Making a Way for Those Called to Care
Sisters Embark on a New Partnership With the University of San Francisco

For a long time Katherine felt a calling as though something was in her blood. As a teen, she liked having the family nurse role for her little brothers and sisters while her parents were away working two jobs. Out of high school, Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs) were in demand and it was an attainable position to start. She found a job in an assisted living community. Along the way, Katherine discovered a passion for health care. She pursued more education and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). She loved the CNAs on her shift and they looked to her as a leader. Caring for the people in her unit was something Katherine was born to do. She wanted to learn, and be able and authorized to do more to help those in her care. But Katherine got stuck.

Achieving a degree in nursing – despite the tremendous demand – is expensive and programs are impacted. After a few years, Katherine had a young family of her own to raise at the end of her long shifts. It seemed like her dream was slipping away. How could she break through and get the education needed to advance her passion and lift up her life? Enter the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

Sisters have been actively studying and talking about the best way to move their mission into an unknown future to which they had already said “YES!” With imaginative possibilities spread before them, Sisters began to narrow the field with help from friends and potential partners who could join their conversations to “put minds and hearts together for the good of the whole.”

One thing Sisters knew was that among their available resources was underutilized space on the Motherhouse campus. The Congregation sought ways it could be used differently to meet the needs of the community AND engage their passion to bring unity and reconciliation to a wounded world. Both Sisters and organizations sparked ideas and submitted proposals. It became clear in the summer of 2014 that a few proposals were creating a new model of partnering with others.

In this new model, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and the University of San Francisco (USF) are setting out on a new partnership. USF has already been running a post-graduate degree program in sports management on the Sisters’ campus for over a decade. Now, the Sisters’ College Building will become the Orange County regional campus for USF’s health and wellness programs.

Beginning in 2015, USF will inaugurate several programs in health care education: a Bachelor degree in Health Services (BHS), an entry level Master’s degree in Nursing, and a Master’s degree in Nursing for RNs. All that is needed to apply for the BHS program is a 2.0 GPA and more than 50 transferable college credits. Students in these programs will benefit
Making a Way for Those Called to Care

Sisters will serve both the campus ministry needs for the students and be available as resources for learning (e.g., tutors, writing assistance, and study skills) where needed. In addition, some Sisters with health care training may serve as guest presenters, and mentors. Sister Mary Beth elaborates, “We are planning together and that is very new and exciting. USF has also asked for ‘Mission formation in Ignatian pedagogy’ for their faculty and staff. We have several sisters who can provide this. Overall we can create a common culture to form these young (and not so young) men and women in the ministry of health care in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph.”

Healthcare professionals are often in positions to care for people at their most vulnerable. This is sacred ground according to Sister Jayne Helmlinger, who has decades of healthcare administration experience and serves the congregation as its General Superior. “Bringing people together to draw them ever closer to God and to one another is at our heart,” she states. “Being attentive to the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – will be an incredibly important aspect of the learning environment we’ll create here. Teaching men and women how to be of service, how to use their gifts and talents, and their education to serve the vulnerable is what I’m hoping for in our partnership.”

“This is exciting to me because we’re building this unique educational experience together – USF and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange,” Sister Jayne continues. “We’re going to form future healthcare professionals who will be learning the foundations of what it means to continue the healing ministry of Jesus in the 21st century.”

“The people we need in nursing are people with passion!” exclaims Eben Howard, director of the USF nursing programs in Southern California. Howard, a former cop who felt there was more he was called to be, left the force to enter nursing school, and later earned an MBA and PhD. He always wanted to help people, enjoyed patient care, and found talent for administration and teaching. An under-staffed medical mission trip in West Africa prompted him to pursue his nurse practitioner’s license. When you meet him, Howard’s enthusiasm for healthcare education fills the room. “We need people like Katherine,” effuses Howard. “We need people who are service oriented and may want to make a change of career toward patient care; people like firefighters, cops, EMTs and medics. We plan to recruit them.”

Howard recalls with a note of gratitude that someone once took a chance on him. “You have to give people opportunity because you don’t know where it’s going to go once they get that chance. These programs give that chance to those with passion, life-experience and a desire to work hard. These are our future leaders in health care.”

USF’s vision aligns perfectly with the Sisters’ spiritual tradition of identifying community needs and working together with others to make the world a better place. Both USF and the Sisters embrace an Ignatian vision and mission: educating men and women to be for and with others who serve the needs of the poor and marginalized. In addition, the ministry of education is one of the most successful forms of systemic change. Sister Mary Beth adds “Our combined goal of recruiting, educating and graduating students from underrepresented ethnic groups will both provide more health resources for those in need, and help people like Katherine move into better opportunities for employment, with more security for her and her family.”

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- Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

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**UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO**
School of Nursing and Health Professions

**Contact the USF Office in Orange and your application fee will be waived.**

University of San Francisco
School of Nursing and Health Professions
480 S. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868
(714) 633-5626
https://www.usfca.edu/nursing/bhs/
My pace at the end of the year doesn't often help me to be good to myself and others. Rather than hustle through the season and make hopeful resolutions on December 31, I can change now! I can start by giving thanks. Thank you, heavenly God, for this Thanksgiving holiday and the warmth it offers: living under a roof, wearing comfy clothes, savoring a meal (repeatedly), delighting in the company of family and friends. What better way to end a year?

Q: Who is not at this blessed table? How can I set a place for them?
A: I can extend an invitation, provide food, give a jacket or socks, talk with people – listen to someone’s story. I can extend joy with a smile.

As the Advent season begins I have about 3-1/2 weeks before Christmas. I know to wait and anticipate. It’s counter-cultural, but I can take advantage of this time; allow myself to draw nearer to God. Note: set alarm on phone for short prayers.

Morning: thank God for coming into the world as one of us.
Afternoon: remember Emmanuel, God is with us now.
Evening: tomorrow is a new day and Jesus is coming.

Another way to begin the year: decrease my screen time and replace it with God’s creation. Get into nature – the yard, the park, the forest, the beach, look up in the rain, and give thanks. People are God’s creation too. This is where I stumble the most. Who do I need to connect with, to tell them I’m sorry, or to let know that past hurts are forgiven? Reunite. It may be hard. Whatever happens, I can respond in love; it’s a difference maker.

Blink! Midnight Mass is tonight. Wipe the slate; everything is new; Christ is born among us! Maybe I can share the Light by setting a place at the table or reconciling with __________________________ (see above).

Call __________________________

One thing I want to do when we see the whole family tomorrow is to look for those who may be overlooked. I want to make sure I talk with __________________________ and __________________________.

I can’t wait to be with everyone! Joy! Everything feels right. Happy New Year, indeed! I don’t have to wait until midnight next week. My new year is well underway.
Bethany House: Love & Ministry

In March 2012, Sister Jayne Helmlinger, General Superior, addressed the congregation during Assembly Days and urged the sisters to work together in pursuing partnership and community over personal agendas.

“Sisters, now is the time for us to move beyond our individuals pockets of passion...into a communal piece of lace that reflects the heart of our charism and God's deep desire for us in our world today,” she said. And Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ was struck with an idea.

Sr. Louise Ann had founded Bethany, a shelter for women in transition. But as the ministry grew and sought to help more women each year, its long-term sustainability in its location within the Motherhouse was unclear. A month more women each year, its long-term sustainability was in transition. But as the ministry grew and sought to help more women each year, its long-term sustainability in its location within the Motherhouse was unclear. A month later Sr. Jayne’s words, Sr. Louise Ann asked Sr. Louise Ann Micek, CSJ was struck with an idea.

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Sr. Louise Ann, referencing how during its first years Bethany had looked to Mercy House for ideas about best practices. At that time, Mercy House did not have a program for single women, a need Bethany fulfilled then and one the newly formed Bethany House will fill into the future.

Deseree Seja, who graduated from Bethany two years ago, is excited about the future of Bethany House. “It’s really glad that Bethany and Mercy House have merged together and united as one big family,” Seja said, adding that the partnership means additional resources and space to help even more women. In fact, a triplex home in Anaheim is being outfitted for Bethany House’s needs and will allow the organization to serve approximately 42% more women in need like Seja.

Seja began her time in the program with low self-esteem and no goals for her future. Now she’s pursuing a career as a phlebotomist technician and earned her certificate from US Colleges in Anaheim last April. She attributes much of her success to the compassion and love of Bethany’s staff, characteristics she knows will transfer to Bethany House as well.

“They care,” she said. “They want to see us women succeed and fulfill a career and be able to move on in life in a positive way.”

For many organizations, moving on could be a challenge but the transition to Bethany House has been remarkably seamless. Sr. Louise Ann attributes this to the similarities in values and culture between the two groups. Larry Haynes, Mercy House executive director, echoed that sentiment saying, “This is a partnership that has always made sense to us.”

Hearing both leaders talk about the relationship between their organizations it is clear Bethany House is truly a partnership. “The only way we can expand the vision of Bethany is if we stay together,” said Haynes, referencing how Bethany's leadership will continue to be involved. “We need those touchstones, people who have been involved with Bethany, to make sure we’re doing our jobs and continuing Bethany’s work.”

As Bethany House grows into its own life, it will ensure the work of its founding organization will live on. It will continue to demonstrate Christ’s love to those inside and outside their walls by being a compassionate presence in the neighborhood. The triplex in Anaheim will include many of Bethany’s decorations and furniture as well as its incredible reputation for success and building relationships.

But Bethany House will forever be imbued something else, something less tangible. Haynes called it “spirit” and Sr. Louise Ann called it “Bethany’s essence” but perhaps Deseree Seja termed it best: “Love.”

A Place to Call Home

In March 2014, with support from the Sisters of St. Joseph, Bethany House purchased a triplex located in Anaheim to serve as the new site for the transitional shelter for single women. Rehabilitation of the home began in October and is scheduled to complete in December 2014.

The 3,300 square foot property includes a 3 Bedroom/2 Bath unit, which will house the resident manager and two residents. There are also two 2 Bedroom/2 Bath units, each of which can house up to four residents. The design of the property makes it ideal for group gatherings such as life skills classes, communal meals and social events. This unit will also include an on-site residential coordinator’s unit and office for individual case management meetings. The community’s exterior will include a center courtyard area, laundry facility, and on-site parking.

Bethany residents met weekly with Case Manager Nomy Gilad (right) to help them keep on track in the program and provide them with counseling services. Gilad will continue in this role for Bethany House.
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange offer sincere thanks to all those who joined us in our ministry by making gifts to the CSJ Ministry Fund between July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

Joshua Allee
Joseph & Virginia Baldelli, Jr.
Stephanie Bodi
Bruce Borgen
James M. Burns
Rev. Stephen Corder
Eleanor Cossio
Mary Ann Radigan Dahnert
Cecilia Dillernardo
Walker & Harriet Ograba, Jr.
Sr. Jo Ann Eannareno, CSJ

The following individuals were honored with memorial gifts and have a special place in our daily prayer and Mass offerings. We pray for their eternal rest. The following are Memorials from July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

Sr. Virginia Avellan
by Ernest A. Avellan
David Beu
by Fredrick H. & Carol Beu
Roger Brockman
by Walt H. Bitts
John Consiglieri
by John Consiglieri
Joseph S. & Rose. M. Chivello
by Joseph A. Cinnella
Deceased Family
by John Louis
Ron Elliott
by Ret. Col. USMC R. F. & Josephine Armstrong
Charles Cassidy
by Anthony R. Hatcher

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange express their gratitude for the following groups and organizations who made gifts between July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

Innplementation Institute, Revenue Cycle Service, St. Joseph Center, St. Joseph Health and Taller San Jose

By special remembrance in the Sisters’ daily prayer and Mass offerings, we honor the following people at the request of their friends and relatives. The following are Honorees from July 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

By your gift where it is most needed at the time the gift is received.

Correction: If there has been an error in a listing, please contact the Development Office at (714) 633-8121 extension 4408 or 7720. We will be happy to publish a correction in our next issue.

What Will Be Your Legacy?

A legal will can provide an opportunity to remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and support those we serve. We receive a number of gifts this way. If you let us know, we can use your gift for the ministry you choose. Or we will use your gift where it is most needed at the time the gift is received.

Ask your attorney or financial planner to help create your legal will so that your wishes will be honored.

A gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange through your will is an opportunity to align your heart with ours and create a legacy of hope and healing for the wounded in this world.

For information on this topic, please contact Carol Hunold, Director of Development, (714) 744-3121.
Sister Joan Cunningham Enters Heaven, Inspires Scholarship Fund for Nurses


There are many ways people may have known Sister Joan. She proudly served as a volunteer chaplain for the Orange Police Department into her 90s. She walked with countless individuals and families on the path of recovery from addiction, and she engaged in a haircutting ministry to help the homeless and poor. Others may have encountered her at a hospital bedside.

“"I loved being a nurse and a nun,” Sister Joan once said. She had both callings in her life, first becoming a nurse and entering the Navy at the height of World War II. Rather than re-enlist, she headed west and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange where she continued to put her nursing skills to use over a long career in health care. “It has been a real joy to help God’s people,” she shared.

Sister Joan changed lives through her care; an instrument of her love for God’s people. In this spirit, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange announce the Sister Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund for nursing students in financial need. A gift to the Sister Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund can be made here:

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
480 South Batavia Street
Orange, CA 92868

In Memoriam

SISTER JOAN CUNNINGHAM, CSJ
January 4, 1922 - October 30, 2014
68 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange