



# SHCJ ASSOCIATES NEWSLETTER

## AMERICAN PROVINCE

Spring 2018 Volume XVII Issue II

### ACTIONS NOT WORDS



Core Team at its April Meeting  
Smiling and working hard!



Associates Kay Rowan and Barbara  
Bernardi meet with Cathi in late  
February near Phoenix.



Associates at Walk for Hunger Philadelphia in  
April : Denise Karasic, Anne Ayella, and Cathi  
Duffy - missing from photo Tara Zoltek.

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**American Province**  
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Rosemont, PA 19010

Cathi Duffy, Director  
Phone: 610.626.1400 x 310  
Email: associates-usa@shcj.org

***Register Today!***  
***2018 Associate Gathering***  
***Love Full of Action***  
***Thursday June 21 - Sunday June 24***  
***Keynote: Sr. Judith Lancaster***  
***Sending Forth: Sr. Elizabeth Mary Strub***  
***New Sharon***  
***Rosemont, PA***  
***All Are Welcome!***

Regular Registration: \$275  
Scholarships available. Contact Cathi Duffy

***Glory be to God whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!***

# Sharing the Journey

by Anne Ayella

Back in the Fall, Pope Francis began the world-wide campaign "Share the Journey" in order to promote a culture of encounter with the aim of increasing the spaces and opportunities for "strangers" and communities to come together and learn about each other.

There's an old saying: "Don't judge someone until you have walked a mile in his or her shoes." When we take the time to listen and to understand, we see others as sisters and brothers. No longer is it "us" and "them" but rather, it's "we". Instead of asking "why are you here?", we ask "how can I help?".

The SHCJ's Wants of the Age committee (WOTA), comprised of sisters and associates and chaired by Sr. Marcia Sichol SHCJ, asked just that question and soon discovered the many ways to "share the journey" and make a real difference. As we shared in the previous newsletter, a large gift from the Society has been shared to impact migrants and refugees globally, domestically and locally. Funds are still available to support local work. If you are currently working with a group assisting migrants and refugees and are interested in applying for funds, contact [WOTA@shcj.org](mailto:WOTA@shcj.org).

Another way to "share the journey" is to advocate on behalf of migrants and refugees. On Saturday, March 10th, the WOTA committee organized an afternoon workshop. A diverse, engaged group filled the Solarium and learned the basics of Advocacy 101 and realized the importance of using our political voice to make a difference. In addition to the Solarium, sisters at Holy Child Center participated, as well as many from outside the area who were able to view it on livestream.

Not only did the workshop provide information but it also provided an opportunity for action. Over seventy post cards were hand delivered to Senators Casey and Toomey asking for their support in co-sponsoring S. 1580 – Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings. All of us can continue to use our political voice and speak out.



Excellent advocacy, informational and prayer resources are available by going to [www.sharejourney.org](http://www.sharejourney.org).

For more information about becoming involved, contact Anne Healy Ayella at [aayella@archphila.org](mailto:aayella@archphila.org). Happy Spring!



Associate Anne Ayella speaks at an Advocacy 101 workshop, sponsored by the Wants of the Age Committee (WOTA), March 10th, 2018

# From the Director

by Cathi Duffy

As I write this, Spring has arrived in all its glory! The trees and flowering bushes are proclaiming their re-birth after their dormant winter season. I pray that you too are finding yourself re-created after your own winter time. Have you 'looked' at yourself and seen the new blossoms and flowering of your gifts again in their glory? Are you experiencing your own re-birth after a time of dormancy? Our faith speaks of death and resurrection. We can experience them in so many ways when we pay attention.

Our Easter Season is coming to an end. I hope that these 50 days of Easter have been joy-filled and generative. As we return to Ordinary Season, I pray that there is nothing ordinary about it! May you continue to feel embraced by God's love, joy, and peace!

It is hard to believe that a third of 2018 is behind us. In late February, I visited many of our Associates in the West and then in early May, I got to see many in Massachusetts. I wanted to share with you what the Pasadena and Melrose groups have been using as the basis of their faith sharing.

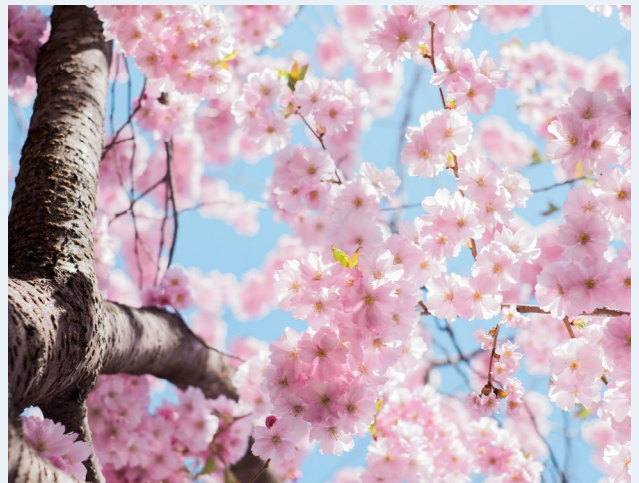
For Pasadena, "Barking to the Choir" by Father Greg Boyle SJ enhanced their Lenten meetings. For Melrose, they have been reflecting upon "Compassion" by Henri Nouwen et al (2006). Both books open our hearts to embrace love in new ways. Perhaps one of these could be an option for your own personal or group reflection.

I recommend that we all reflect upon Pope Francis' latest Apostolic Exhortation, "Gaudete et Exsultate," ("Rejoice and Be Glad"). He shares about the call to holiness in our world today. Why not consider it for your group's reflections later this year?

The National Gathering, Love Full of Action, is almost upon us. Associates and Sisters are coming from across the United States as well as from Chile, Dominican Republic, and England. We look forward to celebrating with the 2018 Jubilarians (see page 8) as part of our weekend together. Please pray that it is a blessed time for all!

Abundant blessings,

Cathi





# Elaine Zajano

Barbara Bernardi

In this issue we are introducing you to Elaine Zajano from Rosemont PA. This talented lady tells me there is “nothing to report” when I asked my questions, then goes on to tell me all the wonderful, talented things she has done with her life! I sure wish I had even half of her talent, but I digress. Elaine grew up with three wonderful brothers with whom she is still very close. She graduated from Sharon and Rosemont College where she became a close friend of Sister Mary Peter Froelicher, even visiting her twice while she lived in Rome.

Let’s look at the education of this talented lady with “nothing to report”. Elaine majored in French at Rosemont where she received a teaching certificate in French. She then earned her Master’s in Elementary Ed at Villanova, a Masters in Spirituality at St. Charles Seminary and took graduate courses in music at Westminster Choir College. Elaine then began a career in teaching, where she taught at various schools, everything from French, to music, to religion and Latin, at all levels from pre-k through grade 12. After retirement she taught part-time for a year at Holy Child School at Rosemont where she first learned about the Associates. This is also where Elaine discovered the wonderful SHCJ Archives, where she took her students on a field trip. She now volunteers there and has a lovely time meeting up with some of the sisters from her high school and college days.

Along with this activity she is active in the music ministry at St. Thomas of Villanova choir, is a cantor and accompanist. And if this isn’t enough Elaine is also the Handbell choir director at Villa Maria Academy. Then in her “spare” time she loves to read, especially biographies, mysteries and poetry, and manages to find time to knit and complete newspaper puzzles.

As to her future as an Associate, Elaine hopes to be able to enjoy more prayer and service experiences in the years to come. And in June she is looking forward to the Associates meeting where we know she will have a lot to contribute. Now that we all can feel a little inadequate I’ll close with a big thank you to Elaine for being our Associate for this issue.



Elaine Zajano (center) at her commitment in 2016, with Sr. Rosemarie Tedesco (left) and Sr. Mary Ann Buckley (right).



Elaine with children from School of Holy Child Rosemont during Nativity Set Open House at New Sharon, December 2017

# Praying in (Un)likely Places

by Cathi Duffy

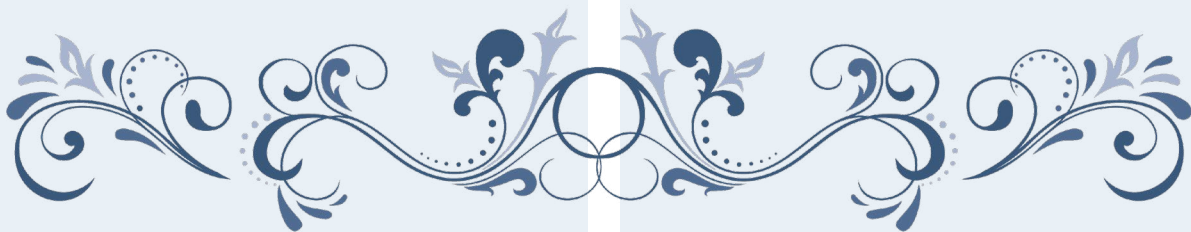
When I lost power for four days in early March, I found myself praying prayers of gratitude and I discover that I was not alone. Another province office staff member shared the same experience. Despite the inconveniences, we were well aware that we were the lucky ones. We were grateful that the power outages did not include any physical damages to our homes, cars, or person. We were safe and healthy, we had places to go to get warm, we still had water, and we knew that it was a short term inconvenience. We were each grateful and we thanked God.

We were grateful that unlike so many in the world, we had a roof over our heads, lived in relative comfort, and lived with electricity, water, and heating with few interruptions year in and year out. We prayed for others who did not have these comforts daily. We each knew that our situation was temporary and for that we were full of gratitude for the blessings God showers on us each and every day.

For all the minor inconveniences of those days, we prayed in gratitude that we would soon return to our normal routines. We were well aware that others who suffered due to hurricanes, earthquakes, and fires would spend months and perhaps years returning to a 'normal' life. We prayed for all these people.

We were also praying for all those who were working tirelessly outdoors to restore power. Prayers of gratitude seemed to increase during this time.

There was not a conscious effort to pray in this way. It sprang naturally from an abundance of gratitude for the gifts that God bestows. It was hard to focus on our own 'suffering' for we realized how small the cross we carried truly was. In many ways, these prayers of gratitude carried us through those days until we each again found our homes full of light and warmth!



# Julie Cadwalladar Staub

by Michelle Dugan

## **Blackbirds**

*I am 52 years old, and have spent  
truly the better part  
of my life out-of-doors  
but yesterday I heard a new sound above my head  
a rustling, ruffling quietness in the spring air  
and when I turned my face upward*

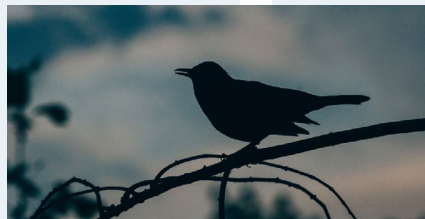
*I saw a flock of blackbirds  
rounding a curve I didn't know was there  
and the sound was simply all those wings  
just feathers against air, against gravity  
and such a beautiful winning  
the whole flock taking a long, wide turn  
as if of one body and one mind.*

*How do they do that?  
Oh if we lived only in human society  
with its cruelty and fear  
its apathy and exhaustion  
what a puny existence that would be*

*but instead we live and move and have our being  
here, in this curving and soaring world  
that is not our own,  
so that when, every now and then, mercy and tenderness  
triumph in our lives  
and when, even more rarely, we manage to unite and move  
together  
toward a common good,*

*we can think to ourselves:*

*ah yes, this is how it's meant to be.*



One of the most beautiful and inspiring phrases in “Blackbirds” comes directly from the words of St. Paul, found in Acts 17:28 – “we live and move and have our being.” So it seemed fitting to discover that poet Julie Cadwallader Staub, born in Minneapolis and now residing in Vermont, earned a degree in religious studies in 1979 from Earlham, a Quaker college in Indiana. A visit to her website confirms that incarnational spirituality permeates her work; her poems celebrate a natural world infused with divine mystery and goodness.

“Blackbirds” uses the single image of a flock of birds in flight to create a moment of epiphany – to arrive at a vision of hope for human solidarity. The first stanza speaks to the reader directly and simply; by starting with “I am,” Staub draws us into relationship with herself and with the experience she is about to relate. The “new sound,” “a rustling, ruffling quietness,” stills the ordinary background noise of daily life and prepares us for transcendence.

Then the second stanza astonishes: “a curve I didn’t know was there,” “all those wings,” “against gravity,” “a beautiful winning,” “one body and one mind.” The description is so vivid, so clear in the reader’s mind that it has the power to evoke a spiritual truth through what is natural and real to the senses, just as our sacraments are intended to do.

The use of the single, stand-alone line next – “How do they do that?” marks a turning point in the poem. It is a question that demands not an answer, but a full encounter with the sacred. In the marvelous abilities of Earth’s creatures, the Creator is revealed.

The human society of the following stanza contrasts sharply, painfully with the beauty and wonder that precedes it. Interestingly, when Staub revised “Blackbirds” (first published in 2009) for inclusion in a 2017 edition of Poetry of Presence, the two harshest lines in that stanza – “with its cruelty and fear/ its apathy and exhaustion” – were cut from the poem. To me this decision suggests a turn toward mercy and compassion, even for the most benighted of God’s creatures (that would be us!).

“But instead...” Staub adds a new line to the 2017 version: “that is not our own” further qualifies “this curving and soaring world.” Thus rather than focusing on the negative aspects of our “puny existence,” we recognize our place in the community of creation. This is where “we live and move and have our being.” One more deletion marks the 2017 version of “Blackbirds”: “every now and then” no longer limits the times “when mercy and tenderness triumph.” Again the poet seems to be striving to move beyond a limited view of human potential toward the conclusion she reaches in the last line: “ah yes, this is how it’s meant to be.” “Blackbirds” proclaims the Resurrection message “in the spring air”: we are redeemed to “move together/ toward a common good.”



# Care of Creation

by Kay Rowan and Linda Tarney



After participating in the multi-lingual prayer service for Earth Day on Friday, April 20th with the Global Catholic Climate Movement I began to think. Looking at God's sunshine, light blue sky, and green plants all around me, I wanted to do something to protect this Earth and all of God's creations living on this planet. I am only one person, but it needs to begin with each of us one step at a time. Where to begin? The SHCJ American Province in union with the European sisters are taking an action to reduce the use of plastics.

In union with the European sisters and the American Province, I took the "No Plastic Straw Pledge" through The Last Plastic Straw movement ([www.thelastplasticstraw.org](http://www.thelastplasticstraw.org)) and the Plastic Pollution Coalition. This movement was created by Jackie Nunez. It encourages restaurants and bars to eliminate plastic straws completely or at least put on their menus "Straws available upon request". The website has, besides the "No Plastic Straw Pledge", a file to print out little cards to leave on the tables of your favorite restaurant asking them to only serve straws upon request.

You may be thinking why so much concern over a small plastic straw. Well, let me put the disposable, plastic straw into perspective of the plastic waste we are creating. Plastic straws are made of polypropylene plastic (recycling symbol #5). These plastic straws don't biodegrade but photodegrade into smaller and smaller plastic pieces of pollutants containing toxins.

Plastic straws are used in minutes but are here on Earth for centuries. They are piling up and I mean piling up. Did you know that 500 million straws are used and discarded daily in the United States? To put 500million straws into a visual perspective, 500million straws could fill over 127 buses each day. And end to end 500million straws could circle Earth more than two-and-a-half times a day. In over 3 days they would reach the moon.

So, if you need a straw to prevent the shock of ice on your teeth and reduce staining and erosion, there are reusable alternatives to the petroleum-derived, plastic drinking straw. There are a wide variety of glass straws made of borosilicate glass, often coming with a life-time replacement guarantee. Some of them include a cleaning brush and can be stored in a carrying pouch. Stainless steel straws are great for camping, lunches, take-out and at the pool. They, too, may come with a cleaning brush and carrying pouch. A completely natural alternative is a reusable and washable bamboo straw from a whole stock. A bamboo straw can last for years if it is cleaned and dried after each use. Finally, if you really want to use a disposable straw, there are biodegradable and compostable straws made from chlorine-free paper, and straws made of hand-harvested, organically-grown winter rye straw.

To learn about living a plastic free life and the resource that I used for this article is "Life Without Plastic" by Chantal Plamondon and Jay Sinha. It was published in 2017 by Page Street Publishing Company and comes in print form and as an e-book. In solidarity with the European sisters and the sisters of the American Province take the "No Plastic Straw Pledge", today.

*"An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits." (Laudato Si # 209)*

*"Because pollution, especially from plastics, is trashing so much of our planet including our oceans,*

*May we take action!" (from Earth Day Litany, [ecospiritualityresources.com](http://ecospiritualityresources.com))*



# Jubilarians 2018

This June, the American Province will honor the following Sisters for their many years of religious life in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

## **75 Years**

Sr. Rosemary McCarthy

## **70 Years**

Sr. Agnes Connors

## **60 Years**

Sr. Ann Marie Durst

Sr. Mary Popit

Sr. Mary Frances Nevins

Sr. Patricia Becker

Sr. Patricia Phillips

## **50 Years**

Sr. Eileen McDevitt

Sr. Eileen Moughan

Sr. Kathleen Cordes

Sr. Maureen Duffy

Sr. Susan Slater

## **25 Years**

Sr. Regina Zoot

We thank them for their years of service to the Church and for truly living 'A Love Full of Action!'

