



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

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## **UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH TO HONOR A NEW JERSEY MISSIONARY SISTER AND RETREAT DIRECTOR WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**



**WEST HARTFORD, CONN.**– The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in West Hartford, Conn. will honor Sister Eleanor Goekler of Paterson, NJ with a Distinguished Alumni Award for her exceptional religious and leadership work in social justice. Goekler will be recognized with the Mary Rosa McDonough Award for being a “strong leader who helps others discover their true potential” and providing outstanding service to communities, at an Awards Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Downtown Hartford, Conn. on April 25.

"To be honored with the Mary Rosa McDonough Distinguished Alumni Award for simply doing what needed to be done with and for those to whom I was sent by my religious congregation is truly a humbling experience," said Goekler. "The value of noticing the needs of others and, when possible, working to help them to meet those needs was certainly something learned at home and strengthened by my time at the University of Saint Joseph."

Goekler, who has done extensive work with the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception as a Provincial of the North American Province, is the Spiritual Director at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Long Branch, NJ. She received her bachelor's of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Saint Joseph in 1960. As part of her work, Goekler has developed and raise awareness of various social issues, including: fair trade and wage equity; peace and justice; and human trafficking.

Goekler will be among six USJ alumni honored this year for their achievements in community service and professional careers. To attend the Distinguished Awards Dinner on April 25, contact the USJ Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@usj.edu](mailto:alumni@usj.edu) or 860.231.5323.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford,*

*Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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