Love That Impels

Features:
Justice & Peace Advisory Board Update • Agrégée Vow Commitment
Gathering of Friends • Austin Scholars at Merrimack
Love that Impels and Touches Their Hearts • Vocation Outreach
Our magazine title, the MORE..., comes from a spiritual cornerstone of our charism, spirit, and spirituality dating back to the 17th century roots of the world-wide family of Sisters of St. Joseph. The Consensus Statement, drawn from the central ideas of our founding spirituality states, in part, that we approach life “with an orientation towards excellence (le plus) tempered by gentleness, peace, joy.” The French “le plus” translates into English as the MORE...

enflamed

with the compassion of God,
we, Sisters of St. 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 of St. Joseph and Associates,
throughout the world
and with all God’s Creation.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Vision Statement 2006

We, Sisters of St. Joseph, are women receptive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit of Love. Together with our associates we are called to live in right relationship with all creation. 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.

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Impelled by Love

When Vatican Council II called religious congregations to revisit the roots of their founding and renew themselves in the light of that original call, we could not have imagined how reading the signs of the times would impact our life in mission. One key document that emerged from the research is the “Consensus Statement” as drawn from our Primitive Constitutions. In part it reads:

“...the Sister of St Joseph moves always towards profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction from whom she does not separate herself...”

In the Chapter of 2006 we restated who we are with the following: “…we, Sisters of St Joseph of Boston...are impelled by the active, inclusive love of God to deepen our relationship with God and the dear neighbor without distinction...”

A significant aspect of our life as Apostolic Religious is to read the signs of the times and make decisions about ways in which our charism of unity and reconciliation can inform our choices regarding ministry. It is through our various ministries that we are fulfilling the mission of the Congregation which is the mission of Jesus, “that all may be one.” (John 17:21) In our ministries we seek to connect neighbor with God and neighbor with neighbor. We are impelled by God’s love to do what we do.

As I observe some of the challenging signs of the current age I am focused on the lines in our CSJ Constitution: “We stand with the poor in the struggle for justice...” and further “…we engage in spiritual and corporal works of mercy so that justice and peace, freedom and human dignity may prevail.”

At present, sisters are working to confront the challenges presented by poverty, hunger, homelessness, immigration, human trafficking, and the degradation of our earthly home. All these issues circle back to our call to stand with the poor in the struggle for justice. Impelled by God’s inclusive love we strive to bring that love, compassion, and hope to the dear neighbor.

One of the many ways in which we work to address today’s challenges is through the Office of Justice and Peace. Each day, our Justice Promoter, Betty Cawley, CSJ, offers us opportunities to engage in work for justice rooted in Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching. By providing educational information, calls for participation in prayer vigils, marches and protests, opportunities for advocacy at state and national levels through petitions, emails, phone calls and visits to legislators, and through collaboration with advocacy groups, our CSJ Federation partners, and our United Nations NGO, she works to enable each of us to make our voice heard on the important issues of the day. This is all accomplished in collaboration with sisters, associates, agrégées, partners in mission and many interested “Justice Friends.”

And above all, our work is accompanied with daily prayer that peace with justice will prevail in the world, a world where each person will know freedom, human dignity, hope, and the love and compassion of God.
When our editorial group gathered to consider our 2019-2020 issues of the MORE... the theme, *Impelled by Love* emerged. This theme echoes a line in our vision statement that says, “we...are impelled by the active, inclusive love of God.” A few weeks ago, as a small group of us sat around the lunch table on the ground floor of the Motherhouse, another phrase of this mission statement, “foster prophetic communion,” spontaneously surfaced in our conversation. The group included sisters, an associate, and a partner in mission. Perhaps it was the diversity of voices; perhaps it was a recent talk by Joan Chittister, OSB, at Fontbonne Academy’s CSJ Center; perhaps it was the awareness that after fourteen years we are still living into the embrace of prophetic communion or what Joan Chittister calls prophetic spirituality. And quite possibly it was all of the above that created the lively exchange at our lunch table.

As you read the pages that follow, it is our hope that you, too, will be engaged in the ways in which our sisters, associates, agréées, and partners in mission are impelled by love – a love both active and inclusive as it fosters the prophetic communion to which we commit in our vision statement. Our contributors in this issue span generations, life-styles, and life-experience. But all are spiritual seekers alive with the awareness of being touched by our CSJ spirituality and impelled by God’s love.

At our 2016 CSSJ U.S. Federation Event, Pat Bergen, CSJ, spoke with passion for our mission and spirit saying, “This precious charism of Love (a gift entrusted to us for the good of the whole world) is yearning to pour out in the life–giving act of becoming one with others.... We who are attracted to this movement of unioning love are commissioned to be and to expand this strong powerful field of unconditional love.... The world has an urgent need for us to find those aligned with this passion and partner with them so that the energy field of love and unity becomes the strongest field. We need this field to be the attracting field for our young, for the vulnerable, for all people so that the field of negativity and violence will be dissolved and lose its power.” The contributors to this issue of the MORE... are partners with us in living a life in which love becomes the strongest field.

The fact that you are holding this magazine in your hands suggests that you, too, desire to be impelled by love. To paraphrase Joan Chittister, who can we ourselves become if we persist in the pursuit of a love that impels in the midst of a fractured world?

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2 Ibid, pg 18
The other day, Sister Cathy Clifford and I had a conversation, as we often do, about you, our donors (were your ears burning?) because you are always in our thoughts and prayers! I would like to share part of this conversation with you.

*Sister Cathy* “While I was visiting with our Sisters at Bethany Health Care Center recently, I was struck by the level of care and comfort we provide, primarily because of the goodness and generosity of the donors that support us.”

*Carol* “I know. I often hear from the sisters how grateful they are for all that this generosity enables! And, their support goes far beyond Bethany. It allows retired sisters to continue volunteering throughout our community, continuing to work for Justice and Peace and the physical and spiritual needs of the ‘dear neighbor.’”

*Sister Cathy* “I watch the sisters who are unable to get around so easily now. Although they are no longer actively teaching or in other full-time jobs, they continue working hard for the ‘dear neighbor’ in a ministry of prayer. They are remembering all who have asked for prayers through the card program, through the prayer line, through the petitions sent for St. Joseph’s Day, through phone calls and more. It seems to me that people today are more in need of prayer than ever.”

*Carol* “The spirit of the sisters is certainly strong! With the help of our associates, our agrégées and our lay partners in mission, it flows through the work of the Women’s Table, Literacy Connection, Casserly House and St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries, all with the help of our generous friends.”

*Sister Cathy* “I want each donor to know how very grateful we are for the love and sacrifices they make in order to support us. I want them to understand how we honor their gifts by using them wisely.”

From this conversation came the idea of presenting you each fall with a brief Giving Report. You will find the report for 2018-19 on pages 20–21. In this document you will get an idea of how donations come to be of use and of some of the activities they support. The list of donors is be posted on our web pages at www.csjboston.org.

Catherine Clifford, CSJ  Carol Mack  Assistant President  Director of Mission Advancement
The Congregations of St. Joseph that comprise the U.S. Federation have had an official presence as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations since 1979. Currently they enjoy General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which gives them the opportunity to express views and make statements on topics of importance to them, during official UN conferences and meetings. With their presence at the UN, the Congregations of St. Joseph aim to “promote the wisdom of all cultures and traditions; be active participants in global systems change initiatives; take an active role in preserving and using mother earth’s resources through sustainable development to enhance the neighborhood of the universe.”

As part of this status, NGO representatives are required to provide a quadrennial report to demonstrate how the Congregations of St. Joseph are working to fulfill the goals set by the United Nations. From 2000-2015 these were the Millennium Development Goals. In 2015 the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide their work until 2030. The SDGs “seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve.”

Taken together, the SDGs embrace People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace. Last spring the Justice Promoters in all Federation Congregations were asked by our NGO representatives to complete a report demonstrating how our individual congregations were responding to certain of the SDGs. A summary of these reports would form part of the quadrennial report that was due in 2019.
The eight (of 17) SDGs listed in the requested report focused on poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, sustainable consumption, and climate change. After gathering information from individuals who were in the best position to provide it, such as heads of ministries, I organized it into the appropriate categories. It was clear that, whether consciously or not, the SDGs are being addressed through the activities of Congregation members and Congregation ministries. For example, the goal to “achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls” is evident in the prominence of women’s roles in the Congregation itself and in our related institutions, and in the focus of many of their programs; in the numbers of women and girls served in our varied ministries; and in outreach and advocacy for women and girls on the margins of society. The same correlation could be found in varying degrees for the other SDGs listed.

The details of all this information could not possibly appear in the summary presented to the UN, but hopefully a convincing picture emerged from the compilation of the data. The process of collecting and compiling the details of our individual report brought me to a deep realization of the ONENESS of our charism and mission throughout the Congregation and its affiliated individuals, institutions and programs. Our circles are indeed widening and deepening. At the same time, I was aware that we are primarily a diocesan Congregation, compared to some other U.S. groups and Congregations in other parts of the world. But our efforts to implement the UN goals can help move us toward a more global perspective on issues of deep concern to everyone working toward a more just and peaceful world.

1 US Federation Website

Above, Left to right: CSJ Agrégées Linda Boothroyd, Joanne Fantini, Joanne Mauldin, and Marianne Miller sign their agrégée vow commitment agreement.

Below, Left to right: CSJ Agrégées Marianne Miller, Joanne Mauldin, Joanne Fantini, and Linda Boothroyd process from chapel after the celebration.
For many years, Linda Boothroyd, Joanne Fantini, Joanne Mauldin, and Marianne Miller have heeded the call to espouse the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. They have chosen to answer God’s call and engage in the widening of the circles of communion.

On June 30, 2019, these four women embraced the Agrégée Way of Life, vowing to God fidelity to the charism with the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the spirit of the Gospel.

Agrégée (ah-greh-zhay) is a French word meaning “attached to.” This form of relationship dates back to seventeenth century France when the Sisters of St. Joseph were founded. In fact, in the earliest documents, the term Agrégée is used quite loosely to describe participants in a community scattered throughout Southern France. Today the relationship is finding renewed expression in a few CSSJ congregations. The form of each differs according to the local culture.

Our Boston CSJ Agrégées are single women desirous of being one with a Congregation that is dedicated to the profound love of God and neighbor without distinction. While continuing to live the lifestyle of lay women, they seek to be in communion with vowed women who commit their lives to the one mission of Jesus “that all may be one,” and they desire to share the communal life inasmuch as they are able. They participate actively in the larger circle of the charism with associates and partners in Mission.

As formation companions, we’d like you to know what a privilege and adventure it has been for us and their mentors to accompany these four beautiful women in the creation of a new relationship in the Family of Joseph.

Their deep conviction of being called to this agrégée vocation, their commitment to prayer, spiritual direction, and time with us and their mentors made this a journey into the grace of the charism, the imperative of the mission of unity.

With both conviction and freedom, they have pioneered this new relationship for all of us by living into a mystery that was only gradually revealed.

Now they continue the unfolding journey, discovering what being an agrégée means in their daily lives, and with all of us.

May we all live into the future as they will, each one of us on fire with whatever God gives us and asks of us, and with the confidence that all indeed is one!

For more information about CSJ Agrégées visit www.csjboston.org/join-our-mission/interested-in-being-an-agregee/
Impelled by love, on Saturday, June 22, 2019, the Sisters of St. Joseph welcomed back 145 women who had previously been members of the CSJ community. While some had remained connected with us, many had been absent from our lives for quite a few years. It took months of research and planning to locate some of these women and to organize this Gathering of Friends. The energy, excitement and enthusiasm of our guests was matched only by the engagement and generosity of the 125 Sisters who helped to ensure that all were welcomed, assisted and embraced as they gathered.

From the moment of arrival, the joy flowed, and the volume rose as connections were renewed. Women recognized one another and embraced fondly. They came from near and far, most driving from corners of New England and some flying from Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas and Virginia to share past memories and present journeys. As participants noted, it was a blessed and graced gathering, an incredibly wonderful day to remember, and in addition, it was so much fun. Clearly this was a celebration of unity and reconciliation; a sacred, social and renewing occasion which modeled ever-widening circles at its best.

“It was a very special day and one I will always remember.”
– Carol Walker (Hughes), Party of 1959

“Quick note to say thank you for the gathering of all. Was truly wonderful just to be together and have the opportunity to share past memories and present journeys.”
– Denise Edinger, Party of 1966

“Flawless! An obvious, yet subtle labor of love.”
– Anne Walsh, Party of 1961
“Thank you so much for the wonderful CSJ celebration on Saturday. It was a glorious day, thought-full, joy filled and bound together for all of us by the CSJ charism.”

– Suzanne Perry, Party of 1964

“Many, many thanks for hosting such a ‘bringing together’ of all the marvelous people. Aren’t we so very fortunate to be so connected? My gratitude to all of you.”

– Anne Fallon, Party of 1958

“Many, many thanks for hosting such a ‘bringing together’ of all the marvelous people. Aren’t we so very fortunate to be so connected? My gratitude to all of you.”

– Anne Fallon, Party of 1958

“It was wonderful to see and share where each of our gifts has brought us – either in community or as a layperson enriched by our years there.”

– Peggy Barnett Mulligan, Party of 1958

“A warm thank you, again, our dear Sisters, for this special occasion, to share our past strong connections and shared life experiences, as well as updates on our current lives.”

– Dalia Stankus James, Party of 1962

“I want you to know that I found it to be a beautiful day: the prayer service – so moving, the luncheon – delicious, the opportunity for so many of us to mingle, catch up and reunite – spectacular.”

– Betty Holland, Party of 1956

“It was a wonderful, happy event. Thanks to you all for making it happen.”

– Sheila Tully Boyle, Party of 1965

“It is with a full and grateful heart that I thank you for this special day.”

– Laraine Candow Conway, Party of 1959

“Thank you so much for the wonderful CSJ celebration on Saturday. It was a glorious day, thought-full, joy filled and bound together for all of us by the CSJ charism.”

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– Suzanne Perry, Party of 1964

“It is with a full and grateful heart that I thank you for this special day.”

– Laraine Candow Conway, Party of 1959
How do I remain open to encounters of divine love in the ordinary moments of my day?

Can I name a moment when I encountered divine love and it changed everything?
Impelled by love! What do these words really mean? St. Paul used these words many years ago in writing to the Corinthians. Paul was reminding the Corinthians that an encounter with divine love changes everything. We are no longer strangers to one another, but rather brothers and sisters. All that we have, including the beauty of creation, comes from a generous God and is meant to be shared. We are stewards of God’s gifts. God intends us to be one, united in love.

Father Jean Pierre Médaille, SJ, in founding the community of St. Joseph in 1650, was moved by the poverty and suffering of the people in France. In the Eucharistic Letter, Father Médaille wrote “…Our Congregation is wholly directed to the total double union of ourselves and the dear neighbor with God.”

So fervently have we, as Sisters of St. Joseph, committed ourselves to the words “Impelled by love,” they were incorporated into the Vision Statement of our 2006 Chapter.

Impelled by love, daily concern for “the dear neighbor” is an integral part of the mission of each CSJ Congregation and Sponsored Ministry.

Impelled by love, the core values of gracious hospitality, love of neighbor without distinction, peaceful resolution of conflict and care for creation are an essential component of each ministry’s mission integration plan.

Impelled by love, we recognize an important qualification for future leadership is the ability to have compassion for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Impelled by love, we care for the sick and treat them in the most dignified manner, recognizing that the spirit of God dwells within each one.

Impelled by love, we welcome those who are new to our country and offer friendship and opportunities for housing, language development and job readiness.

Impelled by love, we seek the deeper meaning of neighbor and neighborhood.

Impelled by love, we ask ourselves how have we encountered divine love in the people and events that are part of our communal life? Have we responded generously and compassionately?

Impelled by love, we continually deepen our understanding of the prayer of Jesus that they all may be one. (John 17:21)

Remain open to encounters with divine love. Your heart will never be the same.
Faith in Action

By Jeanmarie Gribaudo, CSJ

Impelled by God’s Love to Reach Out

When asked to write this article for the MORE..., my immediate answer was a resounding YES as I am privileged to work with young adults at Merrimack College in North Andover who give me such hope for our future. At Merrimack, I teach theology to undergraduates who are in the Austin Scholars program which I direct. Austin Scholars is a learning-living community; students who have done service in the past can choose to be a part of this community. The Austin Scholars live together, take one class in theology each semester together and participate in weekly service-learning in the Lawrence/Lowell area.

These young people are part of the generation known as the iGen. Their lives have been affected by technology – the availability and use of the Internet, iPhones, and iPads. They are an anxious bunch because they have so much information literally at their fingertips – sometimes too much information. Yet they are incredibly accepting of people and situations, extraordinarily interested in what it means to be a person of faith, know that the world is in a terrible state, and want to make a difference.

For two hours each week Austin Scholars visit homeless shelters, nursing homes, and after-school programs, and more. In class they are required to participate in what I call “circle up.” During this time, we sit in a circle and listen as each shares what is happening at his/her service site and how it relates to what we are studying in theology class.

As you can imagine, in the fall, the reflections of the freshmen are a little stilted, but by mid-year, their reflections become poignant. An example of this is demonstrated in one student’s reflections at the end of first semester:

“The children at my service site have taught me the power of patience, strength and perseverance. They have disproven the stereotypes with which I entered my service learning and have shown me the power of more than a single story. I now see things from their point of view, I recognize the social justice issues that are present in this society, and I have become more aware of the way humans like to judge situations before stepping into them. These children have taught me more about life than any classroom ever will.”

Through such service and reflection, Austin Scholars grow so that faith-in-action makes a difference. Love of God impels us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need.

For more information on Austin Scholars visit www.merrimack.edu/about/offices_services/residence_life/austin-scholars/

Jeanmarie Gribaudo, CSJ, with a student in her Theology in Context course.

A group of Austin Scholars celebrate their commitment to giving back.
Impelled by their desire for me to belong to Christ and His Church, my parents brought me to Our Lady of Presentation Church in Brighton where I was claimed for Christ in the sacrament of Baptism. It was an invitation that has continued to impel me into a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.

I was the third of four children. Our home in Brighton was a loving place where we were nourished through relationships and prayer. Christ was always center. As an eighth-grade student attending Mount Saint Joseph Academy, I began a new relationship; the warmth and presence of the sisters was a love that impelled me and, in 1952, I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Since then, I have drawn sustenance from my life in community. My experiences of community and of shared spirituality offer support and have shown Christ’s love in the ordinary circumstances of lives together, in our convents, classrooms, and parishes. Through the example of sisters, I am impelled continually by the way we love, laugh, forgive, and engage in ministry to serve the dear neighbor.

After many years as a teacher in parish elementary schools, I was drawn to a ministry of spiritual development. In 1985, while earning a Master’s Degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, I began a new and profound journey. For the next thirty-two years, I witnessed the love that impels in the Office of Spiritual Development, in the people attending parish retreats, Cursillo and mornings of prayer; in those seeking spiritual direction; in those always ready to seek “the more” as they journeyed to meet that God who impels.

As I continue to experience this yearning for God in others, I am grateful for the opportunity to work as part of St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries in offering an eight-week guided prayer experience based on St. Ignatius’ Spiritual Exercises at St. Elizabeth Parish in Milton and at Fontbonne Convent. Women and men have responded to this invitation to deepen their experience of prayer. Having been touched by the love of Christ, they continue to look for “the more.” As one participant reflects: “Imaginative prayer has opened up a whole new way of praying for me.” Another shares: “I am finding a greater responsibility, and a need to reflect on how Christ is manifested in my daily life.” Our shared journey continues to inspire and strengthen my faith. Indeed, it is the God of love who impels us all!*”

*Corinthians 5:14-15
In preparation for this issue of the MORE... we asked a few of our younger partners in mission to consider how they experience “love that impels.” What follows are brief reflections from young people at Bethany Hill Place, Fontbonne Academy, St. Joseph Prep, and Jackson School. Take a few moments to listen to these younger voices who witness to the reality of our charism expanding in ways we may never have imagined.

Our CSJ charism, our spirit and spirituality, does not belong only to sisters, associates, and agrégées. Administrators, faculty, and staff at all ends of the spectrum learn about our mission through programs and resources offered by our Office of Sponsored Ministries. When you visit any of our ministries, it doesn’t take long to recognize that our CSJ spirit is part of the ministry’s fabric. This is reflected not just in CSJ signage and artwork but also in the manner in which people relate to one another.

In Isaiah 11:6, after describing some unlikely alliances that will sprout forth at the coming of Immanuel, the prophet goes on to say, “and a little child shall lead them.” In recent months we have seen this happening across the world as young people take action against gun violence and the climate crisis. And we’ve discovered that it’s also present in the manner in which the young people in our CSJ ministries are able to articulate how they live our charism and see it lived by others.

Bethany Hill Place

“Bethany Hill Place has taught me to stay positive. I learned you can make friends with anyone and be yourself.”

– Ineisha Colon, BHP

“To be a good community. A good community means helping each other, being kind to each other, and playing with each other.”

– Jesus Batista, BHP

Residents of Bethany Hill Place during an after school activity.
“Walking the same streets of Mother Saint-Jean Fontbonne, I was able to feel the Fontbonne presence, that I have known throughout my four years at school, stronger than I ever have before. Being able to see Lyon and Le Puy, I was able to see how a love that impels is one that Mother Saint-Jean Fontbonne had for God and for spreading God’s word throughout the world.”

– Chloé Downs, Fontbonne ’20

“In meeting the French sisters residing in Lyon and Le Puy, I’ve gained the understanding that love that impels calls for unity that transcends all borders and bridges the relationship between the dear neighbor without distinction.”

– Christie Louis, Fontbonne ’20

“During my Camden experience, I specifically remember when my group was at the soup kitchen and a woman said, ‘I have everything I need.’ This saying has stuck with me because even though she doesn’t have many clothes or even a house, she felt loved. At this soup kitchen, she found love through the people volunteering and other people in need. Through this experience I have learned how fortunate I am and I’m surrounded by people who love and care for me.”

– Katelynn O’Connor, SJP ’20

“As a Jackson School student, love impels me to deepen my relationship with God and to promote peace around the world. I learn to respect others and all God’s creation. At Jackson we grow by learning together and building community.”

– Annie Zhu, JS Grade 6

“As a Jackson School student, I’m inspired by the love of God. ‘Love that impels’ is a way to foster peace and be joyful with all God’s creation. Our ‘dear neighbor’ projects are a way to promote peace and share the love of God in places and with people who need it most. I feel that the Jackson School is a place to be kind, avoid conflict and grow in many ways. The five JWP core values are a good way to learn more about God and to help others.”

– Marcus Woo, JS Grade 6
In all we are and do, we hope to be women and men of unifying love, freeing others to be themselves in Christ.

Interested in becoming a Sister of St. Joseph? As Sisters of St. Joseph we...
- see relationship at the heart of mission and desire to bring God’s unifying love to a broken world
- live a life of personal and communal prayer
- yearn to follow Jesus more closely
- express our love of God and neighbor through public vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
- act in the name of those whose voices are not heard
- companion others on their spiritual journey
- are concerned about the Earth and the Global neighborhood
- engage in all the works of which women are capable

Interested in becoming an Associate? As Associates we...
- are women and men who desire to share our faith journey with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
- commit ourselves to Gospel Values
- gather monthly with other Associates and Sisters to share faith and develop community
- grow in awareness of God’s inclusive love
- respond to Christ’s call to reach out to all people without distinction in our neighborhood and global community

Interested in becoming an Agrégée with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston? As Agrégées we...
- are single women called by God to be in communion with canonically vowed women and associates
- commit our lives to the Mission of Jesus: that all may be one
- express our commitment through a lifetime non-canonical vow
- vow to God fidelity to the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston in the spirit of the Gospel

Join women and men who desire to share their faith journey with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston through the mission of unifying love.
To explore these three relationships, visit our website at www.csjboston.org/join-our-mission/.
A Lived Experience of Love That Impels

Nurtured, relaxed, blessed, restored, therapeutic, peaceful, healing, caring!” These words express sentiments of those who have participated in Peace Begins with Me, a day of self-care hosted by The Women’s Table, a Congregation Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. November 9, 2019, marked the fifth year it was offered at no cost, thanks to the CSJ Ministries Grant for Unity and Nonviolence.

It is clearly love that impels all who gather. Facilitators introduce stress-reduction techniques and underscore the importance of self-care for individual health, as well as care for others. The diversity of hands-on options includes head and neck massage, gentle yoga, foot reflexology, guided meditation and Expressive Arts activities such as Zentangle (meditative drawing), quilling, and adult coloring. Professionals from a variety of fields, including sisters and partners in mission, facilitate these activities. The expression, “It takes a village,” is evident throughout the day!

A spirit of calm enhances the day, allowing mothers an opportunity to “come away” for quiet and restorative self-care. Women transition from one activity to the next, signaled by a Tibetan bell. Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided throughout the day add a sense of nurturance and care. The Women’s Table is committed to creating ever-widening circles of love and compassion. As such, it is a lived expression of the mission and spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Peace Begins with Me has become a day that women, in particular mothers of children with special needs, anticipate and look forward to. The Women’s Table participants are most grateful for this unique opportunity to experience peace and, in turn, to share it with their families. One mother-daughter team put it this way: “We feel so blessed for the opportunity to take part in this amazing experience full of love and caring. It was so very needed and appreciated. We will continue this chain of caring, and share our toolbox with others.”

For more information about The Women’s Table visit thewomenstable.org/

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Aft er talking with Ralph Fuccillo, I understood that this sentiment informs his entire life and connects him to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston. Beginning with his early years in Somerville, the sisters and their charism have always been a part of Ralph’s life: from his first connection at St. Clement Parish through decades of relationship when he ministered alongside our sisters, including Sisters Joanne Gallagher, Betsy Conway and others at Archbishop Williams, Malden Catholic, and Fontbonne Academy. These connections grew as he served with Sister Carol Lombard on the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of Boston and Sister Zita Fleming in AIDS Ministry.

Ralph received his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Massachusetts, and during his college years taught Religious Education classes and volunteered in Campus Ministry. This led him to earn a Master’s Degree in Religious Education from Fordham University.

“Connection is the key word in life”

Connecting with the underserved and connecting them with advocates and resources and change is more than a job – it is a calling for Ralph. Social justice is a passion that permeates his professional life. As a consultant with Cambridge Concord Associates, he helps non-profits with strategic planning and philanthropy. He is especially passionate about health equity and works tirelessly for sustainable change in the systems that unjustly penalize the poor.

He shares our sisters’ values and has exemplified those values in his long career in public health with leadership roles at the DentaQuest Foundation, and the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation. Ralph has also directed national and local efforts on disease prevention and health promotion that address HIV/AIDS, substance use, community and interpersonal violence, and oral disease. Ralph has served on many non-profit boards locally and nationally. He currently serves as board Chair for Road Scholar (Elderhostel).

He reconnected with our sisters more recently when he volunteered to serve on the committee of our “Living the Dream Dinner” which raises funds to support our retired sisters. In relationship with the sisters he finds a deep spiritual connection and a mutual commitment to being “agents of change.”

When asked what thought he would like to leave you with, he said…

“Continuous renewal—Pray for people to have the experience, the values, the time, and a supportive network for continuous renewal of body, mind, and spirit.”
As we have seen in recent communications and publications from LCWR, emphasis is being placed on finding and making meaning in all that we do. Thus, the subtitle of *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis* follows the theme. This volume represents the response of religious leaders to the Doctrinal Assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) in 2012. The list of contributors includes some who served in the presidency of LCWR, others who have held leadership positions in their congregations and laywomen who formed a group, Solidarity with Sisters, in support of the national office of LCWR during the period of the assessment.

In the period following the Second Vatican Council religious institutions revisited the history of their foundation, seeking to interpret their charisms in the contemporary world. In many instances a broader understanding of governance emerged with greater inclusion and a stronger focus on a global orientation. Older assumptions about religious life no longer held but the core values remained steadfast, prompting religious to view their role as countercultural in a new light.

Although the authors wrote from their own experiences and perspectives, they engaged in communal contemplative discernment about the necessity to share how religious leaders worked through what appeared to be an impasse. What emerged were their insights on the value of integrity, communal discernment, right relationships, and authenticity.

As one reads through the chapters, common threads appear, colorfully and intricately woven into the tapestry of religious commitment in the present age. The contemplative dialogues that occurred between LCWR and CDF not only resolved the issues raised in the assessment but also led to reflective conversations among the participants, resulting in both renewal and transformation. Many women religious and lay supporters moved from their initial reactions of indignation and disbelief to a greater understanding and appreciation for religious life in our contemporary world. Through its emphasis on contemplative engagement, LCWR was able to reach a satisfactory resolution with CDF by exercising careful listening and mutual respect. The search for truth resulted in trust and ultimately in authentic relationship.

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2 Ibid, pg 57
Giving Report July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

An Overview
Thank you for making this year a very good year for our sisters. Because you were kind enough to include us in your giving plans we were able to raise over two million dollars to care for our retired sisters and to support their ministry.

Thank you…
to those of you who supported our appeals, attended and supported our events, and used our card program to remember those who have died as well as to celebrate and honor the living. Your gifts have made a real difference in the lives of our sisters and their ability to continue to work in ministry and share the good news of the Gospel.

A special prayer of thanks to those who remembered us in their estate plans. We have noticed that more people are choosing to ensure the future of the sisters’ work with legacy gifts.

To view a list of those who helped support us with their gifts from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 please visit our website, www.csjboston.org

Gifts Received $2,258,402
As you can see, most of our gifts come from the individual gifts of our Donors and Benefactors. The category encompasses gifts received from our semiannual appeals, envelopes in the MORE, card program donations, unsolicited gifts.

Bequests represent final gifts received from wills and other planned gifts. Events represent gifts received from our annual Living the Dream Dinner and A Place at the Women’s Table, both from attendance and sponsorships. Grants represent gifts to specific Congregation Ministries for specific purposes.

Distribution of Gifts
Elderly/Infirm – these funds help with healthcare and equipment needed for our elderly sisters. General Operating – helps cover lights, heat, personnel, and supplies. Special Appeals – these funds cover special projects like the renovation of St. Joseph Hall residence for older sisters and maintenance and repair of the garden. The needs change from year to year. Congregation Ministries – these funds support the ongoing ministries of the congregation: The Literacy Connection, The Women’s Table, Casserly House and St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries.
YOUR GIFTS TO US WERE USED TO...

Our Retired Sisters

...enable retired sisters to keep serving as volunteers, help pay the cost of healthcare and help to maintain adequate and dignified housing.

The Women's Table

...help this ministry to serve women from all walks of life by means of educational programs, social support, supportive circles, advocacy and outreach support.

The Literacy Connection

...make it possible to respond to adult immigrants and refugees seeking help with English language skills and citizenship preparation.

Casserly House

...support learning experiences and caring support services to the multicultural and underserved people of Roslindale.

St. Joseph Spiritual Ministries

...reach out to people of all faith traditions and cultures who seek a deeper relationship with God, self and all creation through diverse spiritual opportunities.

AND MORE!

Tribute Cards

Many of our friends choose to celebrate the lives of loved ones with one of our tribute cards. Cards are available “In Memory of” to remember the deceased and for other occasions to honor the living. The Sisters of St. Joseph remember in their prayers both the recipient and the donor. All donations are acknowledged.

Displayed here are a selection of card designs available. A full list of cards is available on our website www.csjboston.org

To order please indicate how many of each card you wish on the line by the card’s title

___ 1 Madonna and Child
___ 2 Resurrection
___ 3 Morning Rose
___ 4 God
___ 5 St. Joseph
___ 6 Rose by the Ocean
___ 7 Happy Birthday Cypress
___ 8 Celebrate Life
___ 9 Tulips
___ 10 St. Joseph Cohasset
___ 11 St. Joseph with Pansies
___ 12 Carmel Lilies
___ 13 Ships in the Harbor
___ 14 Spring
___ 15 Swan Boats
___ 16 Get Well Iris
___ 17 Get Well Wildflowers
___ 18 Congratulations
___ 20 Remembered in Prayer
___ 21 Thank You

Cards may be ordered by visiting our website www.csjboston.org or sending this form to:
Robert Tamulis
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
637 Cambridge St., Brighton, MA 02135
Or email him at:
robert.tamulis@csjboston.org

Name _____________________________
Address ___________________________
__________________________________
__________________________________
City_______________________________
State_____ Zip code  _______________

YOUR GIFTS TO US WERE USED TO... (continued)

In Memory of

In Honor of

Thinking of You

Birthday

Get Well

Congratulations

Blank

New This Year

In Prayer

Thank you
Save the Date!
LIVING THE DREAM DINNER
April 16, 2020
Seaport Hotel, Boston, MA

www.csjboston.org