



Bridges to the Future

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill

Volume 23, Winter 2011 - 2012

God reaches out in love; we respond in faith

In our Spring issue of *Bridges*, we introduced you to two of our newer members, Sisters Connie Murphy and Meaghan Patterson. Today we can happily report that both women have progressed in the Formation process and reached new milestones in religious life



Sister Connie (above, left) exits Mount Saint Joseph Convent Chapel, accompanied by her mother.

Sister Connie Murphy made first vows on June 28. In October she began a ministry in Haiti, where she will live and work with the Religious of Jesus and Mary, a community which has been active in Haiti for over fourteen years. Connie will spend time in the city of Port-au-Prince, as well as two rural areas called Gros Morne and Jean Rabel, working mainly with women and children. If you would like to follow Connie during her six months in Haiti, please visit her blog, "Into the Heart of Haiti" at <http://www.cmurphyssj.blogspot.com>

Sister Meaghan Patterson made her final vows on October 16. Her spirited celebration included members of her family and ministry. Rev. Ed Hallinan, the former pastor of Saint Martin de Porres Parish, where Meaghan lives and works, celebrated liturgy and the parish choir provided lively music for the occasion. Meaghan continues in her ministry as Vice-Principal at Saint Martin de Porres School, a newly independent Catholic elementary school in North Philadelphia.



Sister Meaghan (above, left) enters Mount Saint Joseph Convent Chapel, accompanied by Sister Anne Myers and Rev. Ed Hallinan



Colleen Gibson

We are also pleased to announce that Colleen Gibson, a member of the SSJ Mission Corps in 2010, has been accepted into the Second Stage of Candidacy. This is the next step in the Discernment Process she began this Spring. Colleen will explore community life with our sisters at the SSJ Welcome Center during this time, which will allow her and the Congregation to continue assessing her readiness to begin religious life.

A Message from the Director of Development

Dear Friends,
Our message can be summed up in one word: Gratitude. You continue to generously collaborate with us as you lend your support to our development efforts. Without you, our hope would fall short.

In spite of economically troubling times, you have been extremely generous. We can account for dollars and cents, but how can we measure the intangible support of your prayers, your time and your talent. We count on our loving God to bless you abundantly.

May the light of Advent lead you peacefully to the Christmas season.



Gratefully,
Sister Elizabeth Ferguson SSJ

Welcome Aboard!

We are pleased to introduce the newest member of the staff here at the Motherhouse: **Colleen O’Grady!** She will be wearing two hats - as the new Director of the SSJ Mission Corps and a Development Assistant.

Colleen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Religious Studies, and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, both from the University of Dayton. She also spent two years there as a Campus Ministry Graduate Assistant, and a year as a fulltime volunteer with the Colorado Vincentian Volunteer Corps. Her experiences as a volunteer and with campus ministry have prepared her well for her new position with the SSJ Mission Corps.



The SSJ Mission Corps, is a year-long volunteer program for women ages 21-35. Volunteers live in community and work alongside our sisters at a variety of ministry sites here in Philadelphia. These young women are invited to open themselves to God’s transforming power, as they work for justice and reach out to meet the needs of their “dear neighbors.” Colleen has already attended some volunteer fairs in the midwest, beginning the search for our next group of volunteers.

Colleen has jumped right into her role in the Development Office with enthusiasm as well, assisting with the Women’s Wellness Weekend and attending our Fall Advisory Board meeting.



SSJ Development Office receives Lumen Award

Many of you will remember receiving our appeal to raise funds for an elevator at Saint Mary by-the-Sea, our retreat house in Cape May Point, NJ. Not only was it a very successful appeal, thanks to your generosity, but it also made an impression on our associates in the fundraising world!

The National Catholic Development Conference, the largest membership association of charitable religious fundraisers in the United States, recognized our Fall Elevator Campaign as the “Best Donor Renewal Program Campaign.” For this distinction, we have been honored with a Lumen Award, which recognizes excellence in the ministry of fundraising. We are proud to share this award with you, our faithful supporters, as it is your generous support to such appeals that allows us to care for our sisters, especially those who will benefit from the installation of an elevator.

Please consider remembering the Sisters of Saint Joseph in your will. Our legal title is: Convent of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia

Saint John Neumann Society

One of the early benefactors of our community was Saint John Neumann, CSSR, Bishop of Philadelphia from 1852-1860. He helped us to find the property where our Motherhouse now stands, and celebrated the first Mass here in 1858. We have named our monthly donation program in his honor.

The Saint John Neumann Society is now in its fifth year, although we have many donors who had given on a consistent monthly basis long before that. This steady commitment is as critical today as Saint John Neumann’s commitment was critical to our earliest education and healthcare ministries.

If you would like to become a member of the Saint John Neumann Society, please call 215-248-7238 or email development@ssjphila.org. We will be happy to send you our informational brochure, or answer any questions you may have about membership.

DAB Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to introduce the four new members of the Development Advisory Board (DAB). Their 3-year terms began at our Fall meeting in September. The new members are:

- Mrs. Marisa Facciolo of Wilmington, DE
- Mrs. Joanne Ford of Orelan, PA
- Mrs. Betty Kilkenny of Brick, NJ
- Mr. Mike Reynolds of Linwood, NJ

If you’d like to learn more about joining the DAB, please call or email us today!

Generosity at Year-End

Gifts completed by December 31 can generate federal and perhaps state income tax deductions that could reduce your tax bill for 2011. Talk to your financial advisor about how this can work for you.

To be added to any of our event mailing lists, to purchase tickets or sponsor an event, or just find out more information, please call 1-800-482-6510 or email development@ssjphila.org



Keystone State Boychoir Returns!

On January 8th, the world-renowned Keystone State Boychoir will return to Mount Saint Joseph Convent for a concert to benefit the retired Sisters of Saint Joseph. Fresh from a tour of South Africa, these talented young men will sing at 3:00pm in the Convent Chapel. This family friendly show will be fun for all ages. Wouldn’t a ticket make a great Christmas gift for the music-lover in your life? Tickets are \$25.00 per person and are available by calling the Development Office.

The 14th (and Final) Sisters’ Open Golf Classic

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love and support we have had for the past 14 years with our Sisters’ Open Golf Classic in the Lehigh Valley. With changing demographics, we feel that it is time to end this traditional event. We hope our golfers and sponsors will consider one of our other outings, and will continue to support our Sisters in many ways. Thank you so much for all you have given us, and know that the Lehigh Valley holds a special place in our hearts.



4th Annual Swing for the Sisters

On October 1st, we hosted the 4th Annual Swing for the Sisters at Flatbush Golf Course in Littlestown, PA. We were thrilled to have over 120 golfers this year! Thank you to all

the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers (especially the Committee members) for making such a wonderful event possible. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13, 2012!

Sole Sisters Run/Walk

October 1st was a busy day for the Development Office, as we also hosted the 2nd Annual Sole Sisters Run/Walk in Cape May Point. Nearly 200 participants came out for the 5 Mile Run or 2 Mile Run/Walk and great fun was had by all. We must extend a special thank you to the 25 individuals who sponsored Sisters to run or walk, the local companies and committee members who sponsored portions of the day, and especially all who volunteered that morning and helped make this event successful.



Mark Your Calendars for Golf at the Harbor

Our 8th Annual Golf at the Harbor will be held Monday, May 14 at the Harbor Pines Golf Club in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. Tell a friend, or see if your company is interested in a sponsorship! Complete details will be mailed in March.

Women’s Wellness Weekend

We are grateful for the growing popularity of our Women’s Wellness Weekend event held each September at Saint Mary by-the-Sea. It’s grown so much in fact, that we are adding a 2nd Weekend, scheduled for the first weekend in June each year! This year’s will be held June 1-3. Information for both 2012 Weekends will be available in February.

SSJ Welcome Center Flapjack Fundraiser

The Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser will return on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Join the SSJ Welcome Center staff and volunteers for an all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 am - 10:00 am at the Applebee’s Neighborhood Restaurant in the Andorra Shopping Center. Cost is \$6.50 per person with proceeds benefitting the SSJ Welcome Center. Email ntrvino@ssjphila.org or call 215-634-1696 for tickets!

Celtic Golf Raffle - On Sale Soon!

Would you like to spend a week playing golf in the Emerald Isle? Our annual Celtic Golf Raffle drawing will be held on May 7th. Tickets are available beginning January 1st for \$100.00 per chance. There are only 300 tickets available, so don’t wait! The prize is a wonderful trip consisting of 7 days, 6 nights and 5 rounds of golf! The trip includes round-trip airfare, lodging in a 5-star hotel, car rental & full Irish breakfast daily. Don’t golf? A sight-seeing option is also available.

This fantastic prize is offered through Celtic Golf of Cape May Court House, NJ.

Yes! Please send me ___ Ireland Chance(s) at \$100 each.
Total Enclosed = _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Sisters of Saint Joseph
___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ American Express ___ Discover
Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____
Signature _____

Return with payment to: Sisters of Saint Joseph Development Office
9701 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118-2694
For details, call 1-800-482-6510 or email development@ssjphila.org

***Please remember in your prayers the sisters
who have died since our last issue:***

Alma Dolorine Taylor
Elizabeth Ann Monaghan
Anne Regina Lannon
Emily Doyle (Clare Celine)
Anastasia Hearne
Mary Alice Snyder (Marie Laboure)
Marie Josephine Merchant (Catherine Josepha)
Marie Dorothy Brown
Elizabeth Kredatus
Mary Terence Kerr
Eunice Marie Boyle
Helen Donlevie (Joseph Dorothy)
William Agnes Cael
Grace M. Pasquarello
Catherine Elizabeth Comly (Scholastica)
Catherine Albert (Michael Teresa)
Ellen Mary Grover
Joan Riethmiller (Richard Christi)
Ann Edgar Hess
Eleanor Therese Day

May they rest in peace!

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Bridges to the Future

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