SR. FRANCIS JOSEPH, R.A.
A LIFE WELL LIVED
June 10, 1919- February 28, 2013
In Memoriam to a Very Special Friend

On February 28th of this year Sister Francis Joseph passed away, but her spirit is still with us because she was such a powerful influence on how we live the faith that does justice. She was a Religious of the Assumption, born and raised in Germantown PA. A graduate of Chestnut Hill College, she was an educator for over seventy-seven years. As Headmistress of Ravenhill Academy in Philadelphia, she taught two former Presidents of the Philippines and one former Princess of Monaco. Sister served in Paris, Rome, Manila, and Osaka, Japan. She was also the Executive Secretary for the International Union of Superior Generals coordinating the needs and concerns of 2,285 leaders of Roman Catholic religious orders worldwide. Francis worked in the Faith-Justice Institute for over thirty years, and in 1981 started the Outreach Lecture Series to link our educational mission to the needs of the greater Philadelphia region. It was crucial to her to invite the neighborhood communities and religious congregations to join St. Joe’s students and faculty to lectures on the problems affecting our region. Francis would then challenge her attendees to do something...she would ask, “Now that you know about this problem, what are you going to do about it?” Francis was a teacher, both in and out of the classroom. You could not spend time with her without coming away with some seed planted to do something practical to address the needs of those we encounter every day. This is Francis’s legacy. Nothing was more important to her than peace and justice. She spent every day of her life doing God’s work and helping people. The greatest way to honor her is to “do something for others”. The Sister Francis Joseph R.A. Outreach Lecture Series will continue to educate, challenge, and encourage all of us to achieve a greater peace and a better world.

- Elizabeth Norberg

May 2013 will see the graduation of one of the Faith-Justice Institute’s largest senior classes of Faith-Justice Studies minors. 27 minors with majors in Criminal Justice, Education, Food Marketing, History, Interdisciplinary Health Services, International Business Marketing, and Sociology combined their studies in Faith-Justice with twelve other minor areas of study in Africana Studies, Autism Studies, Biology, Healthcare Ethics, English, Environmental Studies, German, Leadership and Ethics, Political Science, Spanish, and Theology and Religious Studies. Many of the senior Faith-Justice Studies minors had more than the six required F-JS courses as they completed their coursework.

Other interesting facts about this class of Faith-Justice Studies minors include their international travels to Italy, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Kenya, El Salvador, Spain, Ecuador, South Africa, Ireland, Namibia, Mexico and a “semester at sea” to Central and South America. Stateside immersion trips to California, South Dakota, New Mexico, as well as the Appalachian and Gulf Coast regions rounded out many of their studies. This senior class was also busy in the Philadelphia area, performing hours and hours of committed service-learning at community partner sites including Hopeworks, Covenant House, OMS Soup Kitchen, My Brother’s House, Urban Bridges, GESU, Interim House, Centro Nueva Creacion, IHM Literacy Project, Visitation BVM, Women of Change, Saint Catherine Laboure Clinic and Inglis House. They took part in - and leadership of - Poverty Awareness Week, Community Day, Hand in Hand, Catholic Relief Services Advocacy workshops, Alpha Sigma Nu (and seven other honor societies) , Escape, Inside-Out, Summer Scholars, REPP, and “Just” Listening training. For at least 8 of the seniors there is the promise of post-graduate volunteer work after they graduate SJU.

Congratulations Faith-Justice Studies minors Class of 2013! Best of luck as you move on from Hawk Hill!

- Virginia Goulding Johnson

IT ISN’T ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT PEACE. ONE MUST BELIEVE IN IT. AND IT ISN’T ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IN IT. ONE MUST WORK AT IT.

-ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
Celebrating 10 years of collaboration, SJU and Fe y Alegria: Bolivia’s (FyA:B) partnership is most known for its faculty and staff immersion experience but also includes joint research initiatives, training opportunities, a permanent SJU faculty and staff personal financial donation drive and more.

This past February, 7 colleagues from FyA:B visited the Philadelphia area for a week. During this time, they visited Ken Crest Early Childhood Education center in Kensington, elementary schools (Gesu School, Visitation School), high schools (Lawrenceville School, Saint Joseph’s Prep) and spent a day at SJU. The day at SJU included class visits, a discussion on Jesuit mission and Education and a meeting with Fr. Gillespie, SJ. The immersion also included cultural visits such as Old City/Liberty Bell, Reading Terminal Market, a SJU basketball game and meals in the homes of SJU faculty members. The week concluded with a celebratory dinner commemorating the 10 years of partnership where a video of SJU faculty and staff reflections was shown. To watch the video please log onto: [http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/centers/faithjustice/immersion.html](http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/centers/faithjustice/immersion.html)

-Ann Marie Jursca-Keffer

Fr. Rafael Garcia Mora, SJ, PhD, National Director of Fe y Alegria:Bolivia (FyA:B) will receive an Honorary Degree from Saint Joseph’s University (SJU). Living in Bolivia for the past thirty years, Fr. Rafael Garcia Mora has been a strong advocate for the marginalized and indigenous populations in that country through his work in rural development, community building, and now education. Rafael is a biologist who earned his doctorate degree from the University of Barcelona and holds degrees in ecology and the environment from the University of Nottingham. He is an excellent model of the Magis by utilizing his intellect and leadership to meet the educational needs of the poorest of the poor.

Fr. Rafael has provided exemplary leadership for national, regional and local staff working in over 400 schools and transforming the lives of over 160,000 students. Fr. Rafael leads his staff with ingenuity, a tireless devotion to academic excellence and love of the poor. Under Fr. Rafael’s leadership the National Office has strengthened their three implementation strategies of quality, advocacy to change public policy, and institutional strengthening. Furthermore, in his tenure as National Director, FyA:B opened its training programs to teachers outside of FyA:B schools. Last year 4,500 teachers participated in such courses. This program underscores Fr. Rafael’s commitment to reducing inequality in the poorest country in South America as he “believe(s) that education is most important in the transformation of the country, and within that, a very important part is teacher training.” As one can witness in these few examples, Fr. Rafael is a true model of collaboration and a man for justice. Fr. Rafael notes Fe y Alegria “is an example of how we can work together beyond our differences when we have an important goal” (Garcia Mora interview with Lisa Frank).

-Ann Marie Jursca –Keffer

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If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

-Mother Theresa
Promoting Peace through Listening & Dialogue

The Faith-Justice Institute received a grant from the Office of Mission to promote initiatives and dialogue around peace and non-violence. In February, we had a series of conversations with Jon McCourt, an activist in peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Jon talked about his personal transformation from his involvement in the Troubles in Northern Ireland to his leadership in the peace movement in Derry. The Faith-Justice Institute has also collaborated with the Youth, Deviance & Culture Course to bring in members of the Philadelphia community to talk about cultivating a culture of peace with marginalized populations. The focus of these talks included work with homeless youth, ex-offenders and former gang members. Sharon Browning, Esq., founder of Just Listening, facilitate a two-evening training on March 26th and April 2nd on how to listen to the stories of people living on the margins of society in a manner that promotes dignity and peace. All programming is open to University students, staff, faculty and alumni. On April 5th interested faculty and staff met to consider possible initiatives and collaborations.

-Jill Amitrani-Welsh

PARTNERSHIP LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS A PARTNER IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Students often enroll in Service-Learning classes having already done some type of service-experiences that can prepare them to engage with individuals different than themselves. Students seldom, however, have been exposed to individuals or justice issues related to incarceration. Sister Betsy Linehan’s freshman Service-Learning course sequence in philosophy challenges students to consider something called “restorative justice,” an approach to issues that engages the perspectives, capacities and needs of all community members, often including “perpetrators” and “victims” of crime. Service placements for the course involve working with individuals across social boundaries of age, educational level, economic status, and possessing a criminal record, to create restored, collaborative communities.

Connection Training Services (CTS) is an organization in Philadelphia assisting men and women recently released from prison in securing education, employment, and support in order to achieve sustainable, personal success as members of their community. CTS employs many formerly incarcerated individuals including security guards for its building, construction and maintenance workers, office staff, and case workers that work directly to mentor each person in the program. SJU Service-Learning volunteers work to tutor, help create resumes, search for jobs, and improve computer literacy. As volunteers they listen to personal stories of people they might otherwise label as “criminals,” learn and understand about the context and factors of crime, the challenges to reentry, and the risks of recidivism. Students challenge their understanding of social injustice, of compassionate response, and of who is “deserving” of restorative justice. This spring the Faith-Justice Institute hosted its Partnership Luncheon giving opportunity to faculty members and community partner staff in Service-Learning to have conversations about the courses and service placements and to participate in a vocational development workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. David Ross, placement supervisor at CTS and a current student in the doctoral program at SJU. Mr. Ross spoke about his experience in Philadelphia related to incarceration and his work with the individuals at CTS. He guided attendees in reflection on what motivates them to work against injustice, what makes them effective, and what sustains them in that work. Mr. Ross and CTS work with, for and among those experiencing injustice by utilizing allies including employers, speakers and SJU Service-Learning volunteers find sustainable solutions that move towards restored, more just communities.

-Carrie Hutnick

Faith-Justice Institute External Advisory Board Holds Annual On Campus Meeting

The third annual meeting of the Faith-Justice Institute’s External Board was held in the Wofington Center and Drexel Library on March 22nd. Virginia Goulding Johnson, Institute Director indicated “The establishment of an external board to advise and consult with Institute staff was an important step in evaluating and improving our programming. Our Board members bring to bear a great deal of expertise that provides an invaluable lens with which to view our work”. For this years meeting Board chair Sean Sanford and the Board members were apprised of recent programming efforts and challenges. In-depth descriptions of key components of the Service-Learning Program and its training and development of faculty, students, and community partners were provided by Institute staff members (Ann Marie Keffer, Jill Welsh, and Carrie Hutnick, respectively). These presentations allowed the Board to see the strengths and innovative qualities of the Institute’s Service-Learning Program. The presentations were followed by an overall discussion of the “next steps” and concluded with a lunch discussion with student staff and Faith-Justice minors.

-Virginia Goulding Johnson