

Our **Development Advisory Board** assists our Congregation in its efforts to gain the public interest and to garner voluntary financial support, which is imperative if we are to continue our mission and ministries for generations to come. Without the help of the volunteer members of that board, we simply would not have the resources to fund the many life-changing, life-saving programs we offer to men, women and children from all walks of life.

It is only because we have the support of good friends like you that we are able to operate programs like our Welcome Center, our retreat house and so much more. Your gifts are like spring rains, feeding our ministries so they can, in turn, nourish others.

We are a modern-day version of those first small faith communities, serving others together in response to our Gospel call and never losing sight of the ultimate goal: to be united with God and with each other. You help us reach that goal step by step, day by day, year by year.

God bless you for all you do to support the ongoing work of our Sisters and our volunteers wherever there is a need. May this spring bring new light and new hope to our homes, our communities, and our world.

Gratefully,

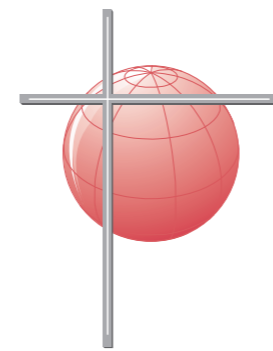
Sister Elizabeth Ferguson
Sister Elizabeth Ferguson, SSJ

P.S. If you would like to volunteer with us in one of our ministries, we would be so grateful. Please mark the indicated box on your enclosed reply slip and return it to us. We will contact you with information on how you can help.



"The Sisters have unselfishly committed their lives to God in great service to others. They have certainly touched my life, and it is with a heart full of gratitude that I serve and support them."

EILEEN NEWCOMB,
DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBER



Sisters of Saint Joseph ♦ Development Office

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Spring 2011

Dear Friends,

As spring fills the landscape with color and light and hope, we are treated to a visible reminder of the interconnectedness of all of life. The bright green leaves bursting forth on tree limbs, the delicate purple crocuses pushing up through hardened dirt - all of it needs sunshine, rain, and perhaps even a little extra protection and care from us as we prune and feed, dig and water.

When I look at the lives and work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, it seems a little bit like life imitating nature. We, too, are interconnected — our Sisters, our ministries, our supporters, our volunteers — in a circle of life that feeds and nourishes our mission year after year.

You are absolutely vital to our efforts to reach out to those who are struggling, to serve wherever people are falling through the cracks of society. As our partner in mission, you are a critical link in the web of friends and volunteers who make our mission possible.

Just as we rely on friends like you for prayers and support of our ministries, we also rely on so many volunteers who give their time and their talents to work alongside our Sisters. We are so blessed to have an abundance of men and women who have taken our mission on as their own, giving hours upon hours of service to others. It's too beautiful not to share, so I wanted to give you a glimpse of what some of these generous folks do with your help.

continued inside



**Volunteers
are the
backbone
of our many
ministries!**



“I have been fortunate to interact with the Sisters of Saint Joseph in many ways—as the educators of my children, as my colleagues when I worked as a nurse at Saint Joseph Villa and spiritually as an SSJ Associate. Through my volunteering at the Villa, I have a wonderful opportunity to share with others the congregation’s mission that has so positively impacted my life.”

PAT BRODERICK, VOLUNTEER AT SAINT JOSEPH VILLA

At **Saint Joseph Villa**, our facility for aging and infirm Sisters, volunteers who are 14 years or older are able to assist in many valuable ways. Some visit one-on-one with residents, while others work in our gift shop or serve as receptionists for Villa visitors. Whatever the task, these volunteers are the lifeblood of our Villa, providing vital services and assistance that we simply couldn’t do on our own.

Some of the Sisters require around-the-clock medical care; others simply need basic daily assistance while they continue to serve in their own volunteer positions at the Villa and beyond. The Villa is a

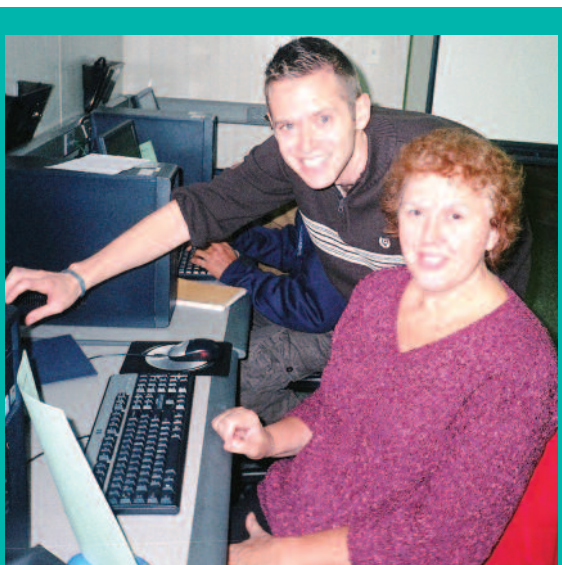
vibrant and vital place where our Sisters are able to get the quality care they need in a comfortable environment. Together with our volunteers and those who support and pray for us, we make the Villa more than just a top-notch care facility; we make it a true home.

Another ministry of ours that relies heavily on the generosity of volunteers is the **Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center**. Founded in 2003 in the Kensington area of Philadelphia, the Welcome Center focuses on the needs of newcomers to our country, community and neighborhood. In addition to classes in English, citizenship, computer skills, and preparation for the driver’s license test, we offer social services to help new immigrants navigate the often-intimidating health care and education systems.

Our volunteers are so important to the work of our Welcome Center. They teach classes, help with fundraising, and accompany new immigrants to clinics, banks and stores to help them acclimate to their new surroundings. But they also do something even more important than all of that: They offer the hand of friendship to those who often feel alone in their new country.

“The Sisters of Saint Joseph’s ministry at the Welcome Center reveals an authentic spirit of hospitality and inclusivity. Responding to Christ’s calling to ‘love thy neighbor,’ their good work in Kensington expands our understanding of neighbor to encompass our international brothers and sisters from every walk of life”.

SETH JACOBSON, A WELCOME CENTER VOLUNTEER



On the tip of New Jersey, in picturesque Cape May Point, sits **Saint Mary by-the-Sea Retreat House**, a spiritual oasis that has been providing a place to rest and find spiritual nourishment for more than 100 years. Situated against a backdrop of pounding surf and shifting dunes, the retreat house is a deeply spiritual place where people can renew their relationship with God and bask in the wonder of creation.

But, as with so many of our ministries, none of it would be possible without the corps of volunteers who help our Sisters manage the upkeep of the rambling U-shaped Victorian building. The repair of front-porch rocking chairs alone is an eternal volunteer project. “Some of the chairs are 100 years old,” says Sister Terry Shaw, SSJ, as she re-rushes a seat of an old rocker. The rushing is painstaking work.

Saint Mary by-the-Sea runs on the dedication of a network of volunteers. Sisters, relatives, lay people and neighbors alike, they come in the spring to open the house and return in the fall to help close down. Their generosity knows no bounds.

Georgiana is one of those amazing volunteers. Her aunt is a Sister of Saint Joseph, so she has a personal connection to our Sisters and Saint Mary’s.

“I had previously volunteered for 12 years, helping with spring cleanup,” she says. “Last year, I felt a need to give more of my time, so I spent one week in the early summer as a helper. This occasion gave me such a sense of peace and purpose that I volunteered to return for 2 more weeks.”

Without friends like Georgiana, without friends like you, we just couldn’t keep Saint Mary by-the-Sea or so many of our other ministries up and running.

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At Saint Mary by-the-Sea Retreat House in Cape May, NJ, our volunteers help the Sisters with any number of tasks – from rushing chairs to preparing meals. Here, Georgiana (pictured at left), a faithful volunteer, poses with a retreatant. Not only do volunteers get the satisfaction of doing good works for the Sisters, but they get to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.