

LEPUY, FRANCE 1650 ...

BOSTON 2013 AND BEYOND...

THIS PRAYER WAS CREATED FOR  
CORPORATION FOR THE SPONSORED MINISTRIES OF  
THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF BOSTON  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRAYER — 2013-2104 prayer I

You are welcome to use this prayer. Please credit all sources and contact  
Communications.office@csjboston.org if you wish to make any changes.

# DARING to CONTINUE to DREAM

Bethany Health Care Center ♦ Bethany Hill School  
Fontbonne Academy ♦ Jackson School ♦ Regis College  
Saint Joseph Preparatory High School ♦ Walnut Park Montessori School

The Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston strive to bring the message of God's active and inclusive love to persons of all races and religious beliefs especially those who find themselves at the breaking points of society.

## READING: *Sisters of Saint Joseph – Beginnings in France*

In mid-seventeenth century France, all circumstances were ripe for new birth in the Church. Because Father Médaille's original letter to the superior of the Jesuits has not been found, the only thing we know for certain is that Médaille went beyond the activities prescribed for the Jesuits on mission by founding a group of women. These women could not help but be conscious that they were innovators.

What Jean-Pierre Médaille, SJ, and the women of his early groupings did was to design the structures to enhance living their charism. Between 1646 and 1650, the project begun by Father Médaille and these groups of women began to evolve. One community established itself in the orphans' hospital in LePuy while another began in the parish at Dunières. In October of 1650, Bishop de Maupas of Le Puy gave what is considered the official approval to the sisters in the hospital.

Bishop de Maupas writes of our first sisters as widows and young women who desired to consecrate themselves to the admirable exercise of charity in the service of the hospital for the poor of the community as well as in education and the orientation of orphan girls. The bishop goes on to say, "...we permit these widows and young women to create a Congregation under the name and title of the Daughters of Joseph; to meet and live in community in one or various houses, according to what seems necessary...that the new congregation may prosper." The bishop's openness to their expansion provided the space for growth he never imagined.

— Based on *Comunidad para el Mundo*, Chapter 1, by Mary McGlone, CSJ © Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, 2004

## PRAYER: *Dream God's Dream* — Excerpts from Charles Péguy, 1873-1914

RESPONSE: And God said: I myself will dream a dream within you.

My dreams seem impossible, not too practical, not for the cautious man or woman; a little risky sometimes. Of those who share my dreams I ask a little patience, a little humor, some small courage, and a listening heart – I will do the rest. — RESPONSE

Then they will risk and wonder at their daring; build, and stand in awe at the beauty of their building. You will meet me often as you work -- in your companions who share the risk, in your friends who believe in you enough to lend their own dreams. — RESPONSE

There will be sun-filled days and sometimes a little rain – a little variety both come from me. So come now, be content. It is my dream you dream, my house you build, my caring you witness; my love you share. And this is the heart of the matter. — RESPONSE

FOR Reflection...

**How am I/are we daring to continue to dream in my life choices, my ministry, my relationships with others?  
How is God dreaming within me/us  
as we further the mission and spirit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph?**



Prayer FOR THE 140th Anniversary of the Sisters of Saint Joseph — 1873-2013 AND BEYOND...

God of Great Love, you are with us, for us, in us. May we who share in the spirit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph see relationship with God and others at the heart of all we do.

In every relationship may we be and act in ever-widening circles of love poured out toward every kind of neighbor without distinction. May we live and work with the zeal of Christ Jesus, "that all may be one." AMEN

## *Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston – 1873...2013...and beyond*



**T**he Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Boston on October 2, 1873. During the year ahead, our board prayers will reflect on the history that brought us to this moment as well as to a future without a prescribed set of blueprints but one open "to a God coming to us from the future" in ways we have yet to imagine.

Our prayers will focus on the Sisters of Saint Joseph

1. beginnings in Le Puy, France, during the turbulent times of the mid-seventeenth century
2. renewal in Lyon, France after the French Revolution
3. coming to the United States during the great expansion to the New World
4. arrival in Boston in response to the needs of a growing immigrant population
5. Sisters of Saint Joseph mission and spirit now and into the future.

### *Mission Statement:*

We are ordinary women from all walks of life. Our special focus, our mission, is to work for unity and reconciliation where there is brokenness, to help people become whole and holy, individually and together.

In 2005 we articulated this mission in the following statement

### *Enflamed*

*with the compassion of God, we Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston, women of the Church, rooted in the Gospel together with our Associates are impelled by the active, inclusive love of God to: deepen our relationship with God and the dear neighbor without distinction; foster prophetic communion; and journey into the future with Sisters and Associates throughout the world and with all God's creation.*

### *Ministries:*

**S**ince our arrival in Boston in 1873, we have staffed over 130 educational institutions, worked in over 30 health care ministries, and participated in over 85 service ministries within the Archdiocese of Boston. You will meet Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston in shelters, food pantries, parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, retreat, chaplaincy, campus ministry centers, refugee services, literacy programs, programs for at-risk youth, and more. We are a community of vowed apostolic women with a contemplative stance toward life

### *2013 AND beyond:*

**T**oday, those who are attracted to this vision still live among the people and offer their lives in love and service. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston carry on the heritage of their foundresses, six French women who joined a Jesuit priest in 1650 to begin a community without cloister or habit and devoted to the needs of their neighbors. Today they continue to a profound desire for union with God and the "dear neighbor".

The tradition of loving service that began in LePuy, France, during the mid-seventeenth century and continued in Boston in 1873 sustains them as they live into the twenty-first century. Instinctively, they identify with the cries of a world stunned by violence to reopen communication in divided communities, to search for shared values, and to empower individuals to explore common ground for the healing of humankind.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph are women receptive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit of Love. Together with their Associates they are called to live in right relationship with all creation. They are a community of women whose mission is to realize the prayer of Christ that all may be one. In community and prayerful contemplation they listen to this Spirit and move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.