

Serving the Dear Neighbor

NEWS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

A Milestone Anniversary!

Celebrating 375 Years of Service and Presence

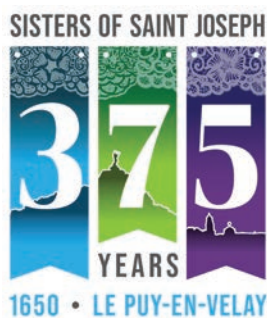
This year, the Congregation of St. Joseph joins with other communities of Sisters of St. Joseph worldwide in celebrating the 375th anniversary of our founding!



Art by Sister Mary Elizabeth Nelsen

In 1650, six ordinary women who shared a common desire to grow in their love of God and serve the unmet needs of the people around them, began meeting in a small kitchen in Le Puy-en-Velay, France. Under the patronage of St. Joseph and the spiritual guidance of Father Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, they went out into the city and among the people to minister to the poor and vulnerable whom they called their “dear neighbors.”

This was not common as most women religious of the time were cloistered and remained behind convent walls. They wore widows black in order to move about the city unaccompanied, and supported themselves by making lace. These first six sisters are represented by the six dots along the top of the logo along with lace and the skyline of Le Puy visible in the background.



From these humble beginnings, the order grew under the leadership of Mother St. John Fontbonne (left), later expanding to the U.S. and Tipton, and communities all over the world. Just as these first pioneering women did in 1650, Sisters of St. Joseph continue to respond to the unmet and critical needs of the world and the people around us. Our mission – to love God and neighbor without distinction – is at the heart of all we do. ●



< Mother Gertrude Moffitt, who founded the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tipton in 1888, and served as Superior General until 1916. Originally from Cleveland, Sister Gertrude was invited by Father Lentz to come to Tipton to establish a school in his parish, St. John the Baptist.

> Sister teaching at St. Joan of Arc School in Kokomo circa 1950s.



< Sister Damien Fitzsimmons at Mercy Hospital in Elwood.



> Sister Mary Cecelia Bradley with student at St. Mary of the Assumption School circa 1950s.



< Sisters Rosie Coughlin and Wanda Wetli in Tipton circa 1980s.



> Sister Theresa MacIntyre at the farewell Mass in Tipton in 2012.



^ Sisters, associates, and other partners in mission volunteer at Kokomo Rescue Mission during the congregation's annual Service Days in 2016.

> In 2017, 2 Sisters Coffee opened inside St. Vincent Hospital in Kokomo in honor of Sisters Clarise Winter and Marty McEntee who both ministered at the hospital for many years.



To learn more, visit us at CSJoseph.org

SISTER UPDATES



This year, a rocking chair used by Sister Jane Ann Comerford was donated to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation “Rocking Chair Ministry.” Sister Jane Ann, who passed away in April 2024, loved to rock and care for newborn babies in neo-natal hospital units, a ministry she did for many years. Her rocking chair will now continue her beloved ministry of caring for premature infants.



Sisters Jeanne Marie Greenen and Theresa MacIntyre, a talented duo, enjoy entertaining the sisters at the Nazareth center in Kalamazoo, MI, where they reside. Here, Sister Jeanne Marie leads a sing-along while Sister Theresa accompanies her on piano during a Mother’s Day celebration.

Sister Karen Van De Walle’s art ministry is still going strong since her move to our center in Cleveland, OH. She has a studio complete with a potters wheel where she continues to make the beautiful and functional pottery for which she is so well known. She even makes her pieces available to staff and visitors for purchase!



Sister Rosie Coughlin resides at our center in Wheeling, WV, and often takes part in the many activities and social opportunities offered. Recently, she and other sisters attended the Wheeling Symphony’s performance of *Bravo Broadway!*, a medley of songs from favorite Broadway musicals. She is seen on the left in both photos.

Jubilee

2025

The following sisters from our founding community of Tipton are celebrating Jubilee this year. Jubilee is the anniversary of a sister's entrance into religious life.

Congratulations to all our sisters who are celebrating from around the Congregation this year!



Sister Danielle
Garst, CSJ

65 Years



Sister Jane Frances
Mannion, CSJ

65 Years

To view Jubilarian biographies, visit
CSJoseph.org/Jubilarians

Attention SJA Alumnae!

St. Joseph Academy, Tipton 2025 Alumnae Reunion

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Gathering at 10:30 a.m. Mass at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch at noon

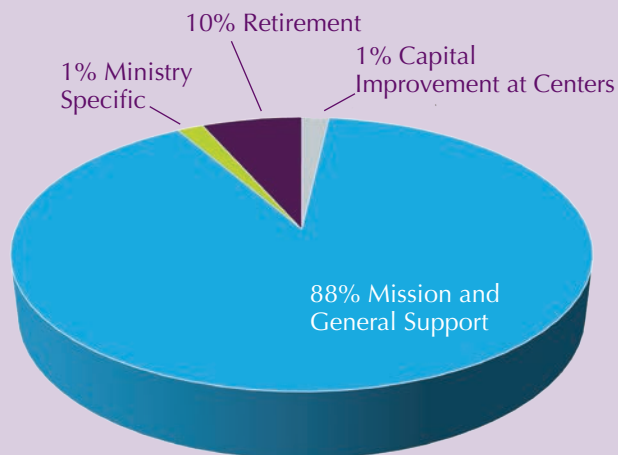
St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center
1440 Division Road, Tipton

To learn more, contact **Twyla Arnold** at
tarnold@dol-in.org or **765.551.9584**

Dear supporters...

We are so very grateful to and for you and all that you do to support our sisters and mission of sharing God's inclusive love. We are awed and blessed by your continued generosity and love!

Here is how we used your charitable contributions from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024:



Other ways to support us...

● Become a Sustaining Donor

If you would like to stop writing checks, save time and resources, and enjoy the affordability and convenience of giving through an automatic, electronic monthly gift, join our Circle of Friends monthly giving program.

● Leave a Legacy of Love

By becoming a legacy donor, you can continue partnering with us even after your lifetime and potentially reduce your current or future tax burden.

● Make a Charitable Distribution from your IRA

If you must take RMDs (required minimum distributions) from your IRA but don't need the income and don't want to pay taxes on it, ask your plan administrator to use all or part of your RMD to support the congregation through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

To Learn More, contact Melissa Haley O'Leary
at moleary@csjoseph.org or **216-688-3474**

Important note:

When planning your gift, please use our legal name,
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, EIN: 83-0481134.

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



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Spotlight Photo



Sister Karen Van De Walle was busy this Spring potting flowers and plants to beautify a porch at St. Joseph Center in Cleveland where she resides.

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

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Hosted by Sisters
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