



Next Step News

February, 2018



Together on the Journey

Every four years the Sisters gather for an extended period of time known as Chapter. We begin planning for this special gathering almost a year in advance. Sister Jane and the Council have identified Sister Lynn Jarrell, an Ursuline Sister and canon lawyer, to serve as our Chapter facilitator. A Chapter Planning Committee has been identified to work with Sister Lynn. The Chapter Planning Committee has been working with our



facilitator for months now to provide for a smooth process and significant agenda. The CPC has been facilitating small discussion groups with the Sisters. CPC listens to the Congregational concerns at this time. The Chapter Planning Committee includes: (back row) Sisters Suzan Foster, Stephanie Flynn, Diane Couture and Florence Bryan; (front row) Sisters Lynn Jarrell, Carol Stovall, Ann Kuhn.

These are exciting and important times for our Congregation. Keep us in your prayers.



Welcome to Allison Wilson!



Allison is #4 of 7 children. During her free time she enjoys spending time with her husband, Steve, on their boat or at the beach. She especially enjoys spending time with her sisters and her family.

Allison brings a delightful smile and cordial personality, making one feel both welcome and important. She brings office skills that will continue to be an asset to general governance and the administrative team.

We say good bye to Mary Adams as she and Stan move further south to live closer to their children and grand-children. Mary spent her last week in the governance office introducing Allison Wilson to her new Administrative Assistant position.

Weekend Retreats and Mornings of Reflection

"Blessed Are the Peacemakers"



On January 19-21st, Sister Margaret Jeanne Keller and Therese Sullivan facilitated a retreat weekend at Villa Flora-Brown Hall Renewal Center. The retreatants were provided time for the integration of Scriptural reflection and mindful living through the integration of art, music and mandala. The Beatitudes focused the retreatants on living in the present moment and practicing compassionate living.



"Seasons of Life"

On January 20th, Sister Eileen Therese presented the third of a four-part series of morning reflections, "Seasons of Life," in the Motherhouse chapel. She related the seasons to our spirituality.

Sister will present the last of this series on March 10th in the Motherhouse chapel entitled "Celebrating the Life of Mary Through Art and Prayer." Many of the elements of the series will be brought together, especially the elements relating to Mary's life.



"Signing the Mass"



On January 28th, Sister Rita Baum began her first of four classes on signing the Mass. The classes will continue at Villa Flora-Brown Hall Renewal Center on Sundays, February 4th, 11th, and 18th, 2-4:30 pm. To register call Allison Wilson 904-824-1752 or email allisonwilson@ssjfl.org.

MORE Weekend Retreats and Mornings of Reflection!

On January 11-14th Catholic Volunteers in Florida enjoyed their Winter Retreat at Villa Flora-Brown Hall. The retreat focused on social justice, with opportunities to learn about Catholic Social Teaching and taking action on important social issues, including the “March for Life” in St. Augustine. Br. Dale Recinella shared efforts to end the death penalty in Florida. Volunteers toured Tomoka Correctional Institution to understand the realities of incarceration, and our Catholic call to respect all life. S. Florence led the group in a reflection on discernment.

Currently, there are 14 full-time volunteers serving marginalized communities through partner sites such as L’Arche Jacksonville, St. James Catholic School, Bishop Grady Villas, Enterprising Latinas, Girl Power, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Overtown Children and Youth Coalition, Florida Justice for Our Neighbors, St. Andrew Catholic School, and South Florida CARES Mentoring Movement. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and all seven dioceses in Florida, Catholic Volunteers live simply, put their faith into action, do justice, and live in community in Jacksonville, Orlando, Wimauma, and Miami. Sister Florence continues to serve on the CVIF board with Elizabeth Buckley, Executive Director of CVIF.

Catholic Volunteers in Florida Retreat in St. Augustine!



Preparing My Heart for the Lenten Journey



On February 3rd, Sister Florence Bryan gave a Morning of Reflection in preparation for the Lenten season to begin on Valentines Day, February 14th. Sister gave three presentations, each followed by time for quiet reflection. The first presentation focused on the desires of the heart and asking God for the

grace of what is desired; the second presentation was on asking the Lord to “drive me deep to face myself” and look at the resistance; the third was to see if we are feasting or fasting this Lent.

Archives Alive!

Sister Mary Gertrude and Maxim 39



Mary Elizabeth Capo was born in St. Augustine, FL, to Philip Capo and Rufina Fernanda Genovar, families who were and continue to be part of the fabric of the Ancient City.

She attended St. Joseph's Academy and entered the convent in 1874 receiving the name Sister Mary Gertrude. She was awarded a St. Johns County Teaching certificate in 1890 and was certified to teach in public School No. 12. In 1900, she received a teaching certificate from the State of Florida.

Sister Gertrude taught in St. Augustine for 28 years. She taught African American children as well as white children and for a short period in 1885 she taught Indians music at Fort Marion. Sister studied music in New York and Washington, DC and became quite good at playing the violin. So much so that she entertained passengers at Sandy Hook, Connecticut, when the ship encountered hurricane weather and dropped anchor. Sister also taught for 34 years at St. James School, Orlando. At the age of 90 Sister's students presented her last class recital at St. Joseph's Academy in Jacksonville. Sister Gertrude truly lived Maxim 39: "Be nothing to yourself and be utterly given to God and to the neighbor."

Meet Holly Ann

Holly Ann is a delightful, new addition to Lourdes Hall community. She "joined the convent" at Christmas time; a rescue from the shelter. Holly is a bit older and can relate well with the Sisters. She is quite comfortable with moving slow, not running in the halls, and not barking out loud in the convent; no begging at meal times and simply heads for the door when it is time for her constitutional walk outside.



*Appreciation is a wonderful thing.
It makes what is excellent in others
belong to us as well.*

Voltaire

(are you in the picture?)