The World Is Waiting...
Table of Contents

DEPARTMENTS
Leadership Team Letter 3
Communications and Development 4
CSJ Associates 5
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation 7

FEATURES
The Time is NOW 6
Everything Is Interconnected 7
Our Year in Photos 8
Handwriting Analysis of Mother St. Jeanne Fontbonne 10
On the Cover 12
All of Which Woman Is Capable 13
Called Together for the Life of the World 14
Remembering 15
Mission Statement 16

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Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,

During the season of Advent, “We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

The dictionary defines waiting as living in expectation. Waiting is part of all of our lives as we find ourselves stalled in the line at the grocery store, halted at a traffic light, standing at the hospital bed of a friend. Often, we wait in anticipation, worry and anxiety.

Advent calls us to bring positive energy, enthusiasm and a joyful spirit to our waiting. It is our hope that Christ will be born in our hearts and minds so that we may be transformed.

It is a challenge to wait in joyful hope in the face of the world’s chaos. We take courage from the words of Pope Francis in The Joy of the Gospel: “And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ.” (p.14)

Called together for the life of the world, the cry of the dear neighbor impels us to go deeper, to journey farther, and to respond boldly and creatively. THE WORLD IS WAITING.

Lovingly,
Sisters Adele, Kathy, Mary Ann, Maureen and Pat

Mary Ann Martin, CSJ , Pat Nelson, CSJ, Maureen O’Connor, CSJ, Adele O’Sullivan, CSJ, Kathy Stein, CSJ
As the season of love and hope nears, we tend to focus on those we love: our family, our friends, our pets, our co-workers and/or our neighbors. The interesting thing is that few of us think of the wild animals as our loved ones. Yet, as co-inhabitants of this magnificent planet, they are the ones who truly need our love and attention now.

This year, we have heard alarming news on how global warming not only affects and displaces humans, but is also killing animals due to the urbanization of wild and wet lands, as well as by the use of plastics, pesticides and increased air traffic, among many other human-made harmful factors.

The world is waiting for us to take action! We hope that during the year that is upon us, you, too, may dare to be prophetic.

We invite you to unite with our raised voices, to act and respond to the crisis of our planet so that our loved ones and those with whom we share the planet, may thrive and enjoy the fruits of our love for creation.

~ Meyling Eliash-Daneshfar, Director of Communications and Development

The Statement of Future Direction that was affirmed by the 2019 Congregational Chapter body, has called us to implement Laudato Si’, the cry of the dear neighbor impels us to go deeper, to journey farther, to respond boldly and creatively.

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~ Denise Ginty, Director of Communications and Development

Pope Francis says in chapter one of Laudato Si’, “The continued acceleration of changes affecting humanity and the planet is coupled today with a more intensified pace of life and work which might be called “rapidification.”

A few years ago, I was listening to a talk on the radio. The person being interviewed said, “We need to slow down because we are literally driving ourselves crazy with our busyness.” As I read chapter one of Laudato Si’, it occurred to me that we have become, as the Pope says, “the source of anxiety that is causing harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity.”

The National Catholic Reporter has published a readers’ guide with study questions to aid in discussions. This guide has been provided to all the associate group leaders. Laudato Si’ can be downloaded from the Vatican website or purchased from Amazon at a reasonable price.

~ Denise Ginty, Director of CSJ Associates
The Time Is Now
–A Call to Uncommon Courage

Joan Chittister’s latest book, “The Time Is Now,” suggests that we are all called to some form of prophetic spirituality. The prophet sees what is wrong in the world, according to the vision of the Kingdom of God, cries out, speaks up and takes action. Prophets lead us beyond the present situations of oppression, inequality and divisions of all kinds: gender, race, national identity and economic class.

As Christians, we cannot merely hide behind our own private spiritual lives, reducing the role of prophecy to rituals, saying prayers regularly, and going to church, remaining stable, good and safe. However, to speak up about current situations calls forth resistance, criticism, defensiveness and sometimes violent opposition from institutions and from believers in the status quo in general. Jesus was feared because his insights might have “toppled the tightly held authority of both Temple and Throne.”

The role of the prophetic community as a group is to study and become proficient in particular issues and to take a stand by teaching others the truth of the situation and how it violates God’s vision for us. Chittister emphasizes the importance of patience and of small acts which, like pebbles thrown into a pond, may create circles “reaching around the globe.”

The success of the message depends on God, who inspired its wisdom. In a society inundated with chatter, the author reminds us of Plato’s words: “The wise speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.” ~ Sister Mona Castelazo, CSJ

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

...everything is interconnected ~ Laudato Si’ #138

Joseph, who was from the House of David, went with Mary from Galilee to Bethlehem to fulfill the decree from Caesar Augustus that all citizens must register for the census. While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Bethlehem is a place forever captured in song and hearts.

In the United States, a census is a mandated count by the federal government every ten years. It is important to get an accurate count of everyone living in the country, including those who have documents and those who do not. The 2020 census will determine representation in congress and how federal and state funding is distributed.

Previous censuses have found that major populations live in coastal areas. “A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world’s population lives on the coast or nearby and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas.” ~ Laudato Si’ #24

A census conducted by the University of Hawaii, estimates that 8.7 million species live on the planet. Unfortunately, many are becoming extinct. One third of all birds in the United States have disappeared due to climate change and the loss of habitat.

“It may well disturb us to learn of the extinction of mammals or birds, since they are more visible. But the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms. Some less numerous species, although generally unseen, nonetheless play a critical role in maintaining the equilibrium of a particular place. Human beings must intervene when a geosystem reaches a critical state.” ~ Laudato Si’ #34

~ Sister Diane Smith, CSJ, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Coordinator
Our Year in Photos...

The World Is Waiting...
I analyze Jeanne Fontbonne’s handwriting. I shall describe the character/personality of an extremely gifted woman who had amazing leadership traits.

Mother St. John led with her heart and always considered how her decisions could affect others as their feelings were important to her.

Her thinking patterns were very analytical in that she always wanted to know how others might be affected by her decisions.

Supports to her thinking were strong and practical organizational skills with excellent follow through as she put all steps in order to accomplish a task.

Intuition was another trait which supported her thinking. She could ‘read’ a situation and make decisions based on her observations. She set high goals for herself and used her enthusiasm and optimism to sustain any and all projects.

Her rhythmic thinking made situations move along smoothly and seemingly effortlessly.

This incredibly gifted woman leader surely had sustainable leadership when we look at the many convents and ministries she opened and sustained during her lifetime.

Her strong character is obvious with her combination of executive skills and propensity to lead with her heart. She was able to establish quality relationships, lead others to understand the purpose of their mission and chose the right sisters to minister in many challenging situations.

We are all blessed to have a woman of such a wonderful blend of heart and head to be our re-founder, mentor and model.

~ Sister Mary Sevilla, CSJ, PhD, Master Certified Graphoanalyst

Sister Mary Sevilla, CSJ
First General Superior in Lyon after the French Revolution and Re-Founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph
On the Cover:
Last January, I photographed a small creche found in Sister Marilyn Binder’s office after her death. It is on our cover for this edition of DESIGNS. It seems that no matter how many years pass us by we do not grow tired of this scene. It fills us with hope and teaches us lessons in the ordinary. A mother with her husband and newborn son are focused only on one other. This is their child, their family, their dream. Jesus, God Emmanuel with us takes in his mother and father and is also realizing the dream. In becoming us he is FULLY us in our human nature with its fragility, humor and fractiousness. God so loved the WORLD that God could not wait to get here. The fact REMAINS that God still cannot have enough of us, loving us and being us. This is the gift of Christmas—this becomes our gift to a world that waits.

~ Carol L Smith, CSJ, Graphic Designer

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Sister Ingrid Honore-Lallande, CSJ

All of Which Woman Is Capable

Sister Ingrid entered religious life in 1971. Her life and ministry can be seen as a progressive unfolding of her desire to meet the needs of the dear neighbor, to be a part of what Pope Francis described as “a culture of care.” With each step of her journey, she felt called to utilize her deep commitment to love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction, showing us “all of which woman is capable.”

Sister Ingrid has ministered as a teacher, school administrator and spiritual director accompanying others on their journey, meeting the needs of those who “hunger for spirituality.” In addition to an MA in Administration, she received a Master of Divinity degree with an emphasis on Ignatian Spirituality. At Santa Clara University, she ministered to college students, later trained to direct the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and then joined the staff at St. Joseph Orange Center for Spiritual Development as a presenter and spiritual director. When the Center closed, her dream position ended. She then used her expertise in the congregation and at various retreat centers.

The 2013 Chapter encouraged sisters to meet in special interest groups. Over the past few years, Sister Ingrid and other sisters of African-American descent in our congregation, have met to be a support to each other. They share the state of the heart and experiences encountered in daily living. Traveling to Ghana, West Africa, to provide a retreat and to prepare a group of indigenous sisters to become spiritual directors has been a highlight of her ministry experience.

Seeing her ministries in the light of Laudato Si, we find her strong belief in a “culture of care,” mentioned by Pope Francis. He stated, “We are here to take care of each other.” Sister Ingrid helps her directees to “see God is in everything, and everything is in God.” This spirituality can motivate all people to have a passionate concern and care for our world and each individual.

~ Sister Frances Baker, CSJ

~ Carol L Smith, CSJ, Graphic Designer
Called together for the life of the world our 2019 Congregational Chapter compels us to live authentically our identity as the Congregation of the Great Love of God and our charism of loving God and neighbor without distinction.

The cry of the dear neighbor impels us to go deeper, to journey farther, to respond boldly and creatively. The world is waiting.

Urgent needs call us, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Associates, Consociates, ‘Ohana and Familia de San José (ACOF), to bold conversation and prophetic action.

Striving to be beacons of hope we commit to:

- Respond to the crisis of Earth and global warming
- Deepen awareness of our complicity and work toward dismantling interlocking systems of oppression
- Articulate and authentically live our vows in ways that witness and speak to today’s realities
- Walk with women as we claim our voice and work toward an inclusive church and society
- Use our collective voice to accompany others in speaking their truth

As we move into these commitments we will:

- Make all decisions through the lens of unifying love
- Embrace the spirit expressed in Vatican II
- Implement Laudato Si’
- Expand and deepen our partnerships
- Use a variety of communication media

We stand in communion with all who share our passion, charism and mission—St. Joseph Workers, partners in mission and ministry, friends, emerging and ongoing relationships such as agréées and all those enlivened by our charism.

Go deeper…. journey farther…. respond boldly…. DARE TO BE PROPHETIC
Mission

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet hold as their mission to continue the mission of Jesus “That all may be one.”

~ John 17:21

The members of the congregation minister in a way that:

* Heals and reconciles
* Serves all persons without distinction
* Makes known through their lives the Gospel they proclaim
* Enables others to assume a more active responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus
* Recognizes and defends the human dignity of all persons
* Promotes justice with a particular concern for the poor.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Constitution, #20

Charism

The Spirit and Charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet is unifying love.

Even the trees of the forest WAIT the JOY of God’s coming!

~ Sister Carol L Smith, CSJ