A New Path for Catholic Schools
CSJ Educational Network Helps Two Schools Find a Way Forward

“The times are a changin’” says Sister Judith Dugan matter-of-factly. Sister Judith, the director of the CSJ Educational Network, explains “across the United States, the way we know Catholic elementary schools as parish schools is in transition.” Low enrollment and high tuition is a difficult combination for sustainable Catholic education available to all.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for every parish or diocese. New models for operating schools are emerging in different parts of the country. In San Diego, the diocese enlisted the help of the CSJ Educational Network to assist two schools in finding a new, sustainable way of being.

“We got into this because Bishop McElroy and John Galvan [Director of Schools for the Diocese of San Diego] recognized two schools in need,” explains Sister Judith. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (OLSH) – staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange when it opened nearly 90 years ago and a member of the CSJ Educational Network – and Blessed Sacrament School are located just two miles apart from one another. Lower enrollment at both schools has compounded each institution’s challenges to move into the future.

Simply closing the schools was not desired by anyone. The challenge is figuring out how to bring them together into a strong, affordable, sustainable Catholic school. Through conversations with Mr. Galvan, the CSJ Educational Network was invited to make a proposal to help the two schools integrate. A proposal was submitted and accepted. The summer of 2017 is the midpoint of the two-year integration project.

With the People

“Our proposal was appropriate to the way Sisters of St. Joseph do things,” shares Sister Judith. “We divide the city and find the needs. We gather like-minded people to figure out what is going to work and then go after it.”

Sister Judith enlisted the help of consultant and long-time collaborator Marcos Ramirez to help facilitate the integration project. Establishing a “community of concern” was essential so that whatever happens to the schools, it is not “done to them,” but that stakeholders have a voice in what is going on. Pastors and principals, alumni and family and friends all have a voice via the project steering committee and additional avenues.

This is the significance of the integration project in San Diego. Bishop McElroy has been extremely willing to put in the extra time and money to involve the local people in possible decisions about the future of the schools. Ramirez puts it this way, “the unique value of our approach is that we are not doing this to people or for people, but with people.”

On the Cover
Get Up! Look! Hope!

The cover image features a young woman with a heart for prayer and our congregational heritage and mission living within her. Inside the silhouette are photos from different eras of the congregation.

Pope Francis, using the story of Abraham in a recent homily, instructs us to “Get Up! Look! Hope! Always look at the horizon and go forward. Our history is still open: it is open to the end; it is open to mission.”
In trusting collective wisdom of the stakeholders, the journey of both school communities is dignified in two ways: they can celebrate a “mission accomplished” from previous decades of service to the community, and come together to envision a new expression of that Catholic education mission as a new, integrated school serving the region.

A Very Good Place to Start

Gearing up for the integration project involved piles of research of schools and dioceses across the U.S. Three evolving trends for school sustainability surfaced, each being tinkered with in unique ways to best serve the local community (see sidebar). In viewing the many models, there is not one model being replicated in San Diego, but features from different experiences are being applied.

Listening to the wisdom of lessons-learned across the country has resulted in several takeaways. It’s essential to have an excellent steering committee. Don’t be abrupt in any part of the transition process. Keep all stakeholders informed and engaged.

Year one of the project included looking at the state of the schools in detail. Everything else was people-centric. Creating an infrastructure of a steering committee and finding the diverse individuals that would serve it has been successful. Plentiful opportunities to engage stakeholders took place via individual interviews, focus groups, community forums at each school, and one-on-one phone calls featuring a representative sample of each school. A survey was also completed.

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<th>TRENDING MODELS FOR SUSTAINABLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS</th>
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<td>COALITIONS &amp; ALLIANCES</td>
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<td>Groups of schools leverage economies of scale and operational efficiencies in areas such as personnel and contracts.</td>
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A market assessment of the population demographics within five miles of each school was also achieved. The assessment revealed that growth is possible, yet it also validated the dual challenges to the population of affordability and accessibility for those who want a Catholic education. What is clear is that Catholic education cannot be supported by tuition alone. Philanthropic support is part of the equation for the Catholic education model moving into the future.

The emphasis on people dignifies the journey of each school community. It takes more time, energy and resources, which have been provided thanks to Bishop McElroy. Research confirms what the heart tells you: it’s the most meaningful and successful way to approach integration.

**Difficult Decisions, Past and Ahead**

“One real gift in this process has been the resiliency of each principal,” admires Sister Judith. They have continued to operate in survival mode while actively dreaming up the future. “I think the reality may have hit them at a step forward meeting when the future school site was unveiled. This has been no easy task, but I think their faith has been really strong.”

The 2017-18 school year has the schools still separate. They will integrate on the current Blessed Sacrament campus in the 2018-19 school year. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart would have taken an additional million dollars to update. The OLSH campus was also viewed as having greater potential to repurpose after the integration, though what it may become is still being explored.

Forming a school board is one of the next significant steps. It will focus on the development and finances of the school. Each parish will provide spiritual support, but not full financial support of the new school. The diocese will assume the financial responsibility.

Finding unity in diversity will be a challenge. The combined neighborhoods include immigrant communities from all over the world with multiple languages and economic levels. The schools have different tuition rates, so finding the sweet spot for a new tuition rate is of high concern.

Many families at OLSH walk their children to school. With the new campus further away, school transportation is a concern to be addressed.

A new name and mascot will be determined in the coming year. Looking at the gems of each school will help determine a collective identity as they come together. What patron saint might represent the school’s charism?
CSJ Educational Network Welcomes Bret Allen, New Associate Director

The CSJ Educational Network has a strong call to continue meeting the needs of Catholic schools as well as reaching out to meet the ever-growing challenges of these changing times. In dialogue with congregational leadership, the decision was made to hire an associate director of the Network. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Bret E. Allen joined the Network on July 3, 2017.

Bret is well qualified for this position. He has a strong commitment to the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph and is familiar with the mission, vision and values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Bret has taught in schools in San Francisco, been the principal of two Network schools, and served on the Network’s Advisory Committee for nine years.

For the last eleven years, Mr. Allen has been the Associate Superintendent for the Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He has worked closely with the principals in San Francisco and given faculty retreats and presented numerous faith formation and leadership workshops.

The addition of the new associate director position is a great blessing for the CSJ Educational Network ministry. Having the right person in the role, in Mr. Allen, is an additional boost. In the midst of changing times, we have a bright future in helping to strengthen Catholic school ministry.

Blessings and Hopes

Sister Judith gratefully compliments the support of Bishop McElroy and Mr. Galvan, who have put their money where their mouth is to support the school communities. “Bishop McElroy and Bishop Vann (Diocese of Orange) are so committed to Catholic education that it’s a sign of hope for me,” Sister Judith lights up. She is also deeply grateful for her project colleague Marcos Ramirez. “We have been down the road to San Diego so often that we know all the bumps that will spill your coffee,” she laughs.

Sister Judith and Marcos both look forward to the arrival of Mr. Bret Allen, the first Associate Director of the CSJ Educational Network (see sidebar).

Public and charter schools exist in the area currently served by OLSH and Blessed Sacrament. The value of a Catholic school there is the same as in any region: its Catholic identity. A curriculum and environment based on Scripture and traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church - such as dignity of the person, community participation, care for creation, solidarity with the human family and the option for the poor to name a few - creates young citizens that will achieve success for themselves and others. The evidence shows that the community wants opportunities for Catholic education. It is our hope to provide it.
An Instrument of God’s Work

If you're around long enough, you're guaranteed to experience some amazing moments. But getting Sr. Marguerite Gendron, who turned 102 in February, to talk about any of them, isn't easy.

“I would be bragging,” she said with a laugh.

Something she does love talking about is teaching. From 1935-1948, Sr. Marguerite taught grade school and especially enjoyed the kindergarten classes. When she switched to being a high school teacher and later a guidance counselor from 1948-1989, she loved those students too. Some even became sisters years later and a few are in retirement right alongside Sr. Marguerite.

Many students still send letters, thanking her for leading them closer to the Church and for her positive influence on their lives. But she doesn't take any credit, of course. “I never went into a classroom with the idea that I was converting people. I just went to teach, like every other teacher,” she said with a shrug.

“I thank God. I believe, I hope, I have achieved His wishes because after all, it’s all God’s work.”

Having entered when she was 18, Sr. Marguerite has seen God's work in the congregation's transformation over the years. “We try to evolve. There are changes in the Church and sometimes you kind of fear at first, wondering what it's going to be like,” she said. “But I'm not afraid. We've always maintained the charism and mission of the community.”

When she thinks about the life of the community in the future her advice is straightforward and characteristically God-centered.

“Keep going. Always think of who we're doing the work for and never get so involved that we forget that God is there,” she said, nodding sagely. “Keep the spirit.”

Lighthearted and Steadfast

For almost 50 years, Sr. Rita Marie Kropp worked in education. She was beloved as a teacher, cherished as a principal, and indispensable as an administrative assistant. Wherever she was sent, Sr. Rita Marie brought a wonderful sense of humor, a lightness that made her easy to like, and a precision that made her known for efficiency. Problems were dealt with and then laughed about. She got things done, and when you were around her, so did you.

There is a calmness to Sr. Rita Marie, a sense that whatever you need, she will help you with it. In addition to being a teacher, she was a talented seamstress. Her coats, suits, and clothes were well known and admired.

One of her other great loves is gardening. For years, she loved making flower arrangements. The artist in her was always drawn to plants and the organic beauty all around her. She still loves spending time in the gardens for much the same reason. Nothing is ever so peaceful as being in the quiet stillness of nature.

She found much of that during her two years of teaching in Hawaii. There were gorgeous flowers everywhere she looked and the simplicity of life appealed to her. But when it was time to return to the mainland, she didn't put up a fuss. Wherever there was a need, Sr. Rita Marie was there.

In 1977, the congregation departed Rosary High School in San Diego. As principal, Sr. Jo Ann Tabor was tasked with closing things up at the end of the year. Sr. Rita Marie knew the school was near to Sr. Jo Ann's heart. They had worked there together during Rosary’s final two years. So Sr. Rita Marie drove down to San Diego, just to make sure Sr. Jo Ann wouldn't be alone when the school's door closed for the final time. What was a couple hours' drive to be there for her friend?
Friends, Family, and Home

Sr. Jeannette Croteau is a people person. Brought up in a big family, she always knew the warmth found in others. And as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange for 80 years, she has found lasting harmony and mutuality.

“I’ve been blessed to be in a community all of my life because I love being with the sisters and with people,” she said.

Whether teaching for almost 30 years or working with the elderly or even now, in “retirement,” volunteering at St. Joseph Health’s Cancer Center, Sr. Jeannette has always exuded a kindness that has made it easy to make friends. She makes special time to stay connected with those friends and family on a regular basis. Many of them returned the favor this year for Sr. Jeannette’s 100th birthday.

In fact, so many people showed up for the celebration, some traveling from across the country, they had to make do with only champagne and hors d’oeuvres instead of a full meal. “But they seemed to be happy,” Sr. Jeannette said, her eyes glinting. Former students even banded together to send 100 balloons.

And for 80 years, alongside her friends and family, there have been the sisters.

“It has been a life’s long blessing for me that the Sisters of St. Joseph came all the way to Bonnyville, Alberta,” she said. When Sr. Jeannette arrived in Orange in 1937, the incredible weather and grounds made her think she had “reached the promised land.” Her thoughts haven’t changed much.

“Orange is a place of opportunity and I think the sisters are blessed to be in this area with so many good people who support our work, are a part of our lives, and are in partnership with us... I’ve spent a lot of years here and it has been a blessed time for me,” she said sincerely but seriously. Then a smile blooms on her face and she jokes, “I really feel at home now, after 80 years.”
It's difficult for the five sisters marking 70 years in the congregation to believe it's been that long. Surely, it was just yesterday that they were all young teachers trying to navigate elementary-age kids for the first time? For some, education became a lifelong ministry. For others, it was the foundation for other ministries to come.

**The Teachers**

“You have to be gifted to relate to children that age,” chuckled Sr. Bernice Jordan, speaking about her time as a grade school teacher.

Thankfully, like so many other sisters, she was and it served her well through 40 years of teaching. Sr. Bernice was a firm believer in students’ ability to do more than what they were given. With a loving attitude, she challenged her classes to go beyond their curriculum and they eagerly responded.

Once, she was asked to do the music at a morning funeral service. Her class volunteered to learn the Requiem Mass in Latin in a few hours so they could accompany her. Everyone was touched with the beauty of their voices. Many years later, former students still proudly bring up that memory when they write or visit.

Oftentimes, sisters served at schools that served children who came from broken homes or ones touched by violence, drugs, or alcohol. Other students didn't have steady guardians or role models at all. But there were the sisters, day in and day out, mentoring them, loving them, doing whatever they could to provide security, education, and comfort at school.

After years of teaching, there were some sisters who felt called to pursue other ministries. But, once a teacher, always a teacher.

Sr. Pat Hartman served as principal at Holy Family School in Orange, then as teacher and principal again at St. Eugene School in Santa Rosa. Beginning in the late 1980s and through the early 2000s, she transitioned to administrative assistant and teacher's aide duties at schools and also served at the congregation's Regina Residence. When Taller San Jose Hope Builders, a ministry designed to educate at-risk youth in Santa Ana, needed tutors, Sr. Pat happily volunteered. Her experience and quiet patience were perfectly suited to the task.

**The Caretaker**

Sr. Lorraine Thibault had only been a sister for two years when she was sent to teach in Hawaii. That trip was the catalyst for decades of traveling between California and the islands, first Hawaii and later Papua New Guinea. In the latter, she worked in a vocational center where local girls learned to sew and cook. Sr. Lorraine also supervised and taught in elementary schools and was tasked with traveling to the more distant schools in the islands to train new teachers. But she took it all in stride.

She was exceptionally good at looking after others. In between trips to the islands, she taught in California schools and was the assistant mistress in the novitiate. Generous
The Justice Advocate

At the end of the 1990 school year, Sr. Marie Jeanne left her job as a principal in San Francisco and went to work for an organization that helped the homeless transition to stable housing and self-sufficiency. There, she found a calling to justice work, a calling she followed back down to Orange.

“When you go down the path that you don’t intend to go, there’s something at the end of it,” she said. “There’s some reason you’re there.”

When the congregation resolved to start a Justice Center in 1991, Sr. Marie Jeanne became the first Director. Known for her energy and incredible work ethic, she is still renowned and beloved in the justice community. In 2005, she went back up north to continue working for social responsibility and justice related initiatives, including human trafficking. In 2015, Sr. Marie Jeanne was part of a core team of women religious that implored local businesses to help spot and stop human trafficking during one of the biggest sporting events and human trafficking days of the year: the Super Bowl.

The Healthcare Pioneer

In the early 1980s, Sr. Maura Judge was just finishing up ten years as General Superior. The two terms had been defining ones as the Church and the congregation went through a significant shift. But Sr. Maura’s steady hand and focus on prayer and community had brought the sisters closer together. She approached everything with a tender attitude coupled with profound determination. When Sr. Maura set her mind to something, there was little chance of dissuading her.

Which is how, once her second term as General Superior ended, instead of taking a well-deserved rest, she dove straight into strengthening the healthcare ministry. Through careful observation of and listening to the state of healthcare, the Church, and people’s needs in the U.S., Sr. Maura knew a change needed to be made. It was under her direction that St. Joseph Health system was established.

Throughout the process, Sr. Maura faced opposition and dissenters who expressed uncertainty but her goal never wavered. She believed this was the best way to adapt to the evolving needs of communities and to continue the congregation’s commitment to the healing ministry of Jesus.

She was right. Today, that health system has expanded to become Providence St. Joseph Health and their over 100,000 caregivers provide exceptional care to communities across seven states.

In Remembrance

Sr. Carol Marie Kelber was known as the go-to person for help with money management in religious institutions. It was a role she held with grace, dedication, and generosity. Her passing on April 22, 2017 at the age of 89 was met with an outpouring of gratitude for her professional services and love for her faithfulness and compassion. This year was her 70th Jubilee.

Sr. Carol Marie started in finance at the business office of St. Joseph Hospital. Her intelligence and business acumen convinced superiors that she could do more. While working full-time, she earned a degree in Accounting with a minor in Economics from CSU Fullerton.

Returning to St. Joseph Hospital, she worked in accounting. She then became Congregational Treasurer, a role she held until 1981 when she became Director of Finance for St. Joseph Health. As Treasurer, she showed incredible foresight by starting the Community Support Fund, which provides for sisters in retirement, and signing up the community for Social Security when they were eligible.

Her impact spread nationwide when she was elected President of the Treasurers of Religious Institutes and became a founding trustee of the Religious Communities Trust, a cash management program for all religious institutes in the U.S.

In everything, Sr. Carol Marie was calm, eager to learn, and excited to teach. She loved building community with those around her. She is fondly remembered not only for her indelible impact but for her encouraging attitude, lively spirit, and unending kindness.
Those unfamiliar with women religious might think all sisters have the same life experiences. Enter the community. Work in education, healthcare, or social services. Live out your life dedicated to God’s work. While those fundamentals are true, there is a rich diversity to be found in the life of each sister, including those who enter in the same year.

“When I entered religious life, I felt that I should do something important for God,” Sr. Eileen McNerney said. “And I didn’t know what that would be.”

Neither did the other seven women celebrating their 60th Jubilee this year. They would each discover that purpose and calling in their own way.

Early Days

When asked about their experiences entering the community, the jubilarians responded similarly.

“There was something different about the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange,” said Sr. Jeanette Woodward, a sister from Australia.

As young women, these sisters were attracted to the joyful spirit evident in the congregation. That spirit latched onto Sr. Noreen Duffy when she was in fourth grade in Ireland and to Sr. Eileen when she was in high school. Srs. Cecile Bertheau and Grace Grima, who were educated by sisters, saw that spirit every day from the age of five on. Sr. Cecile felt she was “almost born into the community.” Sr. Grace echoed that feeling and never contemplated any other vocation.

The early years were much the same. The new sisters taught during the week and did their college coursework on the weekends. They learned fast and on the job and they were never short of enthusiasm.

For some, the love of teaching only grew as time went on. It became their primary ministry for much of the past 60 years. They loved the children, enjoyed the work, and didn’t mind being sent from one school to another as positions needed to be filled.

“Every moment of my days teaching was really special to me,” said Sr. Noreen, who tallied 51 years in the classroom.

There are a lot of fun stories from those years too and a surprising number of them involve lizards getting loose in the classroom. A student of Sr. Jeanette’s once brought their brother’s pet water dragon to class. When it slipped out of its container and began running around the room, eventually rising upright to run on its two hind legs as water dragons do, all the children leapt onto their desk chairs, screaming. So did Sr. Jeanette.

The Classroom and Beyond

Water dragons notwithstanding, sisters aren’t afraid “to have their sleeves rolled up,” said Sr. Mariquita Domingo. They go out into the world to advocate, comfort, aid, and educate wherever it is needed.

Sr. Cecile also had missionary ambitions but instead of going abroad, she was sent to Hawaii to teach. The four years there were exciting and created some of her most lasting memories. They also revealed to Sr. Cecile, she was much more of a “city girl” that enjoyed being stateside. Other Jubilarians felt the same about themselves.

After going back and forth between schools in northern and southern California for nearly a decade, Sr. Noreen settled in Santa Rosa. It reminds her of Ireland, her homeland. Sr. Grace, who spent most of her teaching years in San Francisco, has also found a home up north. In 1983, she transitioned from teaching to managing the All Hallows Community there.

Wherever they found themselves, sisters never ceased being a beacon of help and goodness, even when meeting a community’s needs seemed overwhelming.

One With

In the early 1990s, Sr. Eileen moved to Santa Ana with three other sisters to better understand the troubles the neighborhoods faced. Every night there was gunfire, police helicopters, and teenagers dying in the street because of gang violence.

With the support of the congregation, she founded Taller San Jose Hope Builders. The ministry, which is still thriving today, helps young men and women escape the cycle of poverty, crime,
and hopelessness by providing them with job training and career skills. It is a perfect testament to Sr. Eileen’s original intention.

“We can’t solve the whole problem, but we can do something.”

That sentiment echoes across ministries of all shapes and sizes. It’s not about statistics, recognition, or the size of the ministry itself. It’s about meeting people where they are and serving them. However that service manifests, “because we have a common goal and a common dream and a common call, we work together to build up the Body of Christ,” said Sr. Jeanne.

As the hospitality coordinator for CSD, Sr. Mariquita enjoyed “providing a welcome presence and creating a sacred space with beauty” for guests. As a Parish sister in Eureka, Sr. Cecile did home visits with people too ill to attend Mass. In Santa Rosa, Sr. Noreen does much the same as a volunteer for Santa Rosa Memorial. Those jobs might seem small on the outside but for those affected, they’re incredibly big. One woman gave Sr. Cecile flowers every time she visited, as a simple gesture of gratitude.

As Sr. Noreen said, “I try to bring joyful love to everyone I meet, regardless of who they are.”

Reflections on the Past

With eight sisters celebrating 60 years in the community, somehow not even one wishes to change any part of that time. Every decision, every trial and triumph, every lesson has led them to exactly where they were and are supposed to be.

“I felt like everything was God guiding me from one step to the next and me not being certain about where that step would be but being open to listening to God and being patient,” said Sr. Eileen. “When things were hard, that’s when I learned.”

There are plenty of fun memories too. As young sisters, Srs. Gemma and Jeanette pinned up their skirts to play soccer on the beach. Sr. Cecile recalls the fresh pineapple on her porch every morning in Hawaii. Sr. Mariquita reminisces fondly on celebrating holidays and holy days with sisters in Humboldt County in her early years in the congregation.

And always it comes back to where it started: the community and the sisters. “The women who are in our community are valiant women,” said Sr. Noreen, and her fellow Jubilarians agree. They cannot say enough about the incredible strength that comes from the unity in the congregation.

“Being a sister is wonderful. On one hand, you have your skills and your talents but you can only go so far as an individual. But on the other hand, when you’re a sister in a religious community, everybody brings their talents and their skills,” said Sr. Cecile. “And big things happen.”

They certainly do.
Coffee and Contemplation

In 1984, en route to Republic of Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Sr. Claudette Des Forges stopped in Rome. She went out to run a quick errand and, entirely by chance, happened to meet Pope John Paul II in the street. They exchanged a few words in French and he blessed her, saying he would hold the people of Ivory Coast in his prayers.

“It was a brief, yet a profoundly meaningful encounter,” she said, words that could also describe her next ministry.

Sr. Claudette spent only two years in Africa but her time there is at the forefront her memory. As part of her mission work, she played a small part in a grassroots consolidation of the Agboville agricultural cooperative. The goal was to create a coffee and cocoa producer cooperative. While Cote D’Ivoire has suffered many setbacks, the co-operative managed to succeed. Today, whenever Sr. Claudette drinks free trade coffee or cocoa, she remembers the local farmers who worked so hard and under extremely oppressive conditions in hope of giving their children a brighter future.

“My favorite moments are the nights I fall asleep feeling that my day has contributed to the growth and development of another human being,” she said.

In the field of education most of her life, Sr. Claudette helped students discover their purpose, supported those who experienced abuse, and aided families from Samoa and Vietnam in connecting with faith communities.

Her approach has always been that of St. John Bosco: engaging the mind, heart, and hands in a way that allows us to think about what we feel and do, to feel what we think and do, and do what we think and feel deep within our heart.

The Joyful Love of God

Spend a few minutes with Sr. Pat Hayhurst and you’ll understand why she was a great teacher and school principal. Full of enthusiasm, Sr. Pat began her 33 year tenure in the classroom in 1974. Every memory that comes to mind from those years is a happy one.

“My best love and joy was being with kids,” she said. The feeling was mutual.

Maybe it was how Sr. Pat made lessons fun and interactive. Once, she put her Art History degree to good use by turning her whole classroom into a rainforest. Maybe students sensed that while she was bringing out the best in them, Sr. Pat felt they were doing the same to her. Or maybe it’s simply that she has a gift for connecting with kids, no matter what age or level. They know a kindred spirit when they meet one.

“There’s always a child in all of us, and I think that child is alive in me,” she said. It remains true today. It’s why she still gives retreats for adolescents, including one for graduating 8th graders this year.

“I always say seventh and eighth graders are quite a challenge because it’s the time in their life where they’re trying to become independent and yet fumbling over who they are,” she said. “And somebody has to love them, so why not me?”

A self-proclaimed “womb to tomb Sister of St. Joseph,” Sr. Pat was born, raised, and educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in Eureka, CA. Alongside teaching, some of her favorite memories are helping to plan the 100th Jubilee celebration in 2012 in Eureka.

As she thinks on other memories, there are no regrets. Instead, she sees that “the joyful love of God is expressed in so many ways.” And if anyone knows about joy, it’s Sr. Pat Hayhurst.
The Healing Ministry of Jesus

When Sr. Perpetua Sevillano entered the community, she was already a Registered Nurse. It wasn’t a surprise then that, after additional training in the St. Joseph charism and spirituality, she was assigned to work at various St. Joseph Health sites.

First as part of the Care Navigator Program St. Jude Medical Center and now as part of the Transitional Care Program at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Sr. Perpetua visits senior patients in their homes. She isn’t there simply as a nurse but as a friend. In addition to talking about health problems or medications, she also gives her time just to talk, to share, and to listen to patients’ stories. For those reasons, the patients invite her to visit again.

“For me, each visit has been sacred, and I consider their homes as holy ground,” she said. “I am grateful for the blessings of those encounters, of being able to hold their sacred stories and to reflect on my own story.”

Because of her background and continued ministry in healthcare, Sr. Perpetua is attuned to the needs of healthcare employees too. Over the years, she has organized supportive activities for them related to rest, nourishment, and affirmation, including, “A Retreat for Nurses” and “Tea for the Soul.”

Whether it is providing a compassionate presence and an open ear to senior patients or creating and sharing special moments with healthcare employees to express her love and gratitude for their service, Sr. Perpetua is simply “honored to consider myself part of the healing ministry of Jesus.”

God Has a Sense of Humor

At the time Sr. Herlinda Ramirez-Machado first encountered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in Mexico, she already felt called toward religious life. She was quickly struck by their vivacity and hospitality and knew this was the right congregation for her. Once she’d entered, she began to search for a way to respond to the other calling in her life: serving children and families.

The answer came at St. Mary Medical Center.

While settling into the community, Sr. Herlinda was invited by Sr. Marian Schubert to Apple Valley, CA. Together, they explored different ministry options, looking for the best fit for the young sister. Sr. Marian kept suggesting they visit the hospital but Sr. Herlinda kept putting her off. She had no interest in medical work.

“But you know how people say, ‘God has a sense of humor?’” Sr. Herlinda recalled with a smile.

After giving in to Sr. Marian’s loving insistence, Sr. Herlinda visited a clinic at St. Mary’s that aids women and young families with everything from prenatal and general medical care to parenting classes. Her heart was instantly captured.

Today, Sr. Herlinda continues to work within Providence St. Joseph Health because of the three formative years she spent at St. Mary’s. She experienced how small accomplishments can be the catalyst to create healthier, happier communities. Again and again she saw mothers eager to learn and share their parenting tips with one another and children develop into gentler, respectful young boys and girls. In teaching love and kindness to one child or one parent, that individual and every person they encounter is impacted.

“When we talk as the Sisters of St. Joseph about expansive love, what we are talking about is not only for us,” Sr. Herlinda said. “It is to bring and to give to others.”
“We long to participate in the Mission of Jesus, a mission of generous courage and self-emptying love, in joyful service to the dear neighbor without distinction.”

- Visioning Statement, May 2016

As sisters before us knew, joyful service to the dear neighbor is both local and global. Sometimes you help the person next door, and other times you travel so far that to go any further means you’re on your way back home. When God is involved, a chance meeting in your own community can soon have you going places you hadn’t imagined. That’s how Sisters Sharon Becker and Sue Dunning found themselves in Tanzania last spring.

Two years ago, an African sister visiting Holy Family Cathedral for mission appeal was connected with our sisters. Conversations started. The fruit of the dialogue was to teach the foundations of spiritual direction including practicum – a modified version of our Art of Spiritual Direction training program – to several congregations of sisters based in Tanzania. Such a program was completed in Ghana.

As needed, there was support from Archbishop Paul Ruzoka of Tabora. He invited us in September 2015 which also enabled mission visas. The training program was further made possible by the generosity of the Card Family Foundation, the Christian Brothers Foundation, the Koch Foundation and anonymous donors. Like-minded persons from Santa Clara de Asis in Yorba Linda and Holy Trinity in Ladera Ranch also provided support.

Sisters Sharon and Sue were joined by our dear friend Sister Margaret Scharf, a Dominican Sister of Western Australia who served at the Center for Spiritual Development for 15 years. The team completed the first three weeks of the training program just before Holy Week this spring. Completing the second half of the six-week program will take place in the same time frame in 2018, finishing just before Palm Sunday.

Why Go to Tanzania?

Individually and communally we pray for the grace to expand our boundaries, to strengthen our relationships, and to foster mutual partnerships. Standing in solidarity with fellow women religious is one way we do this. Sometimes that results in mileage.

Spiritual direction training with practicum is a need in other parts of the world. The program will help women religious serve as spiritual directors for each other and laity. Women religious are vulnerable to abuse; there are documented incidents across Africa, Asia, and India. The training program is a means to help sisters continue their spiritual growth in a safer environment. What’s more, spiritual direction is a skill which can provide additional depth to flourishing ministries.

Twenty-three sisters from four congregations seven dioceses participated in the program. Even though they had the same founders – the Missionary Fathers of Africa – the congregations had never come together. The sisters hope that this is the beginning of doing many things together for ongoing spiritual formation.

Plan B

When the four congregations together, it was quickly evident that there was a language challenge. All the participants were to be proficient in English, but this was not the case. The team was flexible and adapted to solve the problem. Participants that did speak English were gracious enough to volunteer to translate.

Groups divided into fours, each with two English speakers that could translate into Kiswahili. The concern was how to know if the teaching was being translated accurately. Frequent questions indicated clear understanding. The language barrier turned out to be a blessing in disguise as new bonds were formed and extra focus was placed on communication and understanding.

Gratitude abounded. Archbishop Ruzocka is an advocate for the training and is helping promote it among fellow bishops. Blended with thanksgiving from the participating congregations is their hunger for more. It will be our joy to return.
The road between Tabora and Nzega, the Tanzania team with Archbishop Ruzocka and a Councilor from the Daughters of Mary, Sister Sharon guides the participants, the Tanzania team with the leadership of the Daughters of Mary, Sister Sue talks with one of the small groups. On the facing page is a line of sandals outside one of the classrooms. Students at the school where the program was held leave their sandals outside.
Tanzania is on the east coast of Africa. From California, the best course is to fly to Europe, then pick up a long flight to Nairobi, and then Dar Es Salaam.

Dar Es Salaam is Tanzania’s former capital on the coast, southwest of Zanzibar. The capital was moved to Dodoma in the center of the country to make it more accessible for the rest of the nation; like moving Washington DC to Kansas City.

Sisters waited a couple of days for an in-country flight to Tabora about 825 kilometers to the west - a four and a half hour flight. A medical clinic operated by the Daughters of Mary gave them hospitality. We assisted the Daughters of Mary with grants for beds and medical equipment at this very clinic.

Tabora is where the Daughters of Mary’s motherhouse is located, but it was not the final destination. The spiritual direction training program took place in Nzega, at a Catholic girls’ school run by the Daughters of Mary. It’s about 125 kilometers north. The roads are in good condition and the drive is about two hours as cars slow down when passing through towns. The team was housed in a convent on the campus and the program was held in the school’s computer room.

Program Participants included members from the following diocese from around the country:

- Daughters of Mary - Archdiocese of Tabora
- Sisters of St. Theresa the Little Flower - Diocese of Bukoba
- Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles - Diocese of Mbeya
- Sisters of Our Lady of Africa - Diocese of Sumbawanga

These congregations also sent representatives from Arusha, Dodoma, and Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania is a Christian and Muslim country. Christianity is the dominant religion. In Africa, Tanzania has the most women entering religious life.

Close to the equator, Tanzania has steady 90 F temperatures and humidity during the day, but the expanse of the savannah helps it cool to the 60s at night.
The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange thank those who made gifts to the CSJ Orange Ministry Fund between March 1 - June 22, 2017.

Gifts

Clare Noud Adams
Bruce Borgman
Barry & JoAnne Adelman Burke
Thomas Costello
Patricia & Vincent Croal
Martha Daus
Timothy & Donna Engvall
Jim and Renee Evans
Robert J. & Leon H. Evans
Sam and Cynthia Flaim
Maria Garcia
Vincent & Deborah Hambright
Maureen M. & William C. Jenkins III
Bobi J. Keenan
Sidney & Granville Kirkup
Deedra Lee
Lita P. Lewis

Andrew & Gina McCracken
Mary & John O’Connor
Deborah Ozorio
Thomas M. Parenti
Julie Rivera
Rafael Zavala & Gabriela Robles
George & Diane Salinger
Patricia Weldele Simmons
Jeanne Socquet
Patricia Sutay
Doug & Janette Thomas
Art & Doloris Turner
Janet B. Yusi

Emmaus Spiritual Ministries
Anonymous
The Koch Foundation
Terry and Vicky Whipple Tett

In support of our ministry to refugees
Michael & Lisa Phan

Sr. Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund for Nursing Education
Rev. Brad & Janice Karelius

St. Joseph Worker Program
Sr. Jo Ann Eannareno, CSJ
Susan Elvander
Frank & Patricia Hall
Harry & Carol Hunold
Philip Reyes
Greg & Mary Kay Wise

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

Your $1000 gift to the Sr. Joan Cunningham Scholarship for Nursing Education helps a nursing student pay tuition or any costs related to their rotations, realize their passion for health care and move into better opportunities for employment. Please contact the Development Department for a tour of the USF Nursing School, Orange campus.

$500

Your $500 gift to Emmaus Spiritual Ministries will build the endowment for program growth, speaker stipends for parish outreach, mission integration, mission formation, spiritual direction, formation for spiritual directors, retreats, prayer services and spirituality and the arts. Please contact the Development Department for a tour of our state-of-the-art Spirituality Building.

$250

Your $250 gift helps defray the $12,000 annual sponsorship for each St. Joseph Worker. Programs serving the needs of the poor and marginalized often need a talented St. Joseph Worker and simply can’t afford it.
Employees

Art of Spiritual Direction
Rohit Bhatia
Liliana Hsueh-Gutierrez
Annie Jordan
Sonya Longbotham
Mercedes Ponce
Kyra Criselle Young

CSJ Educational Network
Harry Athwal
Maribeth Chavez
Andriv Uriovich Chupryna
Emma De Los Santos
Ana Ecute
Margaret Elliott
Leilani Leathers
Hugh McKee
Shin Hae Park-Moon
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Victoria Wright
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Bonnie De La Cruz
Ana Ecute
April Hansen
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Ana Say
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Donna Smith
Mylinh Tang
Kami Timm
Deborah Wycoff
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Blanca Camacho
Andriv Uriovich Chupryna
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Harry Athwal
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Maria Chavira
Chris Cruz
Margaret Elliott
Monica Felton
Mercedes Lopez
Tina Luna-Cruz
Maria Elena Perales
Tuhina Roy
Ana Say
Carol A. Shoemaker
Donna Smith
Mylinh Tang
Kami Timm
Deborah Wycoff
Mary Ybarra

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange thank our partners in mission from St. Joseph Health, St. Joseph Center, Taller San Jose Hope Builders and Centerpointe who made gifts to our ministries between January 1 - March 31, 2017.

The Universal Language of Music

The Sisters’ Liturgy and Rituals ministry purchased a new grand piano for our Jubilee celebration at the end of July and for future concerts in the Auditorium. The Sisters offer this space to local communities and schools for music education and recitals. For more information or if you would like to make a gift, please call Carol Hunold at (714) 744-3121.

Partners & Vendors

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are grateful for the ongoing generosity of our business associates and partners between March 1 - June 22, 2017.

Providence St. Joseph Health
Sr. Joan Cunningham Scholarship Fund for Nursing Education
Cundiff Steel Fabricating
Bill McGuire
Wilson Automotive
Dave Wilson Toyota of Orange Scion
Simplex Grinnell
The Sisters of St. Joseph honor the following individuals at the request of their family and friends. The following are honorees between March 1 - June 22, 2017.

**Members celebrating birthdays April - June 2017**

- Dave, Martin, Laurie and Ted by Carolyn Keating
- Louise McDuffie by Ryan Ignatius Pratt
- Sr. Lorraine Thibault by Peter & Lenore Raffo
- Jess Anthony Oviedo by Jess & Cora Oviedo
- Regina Residence Sisters by Ronald & Joyce Thibault

**Memorials**

- Cathy Gardner Regan by Harry & Carol Hunold
- Cecelia Teresa Mills by Randolph Mills
- David M. Beu by Frederick H. & Carol Beu
- George Socquet by Jeanne Socquet
- James Ripslinger by Virginia Ripslinger
- Jason Turcotte by Harry & Carol Hunold
- Jean Krolik by Mrs. Victor Krolik
- Jenie Cruz by Joseph Cruz
- Maria Gonzales by Jeanne Socquet
- Mary E. Buerman by Linda M. Allen
- Michael Ryan by John & Jacqueline Fuller
- Nancy L. Klemme by Rev. Charles Lopez, Jr.
- Norene Lowers by Janice Strobach
- Phyllis L. Carillo by Paul Carillo
- Roger Brockman by Viola M. Betts
- Roseann Sutay by Patricia Sutay
- Sr. Anne Lynch, CSJ by Donald & Sheila Henderson Lauda
- Barbara R. Rudometkin
- Sr. Carol Marie Kelber, CSJ by Charles & Loretta Cargill
- Willard G. Foote James Leonora
- Sr. Denise Collins, CSJ by Art & Peggy Geisler
- Patricia Murphy
- Sr. Elaine Moffette, CSJ by Anonymous
- Sr. Elizabeth Kennedy by Grace Hawkes
- Sr. Joan Cunningham, CSJ by Anonymous
- Sr. Kathleen Small, CSJ by Myrtle & James Small
- Sr. Margaret Ellerman, CSJ by Art & Peggy Geisler
- Loretta Higgins
- Sr. Patricia Hanson, CSJ by Peter & Judith Barbieri
- Terry & Virginia Barker
- Joseph A. Carroll
- Paul & Joyce Desrochers
- Art & Peggy Geisler
- Grace Hawkes
- Rita King
- Donald & Sheila Henderson Lauda
- James Leonora
- Alex & Mary Kadiath
- Patricia Murphy
- Raymon & Linda Phoenix
- Barbara R. Rudometkin
- Sr. Rose Marie Menard, CSJ by Lowell & Esther Allen

**Bequest 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.

- Estate of Norma Florence Boyle
- Estate of Betty Rae Vargas

**Major Gift**

We are deeply grateful to our friends who gave selflessly and generously for the design and reconstruction of the Sacred Heart Chapel entry space.

- Art and Doloris Turner

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**In Memoriam**

**SISTER SHIRLEY ROSS, CSJ**

Mar. 8, 1935 - May 16, 2017

63 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange
Sunday Liturgy
Now at 9 am
We recently changed the time for Liturgy in our Sacred Heart Chapel. We hope you'll continue joining us on Sundays but now at 9 am.

Discernment Retreats
Third Saturday of Each Month
Sept. - June • 1:30 - 6:30 pm
Discernment retreats for women ages 20-45 years. Each month has a theme consistent with the liturgical year. For more info, please contact Sister Sharon Becker at vocationcsj@csjorange.org.

Saturday, Sept. 30
Day of Service in Our Neighborhoods
Volunteers will work in groups at food banks, housing shelters and other places of need. The St. Joseph Justice Center is coordinating the event with non-profits near the City of Orange.

Emmaus Spiritual Ministries
emmausspiritualministries.org
The 2017-18 calendar of programs from Emmaus Spiritual Ministries is available now on its website.

Stay connected with us on social media. Visit our website and sign up for our e-newsletter, Connections, at csjorange.org.