



update Soundings

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The Joseph Family Movement — a presentation with Pat Bergen, CSJ

On Saturday, January 25, 2014, Pat Bergen, CSJ, spoke to Boston sisters and associates about Membership in the Family of Joseph and CSJ spirit and mission as a movement. What follows are some comments from her presentation.

We know that this immense and all inclusive love of God has been unfolding since the beginning of time, revealing itself again and again until humanity is waking up to the reality that we are one. In our heads we know we are one and are getting it into our lives. We know there is a huge movement of oneness consciousness. In the midst of this is the CSSJ charism of oneness wanting to love. We're waking up to the realization that our mission is to midwife a field of energy that is unioning love -- so that this field becomes the strongest field out there. CSJ as a movement has been expanding through our world since 1650 and continues today. Right now "we're on" for living religious life so intentionally that it becomes the strongest field.

In the 1970s, Johannes Metz, in *Followers of Christ*, wrote that often religious communities came into being as movements. Religious life is both a movement and an institution. One does not exclude the other. Institutions have embedded norms of practice. They stabilize movements and ensure that they go on. Institutions give a place and a way for movements to happen. Movements are not static – but always in motion.

Many religious communities that began as social movements in the 17th century saw waves of "religious virtuoso." Virtuosos hear music of the spheres that the rest of us don't hear and can articulate it. Our CSSJ movement is about connecting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. These women excelled in the art of unioning -- neighbor with neighbor from whom we did not separate ourselves. They became virtuosos of oneness and did all they could to develop it for the sake of the universe.

Pat went on to describe values and characteristics upon which movements depend. We are called to move our charism to the center and invite others to be with us as we move the mission forward. Find kinships; partner with others; invite others to get involved; convene groups of "sharing of heart circles;" look around, see what's unattended and tend to it. We need sisters and associates to be on fire with this movement. Show up; strengthen the field; and do it intentionally.

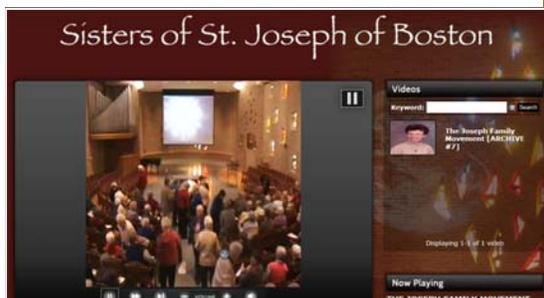
"You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour; now you must go back and tell the people that this is THE HOUR. ... We are the ones we've been waiting for."

— From Oraibi, Arizona Hopi Nation



PICTURED AT RIGHT: Pat Bergen, CSJ, during her presentation on January 25, 2014; Sisters and associates gathered during the presentation.

BELOW: This presentation is available to sisters and associates on the CSJ and Associate News Desktops. Open the folder titled, "Congregation Information" and select the file titled, "The Joseph Movement"—Pat Bergen, CSJ. Click on the link and the video will begin with the screen pictured below.



Announcing National Catholic Sisters Week

to ignite a movement around the lives and the contributions of Catholic sisters

“Wherever good things are happening, there are likely to be Sisters involved,” states the proposal from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, calling for a national campaign to boost awareness of women religious. Rosemarie Nassif, SSND is director of The Catholic Sisters Initiative which was launched in February 2013 by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Rosemarie was inspired by her experience as a university president to fold that campaign into the well-established Women’s History Month. She fashioned a three-year grant to propose a specific plan to raise the visibility of women religious.

This resulted in a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN, which plans to bring national visibility to the contributions of women religious, whose far-reaching work on the frontlines of social change, women’s leadership, healthcare, education and the Church remains relatively unknown. A key initiative of the three-year project will be the launch of National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, 2014, as part of Women’s History Month.

The ultimate goal is to create “fertile ground” to help more young women consider a call to religious life. “Will this mean that thousands of women will enter religious life? No, probably not,” Sister Rosemarie says. “But we’ve got to offer a chance. Even if women are inspired to live their lives differently outside the convent, the effort will be worthwhile.”

The intent is to ignite a movement around the lives and the contributions of sisters in ways that inspire girls and women to picture themselves among the ranks of these women religious. Molly Dever Hazelton and Mary Soher, OP, were named co-executive directors. Hazelton is a professor of library and information science at St. Catherine’s University; Soher, of Henderson, NV, has been a member of the Adrian Dominicans since 1996.

During its inaugural year, all are encouraged to be part of igniting this movement by announcing National Catholic Sisters Week in schools, parishes, hospitals, and local civic arenas, and more. If you have ideas of ways to promote this week, you are invited to contact Molly Haxelton at mdhazelton@skate.edu or Mary Soher, OP, at mspher@skate.edu. Visit the National Catholic Sisters Week website at <https://www2.stkate.edu/ncsw/home> to learn more!

Dates to Remember

- FEB. 6, THURS., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- FEB. 8, SAT., 12:30-3:30PM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — “PRAYING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY” — Fontbonne Convent Milton
- FEB. 9, SUN., 10:00AM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- FEB. 11, TUES., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- FEB. 13, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome
- FEB. 19, WED., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- FEB. 24, MON., 6:30-8:00PM – EVOLVING CONSCIOUSNESS CONVERSATION – Motherhouse Chapel — All welcome
- FEB. 27, THURS., 5:30PM – MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY – All welcome
- MARCH 8, SAT., 9:30AM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — Motherhouse Brighton [snow date: Sunday, March 9]
- MARCH 8-14 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK
- MARCH 15, SAT., 9:30AM-2:30PM — CONGREGATION GATHERING STEWARDSHIP AND FUTURE PLANNINGFOR CSJS – Details to follow.
- MARCH 19, WED., 7:00PM —ST. JOSEPH DAY LITURGY — Motherhouse — Details to follow
- MARCH 20, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — All Welcome



SISTER MARGARET PERROW, CSJ
(Sister Nolasco)

Date of Birth: July 9, 1918
Date of Death: February 1, 2014
In the 77th year of her Religious Life.

SISTER VALENTINA MURRAY, CSJ

Date of Birth: October 17, 1922
Date of Death: February 2, 2014
In the 73rd year of her Religious Life.

MEMBERSHIP: 332