

LOS ANGELES PROVINCE

DESIGNS

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CARONDELET AND FRIENDS

SUMMER 2016

Mercy

Whatever
God Does
the first

OUTBURST

is

always

COMPASSION

~ Meister Eckhart

Mercy

Mercy



Mercy

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From the Leadership Team

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

Pope Francis has asked the whole church to participate in a year of mercy. Our Church, our Nation, our Congregation are in such massive paradigm shifts that the call to mercy and compassion may be the best response we can make in the face of today's hopes, fears, and needs. This is how God works, as Meister Eckhart says: Whatever God does, the first OUTBURST is always COMPASSION~As we see in this issue of DESIGNS and in articles in current issues of e-designs, we continue to be involved in works of Mercy and acts of Compassion, to which Pope Francis continues to call us.

We hear Francis call us to be present to the world in such a way that we "have the smell of the sheep" on us; to place ourselves at the margins, and from that perspective to make our decisions. Throughout the years, our efforts have always situated us in works of compassion and mercy, but what of today? What do compassion and mercy call us to today? What is the reality of our world calling us to today? Who are the "sheep" among whom we are called to stand at this time?

In this election year, we see countless examples of a lack of compassion and mercy from every side. The name-calling, stretching of the truth, engaging in personal attacks rather than an analysis of real issues, are a few examples. Can we look beyond the rhetoric in order to understand what others, whoever they are, are really experiencing, and make our decisions aware of other perspectives?

At this time in the congregation, we are being asked to deliberate our future together by participating in the process developed by the Design Team. Certainly we will not agree on everything; neither on the issues themselves, nor on the process being used. We are called, however, to continue in the conversation, so that we embrace together the future reality we desire. We can do this by telling our truth, and by listening to the truth of others in compassionate and contemplative dialog, allowing no place for rumor, gossip and mistrust.

This is the challenge of shifting paradigms--learning to think, feel and act in new ways. This is what we are being called to do in and for our Church, our Nation, our Congregation, and always through the lens of compassion and mercy. This is not a passive attitude, but rather active participation in a movement toward a future where we stand together as a Church, a Nation and a Congregation. It is choosing the movement from "I" to "WE". Whatever God does, the first OUTBURST is always COMPASSION~

~ Sisters Theresa, Sandra, Suzanne, Mary Ann and Angela 3



Angela Faustina, CSJ



Mary Ann Martin, CSJ



Sandra Williams, CSJ



Suzanne Jabro, CSJ



Theresa Kvale, CSJ



Mission Advancement



*FROM the desk of
Sister Judy Peters, CSJ
Mission Advancement
Director*

*“Blessed are the merciful,
For they will be shown mercy”
Matthew 5:7*

*A*s we recently celebrated our Sisters’ and Associates’ Jubilee on March 19th, we also are celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis this year.

We cannot thank our faithful donors enough for their gifts that support and enable us to continue in our mission of service to God’s people. Today you will find us ministering in the fields of education, parish work, health care and social services. Some Sisters, now retired, are engaged as volunteers in various areas as well as prayer ministry.

As mercy has been given to us, let us reach out to those in need throughout our world. Please see the volunteer opportunities that are listed to “Serve a World in Need.” ➡

~ Written by Sister Judy Peters, CSJ

*Here Are Some Opportunities to
“Serve a World in Need”
With the Sisters of St. Joseph*

Arizona

Circle the City – Phoenix 602-357-4257 circlethecity.org

St. Elizabeth Health Center-Tucson 520-670-0964 saintehec.org

Villa Maria Chapel Foundation – Tucson 520-323-9351 villamariachapelfoundation.org

Northern California

A Friendly Manor – Oakland 510-451-8923

Concord House – Concord 925-765-5035

Lifelong Educational Opportunities (LEO Center)- Oakland 510-540-7540

St. Mary’s Center – Oakland 570-923-9600 stmaryscenter.org

Central California

Casa Esperanza Shelter – Fresno 661-664-0735

Restorative Partners – San Luis Obispo 805-788-2325 restorativepartners.org

Southern California

Alexandria House- Los Angeles 213-381-2649 alexandriahouse.org

Carondelet Center-Los Angeles 310-889-2100 csjla.org

Center for Restorative Justice Works – North Hollywood 818-980-7714 crjw.us

Concern America – Santa Ana 714-953-8575 concernamerica.org

Good Shepherd Center –Los Angeles 213-428-1834 gshomeless.org

House of Ruth – Los Angeles 323-266-4139 losangeleshouseofruth.com

House of Yahweh – Lawndale 310-675-1384 hoj-southbay.org

Presentation Center – Los Angeles 323-691-7577 presentationlearningcenter.org

Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA)- Los Angeles 213-480-4238 seacharter.net

South Central LAMP – Los Angeles 323-234-1471 southcentrallamp.org

St. Joseph Center – Venice 310-396-6468 stjosephctr.org

Thomas House Shelter – Garden Grove 714-554-0357 thomashouseshelter.org





A Deeper Sense of Purpose, Finding Our "Why"



*Sister Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ
(third from left)
with some staff members
of Circle the City*



*Tammy Rocker, Chief Development
Officer Circle the City*

I'm having one of those "I really love what I do" moments! I've just returned from retreat with co-workers at Carondelet Center in Los Angeles. Three days focused on finding our "Why". I am energized!

So..... Circle the City (CTC) is a nonprofit organization that is not faith based; we provide healthcare for the homeless —why were we at Carondelet Center? We were there to connect with the spirit of our founder. Sister Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ is a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. They are a community without cloister or habit, they devote themselves to the needs of ordinary people, living among them and offering their lives in service. Sister, who is a pharmacist and medical doctor, founded CTC in the tradition of those Sisters, whose "love for God leads them to serve the dear neighbor without distinction."

A visionary and innovator to be sure, Sister Adele knew it would serve staff well to have an understanding of her community.

Circle the City's values' statement reads "In the tradition of the Sisters, we will continue a mission of compassion and mercy to all who need our care." Our visit to Carondelet Center was spent connecting with Sisters, listening to stories, enjoying the dialogue and craving more as we learned the CSJ identity, history and charism. Those stories truly inspired; they shared the beginnings, the many times that they recognized injustice and willingly took a stand, We spoke to Sisters who serve or have served in many ways; one who teaches creative movement to young children as well as to retired sisters, one who walked shoulder to shoulder with Ceasar Chavez—she is now 102! Another was asked to go to Thailand during the Viet Nam war, Her response was, "Sure, I'll go!" Sisters may be teachers, attornies, doctors, school or hospital administrators, nurses or nurse practitioners. These stories conveyed a willingness to grow with the needs, to provide compassionate and dignified care, and an unwavering willingness to step our of their comfort zone. They were stories of adventure, optimism, compassion and service.

It became clear that these stories woven together provided the platform, the incubator that launched programs that filled gaps in our communities: the Law Center, a Crisis Nursery, St. Joseph's Center, Get on the Bus, and my personal favorite — *Circle the City*.

We left the retreat with the vision that all of us working at CTC are on an adventure so to speak alongside these Sisters. What does it take to journey with these amazing women?

- * Can see perceived need
- * A sense of adventure!
- * Be innovative
- * Obstacles can help in shaping new paths
- * Willingness to be transformed

It's an adventure I'm excited to be part of, talk about understanding your "Why"! I went into retreat with a strong belief in our Mission; I left with a guiding sense of purpose. ➡

~ Tammy Rocker, Chief Development Officer *Circle the City*



Circle the City logo

Mercy

More Than Food or Training



WE BELIEVE mutuality can only happen when we:
*Recognize and respect the dignity and authority of every person;
Walk with our sisters and brothers who live in poverty...Calls to Action
(P. 10)*

The red and white modern building looks from the outside like a high-end educational institution or perhaps an architectural firm. Instead, the beautiful structure houses the heart of the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet applied to tangible and measurable programs and services benefitting working poor and homeless people and families. St. Joseph Center of Venice, CA is the vision of Sisters Marilyn Rudy, (RIP) and Louise Bernstein, CSJs who 40 years ago opened the center with a seed grant of \$1,000. Today, the Center's budget is over \$12 million, with 60-70% coming from government grants, serving Santa Monica, Culver City and Los Angeles, in addition to Venice.

"When I first joined the staff, I met with the Sisters and they helped me understand their vision and commitment to offer our clients the dignity and opportunities for growth and empowerment that would help them sustain independent living and self-reliance," says Va Lecia Adams-Kellum, PhD. Executive Director. Many Sisters have served and continue to work in different capacities (see side bar) so the spirit of the founders is always present. "The Sisters' emotional support help us when we face challenges especially when we had to discontinue certain programs such as our thrift store."

Despite of the challenges they faced during the last economic downturn when more clients started to visit their food pantry St. Joseph Center continued to innovate and lead in amazing ways. Their culinary program graduated 70 men and women last year and 84% of them found jobs within 90 days of

DESIGNS

L/R: Paul Rubenstein, Sisters Kathy Stein and Eileen Mitchell, CSJs and Va Lecia Adams-Kellum

graduation. Recently, thanks to a grant from the people of Snapchat, they launched Code Talk a new technology and vocational training program for women.

Sisters Kathy Stein, and Eileen Mitchell, CSJs work and volunteer in the pantry and help to cultivate donors. "We know that people get more than food or training here," says Sister Kathy. "I recently noticed that a client hadn't been coming for a few weeks. When other clients and I saw him back we told him how happy we were to see him. Later, he told me that he was moved to tears because no one else had missed him before." One of the most important aspects of St. Joseph Center is the "ecumenical approach; our 145 staff and more than 400 volunteers come from different cultural and religious backgrounds. They truly reflect the diversity of the community we serve," adds Sister Eileen Mitchell, CSJ. ❖

For more information about the center, please visit www.stjosephctr.org
 ~ Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Director of Communications and Public Relations

SISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT ST. JOSEPH CENTER:

Staff Positions

- Louise Bernstein (Co-founder; served in all programs)
- Marilyn T. Rudy +RIP (Co-founder; served in all programs)
- Lorraine Polacci (among early staff; all programs)
- Jeanette Van Vleck +RIP (among early staff; all programs)
- Teresa Scottino (Homeless Services)
- *Marilyn Schafer (Homeless Services and LISTO)
- Maggie McGraw (Next Step)
- Rosanne Belpedio (LISTO)
- Judy Molosky (LISTO, Board, and Present position)
- *Marian Gallagher, St. Louis province (Volunteers)
- Rose Cecilia Harrington +RIP (Bread and Roses)
- Eileen Mitchell (Mission & Education)

Volunteer Service

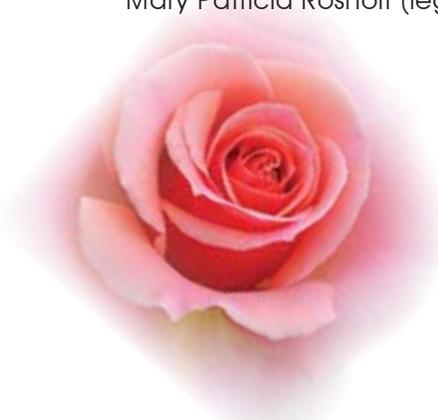
- Marion Joseph Freeman +RIP (Administration)
- Caroline Chang (Bread and Roses)
- Katie Hoegeman (Bread and Roses)
- Deanine Medina (Homeless Service Center and Senior Services)
- Katie Ziegler (Homeless Services)
- *Marta Lopez (Homeless Service Center and Senior Services)
- The Earthtones--Srs Katie Hoegeman, Donna Gibbs, Angela Faustina (Dinner Dance)
- *Nancy Fierro (Benefit Concert)
- Cecile T. Beresford (Computer graphics)
- Therese Denham (Computer graphics)
- Rosaleen Russell RIP (donated artwork for Dinner Dances)
- Mary Agnes Nance (Communications)
- Carol Louise Smith (Design work for varied projects)

Board and or Committees

- Judy Murphy (legal work for process of Incorporation and By-laws)
- Mary Patricia Rosholt (legal/financial services for 25 years)
- Myrtle Weyker +RIP
- Jeanette Van Vleck +RIP
- Eileen Mitchell
- *Rita Scherrej,
- Irma Odabashian
- *Diane Pedroni
- Maureen Petrone
- Judy Molosky
- Joyce Marie Gaspardo
- Mary Sevilla
- Theresa Kvale

Provincials and Teams, 1976 to the present, (monetary gifts, invaluable guidance and "connection" to significant persons and resources)

* Former Members



Together We Can Do It

We live in a highly complex world! Turn on the radio, the TV, the phone, whatever electronic device is at hand and one wonders what next will befall our world; war, climate change, shootings, extremist mentality are at every corner. Even rhetoric somehow bespeaks a world gone "mad." Anger and frustration have given people "permission," to speak in whatever way they wish.

I recently read a story about a young man who witnessed whales "attempting" to beach themselves. Without notice, the young man took off his shoes, raced into the water and befriended the whales by touching them one by one, in a quiet, gentle manner until they returned to the sea.

Recently, Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, founder of the Institute of Communal Contemplation and Dialogue, addressed the struggles of today with, "How then shall we live?"

First, recognize that our world is in transition. We are incomplete. All of science points to this. And all the rhetoric in the world will not change it. And again, "How then shall we live?"

Taking time in a contemplative mode seems to be the only answer. It means taking a long, loving look at the reality in which we find ourselves. Sit still, call on the divine and be in touch with the moment. Our God will open us to love. That moment, over time, will break through the chaos and change us.



Therese Denham, CSJ

"We cannot solve the problems that are facing us with the same level of consciousness that created them." ~ Einstein

Viewing the world within will enable us to change and evolve more beautifully, calmly with purpose. Take notice of science and the evolutionary processes. They will encourage greater global consciousness. With a new perception we will be able to transcend the difficulties that we find in our world.

As we move ahead, will you join the Sisters of St. Joseph and their Associates and commit ten minutes of your time each day to contemplative prayer? Together we can do it. ✦

~ Written by Therese Denham, CSJ

St. Joseph Children's Home (School) in Slickpoo, Idaho



Top photo :Sister Charleen Munana, CSJ (RIP) with some of the students



Bottom photo: School Children at St. Joseph's School sometime after 1945



Sister Patricia Rose Shanahan, CSJ

Father Joseph Cataldo SJ founded St. Joseph Mission Church on November 13, 1874 in Slickpoo, ID. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Lewiston founded St. Joseph Mission School for Nez Perce Indian children at the request of Reverend Hubert Post, SJ in 1902. Originally, only children of Indian heritage attended. Later, other children from surrounding areas came to the school, hence the name change to St. Joseph Children's (Home) School around 1945.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Idaho joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1925, becoming members of the Los Angeles Province. The school continued until 1968, when because of lack of personnel and fewer students, it was necessary for the Sisters to withdraw.

The children who were at the Children's Home were taken care of because the assets of St. Joseph's Children's Home Corporation held in trusts and bequests from wills for the care of dependent children, and remained in the care of the Diocese of Boise since these funds were received for the care of Catholic children in the State of Idaho. ♦

~ Written by Sister Patricia Rose Shanahan, CSJ



Sister Suzanne Ensminger, CSJ
enjoys a moment
with the refugee children

Helping Immigrants Begin in New Life

WE BELIEVE IN partnering with new eyes happens when we:
Join with others in working for systemic change that will enable all to live in right relationships; Join with others in 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 (p. 11)

In June of 2012 I retired from parish work after 55 years in pastoral ministry and schools. After five months of enjoying retirement, I joined the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. (IVC) which provides a roster of volunteer opportunities for retired men and women. The Director said, "How about working with Refugees at Catholic Charities?" I, in my ignorance, replied, "I don't speak Spanish." Her quick answer was "Neither do they." So in January 2013, my venture in to a whole new multi-cultural world began. This world is only three miles from where I live and until then I didn't know of its existence.

One of my first experiences was meeting a family of seven at the airport. There were two women, who are sisters and their five children. Originally from the Congo, they were coming from a refugee camp in Rwanda where they had spent the last 15 years. With the help of an interpreter we asked if they had luggage. "Yes, two." Two a piece? No, two for all of them! The life possessions for seven people came in two suitcases!

This launched my service of working with refugees from Myanmar (Burma), Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal and many different countries in Africa. Often I will get out my Atlas to see where these countries are on our planet.

One of my main services is enrolling the children from pre-school to grade 12 in school. I am always so touched to see them with their backpacks, dressed up, ready to begin an exciting new phase of their life in the United States.

How blessed I am to have found this ministry in retirement. I receive more from these wonderful people than I give and I am grateful. ❖

~ Written by Sister Suzanne Ensminger, CSJ

Mercy

DESIGNS

Corazon Build & St. Joseph Workers: An Eye-Opening Journey Across the Border

I struggle to put into words the impact the Corazon House Build has had on me. I have taken numerous service trips both in and out of the United States, but even so I was fairly apprehensive about the Corazon Build. Knowing that Corazon would be part of my SJW experience this year, I have had friends try to talk me out of going, speaking about the dangers in Tijuana. Going into the project with a taint of fear on my heart, I was not prepared for the boundless love and eye-opening experience received on that day and during that weekend as we (the St. Joseph Workers) received overwhelming support from the CSJ community including a comfortable place to sleep generously offered by the Sisters in San Diego, and a wonderful homemade dinner the night before to have our bellies full for the day ahead!

As soon as we (our contingent including the five of us SJWs, including our program director Aimee) arrived in Tijuana, Mexico we were greeted with open arms and grateful hearts of the Castro Angel family. We started work right away! As the day went on, the foundation slab of cement began to turn into what looked like a house. Before lunch the four walls were up. By mid-afternoon we had a roof, a counter and even curtains.

This day that could have easily been unbearable in the Mexican heat became a day of building new relationships while growing with my SJW community. As hesitant as I was for this particular experience, I can now say my eyes and heart were opened in a way they have not before. One has to be present to be able to understand what it was like to complete a project like this with total strangers, have a family with so little give so much of themselves for people they never met, work alongside the family in the building of their house, hear the story of the family and their journey to this point, and see the elated look on the faces of the family as they received the keys to their house. Finally, no words can describe the combined feeling of physical exhaustion and extreme emotional satisfaction I felt to board the bus to cross back over the border. ♦

~ Written by Sloane Burns, St. Joseph Worker



St. Joseph Worker— Sloane Burns center





“The Name of God is Mercy”

In his book “The Name of God is Mercy,” Pope Francis points out that the word “mercy” comes from “misericordis,” meaning to open one’s heart to the misery and suffering of others. The first step to becoming merciful and forgiving is to acknowledge our own need for mercy. Obstacles to this realization include self-sufficiency, complacency, rigidity and narcissism.

Francis critiques the clericalism in the church which results in separating priests from other members and attributing to clerics faculties belonging to God. The “logic of the scholars of the law” creates the fear of losing those “safe within the pen” and emphasizes formal adherence, boundaries, prerequisites, prohibitions, condemnation and judgment. Only a person “touched and cured by the tenderness of God” can really know God, the pope writes. Francis reveals that he sometimes surprises himself with the thought that “A few very rigid people would do well to slip a little.” Those who feel like the Pharisee in the parable suffer from “the degradation of awe.”

The “logic of God” dictates welcoming, embracing, transformation and healing, according to Francis. The church is not a customs office or a solid building where the righteous gather, but should be a field hospital, a mobile structure that moves out to bring “the medicine of mercy” to those most in need.



Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

Our wounds, weaknesses, and sins are the places of encounter with God’s unconditional love that offers acceptance and assistance. Mercy is the “active flow of love toward another.” The book suggests that whatever word we use to describe this ever-present miraculous reality, it calls us, in the words of James Finley, “to die to the illusion that anything other than love is real.” ❖

~ Written by Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

Then and NOW...

A Call to Minister as a Nurse



Sister Helen Virginia Buzan, CSJ

WE BELIEVE—

We are co-responsible participants in Jesus' mission by living out our baptismal call to unify, reconcile, and act prophetically. ~ Calls to Action (p.. 8)

CSJs walk many roads as they offer their love to the dear neighbor. Sister Helen Virginia Buzan, who is celebrating her 60th jubilee this year, worked as floor supervisor and mentor to new nurses, ministered in nursing administration as staffing coordinator at various hospitals and also worked for Casa de los Niños, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, in Tucson, AZ. Sister Helen Virginia also worked for more than 10 years as a receptionist at Healthcare for the Homeless and offered companionship to homebound people in Phoenix.

Born in Tucson, to Henry and Virginia Buzan, she is the oldest of four children. She entered our Community in 1955 and took her vows a year later. She obtained her degree in nursing from the St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1961. She worked as a surgery head nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, AZ, St. Joseph Hospital In Lewiston (ID) and Lourdes Health Network in Pasco, WA. Before retiring, Sister worked at St. Theresa Parish in Phoenix as a Eucharistic Minister from 2009 until 2014.

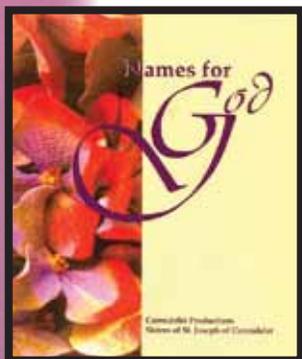
Now retired Sister Helen Virginia volunteers by helping in the nursing station at Carondelet Center. "I have been very fortunate in my religious life. I am very pleased to be able to continue nursing and caring for others after retirement," she said. ♦

~ Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar and Sister Sharon Margaret Ninteman, CSJ

Mercy

Father of the Poor

Many people today hunger for spirituality, a sense of belonging, and a commitment to justice. *Calls to Action* (P. 8) A few years ago, Carondelet Productions published a bilingual collection of reflections and inspirations written by Sisters and Associates regarding the many names of God. Here is one written Sister Constance Fitzgerald who is celebrating her 85th Jubilee.



Go now to Zarephath...for I have commanded a widow there to feed you...But the widow said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug"...Elijah said, The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth. (*1 Kings 17:6-16*)

REFLECTION

In the sequence on Pentecost we pray, "Come thou Father of the Poor." Jesus, God incarnate, cared for every kind of "poor." We have proof of God's compassionate heart in both the Old Testament (eg. The poor widow of Zarephath *1 Kings 17:6-16*) and the New Testament (healing of the lepers. *Luke 17:11-14.*)



Sister Constance Fitzgerald, CSJ

God's fatherly care has been startlingly evident through all the years since testament days. Some people call coincidence "serendipity," but the true name is "Providence." The following is one story out of the possible thousands exemplifying God's ever-present help for the poor. When the call went out for people to help on an Indian reservation in Arizona, a group of strong religious women answered. Working in primitive conditions in the late 1800s, the Sisters not only taught the children from outlying villages but also cared for every need of the boarding students. They had to plan for bathing the students, washing their clothes (both of those being done simultaneously in the river two miles away) and providing daily food. When the Indian men joined World War I, the food supply became scarce, and the number of boarding students had increased to 450. One morning there was nothing for the evening meal. One of the Sisters, Sister Anna de Sales, took seven beans over to the church, told the Lord there was nothing for the children, and to please hurry up and find some food for them. Later in the afternoon, they saw the Mission wagon come slowly over the desert road. Sister

Anna de Sales said, "Our spirits were cheered as we knew God would not forget us." The wagon was well packed with beans and potatoes.

BLESSING

May God bless abundantly all those women and men all over the world who today are the compassionate hands of the Father of the Poor. ❖

~ Written by Sister Constance Fitzgerald, CSJ

To purchase the book *Names for God* please contact Sister Therese Denham, CSJ at 310.889.2122 or tdenham@cshla.org

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 wanted to provide 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 Sister Pat Nelson, CSJ

SUMMER

Volunteer Recognition 2016



Sister Pat McCarthy, CSJ volunteers her time teaching water colors to Sisters at CC.



Barbara Buckman, Mary Kroll and Sharon Leahy volunteer their time in our Craft Room.

Turning Beyond Ourselves to Serve a World in Need



Tony Galvez, staff



DESIGNS

Evangelina Savala, staff

A

with you.

Always focused on *the dear neighbor* the Sisters in Holy Family continue this ministry from Carondelet Center in varied and creative ways. We want to share some of our recent activities

Spring Cleaning

Our community effort to divest ourselves of some of our things has provided two opportunities for our staff to benefit from our abundance. In January we sorted our luggage and bags and shared these with staff allowing everyone to take one piece if they were interested.

Recently we invited all to join us in sorting through shoes, slippers and socks and we had a great shoe give away in April. We collected more than 200 shoes from all parts of the Western States. The first pair was free and all others were \$5 each. We were please to send the proceeds to the Women and Children served at Alexandria House.

Friday Neighbor Outreach

The "Friday Neighborhood Group", an evolving local group at the Center that meets weekly to pray, be enriched and do service to others, recently made 50 bags for the children participating in the Mother's Day Get on the Bus Event. They also prepared bags for the women at Presentation Center with items they need as they work with the many CSJ volunteers who teach ESL and preparation for accomplishing GED. Come by some Friday and see the group in action!

CA Veteran Home

Sisters and staff joined the men and women at Cal Vet home for their recent birthday party and used the opportunity to allow these distinguished men and women to share their stories. The sisters have also agreed to do mending for the residents in addition to joining them for activities once or twice a month. It is clear that while physical limitations can be challenging in our elder years, the call to service and to all inclusive love is never limited by diminishment. ❖

~ Written by Sister Sharon Margaret Ninteman, CSJ



Sister Sharon Margaret Ninteman, CSJ

Thoughts From Our Vet

How tickled I was to be able to show my very own VA card to enter the brand new VA facility that is almost around the corner. The group of us was royally welcomed.

Large photographs on the foyer walls brought back memories of sites all over the world where our Vets have served USA.

Grand music entertained us. One gentleman seated in a wheelchair guided his companion in energetic dances. He is actually a dance instructor.

We had a good time and even with the hearing issue - theirs and mine - were able to converse with former members of the Army, Air Corps and Marine Corps. We missed the Navy. ❖

~ Written by Sister Eileen Parker, CSJ



Sister Eileen Parker, CSJ



One of the members at Cal Vet Home chats with Sister Mary Ellen Sprouffske, CSJ





CSJs Help Immigrants to Achieve their Dreams

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

Build relationships and utilize current and evolving structures in order to live fully our mission with the dear neighbor, with one another, with the Church, and within the Earth community.

~ Calls to Action (p.11)

*W*ho is the Chief Justice of the United States now?" asks one of the Citizenship Class participants. "John Roberts is the current Chief Justice of the United States," responds the rest of the group. Downstairs, kids play house serving imaginary tea to childcare volunteers while their mothers study English or prepare to take the GED.

Under the roof of the Presentation Learning Center, located in the Watts area of Los Angeles, different groups of Latino immigrants take math, science and computer lessons that will help them learn English and acquire skills that will increase their opportunities to a better life in their new country. The San Gabriel Church and school, own the lively and welcoming facilities and lend them to the Sisters of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the Learning Center.



Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar

Sisters Catherine Berk and Jane Bonar, PBVM started the center during their sabbatical in 2000. They gathered their money and rented a house a few blocks from the current center after visiting several impoverished neighborhoods in Los Angeles. Soon after, they reached out to churches and other religious communities including the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who responded immediately offering volunteers to teach English, math, music and GED preparation classes. To this date, the CSJs form the largest religious

Mercy

community involved at Presentation Learning Center. "Our goal is to provide a caring community where immigrant adults may learn English as well as things such as healthy lifestyles, computers, tai-chi, sewing, etc. We also have groups dedicated to folklore dancing and drama," explains co-founder Sister Jane Bonar, PBVM.

Sisters Teresa Avalos, Celia Du Rea, Louise Bernstein, Marie Virginia Morrett and Margaret O'Rourke, CSJ currently volunteer several days a week teaching English, music, math and other subjects. Fluent in Spanish and with a strong background in education and ministry, the CSJs dedication to the students is evident. "We enjoy working here and see that our program participants are so grateful and humble," said Sister Louise Bernstein, CSJ. "I want the whole world to know about this wonderful place," added Sister Celia Du Rea, CSJ who just came back from Japan and is learning Japanese. Sister is in charge of the Young at Heart Chorus and teaches piano among other things. For Sister Teresa Avalos, CSJ who teaches in both English and Spanish, "the joy is to see how motivated they are to continue studying to pass their GED or citizenship program."

To donate or volunteer, please contact Sister Jane Bonar, PVBM 323.563.3901 or janebonar@sbcglobal.net. ➡

~ Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Communications and Public Relations



Sister Marie Virginia Morett, CSJ and her students



Sister Louise Bernstein, CSJ teaches math skills.



Sister Celia Du Rea, CSJ (center) of leads the Young at Heart Chorus.

SUMMER



Blessed are the Merciful

Capacitar is a humanitarian group that reaches out in mercy and compassion

True mercy comes from a place of deep relationship with God. When we allow ourselves to be loved by our Creator and let that love flow through us then mercy is one of the fruits. Who are the merciful? Anyone who reaches out in compassion toward the vulnerable and those in need meet the criteria.

A Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Sister Eiko Maki, CSJ is one such woman of mercy and compassion. Sister began ministering to those traumatized by the devastation and loss caused by the Fukushima earthquake. Through a CSJ Ministry Fund Grant given to Capacitar Japan; she was able to partner with a group with far more ability to mobilize in meeting the needs of so many. As an example: Sister Eiko and her team followed up on the fall training given by Capacitar to 170 people in the Fukushima Prefecture. Workshops were given to the elderly, people in temporary housing and people relocated from the areas of radiation. In the spring workshops were given to over 130 people in temporary housing, families at a hospital for children with cancer, programs of spiritual direction and counseling.



Sister Eiko Maki, CSJ is pictured on the far left

Capacitar is one of many humanitarian groups and comprise of people of mercy and compassion who reach out to assist those in need. This international organization is ministering in 43 countries. Founded by Patricia Mathes Cane it is a network of empowerment and solidarity. Learn more at www.capacitar.org. Capacitar Japan has established training programs for ministers, organizations and institutions addressing significant issues in Japan with the application of the healing practices to different areas of outreach: domestic violence and gender abuse; disaster response; grief work; bereavement and trauma outreach. ♦



Sister Diane Smith, CSJ

~ Submitted by Sister Diane Smith, CSJ

Remembering

Sisters of St. Joseph of
Carondelet
Los Angeles Province
Who have died :



*
Sister Michaeline Gahwolf,
CSJ
Feb 20, 1923 - Mar 28, 2016

ON THE COVER

I found a single rose one summer afternoon blooming and bursting with sweet scent. It attracted my attention because of its simple statement of beauty and quiet intrusion. This rose, opening slowly, reminded me of God's response to life in all its complexity, pain, suffering and sin, which is—indeed the sweet scent of mercy and compassion. ➡

~ Sister Carol L Smith, CSJ
Designer

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.

Whatever
God Does
the first

OUTBURST

is
always

COMPASSION

~ Meister Eckhart

A Bookmark For You

We invite you to cut out this bookmark as a reminder to spread the beauty of God's work of mercy and compassion in your life and the lives of others. ✦

