

# Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

## Congregation looks forward with New Leadership; New Vision

In a spirit of great joy and community, sisters, associates, and staff of the Congregation of St. Joseph gathered together in Chicago for our Chapter meeting April 17 - 22, with others joining by live-streaming from our centers and homes.

Community members elected a new leadership team who will serve a five-year term beginning in August. The newly elected team is a group of multi-talented women who are deeply committed to furthering the mission of unity in today's world. They are (from left to right) Sisters Kathy Brazda, Marie Hogan, Sue Torgersen, Helen Skormisley, and Pat Warbritton. Please join us in welcoming our new team and in gratitude for the leadership of our current team. ●



Clockwise: Sisters Ruthann Scherer and Adelaide Williamson; Sisters Lucy Silvio, Cynthia Sabathier and Pat Warbritton; Sisters Celeste Cotter and Ily Fernandez; members vote to affirm a new visionary direction; Sister Helen Prejean during large group sharing.

# Sisters Celebrate Historic Presence

in Cincinnati, Ohio and Crookston, Minnesota

## CINCINNATI

On Sunday, March 26, the congregation celebrated 130 years of presence and service in Cincinnati and surrounding areas, and missioned our remaining sisters there - Sisters Judi Keehnen, Urban Aranyos and Mary Ann Sullivan - on to new homes and ministries. A special Mass and reception were held at Guardian Angels Parish in Cincinnati. Sisters founded St. Joseph Academy in 1915, and in 1951, it became a diocesan school and was renamed McNicholas High School. At the end of Mass, the congregation announced the establishment of a scholarship fund at McNicholas High School as a way to carry on our sister's legacy of education and service to the dear neighbor in Cincinnati.



^ Clockwise from left, Sisters Sallie Latkovich, Judi Keehnen, Kathy Brazda, Marie Hogan, Mary Ann Sullivan, and Urban Aranyos.



Sister Judi Keehnen greets a guest.



Postulants Judi Keehnen and Ruth Kettman leave for the New Orleans Noviate in 1959.



Sister Ruth Kettman and Jacqueline Goodin say hello before Mass.



Sisters prepare for the first day of school with a fresh coat of paint. McNicholas High School, 1951.



^ From left, Sisters Barb Kaufman, Pat Murphy, Juli Caron and Rosemarie Brouillard.

> A sister cares for a child at St. Joseph Hospital in Park Rapids, MN.



Typing class at St. Joseph's Academy in Crookston.



Sisters Juli Caron, Sallie Latkovich and Mary Catherine Sack before Mass.

## CROOKSTON

On Sunday, May 21, the congregation celebrated 120 years of presence and service in Crookston and surrounding areas, and missioned our remaining sisters there - Sisters Pat Murphy, Juli Caron, Barb Kaufmann, and Rosemarie Brouillard - on to new homes and ministries. A special Mass and reception were held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston. Please join us in praying for all our sisters as they transition to new homes and ministries. ●

# New Beginnings

Sisters welcome Brothers of the Sacred Heart to new home in Baton Rouge

On Friday, June 9, the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of New Orleans, Inc. were officially welcomed as new owners and residents of our Hundred Oaks Center in Baton Rouge, with a Celebration of Residence ceremony. Sister Joan Laplace, resident of Hundred Oaks and a member of the Community Life Committee that oversaw the transition, offered welcome remarks. Afterward, Sister Kathy Brazda, President of the Congregation of St. Joseph Leadership Team, presented a ceremonial key to Brother Ronald Hingle, Provincial of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The event also included prayer, a blessing of the property, and a closing word of thank you by Sister Marie Hogan of the Congregational Leadership Team. A reception for the more than 50 attendees followed.



*Sister Kathy Brazda presents a ceremonial key to Brother Ronald Hingle, Provincial of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.*



*The three sisters who were part of the Community Life Committee that planned and managed the transition. From left, Sister Rita Ann Teichman, Joan Laplace (back) and Lucy Silvio.*

The Brothers of the Sacred Heart purchased the center on Hundred Oaks Blvd. from the congregation earlier this year in order to share resources, community, and residential space for their brothers. Along with our sisters, the center is currently home to 21 residents.

“As this process evolved, I have been overwhelmed with God’s care and with the faith and bold foresight the leaders of both of our communities have brought,” said Sister Joan Laplace. “Our similar French legacies and our collaboration in ministry in Bay St. Louis, MS., New Orleans and Baton Rouge for over 100 years, along with our commitment to the needy, particularly young people, are the ground in which God planted this new community. I count it a privilege and a grace to be part of this rare adventure.”

Sister Kathy Brazda agrees. “The journey to discern how to best provide for our sisters in Baton Rouge was amazing and spirit led,” she said. “The Brothers welcomed us when we arrived in Bay St. Louis and now we are able to welcome them. We are grateful to begin this new adventure together!” ●



*Sisters and brothers gather in the Hundred Oaks Chapel for their first group resident photo. Absent are three brothers who will also reside there.*

## St. Joseph's Academy Dedicates Orchard to Sisters

On April 26, St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge dedicated its orchard to the Sisters of St. Joseph in a special ceremony and with a large plaque installed near the orchard. SJA President Jan Rhorer Breen welcomed the Sisters in attendance and explained the history of the orchard, which was planted with pecan trees when the Sisters purchased 15 acres of farmland on Broussard Street, the current home of SJA, in 1940. Sister Joan Laplace, a former principal of St. Joseph's Academy and a current member of the board of directors, dedicated the orchard as "a sacred corner of our campus, so treasured for over 80 years as a special space for rest and relaxation for students, staff, faculty, and neighbors." Sister Lucy Silvio, also a member of the SJA board of directors, said, "Why do we want to dedicate this orchard? Because it is a sign of our legacy and our call. We know that we are interconnected with all beings, with God, with each other, with the dear neighbor, and with Earth. Our call is to continue to be bold and creative in living greater and more environmentally sustainable lives."



*Right: Former St. Joseph's Academy President Sister Adele Lambert and current Principal and CSJ Associate, Stacia Andricain.*



*Far right: SJA Theology Teacher and Liturgy Coordinator Hugo Andricain, who is also a CSJ Associate, and Sister Annie Ramagos.*



*Back row: SJA Principal Stacia Andricain, Sisters Julie Kraemer, Janet Roesener, Annie Ramagos, Adelaide Williamson, Chris Pologa, Frances Landry, Joan Laplace and SJA President Jan Rhorer Breen. Front row, Sisters Cynthia Sabathier, Lucy Silvio, Anna Schellhaas, Kathleen Babin, Evelyn Mee and Adele Lambert.*



Over 50 associates from around the congregation and country gathered during Chapter April 17 - 22 (see cover story). They spent time with sisters in the larger group and also on their own where they visited with one another, prayed, reflected on the associate vocation, and visioned for the future of the Associate Movement.



On May 20th, associates and sisters gathered at our Hundred Oaks center in Baton Rouge to hear Dr. Ed Bush, a professor in the School of Agriculture at Louisiana State University, speak about the eroding coastline of Louisiana and how growing certain plants, like Bitter Panicum seen above, can be part of the solution. Attendees then got busy potting the plants which, once mature, will be re-planted along the coast of Louisiana and will help decrease saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion.

Our associates in New Orleans and Houma-Thibodaux held a Day of Reflection on Saturday, June 3. Led by Associate Formation Director Brenda Babin, the theme for the day was “Women on Fire” in celebration of all women who carry the Fire of Christ in their heart. Participants prayed together, shared in large and small groups, and sat around a “fire” in recognition of Sophia and all the women from the Bible whose stories encourage us to bring Christ’s Fire to the world.



# *In Memoriam*



Sister Urban Aranyos, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 12, 2023, after 76 years of religious life.



Sister Sandra Blanchard, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on December 9, 2022, after 68 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Ellen Proulx, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on May 4, 2023, after 60 years of religious life.



Sister Mary Josephine Smith, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on September 12, 2022, after 71 years of religious life.



Sister Judith Couturie, CSJ

Entered into eternal life on January 16, 2023, after 67 years of religious life.

*We Remember      We Celebrate      We Believe*

# Jubilee

## 2023

The following Medaille sisters are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.



Sister Shirley  
Tousignant, CSJ  
(Sister Elizabeth Marie)

75 Years



Sister Joan Laplace, CSJ  
(Sister Mary Paul)

60 Years



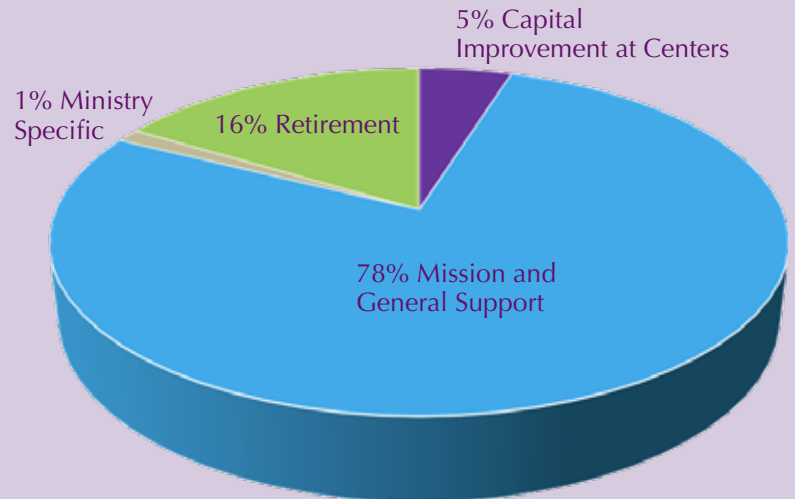
Sister Sharon Marie  
McCauley, CSJ  
(Sister Assumpta)

60 Years

To view sister biographies, visit  
[CSJoseph.org/jubilarians](https://CSJoseph.org/jubilarians)

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**To Learn More**, contact Melissa Haley O'Leary, Director of Development at [moleary@csjoseph.org](mailto:moleary@csjoseph.org) or **216-688-3474**

*The Congregation of St. Joseph cannot give you financial or tax advice, so please consult with your financial advisor before making any final decisions.*



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## Spotlight Photo



*In May, retired Bishop Emeritus Robert Muench celebrated the 55th anniversary of his ordination with our sisters at our center in Baton Rouge.*

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