

## New Ministry Continues Relationships Between Saint Joseph Academy and Sisters

Saint Joseph Academy and the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph who live in Cleveland have a long and intertwined history with their next-door neighbors. The Academy, was founded by the sisters in 1890, and is currently one of three Catholic high schools currently sponsored by the Congregation.

Throughout almost 120 years of the Academy's existence, sisters have served as principals, teachers, staff, and on the Board (currently four sisters sit on the SJA Board). However at this point there are no sisters on the faculty or staff at the Academy. This fact was not lost on Academy President **Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis '71** and **Sister Joyce Joecken N'71, CSJ**, who decided not to let the valuable connection between the sisters and school be lost.

Sister Joyce, who serves as the Chairperson of the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the SJA Board, and Mary Zavoda, St. Joseph Hall Service Coordinator for the sisters living in Cleveland, had an idea that would bring sisters together with SJA students, parents, faculty and staff. They met with SJA President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis and Principal Audrey Menard to discuss "Prayer and Presence," a new cooperative ministry between the Saint Joseph Academy and the sisters, was born.

"We saw that we needed a new way of connecting sisters with everyone at Saint Joseph Academy," said Sister Joyce. "Without the presence of the Sisters those relationships are diminished, and are too valuable to let slip away."

The Saint Joseph Academy community is also excited about the new program and the opportunities it offers for interaction with Sisters. "Being an Academy graduate, I know firsthand the value of being with the sisters during these formative high school years," said Academy President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis. "Bringing the sisters and students together in everyday situations will help both groups cherish each other in new ways. For the SJA parents and the adult community, we see this expanded ministry as a special blessing."

To get the program started, Sister Joyce and Mary enlisted the help of 14 sisters, whom they are calling "Sister Friends, all who have SJA connections." They are **Sisters, Kathleen Carey '49** (former principal), **Virginia Coldren '44**, **Theresine Cregan '48**, **Pat Finn** (former principal), **Marion Hauck**, **Madeline Lammermeier '44**, **Karen Lyons '59** (former assistant principal) , **Judith McGuire '57**, **Jane Ockuly '57**, **Alice Rooney '51**, **Juanita Shealey**, and **Agnes Schreiber '49**. Two sisters are paired with the class moderators of each of the four grade levels (9-12), two are paired with student's parents, and the remaining four sisters are paired with the adult SJA community that includes faculty and staff.

"The program's focus is on providing opportunities for shared experiences between sisters and the SJA community," said Sister Joyce. "This could mean inviting sisters to speak to a class or group, or to other events at the Academy such as school open houses, retreats, liturgies or prayer services. It could also be something much more basic such as sharing a meal together, trading greeting cards and emails, or just praying for one another."

In addition to the program's fourteen Sister Friends, Sister Thelma Gerhardt, CSJ, is also on the SJA campus each week and is available to talk with students, faculty and staff.

Class of 2010

Sr. Theresine Cregan '48 and Sr. Alice Rooney '51

Class of 2011

Sr. Kathleen Carey '49 and Sr. Madeline Lammermeier '44

Class of 2012

Sr. Marion Hauck and Sr. Juanita Shealey

Class of 2013

Sr. Judith McGuire '57 and Sr. Jane Ockuly '57

Parents

Sr. Agnes Schreiber '49, Mary Zavoda and Sr. Virginia Coldren '44

Faculty & Staff

Sr. Pat Burke '48, Sr. Antoinette Campanella '44, Sr. Karen Lyons'59 and Sr. Patricia Finn