

LOS ANGELES PROVINCE

DESIGNS

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CARONDELET AND FRIENDS

WINTER 2017



Joseph and Mary leave home
to take up the long journey.

They move into a darkness
filled with the unknown.

Questions surround them like the stars
but they are undeterred.

They have packed up their questions and
embarked on the road—

Entertaining every possibility.

~ Sister Carol L Smith, CSJ





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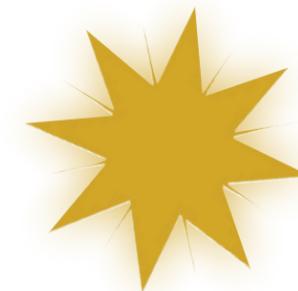
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From the Leadership Team



Angela Faustina, CSJ

Dear Friends,
 The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet believe that the mission of Jesus calls us to "prophetic witness that comes from partnering with new eyes." This partnering happens when we "join with others in working for systemic change that will enable all to live in right relationships." There is no more congruent time to engage in such action than during this holy season that celebrates the birth of Jesus, a Light for all people.



Suzanne Jabro, CSJ

Jesus came into the world as a member of an oppressed people, victims of a political regime that had no consideration for the needs of individuals or any awareness of the hardships its arbitrary decisions placed on the poor. His impoverished birth in Bethlehem, no matter how much it is romanticized in present day commercialized society, gives witness to the plight of Joseph and Mary, forced to leave the place they called home and travel to an unfamiliar location. And still, there is no room in the inn.



Theresa Kvale, CSJ

As we peruse these pages of DESIGNS, we are presented with stories and photographs that bear witness to the continuing mission of Jesus, especially in those parts of the world that are most in need. The mission continues because of people like you who support it by your presence, your prayer and your monetary gifts. Your partnering with us enables each of us to participate in making a substantive difference in the lives of marginalized men, women and children. This gives us great hope. May we together continue to be the Light of Christ for those most in need of its brightness and its warmth.



Mary Ann Martin, CSJ

May you and your loved ones be blessed with great joy this Christmas season, and with health and peace in the coming year.



Sandra Williams, CSJ

In Christ's love,
*Sisters Angela Faustina, Suzanne Jabro, Theresa Kvale,
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Development

Together We Can
Do Much Good

As the end of the year 2017 nears, we look back at the blessings and challenges that we experienced during the past months. Although increasing political polarization, violence and natural disasters seem to stand out in our collective memories, there is no doubt that there are many people doing much good.

With your help and support, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will continue to labor daily to transform society, while ministering in the United States, Peru and Japan. It is together with you that we hope to eradicate illiteracy and violence as well as sustain a society where every human being is respected.

Together, we have the opportunity to empower our brothers and sisters in our own communities while advocating for the care of our common home—Earth.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet continue to be animators in all corners of society displaying a dedicated commitment and involvement in their ministries. As reflected in the pages of this magazine, your support makes possible our ministries.

We thank you for joining us in ministering to “the dear neighbor without distinction.” May God bless you and yours every day of this coming year. ❖



Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, editor,
Director of Communications
and Development



Happy New Year!

May each of us
choose to
bring hope and joy
every day
of 2018.

DESIGNS

is a free publication. Share it with your friends and family who might want to join our mailing list. ❖

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Your relationship to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

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 St. Joseph of Carondelet is unifying love. ❖

Christmas: a Celebration of Universal Incarnation

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus as the perfect manifestation of the invisible God. The mission of Jesus is to bring new life into the world, to sustain it and to bring it to abundance; Christmas is a celebration of universal incarnation.

The good news Jesus brings is that the divine life is within us and calls us to a spiritual consciousness of that aliveness, that energy of joy, forgiveness, generosity and empowerment. The energy once found in stone temples, statues and cathedrals is now revealed to burn within our hearts and deep within all of reality to form the complete Body of Christ. We are called to witness and to nourish the Love that is our source. Each of us is meant to be a point of light in the universe, symbolized by the Star of Bethlehem.

We need more than one "Silent Night" throughout the year in order to listen, to read our own hearts where the law of love is written. Together we may form the network of hearts that O'Murchu refers to as the "Companionship of Empowerment," manifesting the divine within creation in order to set the world on fire with the energy of Love. Like Jesus, we are called to act as a source of life by helping everything that we receive to flow again to others. The power of love penetrates the "cosmos itself, which the still unfinished Incarnation gradually transforms in the course of the passing centuries." ~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin ❖



~ Written by
Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

It takes more than
ONE SILENT NIGHT
to READ
our own hearts
WHERE
the law of LOVE
is WRITTEN.

Crafting for Christmas



Last July, our Sisters and Associates began working on wonderful, detailed and exquisite crafts for our Annual Angel Boutique held in November at Carondelet Center, Los Angeles. Sister Pat Foster, CSJ, and Associates Angie King and Michelle Swallow, Northridge, CA, prepared delicious jellies. Sisters in Holy Family Community propagated succulents, adorned Christmas trees and also created ornaments and beautiful angels. Additionally, many Sisters and Associates donated items for a large selection of gift baskets for our silent auction. As in years past, several volunteers and friends worked tirelessly pricing items and bagging goods. Our Annual Boutique provides a wonderful opportunity to welcome everyone to Carondelet Center and spend time together while finding wonderful gifts.

We are grateful to the staff, volunteers, Sisters, Associates and friends who made this event another memorable weekend, beginning our 2017 Christmas celebrations. ❖



Beginning Ritual in Los Angeles one year ago

Los Angeles and Hawaii: Amalgamation Rituals in Honolulu, HI

Joyful noises filled the room with exuberance and happy hearts. We remembered our past, our present and look to a future to come with gratitude and enthusiasm in becoming one with the Sisters of Los Angeles and Japan. We celebrated our ritual of amalgamation under a rain-fresh blue sky nestled in a lush valley of flora and fauna. The ritual was facilitated by our resourceful Father Cerniglia, SM, with the participants from the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT), Los Angeles and Hawaii Ohana and CSJs.

Following a welcome by Sister Brenda Lau, CSJ, we prayed morning prayer which included an *Oli (Hawaiian Chant)* by Ohana, Posie Fujimoto; then everyone blessed the Lord singing *Ten Thousand Reasons* and danced with weaved ribbons of amalgamation by Sister Mary Schneider, CSJ. We followed this with an especially composed Joseph song, *Iokepa*, by the esteemed E. Aluli.

Our ritual process continued with our delightful "talk story" time using a Timeline of Change, divided into three periods ranging from 1938 and into our hopes for the future. At the end of the "talk story" time, our CLT liaisons, Sisters Danielle Bonetti and Miriam Ukeritis and Los Angeles Leadership, Sister Theresa Kvale, left us with these cherished reflections: Keep building the mosaic of Carondelet; the process of amalgamation actually began prior to the unanimous vote of December 7, 2014; so to live well, we must change often, and all we have been and are becoming is toward something new.

As we closed the day with a reflective slide show of gratefulness and a series of blessings and acknowledgments, there was a profound spirit of aloha and unity highlighted with the tying of the woven ribbons into a circle of friendship to be completed at the October Assembly.

Everyone then enjoyed a festive Tree Top Restaurant luncheon knowing that our founders would certainly have sanctioned this day of new beginning for Mission. Dearest Sisters of the LA Province and Japan, we, your Sisters in Hawaii, express our heartfelt MAHALO NUI LOA! ❖

~ Written by Sister Sara Sanders, CSJ

Christmas in Hawaii

For the past two years, the Ohana (CSJ Associates) and Sisters on Oahu, HI, have participated in the Diocese of Honolulu's Star Light Star Bright program to bring some Christmas cheer to the families of incarcerated women. Last November, Ohana members and Sisters contributed enough nonperishable food and household goods to pack nine large laundry baskets chock-full. The gaily wrapped baskets were then delivered to the Diocese of Honolulu's Prison Ministry program for distribution to families.

Ohana member Valery O'Brien calls it an opportunity to provide a "special holiday for our very special families." We take many of these items for granted but for many these gifts not only provide much-needed items but also let these families know there are others who care for them without knowing them. ❖

~ Written by Sister Claudia Wong, CSJ



l/r: Sisters Tomasa Marcos and Claudia Wong, CSJs



l/r: Sisters Tomasa Marcos, Jean Larm, Anita Marie Rosco and Catherine Anthony Acain, CSJs



A Year in Retrospect- Loving the Dear Neighbor



CSJ Associates in Chile



Assembly 2017 in Los Angeles, CA



Holy Family Community bagging lunches for the homeless



l/r: Jan Lauterjung and Janne Shirley, CSJ Associates celebrate 25 years as CSJAs



Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet join others in opposition to Human Trafficking



St. Joseph Workers begin a year of service with visiting all of their ministry sites



Carondelet Center employees enjoy their annual picnic at MSMU Doheny Campus



Sisters of St. Joseph from around the United States gather in Washington DC to spread the message of welcome to all refugees.

Nelly Millogo, Sister Carol Brong and Sally Koch, members of Medaille House of Discernment, take pride in homegrown tomatoes



Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the opening of Anna's Transitional Home for women and children in San Luis Obispo, CA

Vocations

Celebrating Commitments Made in the Congregation

*L*et us pray in thanksgiving for all those who desire to grow in their love for God and “the dear neighbor without distinction:”

- * for those who are part of St. Joseph Worker Program and the young women in our Discernment houses.
- * for those who are discerning deeper commitments with CSJ mission/community;
- * for those who are Candidates for vowed membership and Associates, Consociates, Ohana and Familia de San Jose (ACOF);
- * for those who are deepening their commitment by entering the novitiate, renewing vows and perpetually professing vows.

May we be inclusive in our welcome—supporting each of them on their journey.

May our support of one another strengthen the life of our community and impact our mission.

May our commitments to our mission contribute to the healing of the world.

We place this prayer in the Spirit of Joseph, model of faithfulness, protection and dreams. Amen ➔

*~ Written by Sister Jill Underdahl, CSJ, (SP)
Co-Director Celeste’s Dream*

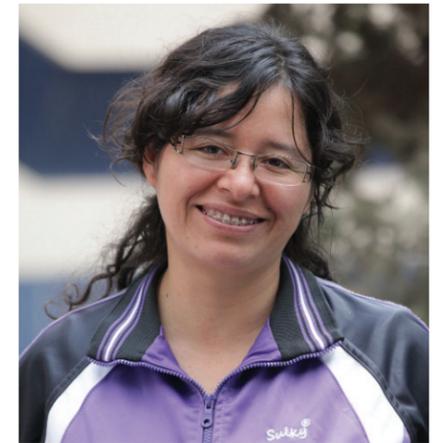


Mary Alice Collar
St. Louis – Novice

New CSJ Life



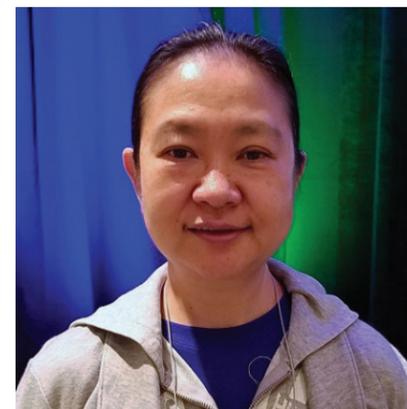
Clare Bass
St. Louis – Initial Profession



Yolanda Arrisbasplata
Perú – Initial Profession



Agripina Morales
Perú – Initial Profession



Chizuru Yamada
Japan, Los Angeles
Candidate



Tracy Watson
Albany – Candidate



Maria Elena Cáceras
Perú – Final Profession



Sally Koch
Los Angeles – Candidate



Mary Flick
St. Louis – Final Profession



Making the Right Connections

*A*s we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us also celebrate how his mission continues through the love, care and action of others. Over 29 years ago Making the Right Connections (MTRC) was born through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It became apparent that the bright and hopeful faces of elementary school children walking to school in South Central Los Angeles faced many challenges. Would they become members of gangs or would they have the opportunity to live productive lives? Thus, a summer gang prevention program was given birth through the initiative of Sister Diane Smith, CSJ.

Daniel Drass was recruited and accepted the position of executive director. The pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish in Lomita, Father Joseph Sartoris (now Bishop), committed his parish to pay Dan's salary while he wrote grants and developed the program. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet sponsored the program for four years until MTRC could function independently.

MTRC has provided educational enrichment programming for children, grades K-8, that focuses specifically on strengthening family, church, school and community relationships as a gang prevention strategy. Since 1998, over 35,700 inner city children living and growing up in selected gang impacted neighborhoods have participated. During these years, 600 high school and college students have worked as paid technical assistants, some having experienced the program as children. In 2016 the Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services



Moving children to service, not gangs

(AYES) presented MTRC with an award of excellence for its commitment to creating leadership and internships for deserving youth.

In the early years of the program another Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Sister Daniel Therese Flynn, CSJ, coordinated an onsite program at Holy Cross School. She worked closely with MTRC in implementing the goals of the program.

In a recent letter, Dan Drass shared that MTRC has given more to him than he could ever possibly imagine. He states that he is not the same person who started out on this road so many years ago. He is a much richer person in every way for having traveled the MTRC path. More importantly he has Made the Right Connections with our good God. ❖



~ Written by
Sister Diane Smith, CSJ



New CSJ Associates during the 2017 Commitment Ceremony in Carondelet Center Chapel

CSJ Associates

Moving Mountains

CSJ Associates are men and women, married and single, primarily Catholic, who seek a deeper relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet without becoming vowed members of the community. Associates share in the faith community, ministry, prayer and celebrations of the Sisters.

Associates make a commitment to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. The commitment as Associates challenges men and women to deepen their spiritual life while continuing active lives as spouses, professionals, parents, caregivers and retirees.

In that spirit, last August, forty Associates and Sisters met for a one day Associate Assembly. The theme was "Related by Charism ~ United by Mission". This historic, first time—Associates, Consociates, Ohana and Familia de San Jose (ACOF)—Convocation held in St. Louis in June,

2017, and its story, was recounted during the Associate Assembly.

Sister Eileen Michell, CSJ, who pioneered the Associate Movement in the Los Angeles Province, graciously shared her experience of the beginnings of the Associate program. She spoke of its history and development from the 1970s. After attending the Convocation Sister Eileen sees, "that ACOF has become a recognizable entity in itself –ACOF, an entity with an identity!" She also shared what she sees as the realities of the ACOF movement and hopes for the future.

Sister Angela Faustina, CSJ, Leadership Team liaison, gave a few brief words about how our Charism is needed in our world now more than ever. The Mission calls ALL of us –Sisters, Associates and Ohana– to make the Charism known. She said, "It is our responsibility as Associates and we shouldn't wait for the Sisters to show us what the particular needs are. The Charism is part of our DNA. Relationships are formed and deepened when we work together to address a particular need to which our Charism calls us. We build greater unity, call forth our collective voice and energy. Together we can move mountains."

The Assembly was followed by a beautiful Associate Commitment Ceremony in the chapel. Our new Associates are: (l/r) in photo: Isiah Black, Toni Christman, Nady Denis, Alma Gutierrez, Kuldip Kuar, Maria Jesus (Chuy) Guerra, from the new Carondelet Center group; Marty Howard from the new San Jose group; Karen King and Gwen Ripplinger from the Ventura/Camarillo group and Ken Stephenson from the San Diego group. We welcome them as, together, we walk into the future as Associates. ✦

*Related
by
Charism -
United
by
Mission.*



~ Written by
Denise Ginty, CSJA Director





Ministering within the Peruvian Culture



Sister Maria Dolores Munoz, CSJ

Sister Maria Dolores Munoz, CSJ has served as a missionary in Peru for over fifty years. Serious, but friendly, Sister is adaptable, flexible and unassuming. She is modest about her years in Peru. The second child of ten, she now resides in Lima. Sister's ministry has been primarily teaching, parish pastoral work and formation. Her first assignments were in California elementary and high schools.

In 1965, Sister Maria Dolores offered to minister in Peru. In many settings, Sister brings the CSJ charism to the Peruvian people. "It is here that the reality of the Gospel meets the reality of the poor and vulnerable, especially in the ordinary circumstances of life." For a total of twelve years, Sister helped form teams in Moho with our Sisters and Maryknoll priests and other vowed religious women. "We had many challenges dealing with the differences in culture and language." She was unable to speak the language and depended on interpreters.

Part of her responsibility was to help form and instruct male catechists, each elected from his village. Sister's presence brought the spiritual message to the women also; "Don't give up, God is lovingly with you." While in the high mountain country, she learned the basic skills of a lab tech, in order to assist Sister Maria Rubina in testing and treating tuberculosis patients.

And now, rich in years, friends and accomplishments, Sister is a mentor to the younger Sisters and offers hospitality to all.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Helen Keller. ❖



~ Written by Sister Frances Baker, CSJ



Christmas over the Years

Since their arrival in the United States in 1836, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet have been celebrating Christmas with the people wherever they ministered. This included the children they taught as illustrated in these photos. The Sisters not only adapted to their new environment by adopting new traditions, but they also shared some of their own traditions with their students. Songs, crafts, prayers and food have always played an important role in these celebrations.

As we celebrate this holy season of the year, we ask God to bless all those we serve. May "the dear neighbor" have a peaceful and holy Christmas. May we receive the graces we need to live out our Mission Statement. ❖



Remembering
Our Sisters
who have recently died.



James Marien Dyer, CSJ
April 28, 1945 ~ August 5, 2017

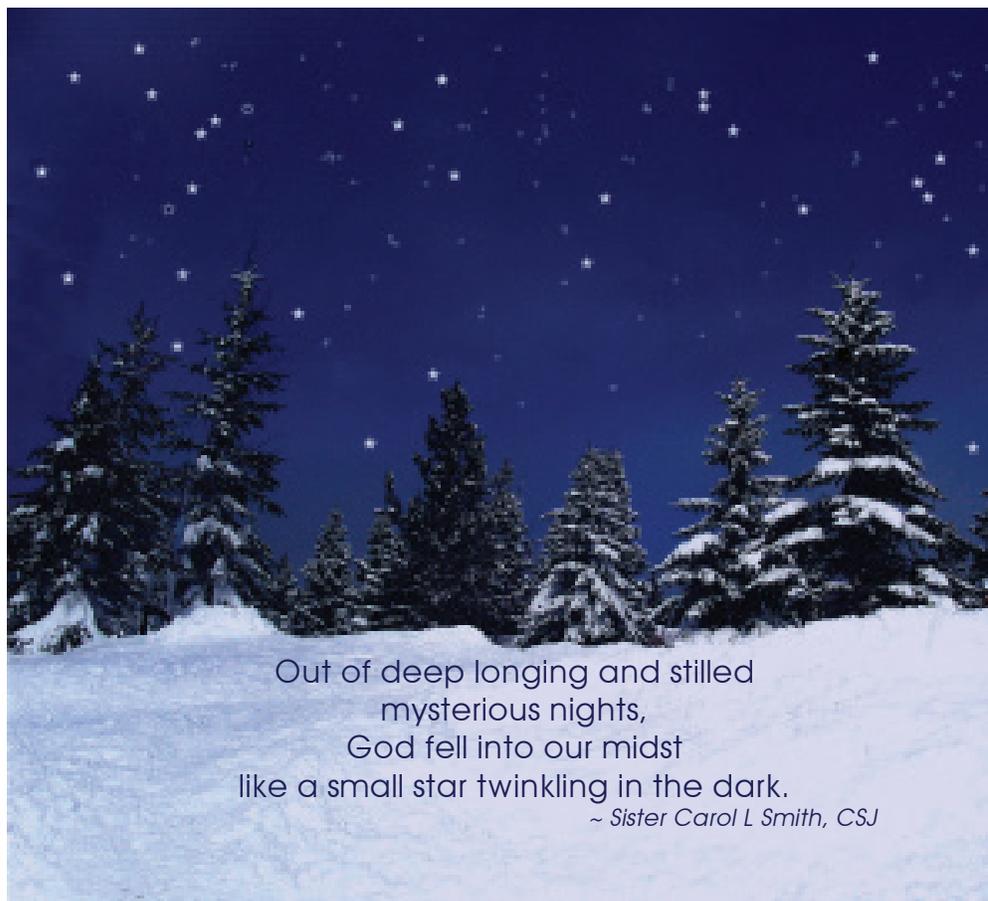


Ann Marguerite Souza, CSJ
June 8, 1921 ~ September 21, 2017



Madeline Keaney, CSJ
June 5, 1923 ~ October 22, 2017

**May Christmas fill you
with an awareness of how God is
Emmanuel, fully in our midst!**



Out of deep longing and stilled
mysterious nights,
God fell into our midst
like a small star twinkling in the dark.

~ Sister Carol L. Smith, CSJ