

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.

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

Boston...beginnings...1873
AND
...2014 beyond...

GATHERING PRAYER — *Travelers in Time*

LEADER: Let us gather now, friends of Spirit — travelers in time —
to hear the story of Love's evolving narrative.

ALL: In this sacred space, we release into the present,
laying aside all worries, plans, and complaints,
entering into the now of Mystery's eternal temple.

In this sacred space, we honor the past,
retelling the great story of deep time as Spirit's unfolding tale,
giving thanks that a whole universe is gathered up
in the likes of us — tradition's promise.

In this sacred space, we consent to the allurement of an unrehearsed future,
from where the living Word woos each one of us toward
our unique expression — that is Spirit's dream.

Amen

Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed: Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics*, © 2010 pg. 108

READING: *Mother Regis Casserly AND our first sisters in Boston*

When the first Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Boston, they found a city filled with new immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe who had joined the Irish immigrants, the major immigrant population of the city, from the 1840s to the 1870s. Late 18th century Boston was not unlike the 17th century France of their roots. Unemployment, poverty, illness marked the daily life of working classes. The same climate of social injustices that characterized LePuy existed in Boston.

Four pioneer Sisters came from Brooklyn, NY: Sisters Regis Casserly, Claire Corcoran, Mary Delores Brown, and Mary Felix Cannon. They were sought out by Father Magennis of Jamaica Plain because of their reputation as educators. There they settled in the five-room house he provided. Four days after their arrival the sisters opened an elementary school for girls in the basement of the church. Two hundred students applied the first day.

Almost immediately, they found their Boston ministry expanding as a result of the needs of the times. The sisters responded in often hidden and unnoticed ways to the needs of the "dear neighbor" by alleviating language and ethnic differences; addressing problems of homelessness; working with the ill and dying in the 1918 influenza epidemic; feeding the hungry at kitchen doors during the depression; and ministering to the needy and disenfranchised.

FOR *Reflection...*

Reflecting on our past and present...

**As trustees and administrators of a CSJ sponsored ministry,
how am I/are we "consenting to the allurement of an unrehearsed future"
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

Pictured Above: View of Boston in the 1870s; First house of Sisters of St. Joseph in Jamaica Plain area of Boston; Mother Regis Casserly

DARING to CONTINUE to DREAM

**Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
140 YEARS**

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston – 1873...2014...and beyond

The Sisters of Saint Joseph arrived in Boston on October 2, 1873. This prayer is the fourth in a series of board prayers for 2013-2014 that reflect on the history that brought us to this moment as well as to a future without a prescribed set of blueprints — 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.

Beyond OUR beginnings – Arrival in Boston —

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.

Since coming from Brooklyn, NY to 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, and 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.

We are a community of women whose mission is to realize the prayer of Christ, “That all may be one.” In community and prayerful contemplation we listen to this Spirit and move always toward profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction.

