

However, the best sign of all was the senior, Chris, who asked me if I needed any help while I was walking around campus with a camera in my hand. Hospitality and care were enfolded in a person. It gave us both an opportunity to meet, and to share for the space of only a few minutes before each of us went on our way. It capped my search on campus for the signs of the times.

