Youth Justice Forum
Longueuil
Canada

Congregational Justice and Peace Network Meeting
Beaverton
Oregon

Pilgrimage of the Heart Retreat
Santa Cruz
California

Province Chapter 2015
Portland
Oregon

Newer Members Forum
Lesotho
Africa
Province Chapter 2015
By Jennifer Brandlon, Director of Communications & Administrative Services, U.S.-Ontario Province

Over 300 Sisters and Associates reaffirmed their commitment to personal and communal action on behalf of God’s creation during July’s U.S.-Ontario Province Chapter in Portland, Oregon, with a keynote address by Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, executive director of Nuns on the Bus.

Sister Simone’s talk focused on Pope Francis’ recent encyclical “Laudato Si’—On Care for Our Common Home,” particularly its emphasis on how climate change disproportionately harms the world’s poor. She reminded listeners that women in religious life had historically led the charge to affect personal and global transformation through community engagement.

Her encouragement for pro-environment action by SNJM members aligned closely with the Chapter’s theme, “Choosing Sustainability: Abundant Life for All.” Much of Chapter was devoted to discussion of environmental, economic, social and spiritual aspects of sustainable living. The sustainability focus was rooted in the SNJM mission to support the full development of the human person, as well as the SNJM corporate stand on water as a human right and public good.

In addition to the hundreds of Sisters and Associates who attended the five-day Chapter, dozens more participated via webcast from locations around the United States and in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Several made virtual appearances on the video screens located around the room, exchanging greetings with their Sisters and contributing thoughts and questions to group discussions.

The Knights of Malta Barbeque
Continuing a summer tradition started seven years ago, the Knights and Dames of Malta hosted a barbeque dinner for the Sisters on July 25th. Organized by Andrea Thomas, and held at the Marie Rose Center, the Knights brought everything: food, decorations, flowers and their families. The Sisters brought their appetites! Everyone truly enjoyed the delicious dinner, live guitar music and lively conversation.

“Many thanks for a lovely evening! Your company and conversation, the decorations, the lovely flowers, the wonderful dinner—it was all very special. Bless you all for your kindness.” ~Sister David Emmanuel Paula
Pilgrimage of the Heart Retreat

By Sister Lorna Cooney, Director of the Congregational Charism Office, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

Beginning in 2012 and continuing through 2016, over 700 Sisters, Associates and lay collaborators from Brazil, Canada, Lesotho, Peru and the U.S. will have gathered in various locations for a unique retreat experience. Seventeen retreat groups—ranging from 18 to 130 participants and with ages 20 to 105, become virtual pilgrims traveling in imagination to the sites in Quebec where Blessed Marie Rose Durocher was born, lived and founded the congregation. In a reflective atmosphere over a period of seven days, and with the use of film, art, drama, song and sharing, the pilgrims revisit their personal story and call in the context of the life, charism and legacy of Mother Marie Rose and the women who were with her at the beginning.

Deepening our knowledge of our foundresses and of our ongoing SNJM sacred story strengthens bonds, sparks renewed commitment, and inspires true pride and profound gratitude in belonging to a community that has been given a special gift for the Church and world. In each era we seek to keep the fire of the original inspiration alive; these pilgrimage retreats have proved to be a wonderful venue for doing this in our times.

Facilitated by Sister Lorna Cooney, with a team in each location, the retreat is based on A Pilgrimage of the Heart with Mother Marie-Rose to Our SNJM Sacred Sites created by the charism office in May 2010.

Vasona Park Picnic

June 24th was a perfect day for the Sisters, who live at Our Lady of Fatima Villa, to enjoy an afternoon at Vasona Park in Los Gatos. The resident ducks and geese welcomed everyone and kept a close eye on the picnic food!

“The pilgrimage retreat was a gift—the time and guidance to journey inward and outward. A time to learn and ponder anew our SNJM story...an invitation to allow that shared story to open us to new relationships with each other; to allow the story to change and refresh our spirits.”

~ Sister Bea Hall, Albany, New York

“We traveled through Mother Marie Rose’s life using photos, words, art, ritual and prayer. What a wonderful experience it was to live these days soaking up the charism of our community.”

~ Sister Mary Duffy, CA

13th Retreat at Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz
We believe...
Each individual has the capability to change the world
Each individual is entitled to safe drinking water
Each individual has the right to feel safe at home, work and school
Each individual has the right to education
Change starts from one voice
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights (article 1 of UN Declaration of Human Rights)
We will be the change we want to see in the world

~SNJM Youth Justice Forum, 2015

SNJM Students attend the Youth Justice Forum

By Isabelle Roy, Director of Communication Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Longueuil, Quebec, Canada

The 2015 SNJM Youth Justice Forum, the third in the series, attracted dynamic young women leaders from 13 schools affiliated with the Sisters of the Holy Names. The Forum proved an extraordinary and exhilarating experience of intercultural and intergenerational solidarity for the 15- to 17-year-old participants.

Delegates shared their thoughts in group presentations on pressing Forum issues like the trafficking in human beings, the right to safe drinking water, and migration of peoples. Participants discussed and honed the social action work they had been involved with over the school year with their peers.

Forum participants enthusiastically devoted a full day to volunteering with one of six local charitable organizations.

“We want to build relationships beyond their usual horizons to make them engaged citizens, sensitive to the ideals of justice and peace that are the ones that our community favors. The forum also seeks to convey to young people the passion to others of our foundress, Mother Marie Rose,” said Sister Yvonne Massicotte, the Administrative Coordinator of the SNJM Justice and Peace Network.

As part of the Forum, participants were actively engaged in laying the groundwork for a social justice project back home. We expect to hear more about the impact of the student’s projects over the coming months.

It was not all work, and the delegates enjoyed free time, many laughs, and the opportunity to make new friends.

“I thought the forum was amazing... My favorite part was meeting girls from so far away and learning that we are all united by the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names. It was incredible to hear the personal experiences of how difficult it is for the students from Lesotho to get water. It definitely got me excited about social justice and faith-based activism.”

~ Cara S., Holy Names High School, Oakland
SNJM Newer Members Forum

From July 26-31, the Second Forum for SNJM Newer Members—those who made their first vows in 1995 or after, was held in Lesotho, Africa.

Following is the reflection by one of the participants, Sister Connie Harrington, of Ontario, Canada.

Recently I was afforded an incredible opportunity to share life and laughter with my SNJM peers from Lesotho, Peru, Canada, and the U.S. How might we collaborate to do the best we can with what we have and who we are? That was the question posed in the 2011 Acts of the General Chapter and was the springboard for our forum, “Spirit in Many Voices.”

One of the most impressive moments was having “one of our very own” theologians, Sister Sophia Park, join us via video conference and walk us through the process of theological reflection. That process, followed by a presentation on conflict resolution given by Sister Mary Pat LeRoy, inspired and energized us, giving us time to reflect and get to know one another on a deeper level.

With that knowledge in our “spiritual tool belts,” we discussed the collective and specific needs of our group. We focused our discussions and planning around the gifts of the Spirit and how we need these gifts in our lives now and for our continued growth as SNJMs: the need of our Sisters in Lesotho for the gift of Knowledge and continuing educational opportunities; the need of all of us for the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, and Right Judgment to be grace-filled and insightful leaders learning from those who go before us; the gifts of Courage and Reverence to work through conflict. We reflected on the gifts of Wonder and Awe praying that, as daughters of Mother Marie Rose, we are doing what God asks in humble service to those who need us most. These needs, which were not only practically driven but spiritually driven, were written up into formal recommendations to be presented at the 2016 General Chapter of our Congregation.

Those are a lot of words for a sentiment that, for me, comes down to this: Am I the best human being I can be by living justly, acting humbly, and loving tenderly? The Newer Members Forum granted me the grace to see the women I call community do those things daily. My Sisters work hard and love fiercely in the name of God guided by Mother Marie Rose. I pray that I, too, can live that way.

Annual Congregational Justice and Peace Network Meeting

The SNJM Congregation Justice and Peace Network met at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton, Oregon in July. Members from Canada, Lesotho, South America, and the United States gathered for lectures, presentations, and discussion.

The first morning began with a lecture by Dr. David Simmons, Director of Government Affairs for the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). Sister Cathy Leamy recalled “David arrived in time to pray with us the Blessing of the Four Directions, led by Sister Margaret Ball. He then spoke to us about the untreated traumas suffered by First Nations children and young people. David described the servant leadership stance of his organization and its commitment to heal, and the patient understanding required to be long-term, supportive, and empowering advocates for their young clients.”

In the coming year, the network will continue to educate, pray, and advocate for safe water for all and against human trafficking. Sister Mary Annette Dworshak of Seattle said that these justice issues will be viewed through the perspective of how First Nation people have been impacted by sex and labor trafficking, as well as how indigenous people live in areas where the water is unsafe and where their water rights have been denied or restricted. The network will also continue work on the issue of immigration and refugees.
Associate John Charles Wester is now Archbishop of Santa Fe

Throughout the activities of his installation as the 12th Archbishop of Santa Fe, John Charles Wester wore his SNJM Associate pin. **Sisters Rosemary Everett** and **Fran Kearney**, long-time friends of Archbishop Wester, were among the more than 1,000 people who attended the installation Mass.

The relationship of Archbishop Wester with the Sisters of the Holy Names began at Marin Catholic High School in Kentfield, California, in 1978, when he began teaching Theology as Father Wester, Associate Pastor of St. Rafael Church in San Rafael. Sisters Fran Kearney, **Joan Kathryn Giubergia**, **Catherine Irene Thoeni**, **Christina Maria Weber**, **Eileen Marie Cronin**, and Rosemary Everett were among the Holy Names Sisters who welcomed Father Wester to the faculty. In his second year he, in turn with the other priests, presided at the morning Mass for the Sisters.

“From the beginning we could see in John the superior qualities of integrity, deep spirituality, pastoral zeal, gentle strength, compassion and a keen sense of humor which have continued to grow through the years of our relationship and in his many ministerial roles.”

~ Sr. Rosemary Everett

Archbishop Wester said, “We are called... to give ourselves to others not out of charity but because in Christ we are one fold, united in love and mercy.” His dedication to helping everyone in the fold has made him a sought after spokesman for social justice issues throughout the nation and the world. He is well traveled, witnessing diverse cultures and visiting the poorest of the poor including refugee camps in Africa and Asia. In his visits with national leaders, he takes the opportunity to speak about human trafficking. During his seven years as Bishop of the Salt Lake Utah Diocese, Archbishop Wester became a strong spokesman for comprehensive immigrant policy reform at both the state and national levels. In addition to his USCCB committees he is a member of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. Archbishop Wester strongly supports our SNJM Core Values and lives our charism in outstanding ways.

For more information on Archbishop Wester: http://archdiocesesantafe.org/

Sister Anna Keim—“The Water Nun”

The Pasadena Star News wrote an article about **Sister Anna Keim** dubbing her “The Water Nun.” Her passion for teaching Ramona’s students about the social and moral obligations surrounding water is never more relevant, given California’s current drought.

Sister Anna tackles a number of issues like the consequences of disposable water bottles. Ramona does not sell bottled water on campus; instead Sister Anna encourages the use of reusable personal water bottles and offers cold water from a giant Igloo cooler for students who bring their bottles. She also had water filters installed on the taps and drinking fountains, and personally inspects and cleans the fountains to encourage their use.

She talks about the enormous amount of plastic waste we create and the consequences when it ends up in the ocean. She takes students to participate in the annual one day Coastal Cleanup Day where over 10,000 volunteers from Southern California do their part to clean up their local beaches, rivers, creeks and parks.

She encourages students to take these messages of water conservation and recycling home and teach their families to think about their water consumption and their trash.

To read the article: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/environment-and-nature/20150621/nun-at-alhambra-catholic-school-teaches-water-conservation-bashes-bottled-water
Along life’s journey, I feel in need of prayer besides my own. When issues that come up such as death, illness, worry, loss of a job or friend, it gives me comfort to ask the Sisters to help me, or someone I love, through the tough times.

I send an ‘SOS’ to the Sisters via their prayer request cards. When my friends receive the prayer card saying the Sisters are praying for them, they are amazed and grateful. I have received comments such as “I am so glad you had the Sisters praying for me. It gave me peace.” Also, when I get the reply that my intentions are being prayed for, my heart is happy and my resolve grows stronger on my journey. I am so grateful for the prayers of the SNJM sisters.

~ Susie Hitchcock, SNJM Associate

A Gift of Prayer. To have the Sisters pray for you or someone you know, please fill out the form below and mail to us. Thank you.

**PRAYERS FOR ______________________________**

**NAME OF PERSON/PERSONS**

☐ IN MEMORIAM (RECENTLY DECEASED? ☐ Yes ☐ No)

☐ SPECIAL INTENTION ______________________________

healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.

☐ TO HONOR/CELEBRATE ____________________________

birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

**SEND CARD TO ________________________________**

Address _______________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________

**SIGN CARD FROM ______________________________**

personal note (optional) _________________________

Your Name_____________________________________

Address _______________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________

Enclosed is a donation of $_____ check #__________

MAIL TO: Sisters of the Holy Names, P.O. Box 907, Los Gatos, CA 95031. A Gift of Prayer can always be made through our website, either fill out the form online or print and mail. www.snjmca.org

A Gift of Prayer Does Make a Difference

Thank you very much for your special prayers for our family during this difficult time. Thank you for remembering Frank at Mass and in your prayers. Your support, your loving thoughts and prayers help bring comfort to our family. We are so grateful.

~ Fran Filice, Los Gatos

In Memoriam

Sister Gemma Fisher
Sister Arthur Mary
January 18, 1921 - July 23, 2015

“Come, come unto me; I will make you a jewel. Precious and rare the glory you'll bear in the crown of God.”

BOB HURD

Thank you very much for your special prayers for our family during this difficult time. Thank you for remembering Frank at Mass and in your prayers. Your support, your loving thoughts and prayers help bring comfort to our family. We are so grateful.

~ Fran Filice, Los Gatos
Please help us make a difference.

I/we want to support the Sisters with a tax deductible gift of $__________

To be used for:  □ Greatest Need  □ Retired Sisters  □ Ministry

Please make check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Names. Check # __________

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□ I would like to be a monthly donor. Please send envelopes.

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We are grateful for your gifts, and keep all our benefactors in our prayers.

Jubilarians

The Senior Jubilee celebration for California Sisters was held at St. Mary's Church in Los Gatos on June 7. A memorial for 60-year Jubilarian Shirley Sexton, who passed away three weeks earlier on May 16, was included.


Photo left—75th Jubilee: Sr. Mary Christine Fleitz, 70th Jubilee—Sr. Nora Christian (Sr. Thaddeus Mary), Sr. Michaeline Falvey, and Sr. Jean Elizabeth Griffin.