

Sisters of Charity
of Our Lady
Mother of the Church

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WINDS OF CHARITY

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“With a Father’s Heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus.”

And that is how Pope Francis began his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, announcing the Year of Saint Joseph: December 8, 2020—December 8, 2021.

Our Holy Father’s desire to dedicate a year in honor of this “extraordinary figure, close to our human experience”, increased during the months of the pandemic.

This crisis, he explains, has taught us how intimately connected we are to each other and that our lives are sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked, yet, by their steadfast and unwavering faithfulness to duty, have impacted the lives of others in lasting and profound ways.

St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can, indeed, change the course of history. Each of us can look to him as a model and guide.

St. Joseph has often been called the forgotten saint since we don’t hear too much about him, but he certainly never forgets us, his children, no matter our age. We

too are loved by him with a father’s heart.

We know St. Joseph under the many titles given to him throughout the ages of the Church: Protector of Virgins, Terror of demons, Patron of the Universal Church, of the Interior Life and of a Happy Death. There are other titles in the Litany of St. Joseph,

each speak to us at different times in our lives or in various circumstances. He is a man for all time, a sure and steady help in all our need.



*For Sister Kateri (l.), Sister Mary Grace
and all the Sisters of Charity,
St. Joseph is a dear and loving father.*

Above all, we honor him as the beloved husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus. Think of the honor of being the head of the Holy Family! Imagine the awe and wonder, the tenderness in his eyes as he gazed upon the lovely Mary and Our Lord Jesus each day in the home at Nazareth.

Doesn’t it seem as though St. Joseph had the perfect life, living under the same roof as Almighty God in the person of Jesus? Yet, we know that he must have experienced in his life many of the same fears, uncertainties and challenges we experience in our own. *Cont. on p. 3*

Mother Marie Julie, SCMC: **2021 Recipient of the Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award**



Mother Marie Julie (Center) with Mother David and Jeff Karls, Executive Director of the Institute, receiving the award.

In 1986, the Institute on Religious Life established the *Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award* in recognition of outstanding fidelity to the teaching of the Church in promoting and defending authentic religious life. At their annual gathering on April 10th., the 2021 award was conferred on Mother Marie Julie, SCMC, Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church.

In her service as board member and, later, Executive Vice President of the Institute, as well as Secretary to the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, Mother Marie Julie was ardent in promot-

ing the welfare of religious and their Institutes. She has been a true spiritual mother to all by her retreats and conferences on prayer and growth in the spiritual life, as well as a weekly blog on the Divine Dialogue of the Soul with God. Recently, she welcomed into her community an emerging institute of women who completed their novitiate formation under her maternal guidance and care.

Mother Marie Julie selflessly serves the people of God in a spirit of heartfelt simplicity, manifested by her loving obedience to the Church, her charity, and self-sacrifice. The Sisters of Charity are grateful to God for the gift that she is to the Church and to our Congregation, and to the Institute on Religious Life for conferring this honor upon our Superior General.

*Thank
you for
standing
with us.
Together
we are
making
a differ-
ence in
the lives
of so
many.*

*You
are our
heroes!*

You are invited!

October 2, 2021 11:00 a.m.
**Annual Family Blessing Mass
and Gratitude Luncheon
to honor you and thank you
for all you make possible.**
**Holy Family Motherhouse
54 W. Main Street, Baltic, CT**

We are looking forward to seeing you in October for this wonderful event. God willing, the pandemic will be behind us and we will be able to gather once again. To reserve your place at the table, please call the Development Office at 860-822-6323 by Sept. 29th. As in the past, the Mass will be live-streamed on the website of the Sisters of Charity for those unable to attend. You can participate from your home by connecting at: www.sistersofcharity.com

With a Father's Heart: that is how St. Joseph loves you

From p. 1

In our prayer during this Year of St. Joseph, we might take some time to sit quietly and talk with him about the desire he had to be the perfect husband and father, yet having no worthy place for Mary to bear their Son Jesus, of being pursued by a tyrannical governor in fear of the life of their Child, and losing his Boy in Jerusalem.

And what was it like for St. Joseph to wonder about Jesus' future, spelled out in mystery in the Old Testament? The life of St. Joseph was similar to ours in many ways. Uncertainty and poverty were well known to him, but his absolute faith and love, and his unshakeable trust in the Will of God saw him through.



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021



(L. to R.) Sister Francesco, Mother Joan Clare and Sister Elizabeth showing off one of our many statues of good St. Joseph.

We Sisters of Charity know the fatherly love of dear St. Joseph. So often he has kept us out of harm's way without our knowing it until after the fact. He keeps our old cars from overheating on sweltering summer days and our pipes from freezing in sub-zero winter. He teaches us how to do much with little and to trust God when tempted to doubt in the midst of trials.

Lastly, when we find ourselves the beneficiaries of **your** continuing, overwhelming kindness and generosity, we turn to St. Joseph, to thank him for inspiring you to help us in our greatest need. We ask his blessing on each of you and all your loved ones because he understands what it means when you, like us, have nowhere else to turn. As you have helped us so many times, we ask him to assist you in your many and great needs—for your children, your parents, situations at work, selling your home, reconciling differences, or even keeping your cars from overheating on sweltering summer days! **Good St. Joseph, take care of our beloved benefactors in their needs.**

Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

*In his
Apostolic
Letter
Pope
Francis
urges us
to pray
to St.
Joseph
for the
"the
grace of
graces:
our
conversion."*

You provide for our elder Sisters

In our letters to you we ask you to help us care for our infirm and elder Sisters. You have always responded generously and we are profoundly grateful. In this issue of our Newsletter, we would like you to meet some of these beautiful souls, our treasured elder Sisters. They have served Our Lord faithfully in the ministry entrusted to them in the many years of their religious life. Now they continue to serve, but in the ministry of prayer and suffering for the Church, the world—**and for YOU**. They are a powerhouse of prayer!



Mother Anthony, a native of Taftville, CT, has been a Sister of Charity for **64 years**. She began ministry as a teacher, but was later called to the healthcare ministry as administrator of St. Elizabeth Nursing Home in Janesville, WI where she served for many years. She has also served in leadership positions in the Congregation as Novice Mistress and Superior General. When asked what she would like to tell you, our Benefactors, she said: "I am grateful that they are so generous to the Sisters. I always pray for them. You know, we make a good team. They take care of us and we pray for them."



Sister Mercedes, originally from Hagerstown, MD, moved with her family to Norwich, CT in her adolescent years. It was then that she met the Sisters of Charity. She later joined the Congregation and has been a Sister for **62 years**. After many years as a teacher on the Junior and High School levels, Sister was asked to open a Learning Center where students who were falling through the cracks academically would be able to get the one-on-one instruction they need to help them succeed. Sister will tell you that one of her great joys is to hear the success stories of her former students when they visit her.



Sister Marie Joseph comes to us from France. She has been a Sister for **57 years**. Sister's ministry was with the elderly as a nurse. Before becoming a Sister, she spent some time volunteering with the sick at Lourdes, France. That is where she learned to love and reverence the sick. Sister spent many years as night nurse in the Sisters' Infirmary at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity, caring for the infirm and elderly Sisters. If you visit the Motherhouse, you will find Sister speeding through the corridors in her motorized wheelchair. Nothing stops her. Sister has cared for so many over the years. Now, she depends on others to care for her. You make that possible. Thank you!

358 years of faithful, loving service...

Thank You!

Our elder Sisters have spent their lives caring for others. Now, in their twilight years, they need someone to care for them. You are there for them! They know that it is because of your faithful and generous support that they are able to have the care they need and live in peace. They want to be sure you know: “We pray for you. All the time. For your needs and those of your loved ones. It is our promise to you, a sacred trust. That is how we give back to you, as you have given to us. ***Thank you for all you make possible for us!***”

Sister Denise came to us from Fredericksburg, Missouri. “Out in the boonies”, she will tell you. She has been a Sister for **62 years**. Sister’s ministry was to the elderly at St. Elizabeth Nursing Home in Janesville, WI. She loved caring for these treasured souls. Her primary ministry now is prayer. She assists in the Development Office a few hours daily, helping to fold letters. She says that as she folds each letter, she prays for the person who will receive it. She presents him or her to Our Lord by name and asks a special blessing upon them.



Like Mother Anthony, **Sister Daniel** comes to us from Taftville, CT. She has been a Sister of Charity for **43 years**, all of those years in ministry as a teacher in the elementary grades. Although now facing some serious health issues, Sister has not lost her sense of humor. When we see that twinkle in her eye, we know that she is up to something. She wants you to know that she is most grateful for your goodness to her and to all the Sisters of Charity.



Sister Bernadette, a native of Willimantic, CT, has been a Sister of Charity for **70 years**. She will tell you with pride that she is the oldest member of the Congregation. When she is not in Chapel, at meals, or at recreation with the Sisters, you will find her in *Nazareth*, the wing of the Sisters’ Infirmary that you, our Benefactors, recently renovated and made beautiful for our elder and infirm Sisters. Sister was a Master First Grade Teacher, serving as mentor to many of our young Sisters just starting out. When we asked her to share her happiest memory as a Sister, without hesitation she said: “Prayer, of course. Having Our Lord with us right under the same roof. But also, being with the Sisters. All of them. I have only met nice Sisters.”



...to Our Lord and His Church!

Thank You for standing with us in the pandemic!



Sister Cabrini says thank you for standing with us in this time of pandemic, so we can stand with others.

You have heard it said repeatedly. This has been a year like none other. The pandemic has brought us to our knees and forced us to re-evaluate our priorities. It has also brought out the best in so many of us. How can we ever thank enough our healthcare and essential workers for daily putting their lives on the line to care for us in so many ways. And others, while not named “essential workers”, looking for ways to bring hope to those in need. That has been the focus of the Sisters of Charity as we continued ministry in our schools and healthcare facilities, in our Homeless Shelter and Food Pantry, in our out-reach to the poor and marginalized—looking for ways to lighten the burden of others, even just a little, and bring them hope.

The Sisters at Sacred Heart School in Taftville, CT give us an example of faithfulness in ministry. Not content to provide only occasional assistance, they decided to set aside Sundays to minister to those in need in their school community and neighborhood. They sent cards of blessings and hope to those going through a difficult time; they called others, isolated and lonely or with sick family members, and prayed with them on the phone; they brought food baskets to those with empty cupboards.

The entire school community joined in the efforts of the Sisters. They sponsored food and toiletry drives throughout the year to assist those affected by the Covid-19 virus. Here is what they heard from some of the families:

“Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for helping our family with these items so we can pay some of our other bills.”

“Thank you for calling and thinking of us. We did not think we would be enjoying a festive meal any time this year.”

Thank you for standing with us in this time of pandemic so we can stand with others!

Cupola Update

Last February we asked you to help us restore the badly deteriorated cupola and bell tower of the main building of our Motherhouse. The roof in that area of the building is also in need of urgent repair. The estimated cost of the project is steep, but thanks to your faithful generosity, we have reached our goal and ***we are deeply grateful***. Work will begin in July and we ask your prayers for the safety of the workers. Working at such heights and under the summer’s heat is always cause for concern.



This building, home to the Sisters of Charity since 1874, was standing long before we arrived. It is very dear to us and is in much need of repair and update. Thank you for helping us restore this precious piece of our history to its original beauty ***—and for keeping us safe!*** When we hear the bell pealing out the Angelus at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m., calling us and the people of the Village of Baltic to prayer in honor of Our Blessed Mother, we will think of you with gratitude and ask her to bless you for your goodness to us.

Margaret Cuccinello wants You to know...

My father had the best sayings! If I had extra money that I didn't know what to do with: "A penny saved is a penny earned, Margaret Ann." If I was deciding to make a big purchase: "That will cost you an arm and a leg, Margaret Ann." And my favorite! In our high-spirited debates: "I'll bet you dollars for donuts that I'm right, Margaret Ann."



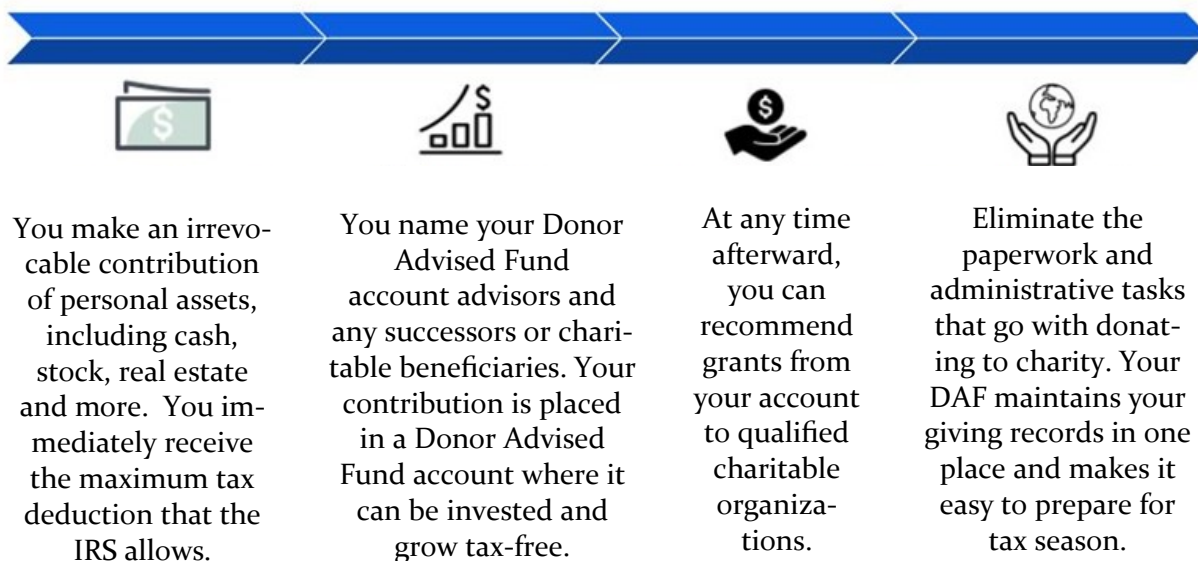
I'm grateful that my Dad taught me finance basics at a young age. He taught me how to save, how to spend, how to balance a checkbook, how to create a personal budget and so much more. I wish I had paid better attention to all of his lessons.

Now that I am older and I work with nonprofit organizations, finance and money are frequent topics in my conversations with benefactors. I am always humbled by the stories that families share with me regarding their financial affairs and the reasons they choose to give their charitable dollars to support the mission and ministries of the Sisters of Charity.

In addition to my one-time gifts, I am a monthly donor to several organizations whose mission and ministries align with my values and with causes that are important to me – including the Sisters of Charity. Recently, I opened a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at Fidelity Charitable Investments. It was a big step for me.

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable account that gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to the Sisters of Charity and the other charities and causes important to you. You can recommend a grant or recurring grants now to make an immediate impact, or use your fund as a tool for future charitable gifts.

How does a DAF work?



Your DAF update continued

From p. 7

Do you already have a Donor Advised Fund? If so, please consider adding the Sisters of Charity as one of the charitable organizations you support through your DAF. Please request that your fiduciary include your name and address on the memo line of the gift so we can properly acknowledge your gift and offer our thanks for your generosity.



You can also create a lasting legacy by naming the Sisters of Charity the beneficiary of the entire account, or a percentage of the fund. With a percentage, you can create a family legacy of giving by naming your loved ones as your successor to continue recommending grants to charitable organizations. Contact your fund administrator for a beneficiary form.

If you have any questions please call me at 860-822-6323. And, as always, remember that in matters of financial and estate planning, you should consult with an attorney or your advisor, as well as the people you love and trust. The Development Office is available to answer your questions or to assist you in any way. Please know that your request for information places you under no obligation and will be handled in confidence.

Have You visited us online recently?

Our new website, launched in October 2020, features 3 main areas, one of those dedicated to you, our benefactors. Here's a peek at some of what you will find there:

- ◆ Weekly reflections from Mother Marie Julie to renew your spirit and deepen your love for Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.
- ◆ Updated Gift Shop.
- ◆ News from the Sisters of Charity.
- ◆ Links for you to connect easily with your family, the Sisters of Charity.
- ◆ SCMC Caritas Prayer Chapel where you can pray with the Sisters and submit a prayer request.
- ◆ All this and much more. Visit us at: www.sistersofcharity.com



Sister Faustina, our digital genius, wants to be sure you stay connected.

Stay connected with us @SCMC.Baltic



Like us! Share with family and friends!

The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.
--Nelson Henderson



Thank you for your investment in our mission.