

Staying Connected

Volume 21 - Issue 12

June 5, 2025

Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate



To celebrate Earth Day this year, JPIC commissioned five billboards for one week around the Joliet area.

JPIC Grant Recipients

2025

By Sr. Peggy Quinn

The Congregation was able to award nine Justice, Peace and Integrity grants this year. The JPIC Commission receives the applications and works out how they can distribute the monies and presents it to the leadership team to approve. The following are gratefully awarded this year. We were able to give \$25000.00 this year.

Alphabetically by the applicants:

- ♦ Sr. Theresa Fifer: Water for Ishmael, a welcoming center that offers assistance for refugee and immigrants in Toledo, Ohio. \$2500.
- ♦ Sr. Alice Ann Harcharik: Streatorland Food Pantry in order to assist the project for delivery of beef to the needy in their area. \$4500.
- ♦ Sr. Jane Nienaber: Center for Correctional Concerns for more paperbacks in Spanish. \$800.

Continued on next page

JPIC Grants continued

- ♦ Sr. Margaret Noser: A project to rebuild and shore up the Community Center where education and programs for the community are carried out in the amazon area where Margaret ministers. \$4400.
- ♦ Sr. Lois Prebil: To help defray the costs of the Sharing Cultures zoom series. \$700.
- ♦ Sr. Marianne Saieg: Casa de Misericordia: Immigrant Assistance in San Diego. \$5000.
- ♦ Sr. Neli dos Santos : Safety renovations and painting for San Damiano School in Brazil. \$3100.
- ♦ Associate Roberta Spencer: Lweza, Uganda - Compassionate Care. A new program where seniors are trained and help other seniors. \$2000.
- ♦ Associate Tom Spencer: Lweza, Uganda – further developing the library tools, technology and services and desks. \$2000.



Left: Sr. René trying out her new mode of transportation after her surgery! Thank you to Carl Bessette for putting it together for her.

Message from LSAP

Goals 1, 4

Message from LSAP Goals 1,4 Subcommittee



If your parish or organization wishes to receive weekly bulletins, google Catholic Climate Covenant/Creation Care Corner Bulletin.

Creation Care Corner



"... the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us."

—Pope Francis

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from burning fossil fuels trap heat, are warming the planet, and are contributing to climate instability. Transportation, including our daily driving, contributes to 28% of total US GHG emissions. When purchasing, consider buying the highest mileage vehicle in the class you need. For example, a 40-mpg vehicle can save you 4500 gallons of fuel over the life of the vehicle and dramatically reduce emissions, compared to a 20-mpg alternative. Hybrid and electric vehicles can often deliver even greater reductions. Check for available incentives on those. Often the move to a more efficient vehicle can result in reduced operating expense and an overall cost savings to you, while reducing waste and pollution!

Will-Grundy Medical Clinic Honors Sr. Albert Marie Papesh

By Sr. Peggy Quinn

At Will Grundy Medical Clinic's Annual Dinner, May 22, the past was honored. Tribute was paid to Sr. Albert Marie, Dr. Wright and Dr. Cerniak. Sr. Albert Marie is resigning from the board after over fifty years. The tribute started with the words "Sr. Albert Marie Papesh, OSF, is a woman of profound purpose – a builder, teacher, leader and servant who legacy of compassion and justice has uplifted countless lives over more than six decades of ministry. They shared her education background and her rich ministry story. The following paragraph captures how the Clinic knows her.



"In addition to her decades of service with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Sister Albert Marie is a also a founding volunteer, board member, and faithful supporter of Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, where she guided and

shaped initiatives that bring healing, housing and hope to individuals and families in need. As both a visionary and hands-on servant leader, she has helped build not only programs, but possibilities for those experiencing housing insecurity, health crises and systemic injustice."

They ended by saying "We honor Sister Albert Marie Papesh for her enduring legacy –one of faith in action, of social justice lived daily and of a life spent building up others. She is indeed a builder of community, a teacher of compassion, a leader in faith and a servant of peace."

An honor well deserved!

SPECIAL
OFFER

A new book, written by Sister Mary Frances Seeley, about mental health, suicide prevention and crisis intervention.

HOTLINES

FROM
COLD WAR

CRISIS LINE

to

**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LINES**

AND MORE
Mary Frances Seeley, Ph.D.

*Sisters &
Associates
only*

\$25.00

Regular price \$160.00

Areas of study in this book includes:

- Community Planning
- Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention
- The law as it applies to Crisis Hotlines
- Psychology and Mental Health services
- School Counselors / Compassionate Listening
- Social Work.

Order by June
10 to pick up at
the community
meeting.

CERT Class

By Sr. Phyllis Wilhelm

On Monday, May 12, the first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) completed and received their certificates for having completed this course. The Community Emergency Response Team program is a nationally supported, locally implemented initiative that teaches people how to better prepare themselves for hazards that may affect their communities. It trains them in basic disaster response skills such as: team organization, disaster and medical operations, fire safety and light search and rescue. Local CERT programs train and or organize teams of volunteers to assist their families, neighbors, coworkers and other community members during emergencies when professional responders may not be immediately available to provide assistance.

Upon completion of the CERT basic training course, each volunteer receives a certificate of completion. To maintain the skill level and continually improve their performance, they are asked to participate in continuing supplemental training when offered in their area.

John Lukancic is now recruiting volunteers for the next nine week Session of CERT training. Sessions are held once a week for nine weeks. John may be contacted at 815-724-3563 if you are interested in being part of a CERT team.

The picture below is the picture taken at our last class after we received our certificates of completion. In the back row in the center dressed in black is the director of this program John Lukancic and in the front row are Sister Mary Fran Seeley and Sister Phyllis Wilhelm.



Summer Gathering

**"Wherever You Go,
I Will Go"
*Forward Together***

June 19-20

USF

**St. Clare Campus
Gymnasium**

See you there!!



Jubilee 2025

**Saturday,
June 21, 2025**

10:30 a.m.

**USF
Motherhouse
Chapel**

A Retreat Opportunity:

Sisters and Associates: We've received a few flyers with information regarding an upcoming July 2025 preached retreat, **"Pilgrims of Hope: Women of Wisdom"** being offered at One Heart, One Soul Spirituality Center in Kankakee, Illinois, on Thursday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 16. The registration deadline is Monday, June 16.

If any sister or lay woman in our community is interested in more information or would like to register for this retreat, please contact me, Sr. Peggy Quinn, pquinn@jolietfranciscans.org. I can send you a flyer with registration information.

Thank you,
Sr. Peggy

Franciscan Human

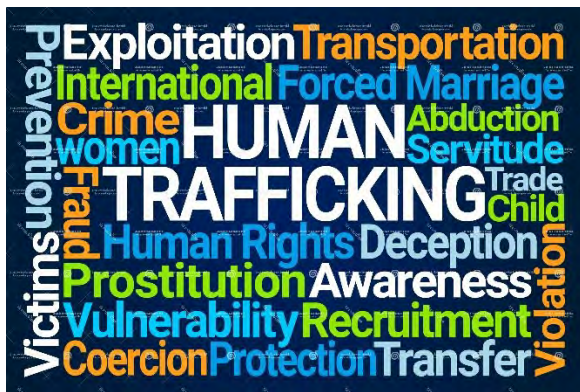


Trafficking Joint Committee

Submitted by: Associate Therese Griffin

When Will Human Trafficking End?

Sadly, it's a huge international business. We have citizens that continue to embrace denial that human trafficking is in his or her city, town, neighborhood, or rural area. So many falsely believe it's across our borders and not here. We are here to service by continuing with updates on human trafficking awareness:



Right: In April's Staying Connected, a small seedling grown by Sister Lourdes was featured as part of a pre-Earth Day project. We now celebrate its growth into a beautiful yellow flower!

Our next team meeting is June 5. Dan Knapp, Social Work BSW/MSW Program Chair & BSW Program Director, University of St. Francis, is coordinating with a representative from the Joliet Police Department. The topics that will be covered are:

- Law enforcement perspectives
- What they see in the field
- What law enforcement needs from committees like us

Human Trafficking and Forced Migration

The U.S. Department of State estimates that over 70% of persons trafficked in the United States each year are immigrants." (Human Trafficking Institute) People on the move or who have recently arrived are at particular risk of exploitation by human traffickers.

Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT) and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC), faith-based networks that work to end human trafficking, deplore the increase in human trafficking in the United States and around the world, some of which results from unprecedented, forced migration.



June 15 – National Smile Power Day

NATIONAL SMILE POWER DAY

On June 15 we smile on National Smile Power Day in hopes that our smile would make another person smile who makes another person smile.

When you smile at someone, you are telling them that they are valued and worth the smile that you just gave them. Smiles are morale boosters and confidence builders. On National Smile Power Day, show your power by sharing a smile with everyone you meet.

From the good morning greeting and the first "How may I help you?" present yourself with a smile. No matter where you are employed, job seeking, retired, or looking for new horizons starting the day with a smile is certainly more empowering than a pout or grump. Starting with a smile first is easier than trying to get there later in the day.

Research has proven that smiling really does increase attractiveness and likability among humans. Smiling creates greater trust and increased interpersonal cooperation. Smiling at someone can help them to relax and relieve their stress while at the same time, it will make you feel at ease, too. Even if you do not feel like it, smiling will lift your mood and can make you a happier person.

HOW TO OBSERVE SMILE POWER DAY

Challenge yourself to smile more often today. Use a smile to disarm a tense situation, or simply smile during your daily tasks. Are you having trouble smiling?

Tips to Help You Smile

- Think of a few happy moments that automatically generate a smile for you. You know, those moments where you belly laughed until your stomach hurts or a time when you were so pleased with yourself your face hurt from smiling. Keep those memories handy and use them to help you smile more often.
- Save a couple of short jokes that are just so silly you can't help but smile. Tell them to others, too. The best ones are simple children's jokes or riddles that play on words.
- Learn Spoonerisms. This fun way of swapping letters in two words in a phrase to make new words make people stop and think. And then they smile and so will you! An example of a Spoonerism is instead of ordering peas and carrots at a restaurant you say, "I'll have the keys and parrots."
- Make a list of the things you're grateful for. Which ones make you smile? Keep the list handy and refer to it often. Add to it and feel your smiles add up.



Recipe Corner: Watermelon Sorbet



2 cups watermelon-cubed
1/2 lime-juiced

Instructions

Dice your watermelon, and place the pieces in the freezer overnight. After several hours in the freezer, you can proceed, but if the watermelon isn't completely frozen, the sorbet will have more of a slushy texture rather than be a solid sorbet.

Place your diced, frozen watermelon into the food processor and add some lime juice. About 2-3 cups of watermelon for each half lime, but it's a good idea to just add a little at the beginning and add more, to taste, later on. Don't add too much liquid at the beginning or it will tend to fly out of your food processor. Start with just a few drops, and slowly add in more as you process your sorbet.

Continue to process your watermelon and lime juice in your food processor until you get a sorbet-like texture. You can add a little more lime juice as needed for taste and texture.

If you want a sweeter sorbet, you can add in a little honey or another sweetener of your choice.

If you'd prefer to sweeten this with a simple sugar syrup, as is usually done, you can make one by dissolving equal parts of sugar and water and cooking them for a few minutes over low to medium heat. Once cool, you can add the syrup to the food processor with your watermelon chunks. For a creamier "ice cream" try using coconut milk or cream instead of the lime juice.

Serve immediately! Enjoy!

Facebook Prayer Authors

June	Sister Clarita Schumacher
July	Louise Johnson
August	Sr. Mary Frances Seeley
December	Sr. Marianne Saieg

HELP!

**We need daily prayer writers for:
September
October
November**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN HELPING US OUT,
PLEASE CONTACT
KAREN GARIFO AT
kgarifo@jolietfranciscans.org**



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If you would like to submit an item for *Staying Connected*, or if something you have requested to be published is inadvertently omitted, please e-mail Sister René Simonelic at rsimonelic@jolietfranciscans.org or Renée Cipriani at rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org