

Community Notes

News of the Community of St. John Baptist Winter 2017-18 Vol. *XVIX* No. 3



**For more information
on the Search Program:**

**Contact Sr. Barbara Jean
973-543-4641 ext. 1**

srbj@csjb.org www.csjb.org

Winter
Search Program
with the
Community of
St. John Baptist

February
16-19, 2018

Have you considered...
Summer Internship?
Becoming an Associate
or Oblate?
Living Alongside the
Sisters?
Or exploring a
Religious Vocation?

See Article on page 8

Renewing Our Ministry

Capital Campaign News

Tournament Schedule

Registration ~ 10.00 am

Lunch ~ 11.00 am

Shotgun Start ~ 1.00 pm

Cocktail Reception ~ 5.30 pm

Dinner ~ 6.30 pm

Lexus of Route 10 Mendham Ford

Jim Salerno Buick Towne Toyota

In Case of Rain, Please Call
Spring Brook Country Club - 973-867-1492 or
Sister Pamela 973-906-1878

Special Raffles & Other Prizes

Golf Committee

Sheila Mulholland—Tom Curtin, Co-Chairs
Sister Pamela
Christine Brodeur
Lynn Mullin
Kathleen Mitchell
Mark O' Sullivan
Joe Shanahan
John Trombetta
Jerry Wanio
Dave Woods

Events of the Day

Scramble Format

Team Awards

Individual Contests
Longest Drives (Men &
Women)(3) Closest to the Pins

Fabulous

Hole-In-One Prizes

**St John the Baptist
Foundtion
presents our
4th Annual**



Monday, May 7, 2018

Spring Brook Country Club

9 Spring Brook Road

Morristown, NJ 07960

***Please support our
Golf Outing,
as we devote all proceeds to
restoration of St. John Baptist Chapel***

(Please see article on page 3)



Please assist the Sisters in the Restoration of St. John Baptist Chapel *A Place of Prayer and Song*



St. John Baptist Chapel Today

The Convent (including St. John Baptist Chapel) is a historic French Eclectic building, listed on the State and National Registers. Ten years ago in 2007, the Sisters embarked on a capital campaign to repair and restore its historic buildings and cemetery. With the help of a dedicated group of committee members, about \$2.6 million has already been raised, and extensive work done to restore and maintain these beautiful buildings.

Urgently Needed

However, the bulk of the work has been on the section comprising the living quarters of Sisters and guests in the Convent and Retreat House. ***It is urgent now that we complete the restoration of the chapel***, so that those who come are safe and secure.

The next phase in our planned restoration project is the

replacement of the shingles, the upgrade of gutters and downspouts, and the improvement of the underground drainage system of the chapel. The estimated cost is **\$260,000**.

This roof, unfortunately, is the only part of our building that is not 100 years old.

Lacking sufficient funds during World War One, the Sisters built a flat roof over the chapel in hopes of completing it at a later date. In the 1970's, a peaked roof was added.

This roof is now in dire need of restoration, and is not eligible for historic grants.

We are turning to you in hopes of assistance, so that this sacred place of spirituality, art and music can continue to be utilized to the fullest.

The Foundation

The St. John the Baptist Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation, founded in 1905, incorporated in New York and New Jersey; "the purposes of which are the carrying on of charitable mission work in connection with Community of St. John Baptist." - By-Laws of the St. John the Baptist Foundation

The St. John the Baptist Foundation receives all donations for the Capital Campaign that was founded in 2007 for the purpose of renovation and restoration of the buildings of the Community of St. John Baptist, located at 82 West Main Street in Mendham Township, New Jersey 07945.

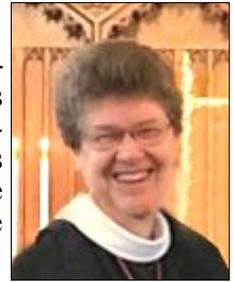
Checks are made out to: St. John the Baptist Foundation

For further information on the Community and its work, please see the website at www.csjb.org

Contact: office@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 0

NEWS OF THE SISTERS

Sr. Eleanor Francis, as our Superior, is responsible for the day-to-day organization of the Convent and leadership on various boards. As a priest of the Diocese of Newark, she conducts services at the Convent and serves on a rota with others at the House of the Good Shepherd in Hackettstown. Her special interest is interfaith spirituality, and she conducts workshops on Eastern religions and the mystics. Last summer she lectured on St. Teresa of Avila at a conference organized by the Vedanta Society in California. She also conducts retreats and offers Spiritual Direction, and is the Sister for Associates and Oblates.



Sr. Deborah Francis is our Assistant Superior. She is in charge of the Convent when Sr. Eleanor Francis is away. Her specialty is handwork, and she makes beautiful miniature pictures in counted cross-stitch and mounts them on greeting cards for others or for sale in the “Nun Better” shop. She is also an expert in the kitchen, where she creates delicious dishes for Sundays and holidays when Leo, our cook, is not here. She specializes in Jewish recipes.

As a native New Yorker, Sr. Deborah Francis was happy to serve for seven years at our house on Times Square at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin.

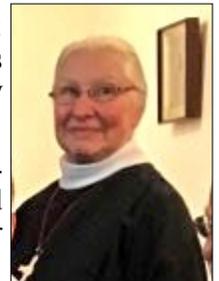


Sr. Barbara Jean is our Director of Novices. In recent years she has had the opportunity to walk the path of vocation with Sisters Victoria Michelle and Monica Clare. She is in charge of our two Search Programs each year, which are for anyone interested in being a Sister, Oblate, Associate or Alongsider of the Community. At present she is working with Kathryn McCulley, our first Alongsider.

Sr. Barbara Jean is also the editor of the CSJB newsletter, *Community Notes*, and serves on our Capital Campaign Committee. As a priest, she conducts services at the Convent and assists the rector of St. Mark’s Church in Mendham on a regular basis. She also sees individuals for Spiritual Direction.

Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth is a nurse and is responsible for our infirmary. She is Guest Sister at the Convent and works closely with Sr. Margo Elizabeth on scheduling visitors. She greets guests who come, making them comfortable and helping them settle in. She also is in charge of our library and the sewing room where the Sisters’ habits are made.

Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth offers guided retreats to persons who come for an extended period of discernment and prayer, and she sees individuals for Spiritual Direction. She also offers Altar Guild workshops. She has served on the Diocesan and National Altar Guilds. She also is an avid gardener and enjoys working with plants.



Sr. Laura Katharine works at our branch house at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York, where she is active in the sacristy.

St. Mary’s is a church where the Eucharist is celebrated daily and Solemn Evensong and Benediction are held on the high festivals of the Church year. Sr. Laura Katharine works with many volunteers to prepare for the elaborate liturgies held at St. Mary’s. She also participates in Bible Studies and classes offered at the parish.



Sr. Pamela, who came to us from our English convent in 1999, is the person who pioneered in bringing our Office Book (the monastic worship services that are held daily in our chapel) to its present form. Each day (except on Monday) we recite Lauds, Terce, Noonday Prayer, Vespers and Compline, singing parts of them in Gregorian Chant. As a professional musician, Sr. Pamela has arranged the psalms and canticles of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer for singing.

Sr. Pamela is active on our Capital Campaign Committee, organizing Golf Outings and concerts to help raise funds for our construction projects. She also is our dog Jennie’s caregiver.

NEWS OF THE SISTERS

Sr. Mary Lynne is our “Good Shepherd Home” Sister, having made numerous journeys to the orphanage in Cameroon over the past 17 years. She keeps in constant contact with Sr. Jane Mankaa, founder of the Home, and serves on the Good Shepherd Home Committee. Sr. Mary Lynne is also an artist and crafter, specializing presently in miniature scrap books and greeting cards. In the past she has done drawing, painting, and wood carving. She also crafts original jewelry. She is most often found working on her latest art or craft project. Sr. Mary Lynne is also in charge of our pantry, making sure that all of our meals are properly prepared and on time.



Sr. Margo Elizabeth is the “Celtic Journeys” Sister, leading groups annually to Ireland in the Spring and to either England, Scotland or Wales in the Fall. This includes the arrangements for all transportation, hotel reservations and dates at places to be visited. She is one of the Guest Sisters, and schedules groups and guests at the Retreat House, the Convent Guest Wing, and the guest apartment behind the Retreat House. As a musician, she often leads the music at our Offices and Eucharist, accompanying our hymns with her flute. Sr. Margo is an expert photographer, and supplies the Nun Better Shop with lovely photos of the scenery around the Convent. She has authored a book titled “*sometimes a star ...*” by M.E. Colman, which is available on Amazon.com.

Sr. Margo is a spiritual director and sees directees on a regular basis.

Sr. Linda Clare is in charge of our buildings and grounds, working directly with Ken McCurdy, our Estate Manager, and his son Ryan, his assistant. She also is on the Construction Committee, which plans projects that will be implemented when the necessary funds are raised. The most recent job completion was the installation of new rafters in the Main Chapel roof and over the cloister. Sr. Linda Clare has until recently been in charge of the Chapel, where she now assists Sr. Victoria Michelle when needed. She also is in charge of our Community Garden, located near the Retreat House. She delivers the produce, when in season, to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown on a



Sr. Victoria Michelle made her Final Vows this past September, and is now a full member of the Community. She is in charge of the chapel, setting up for services and caring for the vestments, books and vessels that are needed. She also enjoys making and sending greeting cards, which are for people in need, or on sale in the Nun Better Shop. Bible study is her favorite activity, and she belongs to a study group at the Grace Lutheran Church in Mendham.

Sister Victoria is also involved with the Church of the Messiah in Chester, where she is in charge of the Altar Guild. She enjoys the many activities of the church, including the Thrift Shop, the Senior Resource Center and the mission trips. She also helps with Church School and the Vacation Bible School.

Sr. Monica Clare is presently serving at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square, New York. Besides her prayerful presence at all of the daily services, Sr. Monica has greatly expanded the church’s outreach to the homeless in mid-town Manhattan, bringing in volunteers and creating drop-in days. Sr. Monica is studying Spiritual Direction at the One Spirit School in Manhattan and now has several directees.

Sr. Monica also is in charge of St. Mary’s website, which she recently re-designed, as well as the publicity for the church’s capital campaign. She also aids Sr. Barbara Jean when needed for production of the CSJB newsletter, *Community Notes*, and she partnered with Sr. Pamela on the creation of an updated CSJB website.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Daytop Holiday Brunch



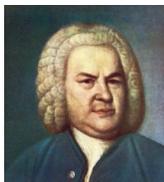
Sr. Barbara Jean visits with members of the choir

Several Sisters attended the annual Holiday Brunch at Daytop in mid-December. Held in the gym, this day is an opportunity for neighbors, friends, board members, and those from the helping professions to witness the change that the Daytop program can make in a young life. Young adults age 18-21 are now eligible to participate at Daytop along with the teenage residents. This change has been a welcome addition to the program.



Governor Chris Christie addresses choir members and audience

This year, the Daytop residents were honored to welcome Governor Chris Christie into their midst. Governor Christie, a Mendham resident, was once a member of the Daytop Board before taking office in State government. He gave an inspiring talk, focusing on the concept that addiction steals a person's God-given right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," as named in our Declaration of Independence. The residents were encouraged to use this time to find these important values again.



Adelphi Chamber Ensemble Presents "Bach & Sons"

On November 19, the Adelphi Chamber Ensemble returned to our St. John Baptist Chapel, this time to perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach and three of his famous sons, all musicians of note in their day. The final number performed, the *Brandenburg Concerto*

No. 1 in F Major by J.S. Bach, received a standing ovation, as the 15-member Ensemble stood. The chapel was full for this outstanding performance, enhanced by the Chapel's excellent acoustics. All proceeds are for the support of our restoration project in the Chapel.



Sr. Pamela thanks the Chamber Ensemble and conductor David MacFarlane



Violinist Judy Kang performs J.S. Bach's *Partita No. 3 in E Major*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Peter Savastano Received as Oblate

On November 11, the Rev. Dr. Peter Savastano was received by Sister Eleanor Francis as an Oblate of CSJB.

Peter became an Associate in 2015. He is a Professor of Anthropology at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, specializing in religion in various cultures.

We first became acquainted with Peter through Interweave, an educational and spiritual organization founded by our Associate the Rev. Robert Morris. Peter's involvement in our activities has brought a lively curiosity and humor into our midst that is refreshing and challenging. We look forward to working with him in future Interweave partnerships.



Peter stands between Juli Towell and Deacon John Van Dine, Oblates, after his reception

Emergent Spirit



Members of the Emergent Spirituality class begin each meeting with meditative prayer in the Convent's Chapter Room

Emergent Spirit is one of the many courses offered by Interweave, "An Interfaith, Interspiritual Learning Center Seeking the Wellness of Self and Society," founded by the Rev. Robert Corin Morris. Courses are held at various locations in northern New Jersey. The Convent of St. John Baptist has hosted many Interweave courses since its inception in the 1980's.

Members of this class have studied under the leadership of Robert Morris and Peter Savastano. The class has covered topics including "The Realization of Mystery," "The Soul and its Gods," and "Feminine Images of Divinity." "Walking on Earth, Living in Spirit" is the theme of Year 2, 2017-18.

For a whole catalog of Interweave, course offerings, see: www.interweave.org or call 908-227-2120

Departed Associate: *Margaret Price*

Margaret Price, Associate of CSJB, passed away peacefully at age 93 on October 27, 2017 at her home, "Lake Openaka" in Denville, NJ. She had been an English teacher at St. John Baptist School from 1969-1980. She was known by her students for her love of literature and her enthusiasm for learning.

Along with her teaching, she also collaborated with former student Carmen Bowser on a book on the history of the School.

Her funeral was held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, where she had served on the altar guild for many years. Sr. Barbara Jean and Ellen Kohn Perry '80 were in attendance. She is survived by her sons Robert and Alexander and their families. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.



The Winter Search Program

The Winter Search Program will be held this year during Presidents' Week-end, February 16-19, 2018.

During the Program, the participants share life with the Sisters, including chapel services, meals, individual visits, and group activities.

There will be time for guided meditation and private prayer, as well as personal conversations, if desired.

The program will begin with 4:45 Vespers on Friday, February 16 (or whenever you can make it after work,) and ends after lunch on Monday the 19th after lunch.

To sign up for the program, please email Sr. Barbara Jean at srbj@csjb.org, or call 973-543-4641 ext. 1.

Blessing of the Animals

In early October, we held a blessing service for our animals in honor of St. Francis, whose day is October 4. St. Francis is famous for talking to animals and taming them, especially the well-known "wolf of Gubbio" who had been terrorizing the town. In attendance this time we had the Orgera family with their pets, Bugaboo the horse and Autumn and Bos their dogs. We also blessed the Carty dogs, Scout and Ranger, who came with Fr. Shawn Carty, Rector of St. Mark's in Mendham. Our own animals, Pony, Jennie, and Bob were also blessed.



Left to right: Sr. Margo Elizabeth, Jennie, Sr. Pamela, Autumn, Anthony Orgera, Emily Orgera, Bugaboo (horse), Karen Orgera, Boz, Rob Orgera.



L to R: Sr. Pamela, Sr. Linda Clare, Fr. Shawn Carty, Scout, Sr. Barbara Jean, Ranger, Sr. Eleanor Francis, Janet Thomas

St. John Baptist School Alumnae News

- 1941 **Kit King Rockwell** sent Christmas greetings. Kit attends Oblate meetings when able, and phones in prayer requests from time to time. She continues to live in her own home and attends church regularly.
- 1944 **Patricia Wilson Vernam** sent Christmas greetings.
- 1956 **Nancy Munch Bilheimer** sent Christmas greetings.
- 1961 **Mary Ann Lewis Renn** sent Christmas greetings. She visits frequently when her husband Wade comes to celebrate and preach.
- 1965 **Madeleine Cutler Thompson** sent Christmas greetings.
- 1966 **Peggy Salter Barrus** sent Christmas greetings
- 1968 **Elizabeth Cumming Gheno** is still our Alumnae Treasurer. She and husband Ken travel when possible to tennis matches around the world.
- 1970 **Debbie Blair Kamins** sent Christmas greetings
- 1970 **Pamela Warntz** serves on the Capital Campaign with friend Gail Slater. They are frequent visitors at the Convent.
- 1971 **Kate Symonds** took early retirement after 22 years with the Postal Service., and now works part-time at a stable.
- 1972 **Christine Brodeur MacClellan** visits the Convent frequently, sometimes with husband Don. She is secretary of the Capital Campaign Committee.
- 1972 **Jane Watts Hanson** sent a Christmas message and pictures of her grandchildren, one from each of her twin daughters.

In Memory of Bob



It is with great sadness that we share the news that our beloved cat Bob has crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

On the evening of November 13, Bob was last seen under a car parked next to our garage. When called to come in, he declined to move, preferring to stay outside in the warm evening breeze. He had done so many times before. It was his custom to stay near the Convent and wait by the front door when it was unlocked at 6 am. This time, he did not return.

We remember Bob for his affectionate ways. He loved to be held and petted. However, he lived to get outside and explore. He often went for walks with the Sisters and Jennie, following along behind.

He is greatly missed by all of us, and especially by his caregivers Sr. Deborah Francis and our resident Oblate Janet Thomas. We give thanks for the love and affection he shared with all of us and for the fun he had with Jennie, with whom he played "chase."

News from Jennie

Hi Folks –As I send this message, we are having snow! They say we might have 2-3 inches. I love to roll in it in it and push it around. What fun!

But life hasn't been the same since I lost my playmate and brother, Bob the cat. He may have been small, but he was fast! We had a great time playing Hide and Seek. He would hide from me, and then dart out and expect to be chased. Around and around we went! When I go out for a walk with Sister Pam, I visit his old places.

I have a big responsibility around here. None of the humans can hear as well as I do. I KNOW when someone is at the door, and I warn them with my big, loud bark. (I'm good at that. I've practiced it!) I take my job very seriously so everyone knows when we have a visitor. Sometimes I tell them who's in the woods, too.

I love my family and am glad they adopted me. I hope we can soon adopt another cat, so I have someone to chase! Love and licks for Christmas, **Jennie**



Jennie with Bob

Kookie's World

Hello everyone, welcome to my world! I live in a nice apartment with my Sisters on the top floor of the Mission House. Once in a while I get to go downstairs, but mostly I enjoy the view from the windows. Escape to the fourth floor is a big project, and I don't try it very often.

Not too long ago the Sisters told me that I would be going out, and I was all excited, until I learned that I was going to the doctor! I was carried there in a box that they call a "carrier," and I was scared! But it actually wasn't too bad, and he told my Sisters that I am very healthy. I could have told them that!

My favorite activity at home is watching the birds that land on our roof and fly by the window. In the spring they have their young, and now that it's getting cold, some have flown away. I'll wait for them next spring. I also like snuggling up with Sr. Laura Katharine and Sr. Monica Clare, night or day! And a few days ago, Sr. Deborah Francis came back for a visit. It was so great to see her! Well, that's my news for now. Merry Christmas to all—



Kookie

Pony's Point of View

Well, we had our first snowfall of the season. It didn't amount to much, only an inch or two. It was one of those soft gentle snowfalls, so very holy. I just stood outside and watched, and listened... the spirit of Advent is in the air.

I look forward to writing to you again in the Spring. Have a Blessed Christmas and Epiphany.

Love,

pOnY

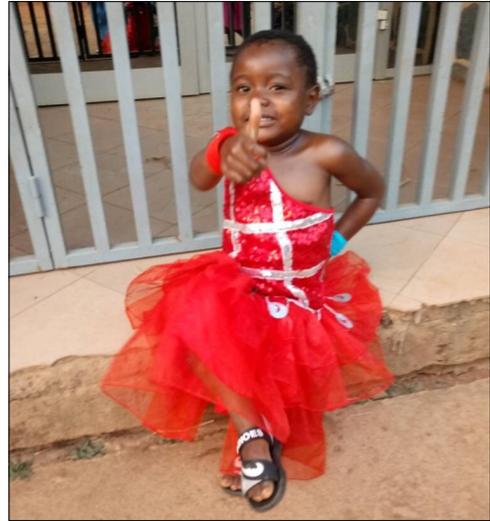


GOOD SHEPHERD HOME NEWS

NEWS FROM SR. JANE



On December 18, we had a phone visit with Sr. Jane. She spoke about the plans for Christmas in Bamenda, Batibo and Kuflu. At each of the three locations, Christmas will be celebrated with feasting. At the present time they are selling chickens in the market, since chicken is a traditional food for Christmas there. Although there has been some political instability in the North West and South West Provinces, all three locations of Good Shepherd Home are quiet. Midnight Mass is planned for Kuflu, with Father Michael who is in that village. Carol services will be held at Bamenda and Batibo. At all three Homes, the neighbors, adults and children, are invited in to share in the feasting. Much of their food comes from their own farms, where children and adults share in planting and harvesting. Everyone there is looking forward to the Christmas celebrations.



Pamela Grace tries on her new Christmas dress



Sr. Jane sells a chicken for a Christmas dinner



The customer goes home on a taxi - a common form of transportation



Juliette and the children check out a shipment of shoes and gifts for Christmas



Kevin, one of the original children now grown, helps care for the babies and small children

THE CSJB SISTERS HAVE A DREAM!



After many years of worship in our upstairs Chapel, we have decided that worship would be improved if we replaced the existing pews, making the space more flexible.

We are now asking if you would like to help us re-order the space by donating a chair and prayer desk. Our dream is to make the space more accessible for both Sisters and guests.

We are asking for a donation of **\$350** (or whatever you can afford) to cover the cost of a chair and prayer desk. All donations will be eligible for a tax exemption and your name will be remembered on a donations plaque.

Please make checks payable to:
The Community of St John Baptist with **chair/desk** in the NOTES and send to:
 Sister Pamela, CSJB P.O. Box 240,
 Mendham New Jersey, 07945

Coming Events 2017-18

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 **Nov. 11, Dec. 2, Jan. 13, 27; Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24; 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 srbj@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** 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. *Give us your email address and we will add you to the class.*

THE EPIPHANY PARTY! **Sunday, January 7, 2018 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 16-19 2018** 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. Barbara Jean 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org

ASSOCIATES' RETREAT "Come Here Jesus!" with The Rev. Barbara Crafton (Based on her new book!) **April 14, 9-3.** \$65 donation includes lunch. RSVP Sr. Eleanor Francis 973-543-4641 ext. 3, sref@csjb.org. Scholarships available.

THE NUN BETTER GOLF OUTING **Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Spring Brook Country Club, Morristown** Come, partake in the fun, friendship and the chance to meet new people who are all interested in CSJB and golf! Contact: sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 9

PROGRAM with BARBARA CRAFTON "Jesus, We Hardly Knew You!" **May 12, 9-3** RSVP Sr. Eleanor Francis 973-543-4641 ext. 3, sref@csjb.org. Scholarships available.

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE **Sat. June 10, 2018- Harmony and Healing in Movement. 10 -12 noon.** 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 23, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.** Mark the date now for our Community's annual celebration with Associates and friends. Celebrant and Preacher: Bp. Mark M. Beckwith. Solemn Eucharist, Lunch and fellowship on the cloister. RSVP-Sr. Eleanor Francis 973-543-4641x3, sref@csjb.org

Celtic Journeys 2018

IRELAND: May 16-27

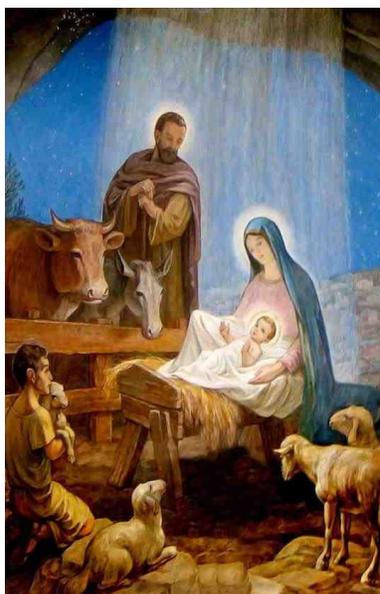
England's Southwest Sept. 4-14

For more information: Contact Sr. Margo at srmargo@gmail.com or 973-543

Retreat on Holy Island (Lindisfarne) Feb. 16-24, 2018

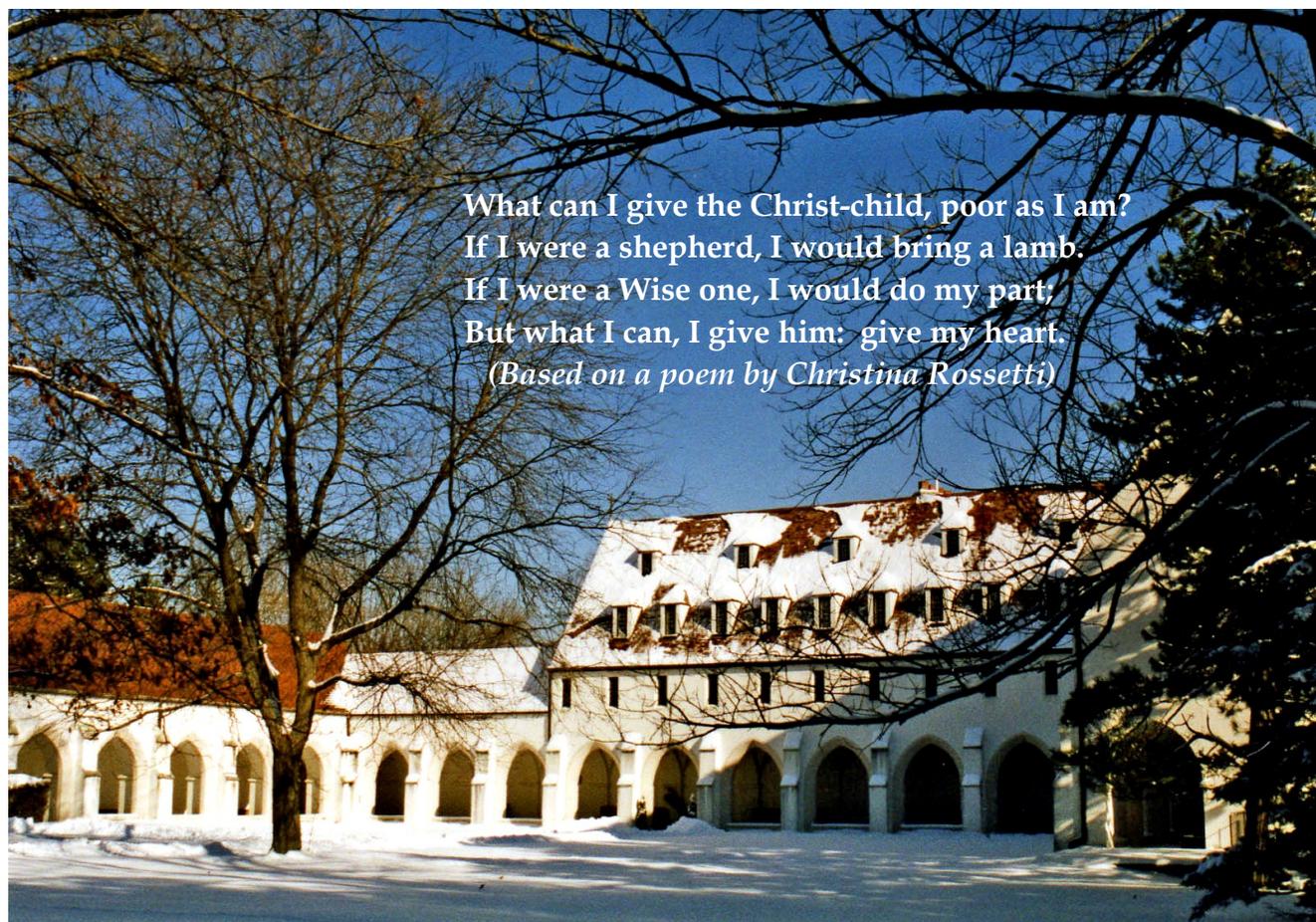
**Watch for Interweave Events on CSJB Website
Coming Soon**

Thoughts for Christmastide



Thank you God, that you so loved the world that you gave your one and only son, our Lord Jesus Christ...that when the time had fully come, he wrapped himself in human form, being born as a helpless baby in a poor family. On that silent and holy night Jesus was born to a humble virgin and laid in a lowly manger. Angels proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest," and announced his arrival. We give thanks and praise in this holy time of year. Fairest Lord Jesus! You alone are our heart's desire, our soul's glory, joy and crown. Lord you are worthy to be thanked, praised, worshipped and adored. May our hearts be filled with gratitude this Christmas season and through the new year. Amen.

By Sister Victoria Michelle



What can I give the Christ-child, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise one, I would do my part,
But what I can, I give him: give my heart.
(Based on a poem by Christina Rossetti)

In this Issue: News of the Sisters, Recent Events, Calendar, and Pets!

82 West Main Street Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945 + 973-543-4641

www.csjb.org + csjb@csjb.org