

**Millbury SASV Associates Meeting
Zoom Video Conference Meeting
Monday January 11, 2021**



Welcome and Announcements:

New Year Message from Sr. Judy Curley (attached)

NACAR Retreat Invitation (**May 18 – 20, 2021**) (invite attached)

Millbury ASASV 11 gifts for the Sisters were delivered!!

Prayer Intentions:

Sr. Estelle Grenier who died peacefully January 8th. A mass will be held later. Christine Milner represented the ASASV family at her burial.

Sr. Jeanne 'dArc Poirier who died at Marie Esther on January 2 at the age of 98.

Sr. Evelyn who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Terry Walters, Salem ASASV, she and her 2 sons and members of their families tested positive for COVID-19.

Ryan, age 13 who was diagnosed with kidney cancer that spread to his lungs as he recovers from surgery which removed the cancerous mass.

Pray Together: SASV Congregational Prayer

Let us rejoice in the Glorious Assumption of the most Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven, where she is raised above the angels, reigning eternally with Jesus Christ.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Gospel of Mathew Chapter 2 Verses 1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
in the days of King Herod,
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this,
he was greatly troubled,
and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly
and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said,
"Go and search diligently for the child.

When you have found him, bring me word,
that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out.

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house

they saw the child with Mary his mother.
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed for their country by another way.

Brief Reflection: Video Father Daniel Merz of Jefferson City
(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Song: “Lay Your Gifts Before the King”

Faith Sharing:

What was your favorite gift received this Christmas season?

What gift has God given you, that you enjoy sharing with others?

Birthdays:

Donna Nagelschmidt - January 4

Kathy O'Connor - January 19

Kandy Gilmond - January 25

Closing Prayers:

God, we ask that you strengthen our faith each day to see and to follow the star,
that will bring us closer to Jesus. Amen.



New Year's Eve

The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you with kindness and bring you and all those you love a profound and lasting peace!

Dear sisters and associates,

New Year blessings to all! May your 2021 be bright with promise and possibility! We come to the end of a year unlike any other. As we look back and remember the ordinary and unimaginable events lived, and still being lived during this ongoing pandemic, we are invited to reflect in our hearts, like Mary, on the meaning they hold for us all.

I also join you in pondering the wondrous gift of God-with-us and how this Mystery continues to reach into our lives. One thing is for certain, throughout all our experiences of both darkness and light, *we are blessed!*

Together, let us give thanks for the gifts and glimmers of light that encourage us. I think of you with gratitude for the unique ways you witness to the Love of God and bless my life and the lives of many with kindness and compassion. Our Assumption spirit and presence does make a difference as we reach out to one another. To our dear sisters in Marlboro, we are with you! A special thank you to the associates and sisters who inspired us with their faith-filled reflections on God's Word throughout our Advent journey! We were both nourished and united in prayerful communion.

As we begin this new year, how do we see ourselves as blessed, and as blessing for one another? How might we be called to be bearers of light and grace, offering comfort to those who need it most? As God's beloved community, let us go forth with renewed passion, courageous hope, and profound trust in the Blessed One who walks among us.

With deep affection and heartfelt gratitude,

Judy Curley, sasv

Anchored in Trust Like Mary

nacar.org

nacarinc.wildapricot.org

Dear NACAR Members,

Our New Year's liturgy offers us the image of a pensive Mary, pondering in her heart all that had happened. As associates and religious of our various congregations, we are invited to do the same. The trouble and the beauty of the past year have much to reveal to us about the invitations before us, invitations to say yes to God in a world we never could have imagined, let alone chosen.

We enter the new year soberly, anchored in the kind of trust Mary had in a steadfastly faithful and loving God. Like her, we seek to be attentive to the surprising and often confounding invitations: exile, homecoming, returning to ordinary life with no clue to when and how God would accomplish those great promises.

NACAR has been pondering and planning about how best to support you in that adventure. We invite you to save the dates **May 18 – 20, 2021**, so you can join in the virtual retreat - *Associates as Charism Carriers: Embracing the Call to Leadership*. Carol Zinn SSJ, the executive director of LCWR, will keynote the gathering, and Associate Leaders Amy Kulesa and Linda Mastro will guide in prayer reflection and contemplative conversation.

We also invite you to use these winter days to increase your knowledge and hone your skills by taking advantage of NACAR's partnership with the [Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation](#) (VLCFF) and enroll in one of the high-quality online courses at reduced rates.

Finally, NACAR has also been pondering its future as an organization.

One thing is clear:

We need some fresh faces and voices on the NACAR Board.

Please consider prayerfully as a New Year's resolution the possibility of serving for yourself or inviting someone you know who is a committed associate leader. We ask Mary to open your heart to this unexpected call!

Rita ssj

Rita Woehlcke SSJ
NACAR Board Treasurer



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