

# FOUNDATION NEWS

for the SSJ Sisters, Agrégées, Associates,  
Ministries, Trustees & Staff



(Cornucopia above created and photographed by Vickie Pangratz.)

Happy Fall to one and all as we approach a full holiday season. Whether Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent or Christmas, it's time to count our blessings and share our gifts with each other. The Foundation Team looks forward to spending these next few months with you!

Carleen, Carol, Cathy & Almi

**Congratulations to the Sisters of St. Joseph of NWP** for their deserving recognition as the **2025 Honoree for the Catholic Charities Helping Hands of Justice**



Catholic Charities BoD and Executive Director Eric Dart and Erin Tubbs; SSJ Leadership Srs. Phyllis McCracken, Carol Morehouse, and Mary Drexler with Bishop Lawrence T. Persico; Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Director Deb Seng.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Sisters was Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Director Deb Seng. As she acknowledged Catholic Charities and guests, she ended by sharing "Today, I'm reminded of the parable of the mustard seed. The smallest of all seeds will grow into a strong tree with many branches where birds can perch. We can all be those seeds that together, can build a world of peace, justice and integrity of all creation."

The SSJ community works to alleviate the conditions which cause ignorance, poverty, suffering, and oppression. Using channels for advocacy close to home and globally, the SSJs focus on major issues like food insecurity, immigration, and caring for creation.

**Thank you, Catholic Charities, and well done Sisters of St. Joseph!**

## SSJ SOIRÉE TO TAKE PLACE OCT. 19

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024  
OPEN HOUSE 3 TO 5 PM  
5031 WEST RIDGE ROAD, ERIE PA 16506

Over 130 guests will be on hand to celebrate the Sisters of St. Joseph and their 164 years of service in the Erie area this Saturday. Reservations exceeded our expectations. To those of you who made a reservation, thank you.

To those of you who cannot join us this time, we will celebrate both the Sisters together again in 2025 for their 165th year in Northwestern PA and the SSJ worldwide for their 375th anniversary!

### A reminder for this Saturday:

The Sisters who participate in our biweekly art class with artist Lee Steadman - as a part of their GAMEStrs Program (Gardening, Art, Music, and Exercise for the Sisters) - will be displaying their paintings in our very own 'Montmartre' Square in the heart of Paris!

If you like one, please let us know and you will go home with it. Donations are welcome!



Almitra Clerkin 814.836.4202



almi.clerkin@ssjerie.org

# 2024 Erie Gives Day and September Donors WOW!

Thank you to the hundreds of donors who shared their SSJ gifts through the Mission & Ministries Foundation in September and on ERIE GIVES DAY!

As you peruse the names, please remember our gratitude for your generous support of the passion, purpose, and presence of the SSJs.

*GOD BLESS!*

## 36TH ANNUAL SSJ THANKSGIVING DINNER

Preparations have begun for the biggest event on the Foundation calendar - the 2024 Thanksgiving Dinner!

### OCTOBER 21:

Thanksgiving Appeal drops in the mail

### NOVEMBER 19:

Thanksgiving Day Meal Reservations - call 814.836.4198 from 9 am to 12 noon

### NOVEMBER 26:

Sisters pack 1,400 cookies for the guests and volunteers

### NOVEMBER 28:

Thanksgiving Day - 1,300 dinners delivered by 60 volunteers from 8 am to 10 am

### JANUARY 26, 2025:

Thanksgiving Liturgy & Brunch - Sisters gift 60+ nonprofits funds to support their food ministries



## SISTERS' PRAYERS PROVIDE CALM FROM THE STORM

Hundreds of SSJ friends and donors were in the path of both Hurricanes Helene and Milton in late September and early October. Comforting prayers and hopes for safety were sent to FL, AL, GA, TN, SC, NC, and VA residents:

Merciful God, You have power over all creation. We humbly seek Your divine intervention in the face of this severe storm. Protect those in harm's way and keep them safe. Grant us peace and confidence, knowing that You are always watching over us. In God's name we pray. *Amen.*

### Sisters: here are some messages of gratitude sent back to you:

Thank you for your e-mail, thoughts, and prayers. Thank you also for the beautiful prayer...Best wishes, *John S.*

Thank you for your prayers!

*Dr. Mary K., Sylvia Anne S., Tim S., Joy G., Carol M., and Chi Chi M.*

Thank you for your caring and prayers gratefully, *Karyn S.*

*Thank you so much for your prayers... we also are praying for safety and security in the heart, hands, mind and love of God. When Jesus stood in the boat during that terrible storm, HE calmed the storm and brought PEACE to HIS disciples... Peace and safety all the days of our life.*  
*Susan L.*

