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.

Congregation looks forward with New Leadership; New Vision
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 Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston. Please join us in praying for all our sisters as they transition to new homes and ministries.

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.
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.

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!”
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.

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.

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.

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To learn about CSJ Associates and how you can join us, visit CSJoseph.com/As-An-Associate
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 Judith Couturie, CSJ
Entered into eternal life on January 16, 2023, after 67 years of religious life.

Sister Mary Josephine Smith, CSJ
Entered into eternal life on September 12, 2022, after 71 years of religious life.

Sister Urban Aranyos, CSJ
Entered into eternal life on May 12, 2023, after 76 years of religious life.

We Remember    We Celebrate    We Believe
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

Thank You!

We are so very grateful for your prayers and your financial support. Here is how we used your charitable contributions this past year:

Did You Know?

There are two unique ways to support the sisters that you may not have considered:

**Make a Charitable Distribution from your IRA**
You can use your required minimum distribution (RMD) to support the Congregation of St. Joseph and reduce your taxable income by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). To do so, contact your IRA administrator and provide our EIN No: 83-0481134.

**Invest in a Charitable Gift Annuity**
By making a large gift now ($10,000 or more), you can support the Congregation of St. Joseph, receive income payments for life, and receive tax advantages that include an immediate deduction for a portion of your gift, partially tax-free income payments, and no upfront capital gains tax (for appreciated securities). Returns are often at above market rates.

To Learn More, contact Melissa Haley O’Leary, Director of Development at 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.
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.

If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email communications@csjoseph.org.

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