



Los Angeles Province

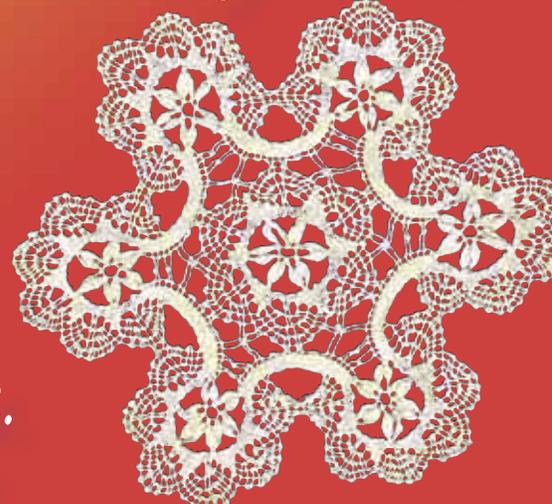
DESIGNS

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET AND FRIENDS

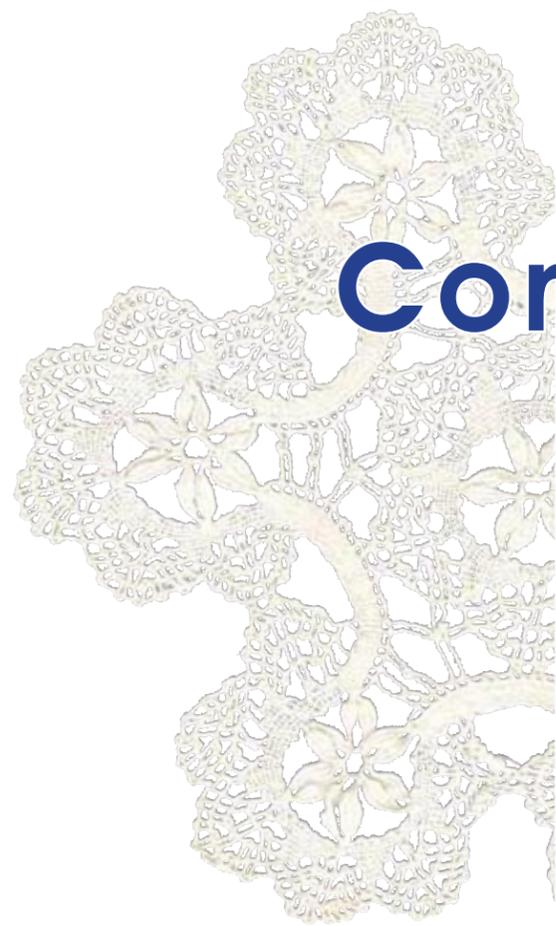
SPRING 2015

THE *LITTLE* DESIGN

Lace
the art
of stitching air
The lightness of it
A dreamer's dream
of endless pattern
and line
that began with a single thread
and calls us
to continue
to create
to become
its airy Grace.



~ Written by Carol L. Smith, CSJ
in honor of the Little Design



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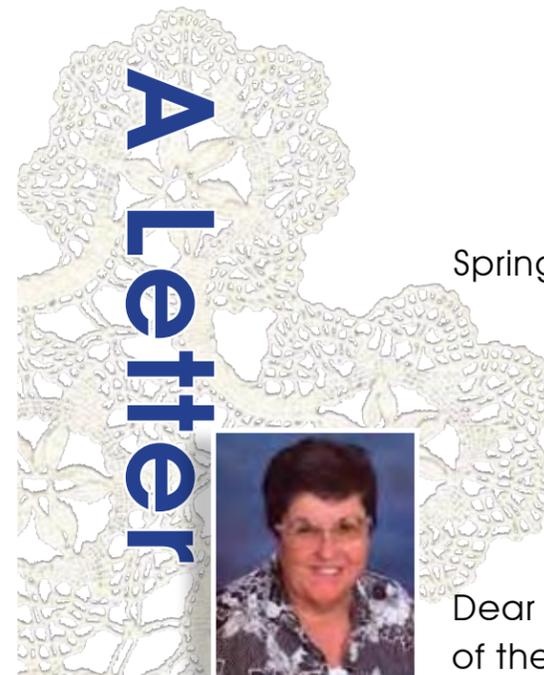
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Spring 2015



Mary Ann Martin, CSJ



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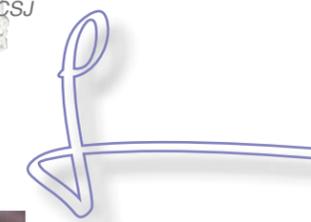


Suzanne Jabro, CSJ



Sandra Williams, CSJ

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph,



Looking at the list of this year's Jubilarians, one is overwhelmed at the number of years of service to the people of God represented there, from 25 to 80 years of commitment. These sisters and associates are representative of all of us who have lived through so many changes in our Community, in our Church, and in the world. These Jubilarians have responded to changing times and to the emerging needs of our society and Church with creativity and loving presence. They have "stayed at the table" in faithful dialog, often without recognition and at times even without approval. They have been shaped by what they have experienced, and they serve to remind all of us of the common journey we have shared.



Together we have grown: as community, as Church, and in society, encouraged by their example of loving dedication.

On behalf of the entire congregation, we congratulate you, our 45 Jubilarians! We are eternally grateful for all you have been, are and will continue to be in the years to come. ❖

Lovingly,
Sisters Mary Ann, Angela, Theresa, Suzanne, and Sandra
Province Leadership Team



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

Most of us think of design as the creation of a plan for construction or putting in place a system to meet a need. A design can make a company or an organization recognizable. For the Sisters of St. Joseph the term "Design" has a special meaning that is more than 365 years old.

A French Jesuit priest, Jean Pierre Medaille, was a popular and busy missionary in France in the 17th Century. While doing his mission work, he met a group of single and widowed women. They desired religious life and wanted to help others but they lacked the means necessary to enter religious life. The desire of these 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."

"Little" is significant. Others had tried to create religious groups that were not cloistered and would provide service outside of the confines of the convent. All had been suppressed and

cloistered. Because the group was to be "utterly dependent upon God," small and free of any legal recognition, Medaille believed they would be free "to advance the glory of God and serve their Dear Neighbors."

Over the years and through the centuries, Sisters of St. Joseph have been religious women "in the world" serving people in need. They have been both the designed and the designers of their mode of life as an apostolic religious community and in creating systems and plans to meet needs.

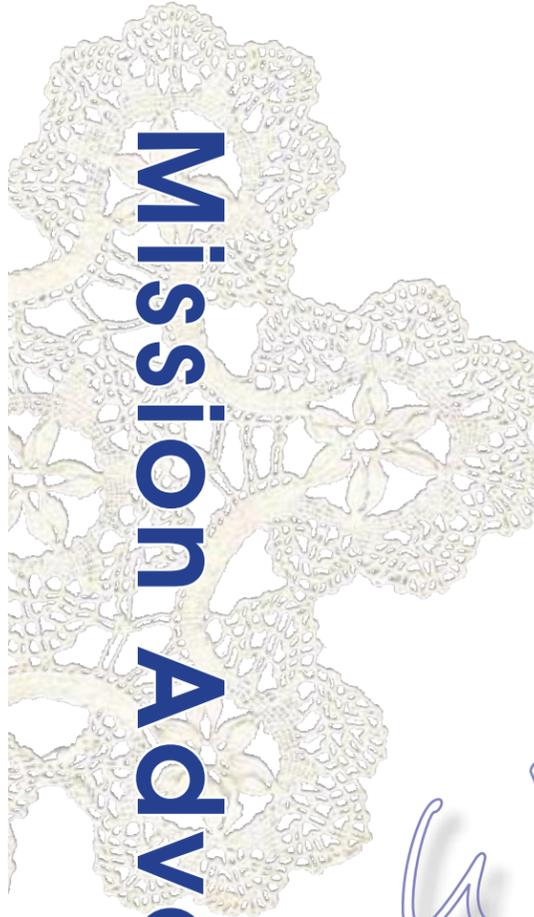
The "Little Design" was from our founding, evolutionary. In 2015 the "Little Design" includes all who share our charism, those willing to "roll up their sleeves and divide cities" to meet needs.

Today may be the first DESIGNS you have read. 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



Pat Nelson, CSJ



We are pleased to announce that we have a Donate button on our website through PayPal. You do not need to be a member of PayPal to make a donation. Many are familiar with this easy and safe method to purchase items or to make a donation. You can continue to make donations by mail or by phone. Many donors appreciate the convenience of making donations using the Donate Now button.

We appreciate and are grateful for your continued support of the mission and ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. With your contributions, you help support Alexandria House, Justice Works, Get On the Bus, House of Ruth and Presentation Center just to name a few of our ministries to help the dear neighbor.

Sister Judy Peters, CSJ
Mission Advancement

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Jubilee sings Gratitude

2015

2015 is a special year for 41 Sisters and 3 Associates who are celebrating the dedication of 25, 50, 60, 70, 75, and 80 years of their lives to advancing the mission of Jesus. Their collective contributions to humankind are tangible and evident through the lives they have touched in the many institutions and ministries they founded, supported, and led. They enlightened many people along their paths and represent some of the best that the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet offer to the world. For thousands of people around the globe, they have been and continue to be the light that shines upon us. May God bless our 2015 Jubilarians. ❖

Gratitude For 80 Years

W

hen Sister Anne Gertrude Fitzgerald entered in 1935 along with 8 other young ladies, the United States was beginning to recover from the Great Depression. Unemployment was still running at 20.1% and Germany had passed laws to strip Jews of their civil rights. Gasoline was 10 cents per gallon and the average house rent was \$22 per month.

These events helped shape Sister Anne Gertrude's values because "families got closer," she says. "Support and relaxation came from relatives, not from things or places." Most of the group members were 18 years old, but there was one who was already a teacher." One of their biggest pleasures was to go outside and play games and get fresh air.

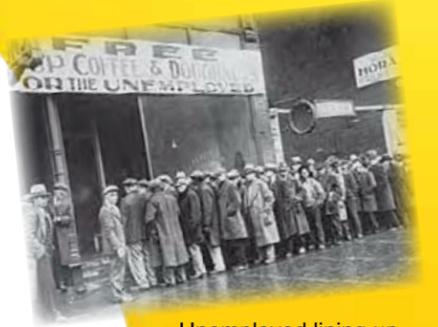
One of the most influential individuals in Ann Gertrude's life was Sister Francis Bernard MacDonald who was at the time Mistress of Novices and Superior; she was "a wonderful human being who was both supportive and firm." Now 99 years old, Anne Gertrude is the only surviving member of her reception and continues to support the active members of her beloved Community. ❖



S Anne Gertrude



Amelia Earhart



Unemployed lining up for bread



postage 3 cents



1934 chevy



Ezra Pound, Poet

1934
Gasoline
10 cents a gallon

SPRING



S Teresa Marie McIntier



S Ellen Joseph Russell



S Mary Gratia De Francesco



S Regina McLaughlan



S Mary Brigid Fitzgerald



S Mary Frances Horan

Gratitude For 75 Years

1939

By the time our 75 year Jubilarians entered in 1940, Americans were hopeful after a few years of recovery from the Great Depression. However, Europeans were feeling the impact of the German invasion of France. England was being bombed and folks here worried about the country's imminent involvement in the conflict. In the years up to the 1940's, it had been rare that more than one new school or other ministry was opened each year by the Sisters, wrote Sister Mary Williams in her book *All Things New* about the history of our Province. In 1948 that changed. That year, five schools were added. In the next 16 years, openings averaged from three to five a year. Sisters who entered the Community in the early 1940's were being sent out to a nearby school within days of putting on the postulant uniform to handle primary grades.

Rations and war bonds were shortly issued so everyone "adjusted to deprivations, as our Community increased and accepted new schools," explains Sister Ellen Joseph Russell. "[In the novitiate], there were no newspapers or magazines to read, no radio either," adds Sister Mary Bridget Fitzpatrick. They found ways to learn what was happening in the world outside. Twenty-eight young women entered but twenty-two received the habit. Fresh out of high school, "many did not even know where Pearl Harbor was when we got the news of the attack," adds Sister Mary Gratia De Francesco who transferred from the Albany (New York) Province in 1953.

They finished their college classes and most of them received advanced degrees in diverse areas such as Social Work and Education. "I admired so many of the Sisters during our early years of training and college education, like Sister Rose Alexis Huck, who was always so quiet but friendly, and Sister Mary Raymond Peplinski," adds Sister Ellen Joseph Russell. "Vatican II in the 60's called for many changes; some hard to accept, but the CSJ spirit carried us through," she says. ♦♦



Rations war bonds

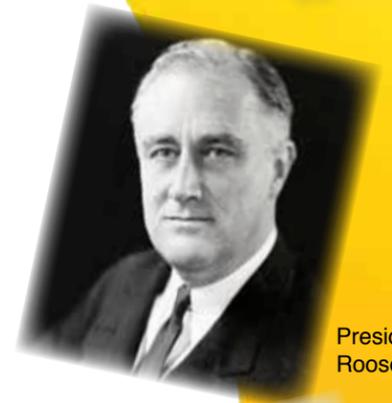


Gratitude For 70 Years

"While we were enjoying recreation, Charlie (the driver) ran across the court yelling 'The war is over!!,' remembers Sister Kathleen Martin who had entered a few months prior along with a diverse group of twenty four girls. She also indicated that the sisters remember the young women who entered with them and returned home recognizing this life style was not for them.

With war times behind, this group achieved high levels of success as teachers, nurses, spiritual counselors, Province leaders, and volunteers in diverse areas of the country. Highly educated and determined, they are respected collectively and individually for embodying the spirit of the CSJs for their commitment to love the *Dear Neighbor*. ♦♦

The WAR is OVER!



President Franklin Roosevelt



Raising of the flag by 5 marines on Iwo Jima



Yalta Conference of Leaders after the war



S Miriam Clare Burkett



S Madeline Keaney



S Eileen Mary Connors



S Elizabeth Anne Malone



S Mary Gregory Porterie



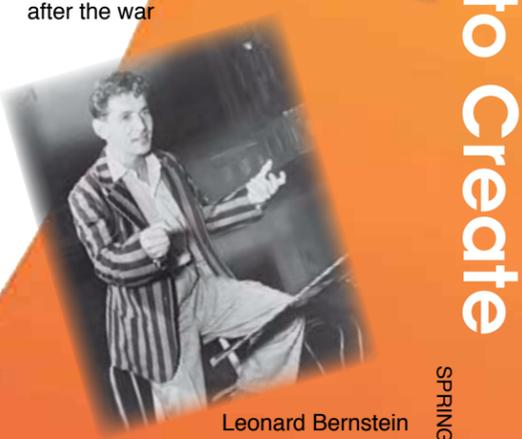
S Grace Anne Loperena



S Kathleen Martin



S Kathleen Maier



Leonard Bernstein

to Create

SPRING

Alfred Hitchcock suspense movies



1954

Gas 10 cents

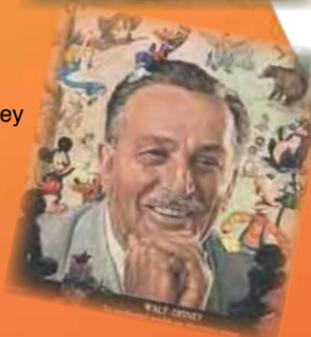


Music of Dave Brubeck

Chevy in two tone



Walt Disney



DESIGNS



Gratitude For 60 Years

The 1954 group started with forty-two postulants. They were the group who moved the novitiate from St. Mary's Academy on Crenshaw and Slauson in Los Angeles to the House of Studies now called Carondelet Center. "We were the last group to receive the habit at St. Mary's Academy; we made first vows at Mount St. Mary's College (now a University) and final vows in the chapel at Carondelet Center," said Sister Joan Mary O'Dwyer. They received their Novitiate training from Mother Roseanne Bromham.

Meanwhile, the world was dancing to Elvis Presley's *That's all Right*, in front of the first RCA color television sets, which would cost around \$1,000 for a 12" screen. The Geneva Conference convened to bring peace to Vietnam and a hydrogen bomb test was conducted on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. "We were always known as the quiet reception, rarely got in trouble except when we got laughing and couldn't stop. We loved having fun together like singing "Happy Birthday" to Sister Maria Teresita Espinosa over and over," says Sister Mary Williams. "We wrote skits, had a fictional member called Plato Little (a mouse), and we produced several beautiful plays on feast days. I guess we were a creative group with lots of talent."

Sister Donna Ann Bachman reflected that this group had many talented people with special gifts—gifted musically, gifted academically, and gifted in spirituality. "The only way that Catholic women could minister in the church was largely through activities such as belonging to the altar society and cleaning the church, fixing flowers, conducting bake sales, etc." according to Sister Joyce Gaspardo. To be a teacher or an administrator in a Catholic school one had to be a Sister." The group has remained close and gathers together every so often. "We all love and support one another not only as a community but especially as a reception; we have a strong bond," says Sister Carol Francis Crowe. ➡

				
S Teresita Espinoza	S Stephen Elizabeth Daly	S Dorothy Elaine Stack	S Mary Beatrice Kelly	S Anna Mary Anesi
				
S Joyce Marie Gaspardo	S Marcella Fabing	S Karen Wihelmy	S Carol Francis Crowe	S Donna Anne Bachman
				
S Frances Marie Hansen	S Joan Goulden	S Claire Marie Williams	S Rita Mary Roemlein	S Mary Williams
				
S Joan Mary O'Dwyer	S Rita Mary Roemlein	S Mary Williams		

to Continue to Answer the Call

Olympics



TOKYO 1964

Art in 1964

1964

President Kennedy is assassinated, Camelot Ends



The Beatles



Free Speech march



Martin Luther King

Gratitude For 50 Years

The Second Vatican Council formally opened under the Pontificate of Pope John XXIII in October 1962 and closed under Pope Paul VI in 1965. Several institutional changes resulted from the council, such as the renewal of consecrated life, ecumenical efforts towards dialogue with other religions, and the call to holiness for everyone including the laity, among others. When it concluded the CSJs, "... began the process of renewal and returning to the spirit of our founder. We had a chapter meeting when we were in the novitiate that was significant. We changed many customs and aspects of our lifestyle at the time. And then, as we were completing our college studies, we also changed from wearing the habit to wearing normal dress," said Sister Rosanne Belpedio. The Sisters did not wear habits when the Congregation was founded in 1650 in France; they dressed as the widow of the day so as to be with the people and not be set apart. Outside of the church, many changes were also occurring. "We entered with a sense of the world as it was before Vatican II. We experienced the end of Camelot with the sudden death of President John F. Kennedy. We witnessed and participated in Vietnam War protests; we were aware of the injustice towards African-Americans because of Martin Luther King. We saw the beginning of Rock and Roll music. Most of us experienced stay-at-home moms in our growing up years," reflects Sister Carol Louise Smith.

"Our friends and classmates were involved in the Vietnam War; the LA riots happened while we were in formation, and Vatican II happened in the Church," added Sister Sharon Margaret Nintemman. They were the beginning of the Baby Boomer generation. "When we entered religious life, the CSJs were primarily nurses or teachers. But after Vatican II, many opportunities opened to us in ministry, we moved to housing projects, worked with farm workers, etc.," adds Sister Suzanne Jabro who ministered to prisoners for many years.

Not surprisingly, this group remains active and close. Among them, there are several involved in leadership positions in our Community as well as with other organizations. They work hard but they "... all enjoy a good party and good food," comments Sister Angela Faustina. ♦♦



S Angela Faustina



S Suzanne Jabro



S Rosanne Belpedio



S Sharon Margaret Ninteman



S Mary Nicholas Inoue



S Sara Michael King



S Carol Louise Smith



S Teresa Scottino



A dreamer's dream



Inauguration of President George Herbert Walker Bush

1989



Batman is Movie Hit of '89



San Francisco vs Oakland



DESIGNS

Berlin Wall comes down



S Jan Husung



S Katie Hoegeman

Gratitude For 25 Years

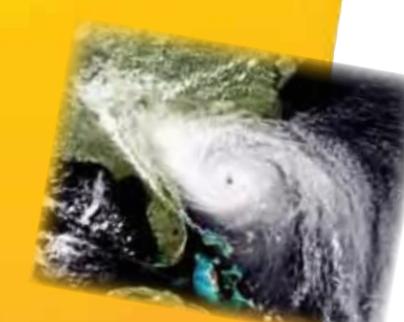
"We

were the first reception from the Los Angeles Province to participate in the 10-month Carondelet Inter-Provincial Novitiate in Denver, CO which was a precursor to the 10-month CSSJ Federation program. With one other young woman, Katie Hoegeman and I took the train from L.A. to Denver (40 hours) where we made our novitiate with two novices from Albany, two novice directors from St. Paul and Albany, and three local CSJs of the St. Louis Province," remembers Sister Jan Husung. "So as novices we had a perspective of the Congregation beyond our own Province that was broader than most previous groups had."

Meanwhile, Ronald Reagan was in the White House and the Persian Gulf War started. The Iran-Contra affair and the AIDS epidemic made headlines on a daily basis, and four American churchwomen were murdered in El Salvador by Salvadoran government forces. "Katie Hoegeman (LA), Betsy VanDeusen (A) and I continue as CSJs each in very different settings," she added. ♦♦



Driving Miss Daisy



Hurricane Hugo



We are legend

1989



Earthquake in California causes serious freeway damage.



Maureen Bergson



Ramon Crusit



Carolyn Mucelli

Gratitude For CSJ Associates 25 Years

S

ince 1984, the Associates in the Community have extended the mission and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph while enhancing individual spirituality. They bring unique perspectives from their personal lives to living the charism of unity and reconciliation. Led by Associate Director, Dianne Nelson, these 176 individuals meet regularly

in their respective areas and constitute an important aspect of our Community. Many have become Associates because they were mentored by one of the Sisters. Carolyn Mucelli "was invited to be a hospital visitor by Sister Joan of Arc DeGuire and then invited and mentored to become an Associate." This year's Associate jubilarians are retired from work but continue their prayer and witness ministry or serve as volunteers in their local parishes in positions such as lectors and Eucharist ministers.

Through war and peace times, changes in the Church and the world around them, and the advent of a new millennium filled with challenges and opportunities, our 44 jubilarians continue to light up the path of our Community. May we all follow their steps and show them our deepest appreciation for their love and commitment to advancing the mission of Jesus. ♦♦

Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Director of Communications and Public Relations.

SPRING



Prayer and Fasting for Peace ...in Japan

t the Assembly of the Province last July Sisters Maria Teresa Mitani and Mary Paul

Morimoto reported on the response of the sisters in Japan to the Call to Action: Partnering with New Eyes. They highlighted four urgent issues: the elimination of nuclear power; domestic violence and human trafficking; keeping Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution which outlaws war as a means to settle international disputes; and opposing the construction of heliports on US bases on the island of Okinawa.

The sisters in Tsu gather in the chapel on Saturdays to pray in solidarity with the people of the village of Takae for peace in opposing the construction of new US Osprey heliports. Their fasting means "no fruits nor sweets since we already have soup day once a week," according to Maria Teresa. In addition they send a significant donation monthly to help support the family of the leader of the Takae opposition movement who quit his job eight years ago to help the community. Over 100 congregations of religious in Japan

support this movement. "The ecosystem of Takae is a treasure for Japan, earth and the world. It is filled with native plants, animals and insects that are found only in this area. The village of Takae is also a treasure since the people live peacefully. The building of the heliports would also mean the ruination of this pristine area and be a further detriment to the peace of the people in Japan," reports Sister Celia DuRea.

The new US Department of Defense base in Takae would fill in and pave over some of the last remaining habitat for dugongs—gentle marine mammals related to manatees. Recent surveys have found only a few of these critically endangered animals. They are known as "sirens of the sea" because they are believed to bring friendly warnings of tsunamis. Dugongs are highly celebrated in Okinawan culture and are listed as an object of national cultural significance in Japan. International law requires that the US make every effort not to harm another country's cultural heritage according to Earthjustice which

is offering free legal assistance. (www.earthjustice.org)

"The most visible public expressions [of resistance] are the protests that occur almost daily outside the gates of Okinawa's larger US installations.... Demonstrators line the roadsides holding colorful banners calling for the bases' closure and tying to the fences red ribbons—the color of Okinawan anger."

The Sisters in Japan are living out the prophetic witness and collaboration with others for justice for which Partnering with New Eyes calls. They are joining with others in working for systemic change and that will enable all to live in right relationships. They are addressing issues that demean or deny people their human dignity and that force those who are marginalized to bear the burden of unjust systems. (Calls to Action) Their prayer and fasting are what Jesus calls us to in confronting evil nonviolently. ♦♦

Written by Louise McDonald, CSJ, Associate Coordinator of Justice



Maria Teresa Mitani, CSJ



Mary Paul Morimoto, CSJ

Dugong



The Dugong is one of four living species of the order Sirenia, which also includes three species of manatees. It is the only living representative of the once-diverse family Dugongidae; its closest modern relative, Steller's sea cow, was hunted to extinction in the 18th century. The dugong is the only strictly herbivorous mammal, as all species of manatee use fresh water to some degree.

Louise McDonald, CSJ



Get on the Bus

Get on the Bus A program for children of incarcerated parents

There are more than 1 million children in the United States who are living with the loss and stigma of having a parent in prison—this is higher than the number of children who are diagnosed with autism or juvenile diabetes.¹—yet the children of incarcerated parents remain the invisible victims of crime.

Through no fault of their own, children of incarcerated parents are “doing time.” Parental incarceration can have negative impacts on their physical and mental health, cognitive development, school performance, socialization and economic wellbeing. They may lose their home when placed with other family members, or even enter the foster care system.

Get On The Bus was founded in 1999 by Sisters Suzanne Steffen and Suzanne Jabro, who participated in a prison delegation for women religious at the California Institution for Women in Corona. Throughout that visit, she heard the same plea again and again, “We never see our

children. Please bring our children.” Sister Suzanne responded to this unmet need with common sense and compassionate action. She filled a bus with 17 children and their grandmothers and took them to visit their mothers. This simple, but profound, idea has grown into a statewide phenomenon known as *Get On The Bus*.

Suzanne Jabro took up the *Get On The Bus* baton in 2001, while serving as the Director of the Detention Ministry Department of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She led the organization through its formational years and grew it into one of the largest prison visiting programs in the nation. She was recognized for her efforts in 2008 with the Peace and Justice Award from the Los Angeles Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Since being selected for province leadership, she now serves in an advisory role as the organization’s Founder.

In 2015, *Get On The Bus* will serve approximately fifteen hundred children, along with their

guardians and parents, and coordinate more than 60 buses traveling to eleven state and federal men’s and women’s prisons throughout California. The program provides a child-centered family reunification opportunity in which prisons partner to provide a safe and fun environment where children can bond and play with their parents. The prison visiting rooms become a carnival for a day with face painting, games, pizza and family photographs.

Counselors are present on the bus ride home to help children process their experience and their relationship with a parent who is missing from their daily life. Research has proven that, “The family is probably this country’s most valuable resource in fighting crime.”² By helping to eliminate the barriers that keep families separated, *Get On The Bus* helps to strengthen family relationships, decrease recidivism, and ultimately stabilize the families and homes of the children it serves. ♦♦

¹ Shafer, R., et.al *Children with Incarcerated Parents, Considering Children’s Outcomes in the Context of Family Experiences*, University of Minnesota, *Children’s Mental Health eReview*, June 2013.

² Adelist-Estrin, A. (1994). - *Why Maintain Relationships? Children of Prisoners Library: Facts and Issues: #102.*



Suzanne Steffen, CSJ



Suzanne Jabro, CSJ

Our Dear Neighbor

The Friendliest Place on Earth

It was Saint Patrick's Day in 1989 when Sisters Carol Anne O'Marie, Suzanne Steffan and Maureen Lyons sat around a table and decided that their next ministry would be to create a daytime shelter so homeless women could find a warm and safe place away from the streets of downtown Oakland, CA. Sister Carol Anne had recently witnessed a homeless woman urinating in an alley in San Francisco and was struck by the inhumanity of the woman's situation, reported a local magazine. "Anybody acquainted with Carol or Suzanne knows that they are both creative thinkers. Nothing seemed impossible, too big, too difficult or even too unrealistic. The fact that we did not have any money did not stop these two," says Sister Maureen.

As Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, who are called to advance the mission of Jesus and to love the *Dear Neighbor* without distinction, they embraced their

idea with the passion, creativity, resourcefulness that characterizes their Community.

After several months of searching for a place and also fundraising through modest events such as window washing, they found a place on West Grand Street. 'As we were doing all this, the Loma Prieta earthquake with a magnitude of 6.9 hit the area and many people in downtown Oakland were left without a place to live," she adds.

In January 25, 1990 the shelter, which they called A Friendly Place, finally opened with one

female guest. New showers and washer /dryers, plus fresh coffee was always served. Eventually as many as 80 women would come every day so the Sisters realized they needed a larger space. In 1994, they purchased a single-occupancy hotel on San Pablo Avenue for \$250,000 with a loan from Catholic

Healthcare West. After a two-year renovation, the sisters finally had the place they had envisioned. Now called A Friendly Place/ Manor, the two-story facility offers a transitional housing program for 26 women upstairs and day shelter services downstairs.

Friendly Place is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and continues to offer breakfast and lunch, thanks to the generosity of East Bay area merchants and neighbors. To this day, the shelter receives no government funding. 'For many women, *A Friendly Place* is their home. Some come and spend most of the day; others come for afternoon tea and several seniors drop by just for the company," adds Sister Maureen.

This ministry of love and commitment to the *Dear Neighbor* is one of the many institutions and programs that constitute the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet to a world lacking of recognition for the interdependency of humanity and nature. ♦♦
Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Director of Communications and Public Relations



Deanine Medina, CSJ who furthered the mission of A Friendly Place



Suzanne Steffan, CSJ answers the phone at A Friendly Place. 1990



A Friendly Place is a ministry of love and commitment the Dear Neighbor and one of the many institutions and programs that constitute the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet

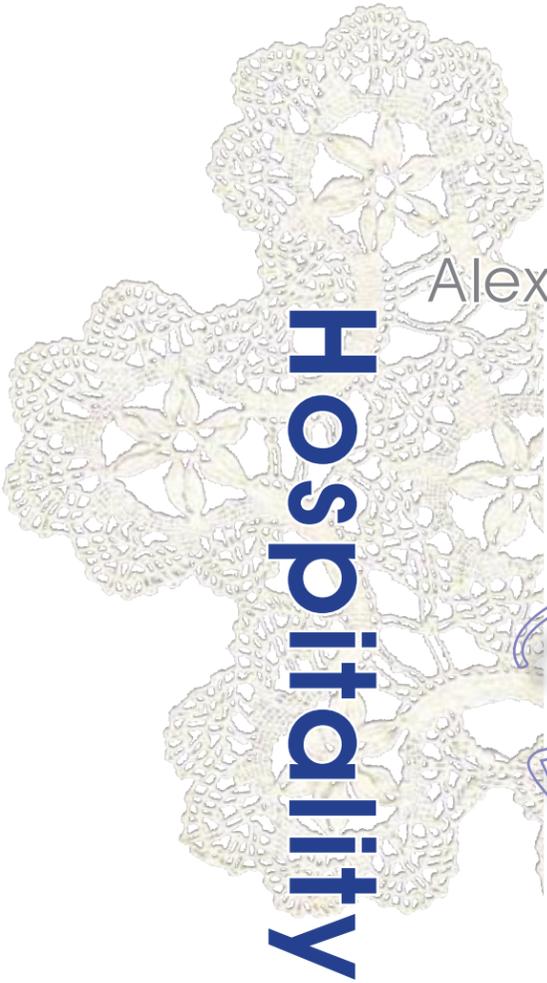
l/r: Maureen Lyons, CSJ with Carol O'Marie, CSJ (RIP) in 1996 in front of A Friendly Place



Maureen Lyons, CSJ with Carol Anne O'Marie, CSJ and Suzanne Steffan, CSJ in 1990 Surrounded by first clients of A Friendly Place.



Suzanne Steffan, CSJ



Alexandria House

...Home to Homeless Women in Los Angeles

Judith Vaughan, CSJ, was looking to relocate to Los Angeles from Chicago when she learned that the

Immaculate Heart Community had a large house on Alexandria Street in the Mid-Wilshire area that they wanted to be used for ministry to marginalized people. Sister Judy gathered a group of women at the house for a one-time meeting to identify emerging needs and see what might be possible. The Spirit was vibrantly present and the possibilities were powerful. Alexandria House was founded on September 21, 1996 as a house of hospitality for single women and women with children who were homeless. It also welcomed the working poor families from the surrounding apartment buildings and began offering after-school programs, community building opportunities and anti-racism efforts as a neighborhood center. When the house next door became available, Sister Judy and the board



Judith Vaughan, CSJ, founding Director

stepped out in faith and expanded into what have become known as, "twin houses of love."

There are many ways a woman can become homeless in the United States: a shattered childhood, a flight from domestic violence, a job loss, or simply a misstep without a family safety net. The women and children who come to live at Alexandria House are homeless as a result of domestic violence, human trafficking or extreme poverty. They have used up all of their time at emergency and domestic violence shelters or on the couches of families and friends.

There are the individual names and stories of the more than 58,000 homeless people in Los Angeles on any given night:

Shante

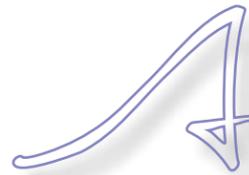
Shante was living in a hotel with her four children rapidly depleting her savings despite having a full-time job as a dental assistant

Dolores

She and her three children were on the run for three years fleeing a violent spouse and moving from shelter to shelter without gaining any traction.

Kanthi

She was trafficked into the United States from Indonesia and kept in slavery working 16-22 hours a day as a domestic servant until she was freed by immigration agents.



Alexandria House provides a comprehensive housing continuum offering emergency

services, intensive bridge housing, and permanent housing. Facilities include the two transitional houses, with a bed capacity of 28, the Alexandria House Apartments, a 16-unit affordable housing building, and the Youth Center, a two-story building housing a child-care center, after-school programs and an evening Teen Program.

Alexandria House has been a safe and welcoming haven for over 300 women and children. More than 80% of transitional residence program graduates remain

permanently housed—significantly higher than the 50% re-homeless rate of at-risk families. The vast majority of former residents remain in touch with the house and have formed the Past Residents' Caucus to advocate for anti-poverty policy and programs and to serve as a community of support for each other.

Sister Judy still lives and works at the House serving as its Founding Director and being fully, joyfully immersed in its community. Though she could probably get out of it if she tried, she even cooks dinner on "her" night. ♦♦

Written by Kelly Kester-Smith, CSJA



Kelly Kester-Smith, CSJA



Sister Judy and the board stepped out in FAITH and expanded into what have become known as, "twin houses of love."



Look to the Newness
of Spring—
It is Everywhere!

HOLY GROUND



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.