

LOS ANGELES PROVINCE

DESIGNS

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH OF CARONDELET AND FRIENDS

FALL 2018

Fall Sings

The Summer is spent.
Green fades to rusty dusty yellow.
The late grasses hold no greening seed.
Empty hulls bounce lightly in the breeze.
waving like bells,
ringing over every field and meadow.
The circle of life rings OUT...
It knows little, it knows scant,
it knows time—be EMPTY.

Make room,

**MAKE ROOM,
MAKE ROOM.**

~ Carol L Smith, CSJ

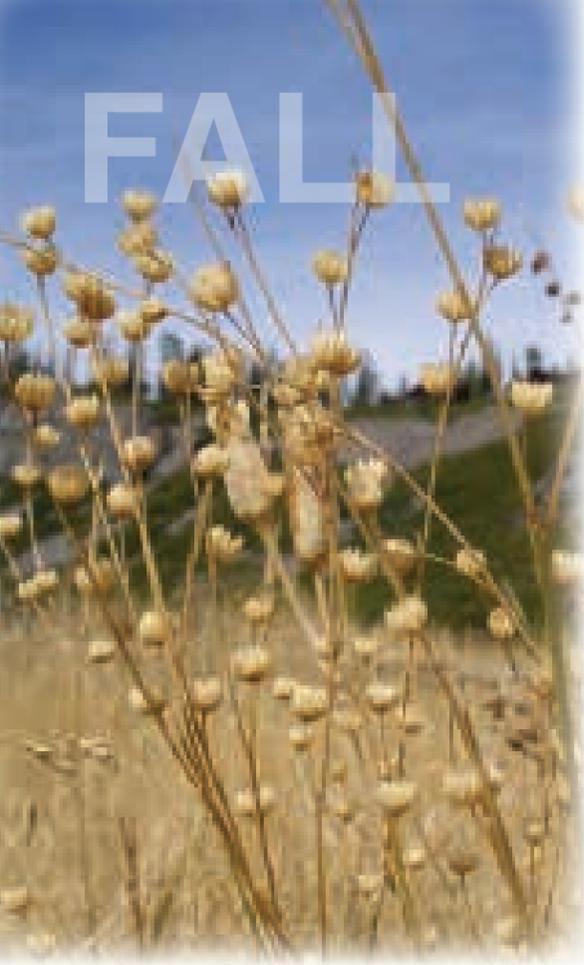


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Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

In 1836, Mother St. John wrote to the Sisters in America:

"...in whatever part of the world we may be, we are never exiled...in Europe, as well as in America, God is everywhere; witness of our works and struggles.... My entire wish is that you be saints, and that your communities be edifying. I implore God to pour down upon you God's choicest blessings and assist you always with God's grace."

As we are beginning a new term of leadership, we are mindful of Mother St. John's wish that we—Sisters and Associates of the Los Angeles Province—all be saints. This means we care for the *dear neighbor*: our own Sisters, our co-workers, ourselves, the people we see in our everyday ministries and those we hear about in the news. We also remember that we are part of a congregation known as the "congregation of the great love of God." What a wonderful and awesome legacy to live up to.

With God's grace we can live up to this wish of Mother St. John, our Founder. This is the reason we were called to be Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. In our various ministries we carry her spirit of practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. In our present world these works of mercy are so important. Let us continue to be women of faith, women of heart and women of courage. Our prayer for you is, "Do not be afraid. All will be well."

Sisters Mary Ann Martin, Pat Nelson, Maureen O'Connor, Adele O'Sullivan, Kathy Stein

FALL 2018- VOL. 35 NO. 2

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DESIGNS is a publication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet—Los Angeles Province; it is published three times a year. All material submitted is subject to review, revision and editing. Articles may not exceed 300 words. Send all submissions to:

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Development

Leading Us Along the Path

Fall will be officially upon us in a few weeks. Nature will begin its renewal cycle just as this Community, with a new Leadership Team, will recharge itself with energy and vision to carry on the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

As we say thank you and goodbye to Sisters Angela, Mary Ann (who will continue serving on our Leadership Team), Suzanne, Sandra and Theresa for their four years of tireless service, we reflect on their vision and commitment to the Sisters and their ministries.

CSJ ministries and sponsored organizations such as Mount St. Mary's University, the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, Get on the Bus, St. Joseph's Center, Alexandria House, the St. Joseph Worker Program and so many others, are thriving. Also, other community-based organizations and individuals supported by the Sisters offer great programs and services to people in need including the Snake River Community Clinic (ID), Fundación Ganamos Todos (Chile) and Casa Hogar Orphanage (Mexico).

Along with the Sisters and Associates, staff and friends walk the same path carrying the charism and planting seeds for a better world. In many ways: through prayers, collaboration, civic engagement and philanthropy, we are all being led by the Sisters who, with great joy and optimism, continue to infuse love and courage.

We are grateful for the good work we do and for what is yet to be done. ➡

~ Written by Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Director of Communications and Development



Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar

FALL

Annual Angel Boutique



Christmas Gifts
Crafts
People and Dog Edibles

Look for the "save the date"
in your mailbox
in a few weeks!

DESIGNS

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

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. ➡



What Is the CSJ Charism?

Charism really isn't our word at all; it belongs to the Holy Spirit, the Giver of all gifts. Our early documents describe us as "Stimulated by the Holy Spirit and responsive to God's inspirations ..." and so we open our hearts and lives to that gift. Why? So that we can give it away, joyfully, freely, extravagantly! It is not ours to keep, only to give away.

Theologians speak of charism as a spirit or characteristic which gives a community its distinctiveness. Just as we have countless names for God, never settling on one, our charism goes by many names: unifying love, oneness, unity and reconciliation, active inclusive love.

We find inspiration in Jesus' words at his most precious community gathering, the Last Supper, when he prayed, "That all may be one, as you and I, Father, are one." When we speak of "the dear neighbor, from whom we do not separate ourselves," we are naming charism in another way.

Religious life has changed through the years but the charism remains. It flourishes on every continent and in every ministry situation. We recognize it in one another and in the dear neighbor, and we discover a special energy when we come together with other Sisters and Associates of St. Joseph at our Federation gathering, at the International Center in LePuy, France, or in chance encounters. We give thanks for this charism which sustains and challenges us and we ask for the grace to continue giving it away. ✦

~ Written by Sister Kitty Hanley, CSJ Albany



Sister Kitty Hanley, CSJ

VOCATIONS

PROFESSION OF VOWS IN PERU



Sister Agripina (third from left) with the Peru Vice Provincial Leadership Team.

Sister Agripina Morales, CSJ, professed Final Vows in Peru in the presence of Sisters, family and friends. As we share her joy, we send Sister Agripina our love, prayers and congratulations!



CONGREGATIONAL NOVITIATE



Sisters and Associates joined Sally Koch and Chizuru Yamada at their respective Reception Ceremonies into the Congregational Novitiate. After having lived with local communities during their candidacy, Sally and Chizuru moved to our novitiate residence in Porter Ranch, CA. Last July, both Novices moved to Rochester, NY, where they began their Canonical Year, a time of intense prayer and study on the road of discernment leading to vows. Next June, they will return to California to complete their time as novices and prepare to take religious vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in our Congregation. ✦

~ Written by Sister Angela Faustina, CSJ



LOVE statue in Scottsdale, AZ, taken when I spent a week in my roommate Anh's home state after Christmas.

Create Your Charism

Before beginning the St. Joseph Worker Program, I didn't know the first thing about what distinguished the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet from any other community of women religious. The Sisters' spirit and charism can be encapsulated with the words "unifying love." This is the spirit that drives their heralded phrase, "to serve the dear neighbor without distinction." It also directs the ministries that the Sisters lead, including the St. Joseph Worker program, where I get to serve my neighbor in the spirit of love that works to erase division between "me and them."

In my work at St. Joseph Center and with my community, I see my program's charism acted out in a few specific areas that I would love to explore.

Changing world view: With the theme of unifying love behind all of my actions, I begin to see the issue of homelessness in a different light. It seems rather basic to imagine that I would begin truly seeing people who may often seem invisible, but the charism drives me to realize the true humanity and the seemingly small differences that ultimately separate my clients and me. I've also learned the difficulties of "solving" the issue of homelessness. All people are linked. Interdependence ensures efforts to solve homelessness.

Living in solidarity: Because this love unites us all, the Sisters' charism teaches me to ask questions about our interdependence between people and the earth and to recognize the impact we make.

One specific example of the program's charism that came to life in a tangible way was when I got the opportunity to travel to Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico, for a border/school of the Americas protest. Below is a video detailing our experience. Going to the border and walking straight into Mexico, seeing the enormous

border wall that separates these two countries was powerful. It was heartbreaking to understand the hardships of those affected by this wall.

My vocation: I have moved past the idea of vocation as a job or a position, or even the choice between married life or religious life. I have started to imagine my vocation as what I am called to be in all areas of my life. This love that is fearless and inclusive has driven me to consider how I am in my relationships, my job and with myself. I have seen this love when I am working at St. Joseph Center in Venice, CA, and it urges me to consider where I can more aptly display it in a way that feels comfortable for me in the future. ♦♦

~Written by Jessica Vozella, Saint Joseph Worker Program



FALL

My community members Michaela and Angelica on either side of the U.S.-Mexican border.



SIMPLY Joyous

ARCHIVES

CHARITABLE

HARDWORKING



*A Sister of St. Joseph
is gentle, patient, humble,
hardworking
charitable, obedient
but above all
Simple and Joyous*

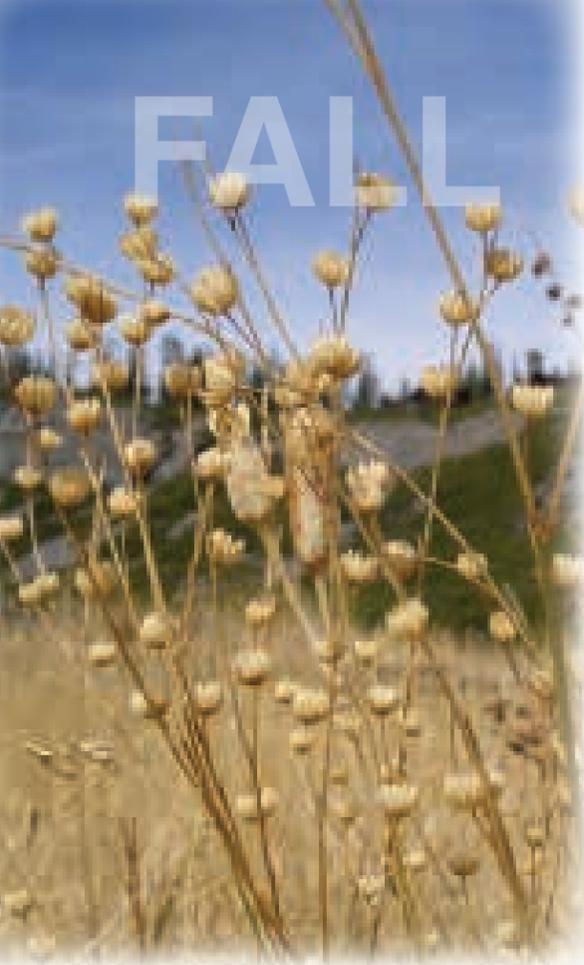


GENTLE

Joyous



HUMBLE



Hope

In her book, "Mystical Hope," Cynthia Bourgeault states that true hope is neither based on exterior circumstances nor future expectations, but lives a life of its own deep within us as we surrender to God's mercy and infinite goodness. It is through hope that we are freed from fear to minister with compassion, and joyously strengthened, experience "the unbearable lightness of being."

The contemplative journey releases us from the ordinary awareness of linear time, drawing us into the depths of ourselves where God, as the ground of being, manifests the divine through our own individual lives. Hope has to do with being met and held by "the immensity of the Love that seeks to meet us at the crossroads of the Now." Bourgeault's insight is that hope is "the sonar by which the Body of Christ holds together and finds its way."

The French poet Charles Péguy compares faith to a trusted wife, and charity to an ardent mother, but presents hope as a tiny girl. Both Faith and Charity remain watchful and steadfast for centuries and centuries, but little Hope simply "goes to bed every night, wishes us good morning, and really sleeps very well."

Two other authors offer insights on hope, an important virtue for today. Emily Dickinson wrote:

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.

Sister Maris Stella echoes her, describing hope as "a bird singing under the dark that will never stop singing." ❖

~ Written by Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ



Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

All of Which Woman Is Capable



Sister Carlotta DiLorenzo, CSJ

Her first teaching assignments were to grammar schools, "full of parish and family life joys," then to teaching high school and on to Mount St. Mary's College, now University, in Los Angeles, CA, as teacher and Assistant Director of Student Affairs. With a background of studies in spiritual direction and retreat work, Sister Carlotta DiLorenzo was appointed Director of Postulants, moved on to director of the retreat center at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, in San Diego, CA, then served at the University of San Diego as Director of Campus Ministry for the Law and Graduate Schools as well as for the Faculty and Staff.

From there, she was asked to live and work at St. Francis Seminary, also in San Diego, as Academic Dean and Director of Apostolic Experience. She enjoyed being one woman among a group of 24 men. Later, Sister Carlotta did full time retreat work and spiritual direction in San Diego. Bishop Robert Brom asked that she become Director of the Office for the Permanent Diaconate where she has happily served since 1998, for 20 years. "In all these assignments I have experienced the same joy, and ease, of bringing the CSJ charism of gentleness, peace and joy."

Thank you, Sister Carlotta, for generously using your gifts and showing us "all of which woman is capable." ❖

~ Written by Sister Frances Baker, CSJ



Sister Frances Baker, CSJ

JUSTICE, PEACE AND
INTEGRITY OF CREATION

What If?

The news is filled with all that is wrong with the world. What if there was no more violence, homelessness, war, poverty, discrimination, contamination of the earth, racism, sexism and nuclear weapons? What if we could have a peaceful world without injustices, a world where everyone's humanity is respected and all live in harmony? Not in our lifetime, you say, but if not in our lifetime when?

A small but growing number of religious, neuroscientists and quantum theorists are identifying energy that each of us possesses. Teilhard de Chardin identifies it as the energy of love that can transform the world.

In reading the homilies and radio presentations of Oscar Romero we capture a bit of this transforming spirit. He addresses and condemns the terrible atrocities that are happening in El Salvador, but he never condemns the perpetrators. He quotes Albert Einstein: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." He, therefore, forgives and calls those who commit these heinous crimes to repentance. "I say your crimes do not matter, they're ugly and horrible. You have violated the highest dignity of the human person. God calls you and forgives you." In spite of the horrors, one never detects a tone of anger. Romero denounces the atrocities, but with love.

In our country today, we are experiencing other kinds of atrocities: inhumane treatment of refugees and immigrants, discrimination, racism, sexism, cutting of vital programs that help the less fortunate and decreasing environmental protection laws. Can we, like Romero, denounce these sins against humanity and the earth but do so with love?

Our call, now, is to become active contemplatives. We can hold the universe together with love. What if enough of us took time to sit in contemplative silence to tap into the energy of love we each have and send it to the world for healing and transformation? ♦♦

~ Written by Sister Diane Smith, CSJ

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Coordinator



Sister Diane Smith, CSJ



Continuing Our Commitment to
Women and Children in Hawai'i

The Sisters and `Ohana (name for CSJAs in Hawai'i) have been committed to assisting women and children for many years. Each summer, members on both `Oahu and Maui assist with a collection of school supplies. A fourth grade list using sale prices is over \$40, an expense many families find it hard to cover.

On `Oahu, *Family Promise* is the recipient of backpacks filled with supplies. These are given to the children when they spend a week at Holy Trinity parish—residing in our old convent building. On Maui, supplies are delivered to families in need through the *Family Life Center*. Both of these organizations have had a longstanding relationship with our Sisters and `Ohana. ♦♦

~ Written by Sister Sara Sanders, CSJ



Sister Sara Sanders, CSJ

FALL FALL



Fall's Last Dance

Time lingers these days of sunlight,
of breezes dancing on red-gold-brown
boughs of maples and oaks.
Keep it in mind, sings the heart.
Keep it in heart, echoes the soul.

Blue sky peeks through the branches
delighting my eyes, warming my spirit.
Keep it in mind, sings the heart.
Keep it in heart, echoes the soul.

Too soon, warrior winds
will dash autumn's kaleidoscope of color
to the ground, to its death.

Too soon, winter's early darkness
will shroud azure-sky's magnificence,
shroud it in mournful black, in desolate darkness.
What then of dancing and delighting?

Keep it in mind, sings the heart.
Keep it in heart, echoes the soul. ♦

~ Written by Sister Joan Hagen, CSJ



Sister Joan Hagen, CSJ

CSJ Associates

Embrace-Embody-Extend the CSJ Charism

FALL

During the past four months, the Associate Advisory Board and I worked diligently on the program for the upcoming Associate portion of Province Assembly. We chose the theme: Embrace – Embody – Extend the CSJ Charism. Therefore, it was easy to see the relationship between our theme and Leadership.

Associates embrace the charism of Unifying Love as a gift from God that we need to take to others; we embody the charism as we live our lives; whether in raising a family, taking care of elderly parents, being involved in parish ministries or in the hundreds of ways we reach out to a world in need.

Associates extend the Charism when they mentor refugees, serve the homeless, teach ESL in low income neighborhoods, provide free legal advice and accounting services to the needy, advocate for foster children through CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), chair social justice groups and take children to visit their moms and dads in prison, just to name a few. We are leaders in our parishes, neighborhoods and families. We balance a life of service with the everyday challenges of life. We turn to our fellow Associates and to the Sisters for the Spiritual nurturing we need to carry out our call to serve the *Dear Neighbor*.

We are leaders, sowing seeds of unity and reconciliation. We live our commitment intentionally; we walk with the Sisters into a future we cannot see, with courage and the knowledge that we walk in the footsteps of those who came before us. ♦

~ Written by Denise Ginty, CSJA, Director of CSJ Associates



Denise Ginty, CSJA



L/r: Dottie Marron, Pat Casey, Peg Stehly

Gathering of Former Members Sisters, Associates and Friends

A CSJ gathering of Former Members, Sisters, Associates and friends enjoyed a sun-filled Saturday afternoon at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace (AOLP) last May. Most of the 30 attendees were from greater San Diego, CA, but Mary Anne Barnett made the trip all the way from the Seattle area.

Much of the afternoon was spent visiting and enjoying the excellent Cinco de Mayo hors d'oeuvres and fresh homemade lemonade. Everyone present appeared to be absorbed in reminiscing and catching up with old friends and making new ones. The many AOLP grads particularly relished being on the familiar campus and seeing the many additions and upgrades that have been added over the years. As 4:00 approached, Sister Suzanne Jabro called the group together for prayer, a video on St. Joseph created by Sister Angela Faustina, CSJ, and individual sharing. All agreed that the CSJ family spirit is alive and well in San Diego!

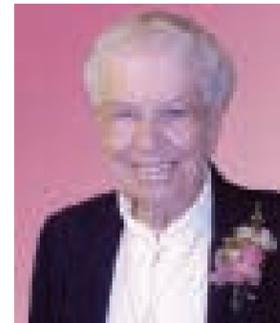
Many thanks to Barbara Picco and Peg Stehly who took care of all the local arrangements and refreshments. Gratitude to Sister Therese Denham, CSJ, who designed and produced the invitations to the event. And thank you to the AOLP administration who let us use the picturesque and beloved campus for the gathering. ♦♦

~ Written by Rita Scherrei, CSJA



Rita Scherrei, CSJA

Remembering Our Sisters and Associates who have recently died



Regina McLaughlan, CSJ
February 26, 2018



Mary Gratia De Francesco, CSJ
May 17, 2018



Mary Brigid Fitzpatrick, CSJ
June 7, 2018



Mechtilde Gerber, CSJ
March 14, 2018



Anna Juka, CSJ
May 18, 2018



Rita Mary Roemlein, CSJ
June 19, 2018



Marie Conroy-Salbi, CSJA
March 30, 2018



Pauline Haas, CSJA
May 20, 2018

No photos available for-

Mary Galvin, CSJA
January 25, 2018
&
Delores Flynn, CSJA
January 2018

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SEPTEMBER 2017
THE CALIFORNIA
DESIGNER

On the Cover:

On the brink of Fall one fine September day, I notice the drying grasses in the meadow, Fall is here in all its glory. All the green of yesterday has faded turning to dusty, rusty yellow hues that call for our attention. I see a million empty hulls left behind after they spent their precious green seed to the wind that carries it off to fall into the ground. The ground receives the gift, folds it into itself and lies fallow. How patient is the soil. How patient is the wind. How patient is the sky, blue and new, as it waits for the rain, and the winter and the spring to come followed by new green growth of grass. How patient is the cycle of Life. I could learn something here. ~ Carol L Smith, CSJ ❖

~ Carol L Smith, CSJ
Graphic Designer

