

# e-designs

**Sisters of St. Joseph of  
Carondelet  
February 16, 2018**

**Next issue February 23rd**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**FEET IN THE STREET  
Addressing Homelessness**

CSJ Social Justice Series

Presenters:

Sisters Margaret O'Rourke, CSJ

Joanna Bramble, CSJ

February 20th

Chalon Campus

**RSVP:**

[diversity@msmu.edu](mailto:diversity@msmu.edu)



**Penance Reconciliation  
Service**

**March 3rd**

10:00 a.m.

Carondelet Center

followed by social and  
refreshments



**The CLG  
Congregational Leadership  
Group**

meeting in Los Angeles

Carondelet Center,

from March 1 – 5.

As is our custom, the CLG invites  
Sisters and Associates to meet  
with them. We will gather in the  
Chapel on March 3rd from 11:15  
a.m. to noon for simple sharing.  
*This follows the Penance Service.*

If you wish to stay for lunch,  
please call the switchboard at  
310.889.2100 by February 27th.

## First Sunday of Lent

**FEBRUARY 18TH**



On Sunday, February 18th, we begin the first week of Lent. We are flooded with images of rain, rainbows, baptism and the desert. The readings call us to explore all of them. They tell us about the reality of human living. There are difficulties; there are things that happen over which we have no control. There is hardship; there is suffering. There are more questions than answers.

The flood does come and Noah must worry that it will never end. But God is with Noah and delivers him to safety from the flood. We are like Noah in the flood. I like to think that life baptizes us into something more and something deeper. In the first reading, Peter reminds us of that gift and its challenge. Then of all things... even Jesus is sent by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days and 40 endless nights– hot and dry with only the wild animals for company. Who am I to think that my life should be a continuous party– if even Jesus must go into the desert?

So Noah, Peter and Jesus have something to say about these floods, deserts and baptisms in our lives. Yes, they are hard to endure. Yes, it tires us and breaks our hearts, but God is with us and knows our every storm, flood, dry place and baptism. This is the bright bow in the sky God sends to fill us with encouragement and hope. Wrap yourselves in God's bright bow of love and hope! ❖

~ Submitted by Sister Carol L Smith, CSJ

# Valentine's Day- a Date to Remember



50 years ago, on February 14th, I changed out of my habit. I chose Valentine's Day so I'd always remember it. At the time, I was teaching 7th grade at St. Catherine's school in Reseda, CA and it was a Friday. Friday was perfect as it gave the students and me the weekend to get over the shock of seeing me dressed in plain clothes and of seeing my hair, which they most likely suspected but were probably not sure I had. ❖

~ Submitted by Sister Michele Marie Morris, CSJ



## Weekend Retreat Mary and Joseph Retreat Center

Soulful Living  
with Carol Quinlivan, CSJ

Friday, April 20th 7:00 p.m.  
through

Sunday, April 22nd 1:30 p.m.

**More information and RSVP  
on MembersOnly under  
For Sisters and Associates**

# The Heart of Reality

The coincidence of Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday falling on February 14th suggests a reflection on the heart as a symbol. Valentine's is an occasion for an exchange of hearts. That Wednesday begins a season of heart-searching: "Create in me a clean heart." The heart symbolizes what is deepest, most whole, most real.

Although our technological age has brought us great benefits, ours is also a time of instant answers, speedy gratification, and over-hyped conveniences. As a result, we skate on the surface of reality, missing personal encounters and true depth. We become dependent on Google, Wikipedia, Facebook or Twitter for information, facts mostly based on what many people think, rather than on the process of personal experience. T. S. Eliot asked "Where is the knowledge that is lost in information? Where is the wisdom that is lost in knowledge?"

We end up living in our heads or perhaps in other people's heads instead of processing experience ourselves. We need to live within the stillness necessary for the awareness of the contemplative vision. It has been said that the heart crosses the abyss that the mind creates, the abyss being the great illusion that we are separated from others, the world, and God. It is the heart that says yes to belonging, to connection to the cosmos, to being attuned to the harmony of the Real. ❖

~ Submitted by Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

# St. Valentine's Day at CC

Retired staff member,  
Virginia Wood, (standing  
upper left in photo)  
brought beautiful roses  
to the Sisters and  
employees.



Lots of hearts during our Ash Wednesday Mass in Holy Family Chapel with Father Guillermo Garcia presiding

# A Journey of Fire and Rain



l/r: Sisters Rosalie Callen, Kathleen Patrice Sullivan and Barbara Stowasser, CSJs

After strong winds drove one of the biggest wildfires in California's history toward Montecito, CA, Sisters Kathleen Patrice Sullivan and Rosalie Callen, CSJs evacuated their residence last Dec. 10th, and unknowingly began a journey that would extend to Jan. 31st.

The Sisters stayed in Goleta, a nearby community, with Sister Barbara Ann Stowasser, CSJ. "During the evacuation from the fire, we were in the midst of a *Christmas Giving Tree campaign* and had over 700 gifts for children in Carpenteria and Santa Barbara. All of which had to be quickly moved out of the convent," said Sister Kathleen Patrice. Luckily, the convent was not damaged by the fire but had to be power-washed and professionally cleaned because of the ashes, which were very acidic.

When the fire danger was over, Sister Rosalie returned home only to be evacuated again on January 8th, due to the mudslides caused by heavy rains in the burn areas.

Sadly, at the same time, a close friend of the Sisters lost her husband during the flood; her daughter, who is 14 years old, was rescued from the mud; however, her 17 year old son remains missing. During this horrific storm, more than 20 people died, more than 300 homes were damaged and 67 others were destroyed. ❖

~ Submitted by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, editor



## For Sisters & Associates

**Click on button above for:**

- ❖ A thank you note from Sister Merlynn Jane Martin, CSJ
- ❖ A thank you note from Sister Maureen Doherty, CSJ

# NEWS

**Find the following by clicking on the NEWS button above.**

- ❖ Read News of an award for Nancy O'Malley, Alumnae of Carondelet High School.
- ❖ Read blog of SJW worker Jessica Vozella, on the charism and SJW life.

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page 3