

LOS ANGELES PROVINCE

DESIGNS

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CARONDELET AND FRIENDS

WINTER 2015

The Gift is—
Good News

LOVE
HOPE
PEACE



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PHOTO CREDITS

Archives
Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar
Teresa Lynch, CSJ
Carol L Smith, CSJ

CONTRIBUTORS

Joanna Bramble, CSJ
Anne Davis, CSJ
Annette Debs, CSJ
Amalia Molina Cortina,
Executive Director CRJW
Kathy Stein, CSJ
Abby Thivierge,
St Joseph Worker
Judy Peters, CSJ
Pat Nelson, CSJ

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Editor
Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar
Designer
Carol Louise Smith, CSJ
Proofreaders
Teresa Avalos, CSJ
Cathy Bundon, CSJ
Caroline Chang, CSJ
Imelda D'Agostino, CSJ
Maureen Doherty, CSJ
Dennis Mary McFadden, CSJ
Patricia Rose Shanahan, CSJ

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Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar
Carondelet Center
11999 Chalon Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049
meyling@csjla.org
www.csjla.org



Mission Statement

The Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet hold as their mission to continue the mission of Jesus "that all may be one,"

John 17:21

The members of the congregation minister in a way that:

- * Heals and reconciles
- * Serves all persons without distinction
- * Makes known through their lives the gospel they proclaim
- * Enables others to assume a more active responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus
- * Recognizes and defends the human dignity of all persons
- * Promotes justice with a particular concern for the poor.

(Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Constitution, #20)

Charism

The Spirit and Charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet is unifying love.

Winter 2015

A Letter



Angela Faustina, CSJ



Mary Ann Martin, CSJ



Sandra Williams, CSJ



Suzanne Jabro, CSJ



Theresa Kvale, CSJ

Dear Friends,

In the cycle of years, this special season continues to call us to gratitude and generosity. We have recently celebrated Thanksgiving, and we know ourselves blessed with an abundance not experienced by many persons in our world. Now, these days of Advent and the coming celebration of Christmas invite us to remember and participate in God's great act of gift giving. God's love for us was given human form in the person of Jesus, and God invites us to be that same gift: to embody God's love in and for our world today.

All gift giving has the potential to remind us of the generous love that God always initiates and in which we are invited to participate. In the words of Pope Francis: "God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If [God] gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

As Sisters of St. Joseph, we continue to be blessed by your presence and generosity. We are grateful indeed for the countless ways you continue to share our lives and to partner with us in service to the Dear Neighbor. Your encouragement, collaboration, prayer and financial support give clear and loving form to your commitment to live the gift of Christmas, to be the presence of God's reconciling and unifying love.

With grateful hearts, we wish you and your loved ones peace and joy during the coming Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

With our gratitude,

Mary Ann Martin, CSJ
Sandra Williams, CSJ
Suzanne Jabro, CSJ
Angela Faustina, CSJ
Theresa Kvale, CSJ

Province Leadership Team ➡



Judy Peters, CSJ

Prayer and Gratitude

Gratitude has been said to be at "the heart of the Gospel" and this Christmas Season we thank our God for each and every one of you who have given so much to the Sisters of St. Joseph. Your friendship and gifts have been very special to us. We hold you in our prayers and pray that our God continues to hear our prayers on your behalf.

We are grateful to you for helping us reach our goal of \$60,000 for our Hawaii Calls raffle. In fact, you made this the best ever year as our total is \$68,625.

Congratulations to our lucky winners!

1st Prize trip to Hawaii, Violet Fabian-Laff (North Hill, CA)

2nd Prize \$1,000, Michael J. King (Tiburon, CA)

3rd Prize \$500, Mary C. Bachman (West Covina, CA)

Christmas Appeal

Each year between December 16 - 24, the Sisters of St. Joseph at Carondelet Center and in our local communities join in a Christmas Novena to recall in loving prayer our families, friends, and especially our benefactors.

Many of our sisters, who taught you in grade school, high school, cared for you when you were sick, have retired to Carondelet Center in Los Angeles where their ministry is to give prayer and witness. You can be assured that our sisters in Holy Family Community never forget you and your families in their daily prayer.

We invite you to join us in prayer during this Christmas Season by returning your intentions for which you wish the Sisters to pray. All of your requests will be placed in the basket at the altar in the Chapel at Carondelet Center.

Thank you, and may God bless you and your families! ❖

~ Judy Peters, CSJ
Director of Mission Advancement



On the left Violet Fabian-Laff, Hawaii Calls winner, with her daughter

Remembering

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Los Angeles Province

Who have died :
July 2015 – December 2015



Marylouise Markel, CSJ
1927 ~ July 30, 2015



Magdalen Marie Crivello, CSJ
1929 ~ August 4, 2015



Mary Joann Lindenfeld, CSJ
1927 ~ August 7, 2015



Jean O'Leary, CSJ
former name: Jean Pie
1931 ~ August 23 2015



Angela Pacheco, CSJ
former name: Angela Therese
1938 ~ September 6, 2015



Karen Wilhelmy, CSJ
former name: Karen Ann
1937 ~ September 8, 2015



You are Invited to
A Holiday Boutique
to support the mission of
the Sisters of St. Joseph of
Carondelet in Peru

December 12
at St John Chrysostom House
of Hospitality
550 East Florence Street
Inglewood, CA 90301

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

THANK YOU

The CSJ Sisters shaped the mother, wife, teacher, and person I am today. They were there when I needed a shoulder to cry on and offered loving and wise advice. I am who I am today because of the CSJ sisters. God Bless them and thank them for all their time and dedication to their students. ❖

~ Mary Beth Donat Nunez
Mount Saint Mary's Alum 2004





Hope Is Found in Unlikely Places...

A Future Full of Hope

**"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."
(John 10:10)**

In the mornings, Sister Maria Schuh (Albany province) and I stand at the main gate waiting to enter the prison "San Juan de Lurigancho in Lima, Peru." Sisters of St. Joseph have been ministering in this prison for over 20 years. On Thursdays we participate in a workshop to help the men to heal the inner wounds of their childhood. These wounds take the form of severe poverty, neglect, abuse, hunger for food, and hunger for the presence and the attention of their mother or father.

In the afternoons children stand at the front gate of our CSJ house, waiting to enter "Salon San José" to receive help with their homework. The children arrive with their homework, but they also carry other needs. They especially need our love and our attention. We recently discovered an 8 year old little girl who cannot read. Her mother and father are absent from her life and she lives with her grandmother. Her grandmother does not know how to read and therefore cannot help the child with her homework.

This child has a story similar to the stories of many of the men we visit in the prison. As Sisters of St. Joseph, along with the young adults who serve in ministry with us, we are able to wrap our arms around this child and give her the extra help she needs. She comes to our house an hour earlier than the other children and she is learning how to read. We also identified her need to wear eye glasses for reading. In "Salon San José" this child has found a home filled with love and support to help her to have a future full of hope. ➡

~ Submitted by Anne Davis, CSJ



Peru



The Gift is—Good News





An Opportunity for Prayer, Reflection and Service to Others

Many people often wonder what religious women do after retirement. Most of us met Sisters in their prime in different roles as teachers, nurses, hospital administrators, university faculty, physicians, etc. so naturally, most people assume that retired Sisters of St. Joseph just stay at the convent and rest. This notion could not be farther from the truth. "The word retire is misleading," says Sister Annette Debs who served as a Regional Superior in Los Angeles following a long term as an Administrative Law Judge. "Retirement really developed in relationship to paid work or employment. As a Sister, my life is really my work. My motto, which I expect to embrace forever, is to live life fully before I die." Sister Annette continues to serve as a member of the Community Life Team, which oversees the medical care and quality of life of the Sisters who reside in Holy Family in Los Angeles.

Sister Maria Lucinda Lopez, who worked as a Eucharistic Minister and in Pastoral Care at many different health care facilities in Arizona, now serves as a support volunteer at Carondelet Center in Los Angeles. "We are always serving others. We continue to pray and prepare for our final days. But we don't sit around; we attend community events and support great causes."

"Retirement is really an opportunity for prayer, reflection and helping others as much as possible," adds Sister Regina Clare Salazar who retired from Daniel Freeman Hospital in Los Angeles after 24 years as Administrator, worked at Mount St. Mary's University and served as a Regional Superior. Like Sister Annette, she currently is on the Community Life Team.

The CSJ spirit and charism lives on despite age or limitations. Sisters continue to dedicate their lives to others, serve on executive boards, allocate funding so other organizations may continue offering programs or services (see article on page 12), so that schools may continue educating young people in the United States, Latin America and Japan.

~ Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Editor

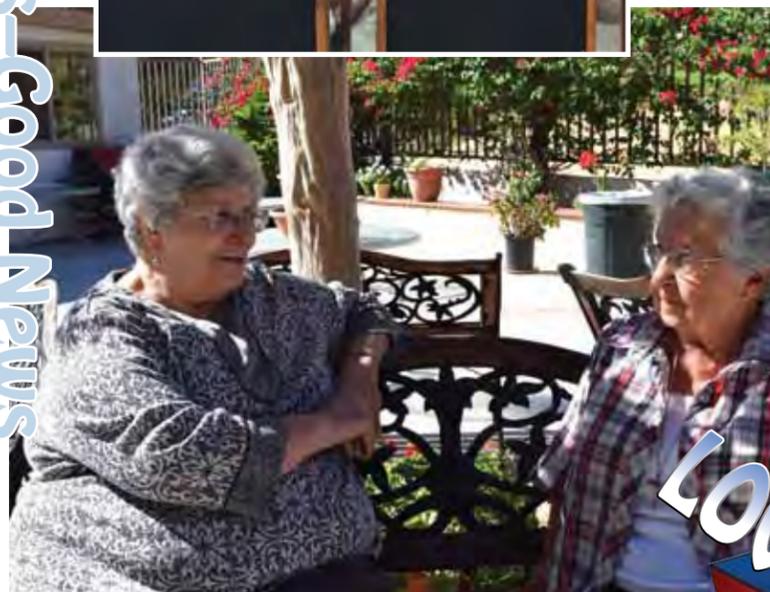


Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Editor

CSJ Retirement:



The Gift is Good News



THANK YOU

I'd never heard of Circle the City before. But as I was being transported to the medical respite center, all I kept thinking was, 'Thank God, I have shelter.' ... Everything is new for me now. I look at the do's and not the don'ts like I did in the past.

~ Randy R., Mesa, Arizona





GRATITUDE: *For Finding God in Many Places*

I am grateful for my almost 60 years in CSJ Community. When I “entered the convent” at age 18, I knew what I was “giving up”; I had no idea what I would receive. For many years I rarely saw my twin sister Jeanne; I missed her a lot. Now we see each other often, she knows many of my CSJ friends, and I sometimes “borrow” her grandchildren!

Community living has included times of conflict and of reconciliation, of beauty and of pain. All of it has enriched my life. The greatest gift is gradually discovering that God is the center of my life, and the freedom to search for my personal ways of responding to what that might mean.

I was blessed by many years of friendship with Sister Pat Sears. Other friends comforted me after her sudden death; gratitude and grief were intertwined.

In the 1980s, Sisters Marilyn Rudy and Louise Bernstein were the first CSJs to step out of “traditional ministries” by starting St. Joseph’s Center in Los Angeles. They gave Pat and me the courage to start Jubilee West, a non-profit organization in Oakland dedicated to rehabilitating abandoned houses to make them affordable to low-income families. We sponsored activities for kids, and a Business Training Program. Although we knew nothing about real estate and had no money, the Province Leadership encouraged us. Jubilee West brought me face to face with God in the poor. It helped me to “make a whole” out of my “activist self” and my “contemplative self.”

Our Province Ministry Fund has made contributions to my current ministry at St. Mary’s Center in Oakland, CA, which serves homeless seniors.

Our Province Travel Fund made it possible for me and Sister Mina Gaskell to spend three wonderful weeks in Switzerland! I give thanks for many enriching opportunities over the years. ➔

~ Written by Joanna Bramble, CSJ



Joanna Bramble, CSJ



These 3 photos are of St. Mary’s Center in Oakland, CA, serving homeless seniors.



The Gift is—Good News



Sisters Mina Gaskell and Joanna Bramble in Switzerland!





Paying It Forward

The Calls to Action from the 2013 Congregational Chapter invite us to Partner with New Eyes and commit ourselves to “walk with those who are marginalized, especially those who live in poverty, as an essential lens in sharing resources and forming partnerships.”

Thanks to our generous donors, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Associates and Partners in Ministry are able to respond to this Call to Action. This year the CSJ Ministry Support Fund awarded grants to 20 organizations that focus on the needs of the homeless, elderly, sick, disabled, imprisoned and school children. These include:

Concord House—a home for adults with developmental disabilities offers training for independent living. Concord House currently responds to the specific needs of undocumented persons with disabilities who have no funding for shelter, food, clothing or medical and dental services.

Office of Restorative Justice—serves the families of incarcerated men, women and youth. In addition to transportation for visits, the program offers support groups, workshops and encouragement to those who experience the shame and loneliness of having a family member in prison.

St. Anthony School—sponsors the Morning Snack Program which provides healthy cereal, milk and fruit to 206 children daily. Many children arrive at school with no breakfast and are unable to stay awake in class and focus on learning. The Snack Program, supervised by a school mother, has a direct effect on the student’s ability to learn.

St. Mary’s Center—provides comprehensive services to seniors and promotes self-reliance and leadership development. The Resources for the Third Age Program helps low income seniors, mostly women, remain in their homes as long as possible by accessing necessary services.

Thank You for Partnering—with us to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who live in poverty. ❖

~ Written by Kathy Stein, CSJ



On the right Kathy Stein, CSJ



Office of Restorative Justice



St. Mary’s Center



St. Anthony’s School children enjoy a daily—healthy breakfast.

We are paying forward! CSJ Ministry Support Fund Grants 2015-2016

- Alexandria House - Los Angeles, CA
- Cantera - Managua, Nicaragua
- Capacitar Japan -Tokyo, Japan
- Casa Esperanza - Bakersfield, CA
- Circle the City - Phoenix, Arizona
- Concern America - Santa Ana, CA
- Concord House - Concord, CA
- Good Shepherd Center - Los Angeles, CA
- Get on the Bus – Los Angeles, CA
- Holy Spirit Retreat Center – Encino, CA
- LEO Center – Oakland, CA
- Marian Alliance for Schools – Santa Ana, CA
- Office of Restorative Justice – Los Angeles, CA
- Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) – Los Angeles, CA
- South Central LAMP – Los Angeles, CA
- St. Anthony School – Oakland, CA
- St. Elizabeth Health Center – Tucson, AZ
- St. Mary’s Center – Oakland, CA
- Thomas House Family Shelter – Garden Grove, CA
- Villa Maria Chapel Foundation – Tucson AZ

The Gift is—Good News

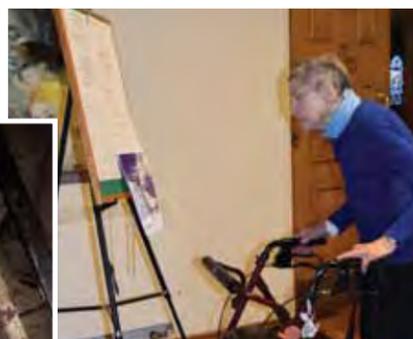


So Long 2015 Thank You for the Memories

The Gift is Good News



Two of our centenarians (l/r) Sisters Constance and Anne Gertrude Fitzgerald.



Sister Mechtild Gerber reading about the upcoming liturgy outside the chapel at Carondelet Center.



Carondelet Center staff's children participated in a sack race at the Annual Staff Picnic.



(l/r) Six Sisters during 2015 pilgrimage to France visited places important to the beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



(l/r) Sister Jill Napier helps Sister Madeline Clancy celebrate her 90th birthday at Villa Carondelet Community in Los Angeles.



The Sisters in Holy Family take a train trip to Santa Barbara for lunch and sight seeing.



Assembly 2015

Sisters and Associates during this summer's Assembly 2015



S Teresa Lynch, CSJ, Principal of St Anne's School in Los Angeles and the students with faculty send us their love and prayer.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Sister Adele O'Sullivan and her staff for giving me the opportunity to stay here and get better. ... Thank you God and Circle the City for taking their time for me. God bless you." ❖

~ Marcell M., Phoenix, Arizona



Anne Bernadette Stead, CSJ, retired and active, is known as the "cookie Sister" at Carondelet Center. No one can resist the smell of baking wafting through the halls.



THANK YOU

Peace with all of you and thank you for what you do for the good of the Church! I am who I am as a priest because of the Sisters who influenced my life from childhood until now. ❖

~ Father Jon M. Jensen, Mexico

PEACE
HOPE
JOY

Mount St Mary's University celebrated its 90th year with the Sisters of St Joseph, friends, faculty and students.



Camp Suzanne

"We join with others in addressing issues that demean or deny people of their human dignity and that force those who are marginalized to bear the burden of unjust systems." ~ Sisters of St. Joseph Calls to Action

This year the Center for Restorative Justice Works (CRJW) drove twelve boys and girls (ages 6 to 15) to a federal correction institution located in Dublin, CA. The kids traveled from Oakland, Bakersfield, Pomona, San Diego, Pomona, Tujunga, CA and Utah to participate in Camp Suzanne, a week long activity named after Sister Suzanne Jabro, former Executive Director, so they may join their imprisoned mothers who will face deportation after they finish their sentence.

The program is a unique fusion of art and family support that applies a multidisciplinary approach to create an environment of fun, education and relationship building.

Being able to see their mothers for an entire week brings kids and moms joy and hope. Here are some of their comments.

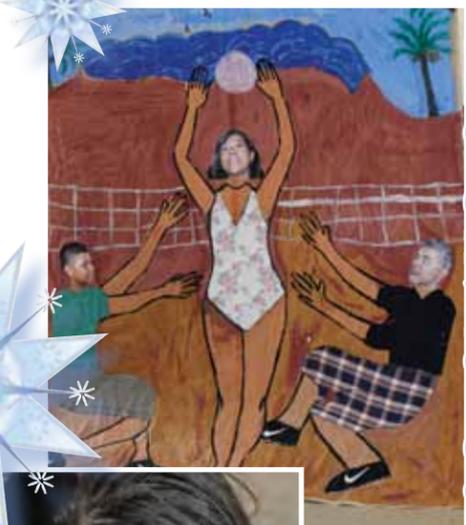
- * "I do not want to go back home. I want to stay." (8 year old boy)
- * "We discussed her future, she wants me to go back to Mexico with her; but my life is here. I love her!" (15 year old boy)
- * "I am worried for my Mom, her eye does not look good." (9 year-old girl)
- * "Not only was it nice seeing my mom, but meeting new people and doing art with my mom, because that's something that I would never do with my Mom if she was out here." (15 year old girl)
- * "It was nice to see her, it has been so long; she was skinnier and her hair was blond. She is beautiful." (14 year old boy).

A FEW WORDS FROM THE MOTHERS

- * "I thank you for making our lives happy."
- * "Thank you so much for making this experience a great one, and I can't wait for the next year."

The CRJW was founded by Sisters Suzanne Steffen and Suzanne Jabro. They started the *Get on the Bus* program in 2000 in response to a request from the women to facilitate visits from their children. The Center is dedicated to innovating a broad, grass-roots response to those impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. To learn more or support the Center please visit www.crijw.us

~ Written by Amalia Molina Cortina, Executive Director of the CRJW-Get on the Bus



Art, Play and Fun—Camp Suzanne

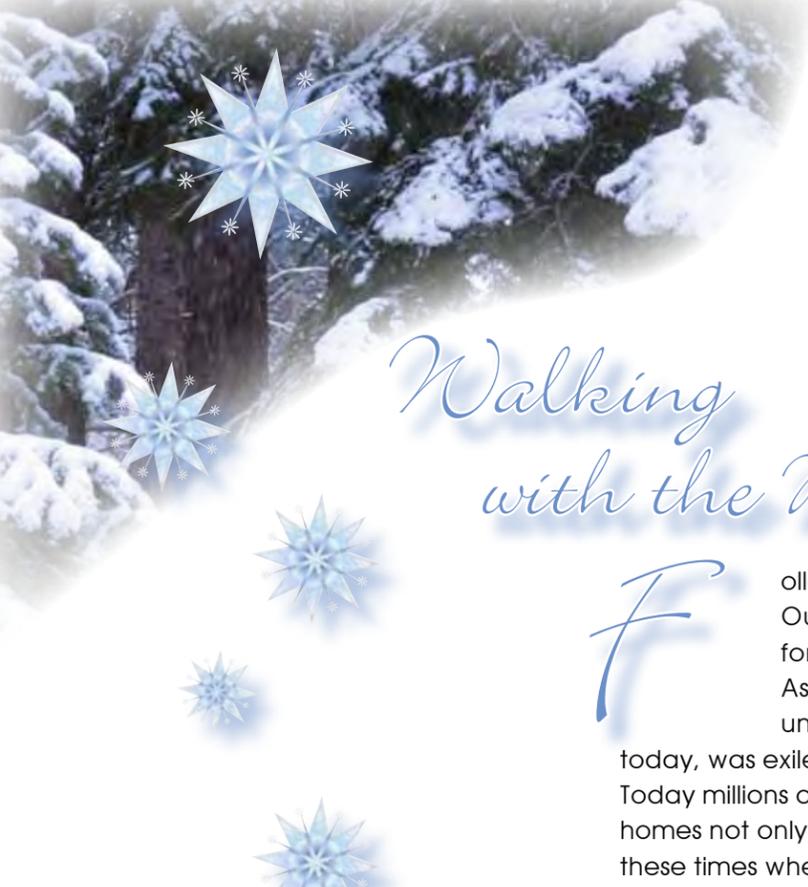


PEACE HOPE JOY



The Gift is—Good News





Walking with the Marginalized

Following the joy of Nativity comes the flight into Egypt. Our Patron Joseph, Mary and their newborn Jesus were forced out of Bethlehem because of Herod's jealousy. As we know, Herod ordered the slaughter of any boy under two. The Holy Family, not unlike refugees of today, was exiled in Egypt until Herod's death. Today millions of refugees from Syria are risking death to leave their homes not only because of the atrocity of war and terrorism. During these times when migrating masses dominate the news we are urged to examine our response to people seeking safe havens, and our CSJ Calls to Action, especially the one to walk with those who are marginalized.

We cannot allow ourselves to be motivated by fear seen in those nations who tighten their borders and push people back into danger. Fears are often fueled by our views of differences in culture, religion, language, etc. We make a difference, as Pope Francis has said; "one little step at a time." Can we take one little step to examine how to be more inclusive?

Through her ministry at S.F. General Hospital, Sister Loraine Polacci gives an example of little steps when she treats with dignity: the chronically homeless man from the UK addicted to cocaine hoping for a hand-out in the cafeteria; the transgender person beaten and abused crying: "I can't let my mother see me like this"; and men and women displaced from every country in Central America fighting illness, diabetes, violence and depression.

This Chapter Call impels us to keep our eyes open and our hearts fearless, ready to respond to the marginalized, even if only to pray for their safety or peace. Perhaps CSJs and partners in mission will be led by the Spirit to assist the fleeing Syrians find a home. Now wouldn't that be a gracious response to this Call to Action? ❖

~ Written by Annette Debs, CSJ



Annette Debs, CSJ



The Gift is—Good News!

THANK YOU

I was one of the four Arndt students who were blessed to be taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. John the Baptist de la Salle in Granada Hills. I married another alumni. I often channel Sister Eileen Therese and steal lessons from Sister Mary John from when I was in eighth grade." ❖

~ Kathryn Arndt,
San Fernando Valley, CA

Rejoice! Rejoice!



EDITOR'S NOTE:

A year ago, we decided to print DESIGNS in full color and publish it four times a year as a pilot project. As we embark on a new year we want you, our reader, to tell us what can we do to improve our magazine.

Please complete the attached survey and mail it to Communications Dept. 11999 Chalon Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90049. You may also complete it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLDDMBZ> ❖



A Message of Gratitude Written in Stone

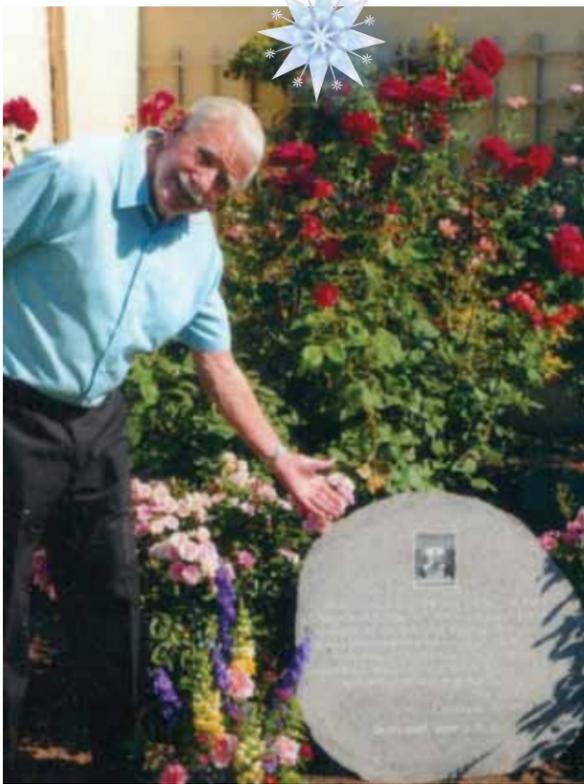
St. Therese's Parish and Elementary School, Fresno. CA

Jack Border is a very grateful and determined man. At age 91, he stills recalls the day when one of his lifelong dreams became a reality. Twenty years ago he gathered nine of his former classmates from St. Therese Elementary School in Fresno, CA to celebrate the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who taught there from 1921 until 1974. The building was demolished and replaced by the Shrine of St. Therese.

Jack has many wonderful memories of those formative years. He recalls when after getting his driver's license at age 16, he was asked to transport the Sisters to and from the convent and the school every school day. He had to make two trips each way "because it was hard to fit seven Sisters in their habits into the car, but it paid for my tuition which was \$3," he says.

As Jack stood posing in the rose garden with his friends in front of the location where the old church stood, he vowed to build some kind of memorial for the old church and school dedicated to the Sisters of St. Joseph. Last June, Father Michael Burchfield pastor of the Shrine blessed the memorial in the same rose garden where Jack Border had promised to place his message of gratitude. It reads "On this site of the original St. Therese Church and School we, the living and deceased students of the grammar and high school, do hereby dedicate this memorial to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who gave us a wonderful education and to the faithful clergy who led us on our religious journey. Thank you Classes of 1921 thru 1986."

~ Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Editor



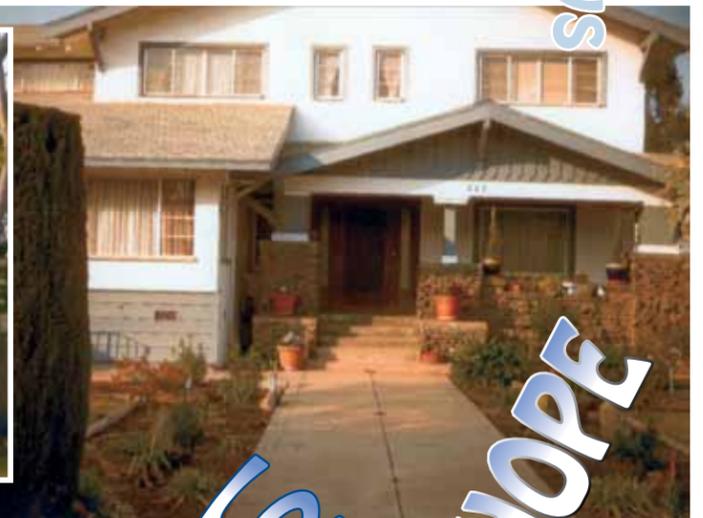
Jack Border



St. Therese's School yard and the children celebrating Halloween.



St. Therese's Church original building in Fresno, CA



St. Therese's convents, first convent left and newer convent to the right.

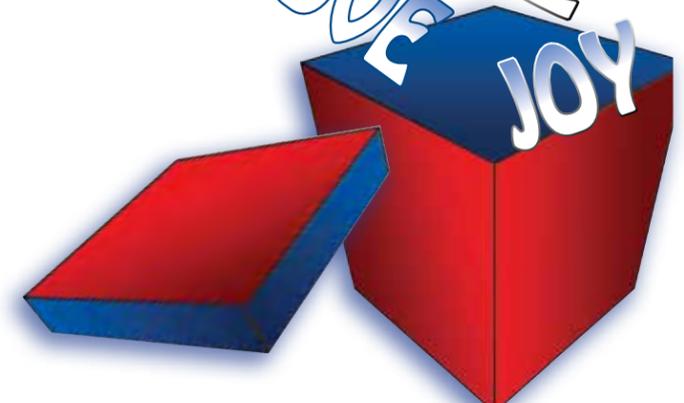
The Gift is—Good News

LOVE HOPE JOY

THANK YOU

Circle the City—This whole place makes my day, every day. ☪

~ Johnny M., Phoenix, Arizona





St. Joseph Worker Program

My Journey to Become a Confident Leader

Whenever I tell someone that I am doing a year of service, the responses vary: how wonderful it is; what is it; why? So why did I embark on this year long journey serving the *dear neighbor* as a St. Joseph Worker?

A senior in college, not ready to begin a career or grad school, I began looking into volunteer programs.

My four years of college allowed me to focus on myself. I studied only the subjects that interested me, joined only the clubs I wanted to join, studied abroad to quench my travelling desire; and an internship that interested me. Yet at the end of it, I had little idea of my identity or where I was headed.

I spent the past four years pursuing the things I thought were meant for me and I was no closer to knowing what I wanted to do than when I had started. If four years focused on myself didn't work, why not take one year to focus on someone else? Maybe that would show me more about myself than what felt like four selfish years at college ever would.

And it has. I've already learned more than I did throughout my entire college experience and I'm not even halfway through my service as a Teacher's Aid at Immaculate Conception School.

Every day, every experience, every job I'm asked to do pushes me to become a better person, leader and professional. I am constantly challenged to learn and grow by the students that I serve every day, and I know that focusing on them is making me learn more about myself than I ever expected.

I am expecting that at the end of my service year, I find myself a more complete and confident leader and professional, ready to begin serving the world in a new way. ➔

~ Written by Abby Thivierge



Abby Thivierge on Commissioning Day, September 14, 2015, Carondelet Center, Los Angeles



Abby at recess with Immaculate Conception School students



St. Joseph Workers outside chapel: St. Joseph Workers '15-'16 at Commissioning Day (Left to right) Abby, Chrystalle, Caroline, Sara, Yajaira and Sloane.

THANK YOU

My experience at the Mount would not have been the same without the CSJ sisters. They were my advisors, teachers, and mentors. All of the CSJ Sisters that I knew exemplified strength, leadership and Christian life. I am truly appreciative and grateful for all things I learned from the CSJs. ➔

~ Vanessa Perry
Mount Saint Mary's Alum 2001





What's In a Name? *The Origins of our Magazine's Name*

The term Design has a special meaning for the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is more than 365 years old. A French Jesuit priest, Jean Pierre Medaille, met a group of single and widowed women who desired religious life and wanted to help others. The women so touched Fr. Medaille that he approached the local bishop to create a religious community of widows and single women who loved God and provided help "in all the ways in which women were capable". Medaille called this project, "the Little Design".

For five centuries, we have been both the *Designed* and the *Designers* of works that "advance the glory of God and serve the *Dear Neighbor*". In 2015 the "Little Design" includes all who share our charism.

May you discover within you a "Little Design" of great love, love of God, love of neighbor, love of earth. Come create with us the "Little Design" of the 21st century. ♦♦

~ Written by Pat Nelson, CSJ



Holy Ground has been a regular addition to the back cover of DESIGNS. It expresses the beauty and the sacred in creation. Be Holy Ground!