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Sr. Monica Clare with Bishop Allen K. Shin, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New York

Also Featured: News of the Sisters, Recent Events, Calendar, and Pets!

82 West Main Street, Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945  www.csjb.org - csjb@csjb.org
Sr. Anne, CSJB and Associate Carol Wotherspoon Visit from England

Sister Anne, CSJB and Associate Carol Wotherspoon came from our convent in England for a visit at the end of May, and were here for the Life Profession of Sr. Monica Clare. Sister Anne is a priest in the Church of England, and is active in parish ministry.

Our Sisters in England have a convent on the grounds of Ripon College, Cuddesdon in Oxfordshire. The college prepares students for ministry in the Anglican Church, and the Sisters take part in many of the activities there.

Sr. Anne, CSJB and Associate Carol Wotherspoon Visit from England

I am pleased to report that the restoration of the main chapel roof was completed this spring as planned. We were fortunate to have the work completed before the summer rainy season began. A contractor has been hired to install the underground drainage as the last step of this project. It is a blessing to know that the main chapel is protected from leaks and drainage problems.

Looking ahead, we are now focused on restoring the slate roof at St Marguerite’s retreat house. The present roof is the original one from 1908. Each year we do maintenance on the roof but the time has come for more extensive preservation. Our fund raising efforts will be directed to that project.

Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth visits with Sr. Anne and Carol Wotherspoon
On June 8, Bishop Allen K. Shin of the Diocese of New York received the Final Vows of Sr. Monica Clare. In attendance were members of her family, friends, Associates, and local clergy, as well as Sr. Anne and Associate Carol Wotherspoon from our English Community.

Before coming to Community, Sr. Monica Clare had a career in the entertainment industry in California, as a photo editor. She attended her first Search Program in 2002, and persevered in pursuing her calling until she could finally come to New Jersey to try her vocation.

During her time in Community, Sr. Monica Clare worked in several Convent departments before going to New York City to serve at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin with Sr. Laura Katharine. While in New York, she also attended the One Spirit Seminary for training in Spiritual Direction.

Since her return from New York, Sr. Monica Clare has been studying at Drew University Theological School.
Commemoration Day this year was held on June 23. About 100 people filled the chapel, and our Associate, Bishop Mark Beckwith, was the Celebrant and Preacher. This was a special honor for us, because it was his last time here as Bishop of the Diocese of Newark.

Bishop Mark was elected by our Diocese in 2007 and served until his retirement in September.

Six new Associates were received: Marnie Robinson, Claudia Kohn, Mara Arak, Maureen Beebe, Meghan Gibson, and the Rev. Gregory Bezilla.

The “Nun Better” Golf Outing

The “Nun Better” Golf Outing was held on May 8 at the Spring Brook Country Club in Morristown.

Sr. Pamela writes:
We had beautiful weather for the Golf Outing on May 8. The Golf Course and welcome from Spring Brook Country Club was lovely as usual and everyone had a wonderful time.

We already have a date for the 2019 Nun Better Golf Outing, so please make sure you put Monday May 13 in your Calendars. We look forward to you joining us then.
COMMUNITY NEWS

New Ministries in Mendham and Millington

September has brought a new beginning in the life and work of CSJB. Answering calls to serve in the Diocese of Newark, we completed our ministry at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York at the end of August.

New ministry has begun at All Saints Church in Millington, with Sisters Deborah Francis and Monica Clare joining the congregation. Their ministry there has included a “Blessings to go” tent at the Rummage Sale, participation in Sunday services, Healing Prayer ministry, and service at the Food Pantry. Sr. Monica Clare will be available for spiritual direction, preaching, and home visits. The Rector, the Rev. Victoria McGrath writes, “It is a delight to have the Sisters at All Saints’.”

The Rev. Jay Smith, Sr. Monica Clare, the Rev. Stephen Gerth, Sr. Laura Katharine and the Rev. Dr. James Pace at a luncheon to thank the Sisters for their ministry at St. Mary the Virgin in New York

Sr. Deborah Francis and Sr. Monica Clare at the “Blessings to go” booth at the All Saints Rummage Sale, where people could request prayers

Celtic Journey to England’s Southwest

Sr. Margo Elizabeth has been taking groups to historic sites in the British Isles for many years, and those who travel with her experience some of the “thin places” of history and tradition. These places are best described in Sr. Margo’s own words. She writes:

“The village of Avebury is the site of...one of the largest Neolithic monuments in Europe, dating to around 5,000 years ago.....The town of Wells gets its name from the natural springs...in this charming medieval town. Tintegli...offers awe-some views and fascinating ruins.

Bodman Moor is the heart of Cornwall, going back thousands of years and rich in heritage, myths and legends.... (On) St. Michael’s Mount the spectacular castle on the rock dates from the 14th century. A climb to the top will be very worth your time....Salisbury Cathedral awaits us, a destination.”

Sr. Margo and her group in Salisbury, where they visited the cathedral in October

In 2019, the Celtic Journey in the Spring will be to Ireland, and in the Fall to Scotland. There will also be a retreat on the island of Lindisfarne, known as Holy Island. The dates are listed in the calendar on page 11.
COMMUNITY NEWS

The August Search Program

Our annual August Search Program had three attendees this year. This program enables inquirers to learn about the monastic life and the Community of St. John Baptist. The Episcopal Church has eleven communities for women, five for men, and two for both men and women.

The Search Program is a 10-day live-in, in which participants live and work with the Sisters. Inquirers are welcome to participate for any portion of this period, or visit at another time. For more information, please visit our website.

Oblates Renew Promises

On October 13, the Oblates of the Community held a meeting and renewed their Oblate promises. Our Oblates commit to a Rule of Life that includes regular prayer and reading, contact with a Spiritual Director, active life in a church of any denomination, an annual retreat, and an annual meeting with the Superior of the Community. For more information, please contact Sr. Eleanor Francis at sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 1.

Remember the Community of St. John Baptist

Planned giving is the means by which persons may make use of their resources by supporting the Community through Bequests, Life Income gifts, Life Insurance, A Life Estate, or Appreciated Property. Income from an Endowment Fund will be available for programs of retreat, worship, education, or special projects, as well as the future support of the Sisters.

For further information, please contact Sr. Barbara Jean at 973–543–4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org
The Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, elected to be Bishop of Newark

On September 22, our Sisters participated in the Consecration of our new Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes. The Service was held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Sr. Eleanor Francis was a Presenter (seen above, third from left) and Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth was active with the Diocesan Altar Guild. Several Sisters attended the event, and two sang in the choir. We look forward to an opportunity to invite Bishop Carlye here for a visit.

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark, to which we belong, comprises the six counties in northern New Jersey.

St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals

St. Francis Day, October 4, was the day for our annual Blessing of Animals. Pony, Jennie, and Clara were present outside by Pony’s pasture. Each was blessed with a prayer and sprinkled with holy water. Kookie, who lives on the third floor, had a private blessing in her room. We were glad to have good weather for the day.

The custom of blessing of animals on St. Francis Day stems from Francis’s practice of talking to animals. In one story, he talked to the wolf outside the village of Gubbio and asked him to stop terrorizing the people of the town, and in return, he promised to request that the citizens leave food out for the wolf, which they did.

Here in Mendham we supply seed for the birds, and our animals are well-fed. It is a blessing to be able to have them.
Recently in the news, stories have been published concerning political unrest in Cameroon. We are writing to assure our readers that we are in constant telephone contact with Sr. Jane, and all of the children are safe.

In recent months the schools in the North West and South West Provinces have been closed for the safety of the children. These provinces are the English-speaking areas.

Please join us in prayer for a resolution of the conflict.

As can be seen from photos taken at the Home last month, the children are well-occupied with farming and animal care. We will update you when there is new information.
The Rev. Shawn Carty becomes Retreat House Coordinator

The Rev. Shawn Carty, formerly Rector of St. Mark’s Church in Mendham, was accepted in July for the position of Retreat House Director. He, his wife Jeanne and dog Ranger have now moved to the apartment on the lower floor of the Retreat House.

Fr. Shawn comes with the experience of having worked in hospitality settings for many years. He writes, “I am grateful to be a part of the ministry of CSJB in this new way.” He has been drawn to monastic communities since his first visit to Holy Cross in West Park, NY.

Shawn is married to Jeanne, a hospice nurse. They have one daughter, Sarah, a senior at Drew University. Ranger, their dog, enjoys playing with Jennie whenever they have a chance.

Fr. Shawn enjoys gardening, baking, cooking, and photography. His favorite author is Wendell Berry.

To make a reservation for a retreat, call 973-543-4582 or email guestministry@csjb.org.

Fr. Shawn Carty, his wife Jeanne and dog Ranger join our CSJB family. They have moved to the apartment at the back of the Retreat House.

Departed Associates

The Rev. Henry Titus Folsom, a relative of our foundress, Helen Margaret Folsom, passed away peacefully on May 8, 2018. Born in Llewellyn Park, NJ, he attended Berkley Divinity School (now Yale Divinity) and was ordained in 1957. He served several parishes in the Diocese of Newark. His family is greatly comforted by the knowledge that Henry’s life and ministry for Jesus Christ impacted many, and they are blessed by the testimonies that have been shared with them.

Dorothy F. Gruber died on July 10, 2018. “Dottie,” as she was known, became an Associate in 1979, along with her friend Gerrie Dressler. The two served together at Grace Church, Haddonfield and often as volunteers at our Convent. Dottie was also a medical researcher for many years. We give thanks for her long life of service.

Muriel D. Unwin died July 21, 2018, at age 92. Muriel became an Associate in 1974, when she and her family lived in Summit, NJ. During that period, Muriel and her friend Jean Hoppin made many trips to Jersey City to assist the Sisters with the Clothing Room, where they prepared donated clothing for re-sale at low cost to those on welfare. Her later years were spent serving the Church in Easton, MD. We give thanks for her life of service.

Nancy Lashomb died June 26, 2018. Nancy became an Associate in 2002, joining fellow-Associate Nora Kashinsky at St. George’s Church in Helmetta. She was active at St. George’s for 38 years, serving in many capacities there. Nancy and Nora were active Associates in the early 2000’s, visiting at the Convent and assisting with Community projects. May she rest in peace.

Elizabeth (Betty) L. Dormer passed away surrounded by her loving family on July 23, 2018. She was 99 years old. Betty was born in Hackensack, NJ, and moved to Mendham, NJ in 1946 where she resided for the duration of her life. During her 60 plus year affiliation with the Community of St. John Baptist, she served as a devoted Associate and Staffer. May she rest in peace.

The Rev. Charles Lynval Rice The Rev. Dr. Charles Lynval Rice, 81, our former Community Pastor, died peacefully at home on October 8, 2018. Born in Oklahoma, Charles held teaching positions in theological schools around the country and in Southern Africa. In 1970 he joined the faculty of Drew University Theological School, where he taught Homiletics (preaching) for 32 years. Charles became an Associate after learning about CSJB from two Sisters who studied at Drew. We have all been blessed by his quiet wisdom and healing presence.

The Rev. Canon Ronald G. Albury The Rev. Canon Ronald G. Albury died on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Canon Albury was born in 1930 and ordained to the priesthood in 1954. He served the Diocese of New Jersey in various parishes, and from 1970 to 1995 was Rector of Holy Cross, North Plainfield. He became an Associate in 1994.
The Convent Animal Family

The Convent Animal Family

The Convent Animal Family

The Convent Animal Family

PONY’S POINT OF VIEW

Greetings, dear friends!

Well, the autumn weather is finally here. Isn’t it wonderful? The nights are crisp. The air is clean and fresh. We have had a spectacular display of colors! No one knew if we would have such color this year! But you know what? We just cannot control every thing, can we? When will we ever learn to just put our trust in God? Obviously I’m not just talking about the fall colors, or the weather ... we need to get out of the way and place ourselves in God’s care. It’s that simple. Yet very difficult. We want to be in control.

Have you ever seen the bumper stickers, “LET GO, LET GOD” and “BELIEVE IN MIRACLES...”? (you’re probably wondering how I’d seen bumper stickers! Don’t forget, numerous cars and trucks come to our back parking lot!)

I believe in miracles. Just having found the sisters over 27 years ago was a miracle! And yes, my life is a living miracle. Actually, every day is a miracle! Just spend some time watching how the trees are transformed outside, almost before our eyes. And the changing seasons! We can learn so much from nature. The autumn is a time for letting go, just as the branches let go of their leaves. It’s part of a grander plan... the leaves must be released, and the trees go into dormancy for the winter in order to have new life in the spring.... Yes, it is all truly a miracle.

Love, pOnY

CLARA’S WORLD

Hi everyone!

Greetings from the Convent fourth floor! I don’t come downstairs very often, but not long ago, on St. Francis Day, I came down for my blessing, along with Pony and Jennie. My sister Kookie had her blessing upstairs, I’m told.

Up here in this apartment, I have plenty of toys to play with. My favorite one is “Go Fish!” My caregiver, Janet, has this thing called an iPad. She puts it on the floor, pushes a button, and there are the fish, swimming around! So far I haven’t caught one, but I keep trying.

Sometimes Janet brings me down to visit the Sisters in the library. It’s so big! I love to explore all the corners and hide under the furniture. My big sister Jennie pays no attention! She just sleeps on her cushion. Sometimes Jennie comes up to play with me, and that’s fun too.

Janet and I like to rest together. She lets me lie on her shoulder in her big chair. Soon it will be cold. Please remember all animals and people who will be out in the cold and help them if you can.

With love and purrs – Clara

Kookie’s Message

It wasn’t until about mid-August, when my world really was totally turned upside down. Things really began to happen. Unusual activity of all sorts was occurring. Various objects would suddenly be moved and boxes would just appear and then disappear. My daily routine was not on course, to say the least! Then, without any consultation or notice, I was put in my carrier. What now?? Am I going to that vet again?

The next thing I knew, I was in the car. After what seemed to be an eternity, I arrived in a very strange place and building. I was taken up in some movable contraption and thus ended up in a newly fixed room at the Convent. All be it, it has been rather unnerving to say the least, though it did take a bit of doing, getting settled.

By now, the new schedule is usually predictable. I am well fed, the water fountain is functioning, and there is love and attention. I have a cozy bed and a high window to look out. So now, I can really relax and enjoy life!

Love to all, Kookie

JENNIE’S STORY

Hello Everyone,

So much has happened since the last Newsletter! The summer was wet, and seemed very long since my Sister caregiver was away for four weeks. Oh was I pleased when she came home! Now, I am surrounded by cats! Yes, we have two.

Kookie, who arrived from NY, is very ‘stand-offish’ toward me. I am doing my best with her, but I cannot understand why she is like she is...? So different to my sister Clara Elizabeth, who gives me kisses and twiddles my toes. Now the Fall is here and it gets darker earlier. I have discovered the squirrels are out and about around 4pm on our front lawn, looking for the acorns on the oak tree. So, my fun job is to chase them away. I like to sit by the tree and wait. It is really so much fun, and I get my exercise in too!

With love and licks, JENNIE
Coming Events Fall-Winter 2018-19

CONVENT OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST
82 West Main Street, Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945 973-543-4641 CSJB@csjb.org www.csjb.org

CENTERING PRAYER Thursdays 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Join us for a quiet hour and learn a new way to pray. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. For info, call Sr. Barbara Jean 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org.

LABYRINTH WALKS Dec. 1, Jan. 12, 26; Feb. 9, 23; Mar. 9, 23; 2-4 p.m. Walk our labyrinth and learn about this ancient way of prayer. Phone Sr. Barbara Jean at 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or e-mail srb@csjb.org Meet at the white Convent building.

YOGA AT THE CONVENT at St. Marguerite’s Retreat House. Join us Mondays from 4:45 - 6:00 pm for gentle Yoga. Experience how Yoga can benefit your overall well-being. $12.00 per class ~ Classes are subject to change. Contact: Jean Marie at 908-850-6475. Send us your email address and we will add you to the update list.

BEING CHRISTIAN IN AN INTER-RELIGIOUS ERA 3rd Saturdays beginning Oct. 20 thru May, with Robert Corin Morris. Nurture your spiritual journey with a year of prayer, study and community. Tuition $1300 includes lunch and one retreat. Register: information@interweave.org or 908-277-2120.

THE EPIPHANY PARTY! Sunday, January 6, 2019 5:00 p.m. This event is for old and new friends of the Community. Enjoy an evening of music and fellowship with the Sisters. Vespers and Reception of Associates 4 p.m. Informal Supper and Musical Evening at 5. Come when you can!

WINTER SEARCH PROGRAM February 15-18 2019 For those seeking God’s Call in their lives. A Live-in with the Sisters to experience the Religious Life and the opportunity to learn about any vocation in the Church. Write or e-mail Sr. Monica Clare 973-722-3197 or sistermonica@icloud.com

CULTIVATING COMPASSION A Multi-Faith Conversation” Sunday, March 3, 2:00-4:00 at the Retreat House. Facilitators: Sr. Eleanor Francis, Rabbi Debra Smith, Dr. Shabiha Shelk. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE Sun. March 10, 2-4 pm - Harmony and Healing in Movement. In the Convent Main Chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit and open your heart with sacred circle dancing and joyous group singing honoring the world’s mystical traditions. 908-277-2120 or www.interweave.org See also June 15

A RETREAT WITH BARBARA CRAFTON, Priest, Author and Spiritual Director. Saturday, April 6, 9:30-3:00. Retreat presentation by the Rev. Barbara Crafton. All are welcome. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 3

A MEDITATIVE DAY Saturday, April 13, 2019, 9.30–3 A quiet day, leading us into Holy Week: Meditations on the Stations of the Cross. Conducted by Eileen Kennedy, artist and Associate. $50 includes lunch. Contact sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 9-3.

THE NUN BETTER GOLF OUTING: The next Golf Outing at the Spring Brook Country Club, Morristown will be held on Monday, May 13, 2019. SAVE THE DATE! It’s a chance to meet new people who are all interested in CSJB and golf! Contact: sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 9

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE Harmony and Healing in Movement, Sat. June 15, 10 –12. In the Convent Main Chapel. Rejuvenate your spirit and open your heart with sacred circle dancing and joyous group singing honoring the world’s mystical traditions. 908-277-2120 or www.interweave.org

COMMEMORATION DAY Sat. June 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Mark the date now for our Community’s annual celebration with Associates and friends. Celebrant and Preacher: Bp. Mary Glasspool. Solemn Eucharist, lunch and fellowship on the cloister. RSVP-Sr. Eleanor Francis 973-543-4641x3, sref@csjb.org

Celtic Journeys: RETREAT ON HOLY ISLAND (Lindisfarne) Feb. 22– March 2, 2019
IRELAND: May 15-26 SCOTLAND: Sept. 6-14 www.celticjourneys.org
For more information: Contact Sr. Margo at srmargo@gmail.com or 973-543-4641 ext. 4

Spiritual Intensive Monthly with Interweave:

CONTACT: information@interweave.org or 908-277-2120
Coming Events

THE EPIPHANY PARTY
January 6, 2019
Associate Receptions at 4, Music & Refreshments at 5

WINTER SEARCH PROGRAM
February 15–18

CULTIVATING COMPASSION:
A Multi-Faith Conversation
Sunday, March 3, 2–4 pm

THE NUN BETTER GOLF OUTING
Monday, May 13, 2019