Visioning the Future

We pray for the grace to:

Expand our boundaries, strengthen relationships and foster mutual partnerships.

Witness joyfully to God's abundant love through quality of presence.

Unleash and animate the charism of reconciling, inclusive love.

Respond to the signs of the times and seek out the needs of the people.

Summer 2016

A publication of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
New Leaders and Vision for 2016-2021

In May 2016, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange concluded their Chapter year by electing a new General Council and creating a new vision statement. We asked the new team to describe their fellow members, what they personally thrive on, who influenced their sense of what it means to be a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, and what they’re most excited about right now.

Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ
General Superior

Sisters Say: Sister Jayne wants to know more and be more for people. Though this will be her second term as General Superior, she doesn’t think I’ve arrived.” She is curious and always growing. Jayne is encouraging and always trying to bring out the best in our sisters in a gentle way.

She Thrives On: Journeys with other like-minded and like-hearted people, responding to God’s call to serve one another, is what excites and ignites my passion as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange. Helping others to experience the Spirit’s movement in their lives is how I hope I can be God’s instrument in any given moment. I’m most enthusiastic when I can help another person connect to God through what they do every day.

Influences: I attribute my understanding of being a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange to both Sr. Jane DeLisle and Sr. JoAnn Tabor who were my Vocation Director and Novice Director. In addition, the Sisters I’ve lived with over the years have modeled how to live into the vows and engage in community in the “manner of Joseph” - a humble, compassionate servant. It is how I strive to live each day.

She’s Excited About: I’m most excited about the level of engagement and commitment to our charism that I’m experiencing from our Sisters and all with whom we serve. There is such a strong sense of the Spirit’s work among us: compelling us to risk and be the “face of mercy” to our brothers and sisters. As a congregation, we are hopeful and excited about the journey we’ve been on and are eager to take the next steps that are emerging. We’re committed to enabling the “Family of Joseph” movement to continue and see where this leads us. We’re just as excited about our current ministries in education, health care, spirituality and social justice.

I’m so grateful to the previous Council and for all our sisters who’ve come before us. There remains a deep hunger among us to be the love that our world so desperately needs.

Sister Cecilia Magladry, CSJ
Assistant General Superior

Sisters Say: Sister Cecilia is a compassionate listener. When you come to her, she stops whatever she’s doing and you become her focus. She has been involved in the ministries of education, healthcare and our spiritual ministries. Sister Cecilia is an intelligent and creative person who can see the depth and breadth of an issue and who can share her spirituality in a relational and inspiring way. She loves to read, walk, engage in deep conversations and simply enjoy life. She’s thoughtful, clever, humorous and a deeply spiritual Sister of St. Joseph of Orange.

She Thrives On: I thrive on the deep conversation that goes beyond the surface. I find that level of conversation to be mutually transformational. Even if we can go a deeper level for a few minutes - it gives me a lot of life. Also, chocolate and coffee.

Influences: Where do you want me to start? I’ve known Sister Felicia since I was 6 years old. Rosemarie Redding embodies the charism and I love her. Martha Marie Linhares was a salt of the earth kind of woman and accompanied me when I entered. Sisters Marianna Gemmet and Peggy Deters had a great way of being 100% themselves and 100% sisters at the same time. I see how being a CSJ helped mold them, and how this helped mold our community. We’re not cookie-cutter ladies.

She’s Excited About: I’m most excited and passionate about continuing to grow and learn how to live out of this grace we call our charism. We try to wrap words around it, but it’s never enough. It’s not just CSJs, but many Family of Joseph people who say “wow, I want to live out of that grace too.” I’m passionate about becoming a more discerning community and what we are called to be.

Sister Theresa LaMetterey, CSJ
Councilor

Sisters Say: Sister Theresa comes at life with a deep sense of relationships. Her interests are varied with a love of music, nature and photography. She brings a wonderful background in education, missionary work, liturgy and congregational leadership experiences. As the congregation’s choir director, Sr. Theresa faithfully leads the congregation in song and praise, creating a sacred and inviting spirit to our liturgies and prayers. Her gift is she can listen, scoop it all up and synthesize it, and restate it in an understandable way. Theresa is a gentle soul who is gentle with people.

She Thrives On: I thrive on experiencing God’s gifts in nature and the Spirit’s life, energy, joy, love, compassion and transforming power in music.

Influences: Many of our Sisters have been examples to me of various qualities and attitudes that exemplify what it means to be a Sister of St. Joseph: Sr. Carmen Sarati - joy, Sr. Lorraine Thibault – flexibility, Sr. Veronica Therrien – a grateful heart, Sr. Velma Pelletier and Sr. Denise Collins – cordial charity, Sr. Henrietta Sauvageau – bold faith, Sr. Celine Auton – profound humility, to name a few.

The General Council
The General Council, also known as the Leadership Team, governs the congregation according to its constitution and Church law. The team is responsible for promoting community life and giving direction to ministries. The General Council includes the General Superior, Assistant General Superior and three Councilors.
Sr. Winifred taught me that to be a Sister of St. Joseph is to share my gifts freely and generously because that was God’s intention in giving them to me.

**Excited About:** I’m excited about the abundance of opportunities we have for expanding the impact of our charism in the world as we broaden our relationships with our companions and find new partners in the work of healing, reconciling, and unifying love.

**Sister Sue Dunning, CSJ**

**Councilor**

**Sisters Say:** Sister Sue is energetic, engaging and inclusive in her manner of interacting. Sue is a party waiting to happen! Her varied background in education, missionary work and parish ministry has enabled Sr. Sue to bring a spirit of joy and spiritual depth to the people she has served over the years. Sr. Sue desires to alleviate the conditions that cause injustice and poverty and address the needs of the most vulnerable.

**She Thrives On:** I really thrive on reaching out to those in need and being part of making a difference in lives of people that don’t have the same advantages. People in need are in all kinds of categories, not just the poor. I tend to bring home the stray cats and care for them. There’s a great desire that burns within me that makes me want to continue to bring people together. I’m affected by people who are suffering in the world, whether that’s happening around the world or in my own neighborhood. That compels me to action and to do what I do.

**Influences:** Sister Lucy Scicciotti was a skinny little waif of a thing, but a powerful person. She was treasurer at Regina well into her 90s and she was always solid and sharp. Young sisters start out with much fire and enthusiasm, but she brought a balance to my life. What would be most pleasing to God and how do you respond to that? I appreciated her wisdom. She was a stamp on a letter - always attached to Jesus.

**She’s Excited About:** The Family of Joseph comes to my mind. How we include people with us who are not sisters has often been a challenge. I’m excited that we are ready to share our lives. We’re in God’s time. We don’t have to do this alone. How partnering can happen is exciting to me.

**Sister Mary Elizabeth Nelsen, CSJ**

**Councilor**

**Sisters Say:** Sister Mary Elizabeth is a Sister of St. Joseph alive with our charism and a deep sense of hospitality. As an educator and vocation director, she brings people together and to God. She’s a fun person to be with, who is adventurous and willing to do new things. She’s a “still waters run deep” kind of person. Never underestimate her. She is also a life-long Angels fan!

**She Thrives On:** My passion is outreach. How can I bring God to others? One of the reasons I entered the community is that I always wanted to teach that people are loved by God no matter what. You can bring the love of God to others...it doesn’t have to be grandiose, it can be in simple ways.

**Influences:** My eighth grade teacher, Sister Mary Lyons, did a lot with outreach. She talked about social issues and how sisters reach out to those who are underserved. She has enthusiasm and life and a good focus of how we could bring God to others. I also think about Sister Mariquita. When I started to think about religious life, she provided a great sense of hospitality and welcoming.

**She’s Excited About:** The vision statement is like a booster shot for me. How we might carry this out...I don’t know, but I’m excited. Every one of our sisters can do something here, from the youngest to the oldest. I come with a great deal of hope and eagerness.

**What is a Chapter?**

*Every five years, Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange assess the needs of the times and determine how to best use their congregational resources, including themselves, to fulfill the mission. This time is known as a Chapter. Elected leadership and often a vision or directional statement are among its outcomes.*
A Vision Statement that Resonates

All Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange contributed to the Vision Statement for 2016-2021. The statement echoes the heart of the congregation and serves as a guide for action already underway and to be taken in the next few years. Below, General Council members share thoughts about a few of the statement’s elements.

Animate the Charism

The charism - a gift from God of reconciling and inclusive love - is not on paper. It’s action. If it remains only a document or text for prayer, then it’s not the charism anymore. We need to keep asking the question about what we’re called to be and do.

Any one sister, wherever they are, can spread inclusive love and make the charism come alive wherever they are. All of us can do that; be a visible expression of reconciling, inclusive love.

Equally important is to be able to recognize the charism in others and encourage them to use it as a lens to guide the way they live and minister in the world. Many women and men are attracted to our charism of reconciling, inclusive love. Part of our work is to continue our legacy of formation in the charism in our current ministries and in new and evolving works.

Animating the charism means that who we are, what we do and why we do it flows from our charism of unioning love. It is through our individual and communal thoughts and actions that our charism comes alive within ourselves and among the people with whom we are engaged.

It means looking with a critical eye to the needs of our neighborhood, our world, and working with others to do and why we do it flows from our charism of unioning love and making the charism come alive wherever we are.

Witness Joyfully to God’s Abundant Love

Each of the key words in that phrase is jam-packed with meaning. I strive to be self-empathetic so God’s immense joy and unconditional love is experienced by those I encounter. Yet, even my short comings don’t limit God’s ability to love. I will continue working for unity and embracing the good in each person, and know that God will do the rest.

The simple but powerful “we’re not any different from anyone else,” said Cathy Acton, a Core Member. “We all have the same needs, the need to be loved and to be valued.”

Expand Our Boundaries

Expanding boundaries means moving toward inclusiveness for all. It can be pushing beyond our own comfort zone. Where is it that our charism is needed? It might take us to avenues that we’ve never been to before.

It’s about the more. If you get to the edges of the horizon, there’s always a new horizon. Expanding our boundaries is always opening our arms to embrace.

Fear is never the reason to not try something. It may be with me, but it won’t stop me because there is something stronger. Perfect love conquers all fears.

Our desire is to join with others in addressing the enormous needs and woundedness in our world. Pope Francis, Bishop Kevin Vann, the leadership of LCWR and other Catholic organizations are modeling this same desire to bring people together to talk about and address the suffering in our world and in our neighborhoods.

Mutual collaboration is the only path to successfully serve the “dear neighbor without distinction” and to assure the ongoing influence of the charism in our world.

L’Arche Wavecrest

Built on Relationships

Since its founding in 1964 by Jean Vanier and Father Toman Philippe, L’Arche (French for “the ark”) has expanded to over 140 communities around the world. The L’Arche community of Orange County was established in 1997 and in 2004 L’Arche Wavecrest became the first L’Arche Home in California.

L’Arche Wavecrest is a home where residents with and without disabilities live together in companionship and harmony. There is diversity in social origin, religion, culture, and intellectual capacity. They strive to serve and strengthen relationships among themselves.

Residents at L’Arche Wavecrest consist of Core Members (those with learning disabilities) and Assistants (those without disabilities). They live together as a family, sharing all aspects of daily life. There are no clients and caregivers, just friends. The community embodies Christ’s words in John 17:21, “… that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

Every aspect of the organization is grounded in mutual respect, community, and valuing the dignity of each person. It’s a message very familiar to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. For Sister Karin Nuernberg, it was a stark contrast to what she had experienced before.

With a background in social work, Sister Karin saw firsthand how some facilities and group homes can devalue individuals with disabilities. When she arrived at L’Arche, where she served as an Assistant and a House Coordinator, she saw that model turned upside down.

The L’Arche model of care for adults with intellectual disabilities was specifically developed as an alternative to institutionalized care. Instead of building barriers, L’Arche builds relationships. Instead of hiding behind closed doors, L’Arche extends beyond its homes and seeks out those who also have a passion for their work.

For example, both Sisters Kathleen Maloney and Michelle Tochtrop have relatives with intellectual disabilities. They accepted the invitation to join the Board of Directors because they saw an opportunity to join with others in serving the dear neighbor without distinction.

For many of the Core Members, their pasts have been marked with instances of hurt and discrimination. They’ve been rejected or stigmatized because of their disabilities. Now, their environment is filled with opportunities to share their gifts and talents with the broader civic community.

One of the main goals of L’Arche Wavecrest is to draw attention to the gifts that persons with disabilities can contribute. Core Members are often blessed with peacefulness, a welcoming spirit, an ability to put others at ease, or a knack for engaging with people.

Core Members are engaged with different local programs to highlight their unique talents such as singing and art, this love and make the charism come alive wherever they are.

Along with Assistants, Core Members share in daily activities, spiritual reflection, and personal connections throughout the civic community in Orange. The simple but powerful interactions spread the importance of diversity and uniqueness while breaking the stereotypes of persons with intellectual disabilities.

“...in every person, we find someone who is truly remarkable, who is uniquely beautiful, who is uniquely loved and valued.”

Core Members and Assistants live together as a family at L’Arche Wavecrest.
Celebrating a Jubilee in 2016

Sister Michaela Rock
Heart for Healthcare
For much of the last 60 years, Sister Michaela Rock’s heart has been set on healthcare ministry.

Her passion emerged during her tenure at St. Joseph Hospital (SJH) in Orange. Arriving in 1976, she found a unique joy and purpose in a variety of jobs and was inspired by those she worked alongside. She saw it as possible to meet the needs of the dear neighbor in sometimes the most ordinary of ways.

“What I experienced was the goodness of everybody taking care of one another,” she said, her face lighting up in reminiscence.

Her time at SJH stuck with her when she eventually moved on to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. There Sister Michaela pioneered the Community Benefit department to serve the poor surrounding community. The department has since expanded to encompass all of St. Joseph Health in Sonoma County.

Serving as Vice President and with a team of nine, Sister Michaela connected with residents one on one, door to door. She learned what they needed and helped them get it. Some requests were simple, such as large trash cans so they could properly clean their homes and neighborhoods. Others took more work but Sister Michaela is not easy to deter. She initiated a health education program and participated in community-based advocacy.

Expressing a Passion for People
Sister Rosaleen Hanlon has always seen people as gifts from God, each with their own importance in relationship to others. With that foundation, it bothers her when she witnesses something that appears unfair or unjust. In her book, everyone should get an opportunity. It’s only natural that social justice issues and seeking out the truth of things are among the many interests that reflect her passion for people.

“People need to know that not everyone has access to resources like clean drinking water,” says Sister Rosaleen. As a member of social justice committees since they began, Rosaleen clearly connects issues with love and dignity of people. She carries a banner in the fight against human trafficking, but also cares deeply about each person’s spiritual life. With a spiritual foundation, she believes relationships with one another become the catalyst to solve many societal problems.

Upon entering religious life, Sister Rosaleen recalls expecting her time at SJH to do so. Sister Rosaleen stays flexible. She’s been sent to do many jobs and always received the proper training to do whatever was needed. “Part of religious life is doing and being for others, including our own sisters,” she explains. Observing how people think and work have always been an interest to her. Serving as an occupational therapist, working in a food distribution center, operating a TV studio, listening as a spiritual director, writing a letter for someone who can’t see well, and visiting people in their convalescence are all ingredients in a recipe of love and service that she has prepared over time. All has been a gift from God to whom she is most grateful.

Sister Sharon Fritsch
A Journey
As a teenager, Sister Sharon Fritsch visited a friend at St. Joseph Preparatory High School. Located at what is now St. Joseph Center, it served girls interested in becoming sisters. Kneeling in the chapel Sister Sharon had an “overwhelming experience of God” and knew she was meant to be a sister.

“I was very young then that I could appreciate their antics,” she said with a smile. Sister Sharon also fondly recalls teaching the first graduating class of Rosary Academy, Fullerton.

From there she branched out. In the mid-1970s she felt a strong call to parish ministry within a multicultural, poor community in South Central Los Angeles, where she would live and work for six years. In that time she built a bilingual religious education program and participated in community-based advocacy.

In 1992, while on sabbatical in Washington, D.C., her heart was set on fire by the mission of Global Education Associates (GEA). Sister Sharon described her eight years with GEA, working with 100 religious orders to develop a global spirituality and to take a more active role in the global community, as the peak of her ministerial experience.

With the mission of the General Council, serving as the Resident Manager for a low-income housing project, or helping young people at Taller San Jose Hope Builders earn their GED or high school diploma, Sister Sharon is simply grateful to God for “calling me to this Community with its mission of uniting people to God and one another.”

Sister Charleen Robinson
There and Back Again
Like most sisters, Sister Charleen’s first ministry was teaching. But she never felt comfortable in the role and after a few years the school administrator asked if Sister Charleen had ever thought about working in healthcare. She took the hint. And she found her calling.

Within a decade she became Director of Regina Residence, helping to ensure quality care for elderly and retired sisters.

“For me, it was a perfect match. And they seemed to be happy with me,” she added with a laugh.

More than happy, actually. Sister Charleen served as Director for 12 years and then served another 10 as RN Administrator. With the grand gifts of patience and kindness, she created a safe and loving environment for the sisters. She had a special place in her heart for the sisters in Memory Care and found joy building relationships with them.

Word spread of the good work Sister Charleen was doing and soon enough the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los Angeles called. They needed a director for their retirement center too. So for a couple of years, Sister Charleen balanced both, dividing her time between Orange and LA and braving the legendary traffic that divided them.

Then in 2001, after retiring from Regina Residence, God brought her back to the last place she imagined: the classroom. Sister Charleen was asked to help teach young people at Taller San Jose Hope Builders as part of their healthcare training academy. This time she had experience and expertise to share.

Now she relishes her time teaching, watching her students’ confidence soar and rejoicing with them when they grasp a concept. It took some time, but her ministry came full circle and continues on.

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Those Who Stand With Us

Beloved Brothers and Sisters from Batavia: The Smith Family

The Smith siblings rode their bikes to Holy Family School from their family home on North Batavia Street past the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange's Motherhouse on South Batavia. If they ever deviated course, mom and dad would say "you know". When they were old enough, Timothy and Christopher became altar servers at the Sisters' 6 a.m. Mass. Breakfast with the Sisters would follow, then, it was off to school. "It was very serious to look out into that sea of black and white," remembers Father Christopher Smith. "Now, I go into that same sacristy that I did as a boy and still prepare to celebrate Mass with them."

Talking about their past and present experiences with the Sisters, Christopher, Kathy and Teresa "Tita" Smith shed light on the future of the congregation too. Buildings and minds may change over time, but healthy relationships with God and one another are what truly serve the dear neighbor. "Amidst the orange groves on Batavia, our neighbors were like family, and what happened to you happened to the Sisters as well."

"If I'm talking with a sister about something important, emotional or serious, they will listen with absolute attention," says Kathy Smith. "Listening is a gift and a grace, and I come away with the feeling that God loves me. I've had this experience more than once and it has really influenced me."

Kathy joined the Smith family by marrying Timothy, and she also encountered the Sisters while attending Holy Family School and Mater Dei High School.

When Christopher Smith was growing up he did not know the words behind the way sisters behaved but the personal attention made him feel like a million bucks. "I was worth everything in the world the way they treated me," says Christopher. "Sisters absolutely believe in the dignity of the person."

Father Christopher, now the Rector at Christ Cathedral, collaborated with Sisters at St. Joseph Church in Santa Ana. The parish neighborhood was afflicted with crime and gangs, but Sisters moved there anyway. Sister Michelle worked tirelessly to help the school. The Tallar San Jose Hope Builders ministry evolved out of these actions.

"I love that the Sisters see a need and go for it," Christo- pher professes. "They go places that most people don't want to go, to defend the dignity of those who need it. This nourishes and inspires me."

"The concepts of dignity and serving all people are what attract me," Sister Linda Faulhaber, Tita, who is the Mayor of Orange and Executive Director of Catholic Charities Orange County, speaks of the past and the present. "She remembers praying for (just as prominent in her "I come away with the feeling that God love- mes, emotional or serious, they will listen with absolute attention," says Kathy Smith. "Listening is a gift and a grace, and I come away with the feeling that God loves me. I've had this experience more than once and it has really influenced me."

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Often we receive gifts to be used for ministries where the need is greatest. Here are some of the ways you can help.

**Gifts**


- Louise Hughes
- Frances H. Stinchcomb
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- Ana Say

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- Deborah Proctor

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- Annie Jordan

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**Thank You for Standing With Us**

Often we receive gifts to be used for ministries where the need is greatest. Here are some of the ways you help us move our mission forward:

- **$1000**
  - Pays for books and tuition for a worthy nursing student
  - Buys medicine and healthcare for the poor in Tijuana
  - Feeds poor families in El Salvador and pays for buses to far away schools

- **$500**
  - Helps pay for retreats, spiritual direction, speakers and formation program support for Emmanuel Spiritual Ministries
  - Defrays the cost of transportation and shelter for our St. Joseph Workers who serve the poor and vulnerable in our community

- **$250**
  - Pays for the needs and services to victims of human and sex trafficking to those living with AIDS and the imprisoned
  - Offsets the cost of formation training and leadership training for K-12 Catholic school educators to build a world of peace and justice, one student at a time
Memorials

The Sisters pray daily for those who have gone before us and are remembered in a special way through a gift from a loved one between January 16 and May 31, 2016.


Request Gifts

We deeply appreciate the estate planning of recently deceased partners in mission who included the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in their will and trust.

Barbara Blankenship Fiscus

Online Giving

You can use your credit card to support the mission and ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. To make a secure, online gift, go to csjorange.org. In the top right click on “Make a Gift,” then click “Donate.” Please consider making a monthly recurring gift.

Memorials make a difference

When you make a gift in memory of a loved one or a Sister of St. Joseph, you are helping to extend the mission of the sisters wherever they are. Memorials may be sent to Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Attn: Development Department, 480 S. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868-3998, or online at csjorange.org.

STAR GIFTS - THE NEXT GENERATION

Recently our family received an invitation to a high school graduation. The graduate asked us to consider a gift to one of her favorite charities in place of a graduation gift. A few weeks later, I read a Facebook post. St. Cecilia School first graders connected with first graders in Sr. Alicia’s CCD program in Tijuana. Sr. Alicia, Sr. Sharon Fritsch and St. Cecilia’s teachers connected St. Cecilia’s kids with Tijuana kids through prayer intention boxes, cards, supplies and gifts.

I was encouraged. In recent years charities are seeing a decline in giving by young people, though young people spend much more than their parents before them. Kids receive 3,000 ad messages a day or 23 million ad messages by the time they are 21! Ad messages teach kids that material possessions and certainly new technology, once considered “wants” are now “needs.”

Giving is a need.

We know giving helps build confidence in kids while materialism can lead to feelings of unhappiness or frustration. Giving sends a positive message to kids; “I have been blessed. I am happy to share.” and ads often teach kids they are not good enough or they don’t have enough. Giving is also an act of mercy.

When someone gives a gift, we ask kids to say thank you to their friends and family. It is rude to say “I deserve this gift,” right? When we set an example for kids that it’s good to give, we remind them of God’s generosity. Being generous to others and seeing others with eyes of mercy and compassion is another way to say thank you and share God with other kids.

These generous hearts, thankfully, are the next generation.

To reach Carol Hunold in the Development Office, please call (714) 744-3121 or e-mail hunold@csjorange.org.
Stay connected with us on social media. Visit our website and sign up for our e-newsletter, *Connections*, at csjorange.org.

**Founders’ Day**

**Day of Service**

In Our Neighborhoods

**Sat. Oct. 15 2016**

For more information, please email mperales@csjorange.org or call 714-633-8121 ext. 7716.

**Please Visit**

In the spirit of hospitality, we invite you to visit our Motherhouse Heritage Room. For more information on scheduling a tour, please call Carol Hunold at (714) 744-3121 or e-mail chunold@csjorange.org.

**Sundays**

Please join us any Sunday for 8:00 a.m. Liturgy in our Sacred Heart Chapel.