Welcome Home
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and Mercy House Open the New Bethany House in Anaheim
Will you love these women as we have loved them?” asked the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The Sisters had looked into various partnerships that could expand and extend their Bethany ministry well into the future. Mercy House answered, “We will.”

A bright blue sky greeted guests to the new Bethany House, which opened in Anaheim on a warm Sunday afternoon in February. The Valentine weekend event was rich with metaphors of courtship, marriage and love. Sisters of St. Joseph, the Mercy House team, local neighbors and attendees from organizations that helped make Bethany House a reality came to drink in the freshly appointed triplex that will be home to more women than ever before. The message to the new residents was clear: welcome home.

“We wanted each woman to see something beautiful when they walked into their room,” explained Sister Ellen O’Leary. Adding to the new flooring, paint, appliances, landscaping and furniture were 21 framed paintings from Sister Artists and a Bethany graduate. “We wanted the paintings to give them hope,” continued Sister Ellen.

The project started in late August with Sister Eileen McNerney approaching the Sisters’ Wednesday Night Art Group that meets in the Motherhouse regularly. A floral theme was suggested as something that could offer beauty and variety. Nine contributing artists jumped in to the project immediately. They viewed possible photos they could paint and supported one another through the entire creative process. The collection served as inspiration for additional décor and furniture selections.

“To me, this was one way we could extend our presence to the new house,” says Sister Ellen. “Though Bethany was no longer located at our Motherhouse, we wanted to continue to contribute.”

See “The Story of Bethany” on the next page.
Mid-morning on a windy Wednesday in January, a group of San Diego area Catholic school principals meet in a classroom at a local church. Outside it’s clear skies and sunny with the temperature dropping just a few degrees courtesy of the nearby ocean. Most people would rather be out enjoying the beautiful day not sitting in, essentially, a four-hour meeting on fundraising.

Yet every face in the classroom is smiling and excited. One principal, clearly battling a cold, grins when apologizing for being sick but says she didn’t want to miss anything. Murmurs of understanding circle around the room.

These six principals are nearing the end of their year in the Peer Leadership Practicum. When they’ve finished, each will have a professionally reviewed strategy to assist them in raising funds for his or her school as well as an incredible community of peers to turn to for support. Not bad for an idea that started out with the CSJ Educational Network asking one question: How can we serve?

How Can We Serve?

The CSJ Educational Network Gives Catholic School Principals a Program of Their Own

In 1996, Sister Louise Ann Micek, CSJ, a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, began to consider how the Sisters might share their Motherhouse with deserving women who had fallen upon hard times and who were trying to better their lives. Working closely together with Sister Judith Wemmer, CSJ, Sister Therese Fortier, CSJ, and Bernie Bender, Sister Louise announced the opening of the program in February, 1997. They named the place “Bethany” because that is the home that Jesus went to when he sought a place of welcome and hospitality. For eighteen years, over two-hundred women, some from far-away countries, came to Bethany to live upstairs and to get support to strengthen their lives for the future. Sharon Halsey Hoover, Elisa Leon, Sr. Kathleen McCuistion and Sr. Miriam Eckery were staff members of great influence and support throughout the years.

In 2014, the Sisters made the decision to partner with Mercy House in Santa Ana because they believed that in doing so Bethany could continue its good work and would have the best chance of enduring long into the future.

The new Bethany House opened in Anaheim in February, 2015. The Sisters of St. Joseph now stand with Mercy House in its commitment to “help people find their way back home”... and the Sisters of St. Joseph will continue to wrap their prayers around each woman who passes through these doors in hope of a better life.

Bethany House

The Story of Bethany

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In 2013, the Network saw a distinct need within the Catholic education community for a place where principals could learn from one another and holistically develop their leadership skills. Having already established a strong relationship with San Diego Catholic schools through their Ministerial Formation Program, the Network was perfectly placed to pilot the Peer Leadership Program with six area principals.

“We give good, solid, doctrinally and theologically sound sessions,” Sue LoPiccolo, Assistant Director of the CSJ Educational Network, says. “The Peer Leadership Program is an extension of our work.” When the year-long program concluded, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Participants were clamoring for a continuation in the 2014-2015 year.

After meeting with the principals, the Network identified Fund Development and Marketing as two key areas of interest for the group, a conclusion in line with areas identified by the Diocese of San Diego Visioning Committee. During this planning period word about the Peer Leadership Program had gotten around. Principals were hearing about a program that was designed specifically to address their needs, where they could build relationships with their peers, and develop new skill sets.

“Because of the success of the program in San Diego, word traveled up the state and we were asked if we would be willing to do the program for the principals in the Orange Diocese,” Sr. Judith Dugan, Director of the CSJ Educational Network, said. Soon ten principals from the Diocese of Orange entered the first year of the Peer Leadership Program. From the first session it was obvious the hype was real.

Learning is a priority in Peer Leadership but it is the “needs of the group,” Sr. Judith says, that determines the content of the sessions. Even though Catholic schools in Orange and San Diego may be fundamentally similar, Peer Leadership’s flexibility allows it to adjust in order to address what each cohort has identified as most important to them.

This is best exemplified in Peer Leadership Practicum. Since the participants indicated they wanted to learn more about marketing and fund development, the agenda is structured so that, upon completion, the principals have the means to implement fund raising strategies to support their needs. The Olin Group, a consulting firm, has come alongside each individual to assist in this process, providing invaluable information, resources, and counsel. In addition, each principal will have the option to seek a grant, funded by the Diocese of San Diego, through the CSJ Educational Network, for up to $10,000.

“I think we’ve given them a way to think out of the box and a different way to look at funders, to use what they have, no matter how scarce or abundant, and to use it to their best ability,” said LoPiccolo.

Equally as important is the building of community. “I think the peer relationship that has developed among these principals is key,” Sr. Judith says. “The very first session that we had in Orange, they broke for lunch and one of the principals came in and said, ‘You know, it’s really nice because there are others who have the same problem I have.’” Indeed, Peer Leadership is a testament to the power and importance of community.

**Peer Leadership Program Principals**

Christina Alton- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (San Diego)

Mary Alvarez- St. Cecilia (Tustin)

Noel Bishop- Our Lady’s School (San Diego)

Janice Calender- St. Bonaventure (Huntington Beach)

Manuel Gonzalez- St. Juliana Falconieri (Fullerton)

Monica Hayden- St. Irenaeus Parish School (Cypress)

Mary Johnson- St. Michael Academy (San Diego)

Francine Kubasek- Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Habra)

Mike Letourneau- St. Catherine of Siena (Laguna Beach)

Dan O’Neal- St. Patrick’s School (San Diego)

Gina Olsen- St. Rita’s School (San Diego)

Adela Solis- School of Our Lady (Santa Ana)

Steve Stutz- St. Charles (San Diego)

JoAnn Tellefs- St. Joseph (Placentia)

Tom Wazask- St. Francis of Assisi (Yorba Linda)

Joanne Williams- Our Lady of Fatima (San Clemente)

**From the first session it was obvious the hype was real.**
St. Joseph Worker Program to Launch in 2015

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are actively engaged – right now – in launching a St. Joseph Worker Program (SJWP) in Orange County. The region is known for its wealth, but a substantial population faces poverty, violence and related issues. Sisters of St. Joseph want to connect the dots to assist the vulnerable among us. St. Joseph Workers (SJWs) can help. In this Q&A, Program Director Sister Joanna Rosciszewska illuminates how the program works.

Is the St. Joseph Worker Program a volunteer program?
It’s more than that. Participants in the SJWP, named St. Joseph Workers or SJWs, live together in a community. Basic needs – housing, food, transportation – are provided by the program sponsor. During the week, SJWs serve at sites addressing the needs of the vulnerable and participate in activities that nurture their experience, faith and relationships. SJWs are women committed to personal and social change.

Describe the person who might participate in this program.
We invite women age 21-35 to become St. Joseph Workers (SJWs) or SJWs, live together in a furnished home in Orange County, CA. Though they interact with Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters do not live with them. Two cars are available for transportation to and from work. The program provides room and board, healthcare insurance options (through the Catholic Volunteer Network), WIFI, and a $150.00 monthly stipend for personal use.

How do you know if you’re called?
No. This program is geared toward service and discerning a vocation to religious life. Is this program open only to women who are married?
Recreation and fun are available in Orange County year round. SJWs can take advantage of beaches and parks, and most anything you can think of is within a reasonable travel distance. Mass and program presentations are available at St. Joseph Center, Christ Cathedral and Holy Family Cathedral, and there are active young adult groups in nearby parishes.

The SJWP Team in Orange includes five Sisters of St. Joseph. They are Sisters Joanna Rosciszewska (Director), Monique Gautier, Mary Elizabeth Nelsen, Jayne Helmlinger, and Karen Clock.

How do I apply?
It begins by contacting Sr. Joanna Rosciszewska, CSJ: e-mail: peacejr56@yahoo.com; 714-515-0471 or check the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange website at csjorange.org/ministries/st-joseph-worker-program.

What is the living situation?
SJWs live with 3 or 4 other women in a furnished house in Orange County, CA. The SJWP team includes five Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. They are Sisters Joanna Rosciszewska (Director), Monique Gautier, Mary Elizabeth Nelsen, Joyce Helmlinger, and Karen Clock.

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What options are there if a SJW has time off?
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“I’ll Help.”

Sisters Anne Therese Allen and Elaine Moffette share the community spirit of 75 years as women religious.

Those two are undaunted and respond to any changes that come their way,” Sister Michelle Tochtrop chimed in as she watched Sisters Anne Therese Allen and Elaine Moffette navigate between buildings at St. Joseph Center in Orange. The two are often together. One doesn’t see well and the other is challenged to hear you speak. Yet, together they’re an effective team.

“We do walk around a lot and are available to do things together,” explains Sister Anne Therese. “Usually, the two of us work together to get things done.” She attributes this helpfulness to the spirit of the community which she describes as beautiful for a bunch of women living together. Everyone looks out for one another whenever they can. Those roots run deep.

Sister Elaine credits Mother Louis (Bachand) with building a spirit into the order that carries on today. That spirit was to pitch in and work but remember to laugh while you were doing it. If something happens to one sister, all sisters rise to the occasion. “Mother Louis was a real human being with common sense and a deep love for the order,” reflects Sister Elaine. “We’ve shared the good things and the less happy events, though we’ve always had a sense of humor and bonded best when there’s a need before the large community.”

Sister Anne Therese and Sister Elaine met in the novitiate, having entered the congregation a few months apart shortly before World War II. They were soon on their separate missions to schools throughout the state. On occasion, it looked like they followed one another. When one departed a school, the other arrived. Eventually, they were on mission together in Makawao, Maui. “We became friendly when we landed in Hawaii,” recalls Sister Anne Therese. It was their only time on mission together.

America entered World War II in their first years teaching, with Sister Anne Therese in San Diego and Sister Elaine in San Francisco during most of the war years. Sister Elaine was missioned to Makawao in August of 1945 for a few years and was sent back on two other occasions eventually serving as the local superior in the remote location. In total she served 14 years there, akin to being on a foreign mission. Sister Elaine covered all the primary grades in her 31 years as a teacher, though most often at the K-3 level. “I related to them well and we had fun,” she describes.

As Sister Elaine was transitioning to health care ministry, Sister Anne Therese continued on in education ministry at higher grade levels. She taught high school at Christ the King in Lubbock, TX, St. Bernard’s in Eureka and Mater Dei in Santa Ana. In the 1980s, Sister Anne Therese entered Administration at the University of San Francisco and served as an Assistant Dean in the College of Professional Studies. Her nearly 30-year career at USF also had her serving as an adjunct faculty member and English evaluator.

With a grateful smile and a hint of disbelief, Sister Elaine says “just imagine how long we’ve been here, and we keep doing it!” Sister Anne Therese counters with “I can’t say I’ve ever been bored. It’s been 75 years of ups and downs, but a rich, full time.”

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We rejoice with gratitude for our Sisters and their response to God’s call. Celebrating jubilee years in 2015 are:

75th Jubilee
Sister Anne Therese Allen
Sister Elaine Moffette

70th Jubilee
Sister Magali Runyan
Sister Rose Marie Redding

60th Jubilee
Sister Anne Hennessy
Sister Christine Schleich
Sister Ellen O’Leary
Sister Hildegard Ditrich
Sister Judith Fergus
Sister Mary Jean Pejza
Sister Patricia Wagner

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Sister Sarah Jordan

Look for more stories featuring these remarkable women in 2015.

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Sisters Anne Therese Allen and Elaine Moffette are often on the move at St. Joseph Center in Orange.

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With Thanks TO OUR FRIENDS

Gifts

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 October 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015.

Claire Adams
Anonymous
Steel Arostegui
Oscar Baera
Gerard J. & Rose Marie Baird
Mary L. Baur
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Arthur & Dolores Turner
Anna Van Strien
Dan & Mary Ann Vincnet
Mark & Susan Whitaker
Corrine Woods
Randall & Joyce Yates

Honorees

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 between October 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015.

All Sisters who taught All Hallows by Rita Osacem
All Sisters who taught at Notre Dame des Voeux by Rita Osacem
Members celebrating birthdays October, November and December 2014 by All Hallows Institute #182
Margot Abramovitch by Janet L. Raye
Sr. Linda Bartosik, CSJ by Barbara Bartosik
Sr. Sharon Becker, CSJ by Fadi Waddiscome
Sr. Lil Gray, CSJ by Michelle Dakuras
Sr. Denise Collins, CSJ by Rev. Kathleen Heberton
Sr. Joan Cunningham, CSJ by John & Susan Balk

Memorials

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 October 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015.

All deceased CSJs by Barbara A. Erhart Smith
Sr. Virginia Keeler, CSJ by Ernest A. Averl
Roger Brockman by Victor M. Berts
Michael Caldero by Patricia J. Casey
Joe & Lamar Cullin by Dr. Joseph Carrillo
Sr. Joan Cunningham, CSJ by John & Susan Balk
Patrick J. Callanan by Timothy C. Haver
Leoanore T. Mahoney
Jean M. Morgan
Kathleen D’Onghia
Mario Enero Perret
Marl Reed
Kathleen Solled
Kathleen G. Schilla

Custodio
Sr. Mary Bernadette McNulty, CSJ
Sr. Mary Rogers, CSJ
Sr. Mary Jan Poja, CSJ
Sr. Alice L. and Michael E. Colgan
Clarke & Anne Cochran
Dr. Christopher & Christina Celio
Patrick & Celine Campbell

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It is our sincere intention that the names of all our Donors, Employees, Honorees, Memorials and Vendors be represented and spelled correctly. 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.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange express their gratitude for the following groups and organizations who made gifts between October 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015.

Santa Rosa Hospital Foundation
St. Joseph Health Philanthropy
St. Jude Medical Center
Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Council of Orange County
Wipe Out Pest Control,
Kevin Templeton

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MAC Electric, Mark Cooper
Meyer & Reeder, Inc.,
Jeff Oskins

Don Lopez
KPFF Consulting Engineers,
Bill McGuire

Barney Ledbetter

Merry House Bethany
B & B Plumbing,
Bill & Elaine John
CBI Contractors, Inc.,
Barney Ledbetter

Coan Construction Co., Inc.,
Perry Coan
Cundiff Steel Fabricating &
Erecting, Bill McGuire
CWD Electric, Inc.,
Chuck Donohoe

Healthcare, Design &
Construction, LLC,
Scta Berlinske
JJ Floor Covering, Inc.,
Don Lopez
Hoff Consulting Engineers,
Aaron Reynolds

CWD Electric, Inc.,
Landmark Painting Partnership,
Inc., Todd Edwards
MAC Electric, Mark Cooper
Meyer & Reeder, Inc.,
Jeff Oskin

Government Inspection Services,
Joseph P. DeLuca
R.J. Allen, Inc., Ron Markham

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

If you would like to make a gift to the Sister Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund, you can send your donation online at www.csjorange.org/make-a-gift/ or send it to Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, 480 S. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868.

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**Thinking More about Your Legacy**

When I think about the meaning of a legacy, my parents and grandparents come to mind. My grandparents left me a legacy through their humility and hard work. My parents created in me a legacy of service. When I think of how blessed I’ve been by each of them, I ask myself, what will my legacy be? Will I leave behind love, acceptance and make a difference in the world?

Providing shelter, bringing justice, deepening spirituality. Seeing all children learn. To me, these powerful legacies would give my life meaning. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange ask you to walk with us and leave a legacy for the wounded in the world. For information on giving opportunities, contact Carol Hunold, Director of Development, (714) 744-3121.

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**Sr. Joan Cunningham’s Legacy Lives On in Many Hearts**

“I t has been a real joy to help God’s people,” Sister Joan Cunningham once shared. Sister Joan loved being a nurse and a nun. She lived a remarkable life of service. People encountered her giving a free haircut for the homeless or poor, walking with individuals and families on the road to recovery, serving as a volunteer Chaplain for the Orange PD, and talking at a hospital bedside. She changed lives doing what she loved to do: serve.

Sister Joan entered eternal life in October 2014. In her memory, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange set up the Sister Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund to benefit nursing students in financial need. Here are a few reflections from those who had been touched by Sister Joan.

I sobered up when I was just 24 years of age in 1976. I had written an education program for elementary school kids while I was in jail. After release I was often at St. Luke Hospital, where I met Sr. Joan. Later I was given the opportunity to teach the Alcohol Education Course at Pasadena City College School of Nursing. Sr. Joan spent time sharing her amazing insight, strength and experience with the students. I will be forever grateful to her!

Tim H. La Crescenta, CA

I am eternally grateful to be considered a friend of Sr. Joan. Sr. Joan had such a gift for making others feel special. I am comforted by faith that our Heavenly Father now has her in His embrace.

Marni R., Westminster, CA

We will miss Sr. Joan. She brought joy and laughter to our appointments together.

Janell R., Tustin Hearing Center, Tustin, CA

Thanks for the good years being part of your ministry. I know my life has been blessed working with Sr. Joan at Mary’s Kitchen, Meals on Wheels and addiction rehabilitation. I hope in some small way I have been a blessing to the sisters. I love them.

Kathryn O., Santa Ana, CA

My husband practiced dentistry near St. Luke’s Hospital and was fortunate to have Sr. Joan as a patient. He always looked forward to her visits and admired her for her dedication to all those she ministered to. My husband passed away in 2003 and would have wanted to make a gift to the Nursing Scholarship Fund in her name. May God bless her memory.

Betty T., Palos Verdes, CA

I loved Sr. Joan and she will be missed by so many of us. She was unique and served Our Lord in many ways. She was ready to go home and we will meet again. God loves you and so do I.

John and Susan B., Orange, CA

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Special thanks go to Healthcare, Design and Construction, LLC, who funded the framing of the paintings in the new Bethany House. Janice Ramsay-Gonzales (left) and Melissa Reichard (right) from HDC attended the opening.

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For more information, including ways to support ongoing projects, please visit www.csjorange.org or call the Development Office at (714) 633-8121extension 4408.
Three Women Dancing

“Three Women Dancing” by Sister Ellen O’Leary is the first thing that catches one’s eye when walking in the front door at Bethany House. “When people look at the painting, I want it to be an invitation to lighten the load of burdens they carry,” describes Sister Ellen. “It’s an invitation to dance.”