



Together we live the Legacy that is The Daughters of Divine Charity.

Introducing Our New Provincial

The Daughters of Divine Charity, Holy Family Province welcome Sister Mary Coffelt as their new provincial replacing Sister Mary William McGovern whose term is expired. A native of Wisconsin, Sister Mary has been a member of the congregation for over 30 years prior to being appointed Provincial. Sister Mary taught in the elementary schools and served as school principal in a number of schools staffed by the Sisters.

In addition, Sister was the superior and administrator at Franciska Residence, an independent living home for the aged in Akron, Ohio. Prior to the amalgamation of the United States Provinces, Sister Mary was the Provincial of the former St. Mary's Province based in Ohio. Most recently, Sister Mary served on Holy Family Province Formation Team. This group's main responsibility is to identify possible candidates to join the Congregation.

In December, 2015 Sister Mary was formally inducted as Provincial along with her Provincial Council, Sisters M. Josita DiVita, Regina Geric, Almaisa Lopes de Brito and Georgine Golock. In addition to her position as First Councilor, Sister Josita will continue to oversee and promote the St. Joseph Retreat Center. Sister Regina will continue her efforts developing a strong website and social media outreach, as well as, serving as administrator at the St. Joseph Hill Convent. Sister Almaisa plays a pivotal role in developing relationships with the young women living at St. Mary's in New York. Sister Georgine will continue to reside in Akron serving as superior of the community while also as Provincial Secretary to Sister Mary.

Sister Mary looks forward to getting to know all her Sisters serving in the United States and to familiarize herself with their various ministries.



Notes from The Editor...

The spring edition of our Newsletter is finally here and there is lots of news to share. Our Retreat Center was the focus of not only Staten Island news but in addition was the subject of a featured article in Catholic New York, as well as video coverage on New York One. Read about how our Borough President, Mr. James Oddo feels about Staten Island's newest enhancement to the Island community.

The Daughters of Divine Charity, Holy Family Province have appointed a new leadership team. Read about Sister Mary Coffelt, FDC, the new provincial and her vision for the province.

Home improvement and gardening are the focus this time of year for many of us and the Sisters are no different. Take time to visit the article about the enhancements to the property here on Staten Island.

Last newsletter edition I introduced many of you the benefits of the St. Joseph Prayer Guild. If you would like to receive the cards please call 718-720-7365 or just send your name and address to Beth279@msn.com.



Retreat Center Continues to Thrive: Calendar of Events August to December

On February 9th St Joseph Retreat Center hosted an open house for the Press of Staten Island. In addition to the press, Borough President James Oddo visited the center and was thrilled to have this Retreat center opened on Staten Island. “This is a wonderful place and we are blessed to have such a place her on Staten Island,” Mr. Oddo remarked as he took a tour of the facility. In addition to Mr. Oddo, representatives from New York One, the *Staten Island Advance* and *Catholic New York* attended the opening. The media all agreed with Mr. Oddo that this was indeed a wonderful place for spiritual renewal, as well as an enhancement to the Staten Island Community.

Housed in a hilltop mansion the center is able to accommodate as many as 18 overnight guests in spacious guest rooms and day conferences for as many as 30 in a setting that has dining spaces, outdoor patios, and 17 acres of a park-like setting.

The center is entering its second 6 months of operation and below are the upcoming events planned for the summer, fall and early winter season. Some reviews refer to the center as: “A beautiful gem on Staten Island”, “The Ritz-Carlton of retreat houses” and “a peaceful, relaxing, healing experience.”

Meditation Monday Continuing Series Third
Thursday of Every Month 7:30pm – 9:00pm
\$10 per session

Facilitated by Grace Daquila

An invitation for you to be refreshed, renewed and restored. It's an evening to relax and let go of stress. The evening consists of faith sharing, reflection and prayer. The evening wouldn't be complete without coffee and dessert. Come journey with others and experience a deeper, exciting personal relationship with God.

Guided Retreat August 21st – 26th Fee \$450

Facilitated by Father Roch Ciandella, OFM

Arrive Sunday at 5:00pm for a light supper, Depart Friday 10:30am after Mass and breakfast.

As the summer begins its silent journey into Fall, give yourself the gift of quiet time to be with yourself and with the Lord. This silent, guided retreat will nourish your faith life. Each day the presenter will offer a reflection and daily Mass with a homily. Opportunities for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a penance service and confession will be available.

\$50 non-refundable deposit due by August 8th.

Women on the Journey: Book Discussion

Group October 5th, 12th, 19th from 10:30am – 12:00pm Fee: \$15 | Book: \$7

Facilitated by Pat Stephens

Come and explore together Pope Francis' encyclical “Laudato Si”, Praise be to You, as we strive to reverence and cherish the beauty of our common home- our precious, fragile earth. Each reflection mirrors the unfolding glory of creation. Together we will help each other deepen our connections not only to other people, but also to all of creation in present and future generations.

Good News through the Arts Fee \$20

November 29 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT

Facilitated by Kyle Galante

Come and explore the Divine Artist within and find a way to evangelize through the arts. This presentation will nurture personal expression that is intuitive, authentic and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The day will include scripture, music and movement, prayer, and the arts. Materials will be provided and no experience is needed.

Additional Trees, Repaired Grotto and New Benches Enhance the Grounds of St. Joseph Hill

This spring there have been a number of changes to the property here on Staten Island.

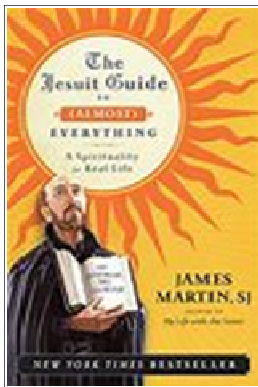
Mr. William McMahon, a gentleman from Staten Island came to the convent a few years ago to personally deliver a donation to the Sisters after the fire. As he was walking the property he noticed a “few bare spots” that would benefit from the addition of some saplings. Since that initial visit Mr. McMahon and his son have planted upwards of 15 fruit trees here on the Arrochar property. The Sisters are so blessed to have their very own “Johnny Appleseed.” Thank you, Mr. McMahon, for adding such beauty to our property!

During the recovery effort to the old convent the grotto outside the convent was destroyed.

This past year through the competent assistance of Kevin Gannon at New Jersey Sand and Gravel Co. the Sisters and students have a lovely new Grotto where they can go for quiet prayer and reflection.

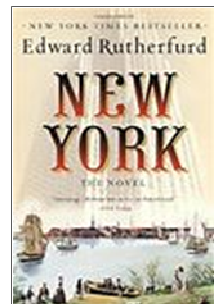
Seventeen acres provide a lovely setting here on State Island and springtime finds a number of Sisters walking the property. To add to their comfort four additional benches have been purchased and placed at the grotto and at the St. Joseph Statue overlooking the hill that was the setting that inspired the name “St. Joseph Hill.” These three enhancements, along with the spring cleanup, give the Staten Island property the pristine beauty that was always the hallmark of the Sisters’ home.

Summer Reading List



The Jesuit Guide to Everything by the Reverend James Martin, SJ is a practical spiritual guidebook based on the life and teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus. Centered around the Ignatian goal of “finding God in all things,” *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* shows us how to manage relationships, money, work, prayer, and decision-making, all while keeping a sense of humor. Filled with user-friendly examples, humorous stories, and anecdotes from the heroic and inspiring lives of Jesuit saints and average priests and brothers, *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything* is sure to appeal to fans of Kathleen Norris, Richard Rohr, Anne Lamott, and other Christian Spiritual writers.

New York: a Novel is an historical novel by British novelist Edward Rutherfurd, published in 2009. The novel chronicles the birth and growth of New York City, from the arrival of the first European colonists in the 17th century right up to the summer of 2009. As in old Rutherfurd history novels, the histories of fictional families who live there are the focus of the work. In *New York*, these families represent the successive waves of immigrants who gave the city its multicultural character.





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St. Joseph Retreat Center
Where is God? Series
June 15, 22, 29 6:30-9:00pm
Fee \$25 per person per session

Together we live the Legacy that is The Daughters of Divine Charity.

June 15– Finding God in Disorder and Chaos
Facilitated by Grace Conte
June 22– Finding God in the Beauty of Creation
Facilitated by Sr. Gerri Contento

June 29– Finding God Our Hidden Treasure Within
Facilitated by Sr. Josita DiVita

Please call 718-720-1097 to RSVP