“Heaven is not for cowards,” wrote Mother Bernard Gosselin, our founder. She was known for many things including gifting our mission with a pioneer spirit of bold faith, foresight and flexibility. That spirit is always useful and serves as an active complement with our mission of unity and reconciliation.

Aware that religious life may look much different in the 21st century than it did 50 or more years ago, we have been actively taking bold steps for the future of our mission. A significant means of advancing the mission is to be good stewards of our precious resources, including our under utilized home, St. Joseph Center. We recognized that we could make better use of the space and serve more people in the future. Fall 2017 marks the halfway point of renovations to the property.

So Far, So Good

To date, we have renovated our College Building, which now serves as the Orange County Branch Campus for the University of San Francisco. St. Joseph Library is open for business on the second floor. Across the campus, the renovated Spirituality Building is home to Emmaus Spiritual Ministries and the Loyola Institute for Spirituality. These updates were Phase 1.

Phase 2 sets the table for improved operations on the property. Behind the scenes, we needed a different kitchen than the one we had. Modern equipment replaced the dinosaurs we were using to nourish the Regina Residence community with three square meals per day, in addition to catering for large groups. New equipment and food preparation processes are energy efficient.

Other Phase 2 improvements bring wider space for guests to maneuver around meal service lines in both the College Building and Regina Residence. Gathering places like the Mother Louis Room and Regina Dining Room are quieter and easier to access.

Better access may be most noticeable near Sacred Heart Chapel. The St. Joseph statue now welcomes guests to an ADA-compliant entrance from the south-east parking lot. And visitors no longer need to walk along Batavia Street or through labyrinthine paths to go from north to south on the grounds. A new breezeway allows for easy access behind the Motherhouse building to the patio behind Sacred Heart Chapel. A few steps through arches and one is on their way to the Garden and Spirituality Building.

On the Cover

St. Joseph On the Move

St. Joseph – the statue gifted to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange by Christ the King School in Lubbock, Texas – has stood in front of the Motherhouse for 57 years. He saw countless visitors and the rise and fall of Canary Island Date Palms that lined the semi-circle drive up to the front door. Last summer, St. Joseph moved to a new pedestal at the entrance to Sacred Heart Chapel, still ready to greet those who gather with us. Take a look at St. Joseph's move to his new location on our YouTube Channel or directly at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i8M-LR811c&t=12s

Before Villa St. Joseph is completed, we will have a new “front door” on the north side of the property. This is Phase 3, which is ready to get underway in 2018. Phase 3 will give rise to a new building adjacent to the Ministry Building.

We are incredibly blessed to have what we need: a place to meet, a place to pray and worship, a place to call our home, and a place from which we can be sent into the world to serve the dear neighbor. What's more, the St. Joseph Center property will simultaneously address community needs for decades to come. Sometime in the future, we hope those who come after us will recognize these choices to further our mission were made smartly, generously and with bold faith, foresight and flexibility.

Coming Up

The Phase 2 improvements make the Motherhouse building ready for the next stage of its life. It will be renovated to become Villa St. Joseph, an affordable housing community for seniors and veterans, operated by Mercy Housing. Due dates for the applications to Villa St. Joseph will be announced when we reach the final six months of construction, though the complex repurposing of the building remains many months away. Still, we are very pleased to offer space we no longer need to help those most in need and challenged by California’s housing crisis.
What do you hope to give? What do you hope to receive? These questions framed our second annual Day of Service in Our Neighborhoods held Saturday, September 30th. Overwhelmingly, participants confirmed that they received more than they gave.

The Day of Service began at St. Joseph Center with over 150 volunteers meeting at tables representing their service site.

Some came in teams - we shout out to St. Joseph Health, St. Joseph Hospital and St. John Maron Catholic Church - and some came alone and met new friends. Several traveled a long way just to participate (well done, Humboldt!). One mother/daughter team were thought to be siblings and had a great laugh at day’s end.

Giving up a Saturday to work alongside a stranger in a place that might feel a little uncomfortable is a lot to ask a person. But not these people. Day of Service volunteers shelved their expectations and rolled up their sleeves without hesitation. We could not be more pleased than to build community while helping those in need.

Sharing is Caring

The well-worn, sickly-sweet phrase “sharing is caring” has truth behind it. Sharing was the primary reason of “what was most meaningful about your Day of Service experience?”

“Sharing my heart with others,” wrote one. “Sharing life experiences,” penned another. “Contributing a little bit of our time and how much of a difference we can make.” Repeatedly.

More to Come

Some of the teams at the 12 service sites raced through the day. The Orange County Food Bank team packed thousands of boxes in two hours! Other sites opened volunteers’ eyes to deep needs that couldn’t possibly be met in a few hours.

One does not have to wait for the next Day of Service to lend a helping hand. Visit the Day of Service page on our website under Ministries - Justice Center for a handout on sites that can use assistance year round.

Join us for the next Day of Service on Saturday, September 29, 2018.
Cultivating Compassion

Emmaus Spiritual Ministries’ Bold Integrity Series Inspires Authentic Spirituality in Challenging Times

Every week, sometimes every day, something demands our attention, our action, and our opinion. How do you process every issue and respond appropriately and considerately? Or, as Sr. Jane DeLisle, co-director of Emmaus Spiritual Ministries, posted, “How do you maintain your integrity when we live in a time of chaos?”

In their series aptly titled “Bold Integrity,” Emmaus is seeking to respond to that exact question. Participants will examine examples of recognizable individuals who lived in challenging situations. Through the power of their stories, we can learn how to be better equipped for the challenges we face as persons and as a country.

It is too easy to fall into a routine of defamation, belittling, or apathy when we are confronted with divisive issues. But when we react in these ways, we are only projecting more negativity into a world already buckling under the weight of collective cynicism. It’s time to rewire our thinking, to make an intentional effort to be purposeful in our response to circumstances.

Real People, Real Stories

Bold Integrity is the direct result of Emmaus’ vision to respond to the spiritual needs of local and global communities. Seeing the increase in alienating language and actions throughout the U.S., Emmaus sought a way to create unity around principles rather than issues. They wanted to stand up against the hopelessness that was quickly becoming pervasive in almost every community. The goal of Bold Integrity isn’t to educate participants about problems in their communities or nationwide but to walk alongside participants as they learn how to let their spirituality influence the other areas of their lives. Growth is the focus, not education.

To do that, it was essential to select the right role models. These weren’t meant to be cookie cutter do-gooders. The program demanded someone, well, bolder. Finally, three individuals were chosen: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor who risked his life as an anti-Nazi dissident (the first Bold Integrity subject featured in October); Oscar Romero, the conservative Archbishop who later became an outspoken activist for the poor; and Etty Hillesum, an insightful Dutch Jewish woman who wrote about the perplexities of life and religion during WWII before being killed in Auschwitz with her family.

One final example rounded out the Bold Integrity series; the four “Sisters” of St. Joseph of Orange who served as missionaries in the Solomon Islands during WWII. These women encountered different cultures, threats to their lives, and innumerable hardships all while staunchly serving the native people proclaiming the Gospel.

It is no accident Bold Integrity highlights persons of different religious traditions. Emmaus wants to reach people wherever they are. Whatever spiritual, political, or social path you’re on, even if you’re not on one at all, Emmaus believes this series is for you.

“We’re about union, not uniformity,” said Sr. Christine Hilliard, co-director of Emmaus.

Your Authentic Self

It’s tempting to be skeptical. You may be wondering if, on some level, Emmaus is in the business of telling people how to think, or vote, or what issue to stand behind or against. But the smallest suggestion of any such intention is met with side-to-side head shaking from both sisters.

“No, that’s not our charism,” said Sr. Jane warmly as Sr. Christine smiled in agreement. “It’s important for each person to find their voice.”

Conversation is key, not conversion. Emmaus is about meeting people on their own paths and providing connections between spirituality and lived experiences, and so Bold Integrity is designed to unlock a more authentic you. A “you” that operates with your spirituality informing your words and actions on every day of the week.

In short, Bold Integrity isn’t designed to narrow your vision, but to widen it.

“No matter what your opinion is on a political issue, we’re inviting people to respond out of their own sense of integrity and spiritual path,” said Sr. Jane.

You Can’t Always Get What You Want

As Americans, we’re known for prizing our rugged individualism and fierce independence. But those same values can be obstacles to engaging in meaningful and respectful dialogue. That’s not to say individualism or independence are wrong; however, when those ideals lead to thoughts or actions that cause harm to others, it’s time to reconsider how we express them.

Sr. Christine put it this way: “What I want may not necessarily be the thing that is most helpful for the rest of the world.”

That’s a humble stance that many people may find hard to take. Bold Integrity is intended to be a guide in that direction. It can help you consider another perspective. It can encourage you to step back from the surface issue and another person, “What about this issue is important to you?” And from there, you can start to understand the root emotion behind someone’s stance, instead of just tearing them down for their beliefs.

Emmaus hopes that this series will cultivate compassion but they also know there is a balance to achieve. While Emmaus is asking you to “give of” yourself rather than “give up” yourself, they are not asking you to do it alone. Every example used in Bold Integrity shows the power of an individual but also the value of collaboration and the importance of community. Through this emphasis, we can move away from putting our own wants first and prioritizing the needs of a group instead.

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Because it’s true. In any given situation, with any challenge or issue, you may not always get what you want. But, it’s Emmaus’ hope that, with Bold Integrity, you will get what you need.

Sisters Jane DeLisle and Christine Hilliard are co-directors of Emmaus Spiritual Ministries.

Emmaus Spiritual Ministries’ Bold Integrity Series inspires authentic spirituality in challenging times.

Bold Integrity Series

For more information, visit: emmausspiritualministries.org

Trapped in Paradise: The Bold Choice of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the South Pacific

Saturday, Jan. 27 • 1 - 3 pm

Four Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange had served on Buka Island for only a year when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Urged by the Australian government to evacuate, the sisters chose to stay to provide healthcare and education to the indigenous people.

Speaking Truth to Power: The BOLD INTEGRITY of Oscar Romero

Saturday, March 24 • 10 am - 3 pm

Archbishop Romero was a social conservative who chose to remain silent and neutral during his country’s long and vicious civil war. However, when his close friend, Father Rutilio Grande, SJ, was killed for his activism for the poor, Romero wrote, “If they have killed him for doing what he did, then, I, too, need to walk the same path.” The movie Romero will be shown.

Compelled to Dare: The BOLD INTEGRITY of Etty Hillesum

Saturday, May 5 • 10 am - 3 pm

Etty Hillesum was a Dutch Jewish woman killed in Auschwitz at age 29. On Good Friday 2017, Pope Francis reflected, “Etty Hillesum remained undaunted amid the firestorm of Nazi persecution, defending to the last the goodness of life.”
As You Did for My Brothers and Sisters, You Did It for Me
Standing with Immigrant Brothers and Sisters

“What part of illegal don’t you understand?” Many citizens echo this cry against the flow of people “sneaking” into the United States. The statement is a means to simplify the incredibly complex issue of illegal immigration and carries subtext of fairness and justice. Yet, while recognizing a country’s right to protect its border and innumerable factors related to migration, we agree the issue can be made simple through the lens of Gospel values.

We are called to welcome the stranger; the person in need among us. Simple. Refugees, migrants and immigrants are the stranger.

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you visited me, ill and you visited me, prisoners and you freed me and you comforted me.”

Isaiah 58:7 (NABRE)

In July 2017, we held an Immigration Summit featuring Fr. Daniel Groody, CSC as our keynote speaker. A couple of breakout sessions in the afternoon enabled attendees to hear from their choice of 10 different advocacy organizations who work with immigrants. A few hundred people attended. The content is available to all online (see box). Visit our website to watch video from the day, pick up handouts from the breakout sessions and read additional content and prayers.

The congregation’s Community Days immediately followed the Immigration Summit. Meeting together, we affirmed our commitment to the immigrant and share it in the statement on the right.

Our Congregational Commitment on Immigration

Continuing our tradition of solidarity with immigrants, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange echo the Gospel values in which Jesus taught that “as far as you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). Dignity of the person, mutuality and justice are core to our Christian beliefs. In our present situation regarding the crisis on immigration, we are disheartened by the deterioration and lack of centrality of these Gospel values. As a Eucharistic Congregation we seek to unite all people with God and with one another, and we embrace the call of Pope Francis to welcome, protect, promote and integrate those who have been displaced by migration. We make a firm commitment and pledge ourselves to seek to remedy the ills within our neighborhood, both locally and globally.

Supported by our rich spiritual heritage, we are called to respond to the signs of the times with bold faith, foresight and flexibility. This call challenges us to respond in an extraordinary way from our hearts and our resources.

• Called to boldly step forward as risk-takers going beyond our normal boundaries and as our early sisters did, we divide the city, seek out the needs, create new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships to address these needs for all people, without distinction.

• Called to solidarity, to stand with the immigrant, we attend to their hopes and dreams, their sufferings and basic needs, their right to dignity, and their desire to contribute to the social fabric of all communities. We recognize their richness, that complements our poverty and opens us to God’s diverse abundance.

• Called to engage in partnerships where our mutual gifts can multiply, we join with the broader local and global communities of people of good will who stand with the immigrant. In so doing, we further the ideals of justice, civility and solidarity with the immigrant.

• Called to a stance of hospitality with immigrants, for which the mutuality of giving and receiving is at the forefront, we act out of our belief that a culture of encounter with the other leads to the transformation of hearts and minds from separateness to unity.

Supported by our lives consecrated to God through the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, we commit ourselves to the sacred promise of inclusivity, so “that all may be one” (John 17:21). Our communal response is grounded in the prayers and actions of every member of the Congregation. We seek to continue our tradition of loving our neighbors, standing with the immigrant and fostering systemic change in order to transform and bring all to wholeness.

Online Resources Available

justiceforimmigrants.org
sharejourney.org
cmsny.org/event/2017-ciii

Most Shocking Second a Day Videos:
bit.ly/MSSDvideo
bit.ly/MSSDvideo2
CSJ Center is a Catalyst at LMU and in the Community

“When we proposed the CSJ Center to then President David Burcham, we said we did not want to reinvent a wheel,” explains Sister Judith Royer. “We wanted to create a bridge.” Sister Judith serves as Director of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice at Loyola Marymount University (LMU).

Now in its fifth year, the CSJ Center has connected the dots for scores of academic departments, faculty, students, alumni and agencies in the community. Like the Sisters of St. Joseph’s mission brings people together, the CSJ Center applies a similar mission to the LMU community. It serves as a forum for dialogue, a place for education, a resource to reflect and then act to promote unity with one another and with God. The CSJ Center is a catalyst for bringing people together.

Among its many efforts, the CSJ Center may best be recognized by its annual symposium. The symposium brings a full gamut of academic disciplines together to address various angles of a social justice issue. Sustainability was one year’s focus, and 2017 put a spotlight on human trafficking locally and globally. The 2018 symposium addresses migration and immigration (see the adjacent page).

“No points will be taken off for thinking outside of the box,” Sister MaryAnne Huepper, the CSJ Center’s Associate Director, says lightheartedly. She illustrates the opportunities available in the development of the annual event. “We have professors who author very academic papers which demand precise language and formats particular to their discipline. When it comes to our symposia, we can say to them here is a concept and you can take it in this direction or that, take an interdisciplinary approach or work with a student from one of their classes. It’s not restricted to their own methodology or discipline. It’s fun to watch them cogitate on it and have it click.” Freedom to be creative helps bring people together.

There’s more to the CSJ Center than the annual symposium. Life is constantly in motion at a renowned Catholic university sandwiched between LAX and Silicon Beach. Sister Judith, Sister MaryAnne and administrative coordinator Sheila Weizenberger are the CSJ Center’s dynamic trio. Additional CSJ Center projects include the Cinema and Sacrament Film Series, Voices of Justice performances, Hidden Heroes Recognition honoring alumni, faculty, staff and students who exemplify justice and reconciliation, and selecting and preparing students to participate in LMU’s annual Undergraduate Research.

All of these projects create interconnections throughout the university and beyond that can take on a life of its own. The day before the 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium on Human Trafficking, Harvard University reached out to two of the student speakers. Harvard was assembling an intercollegiate convention against modern slavery and invited them to attend. The notice was short – a couple of weeks. Both students were business majors so the CSJ Center collaborated with the business college and had flights and other expenses funded in 24 hours.

The CSJ Center helps create synergy in the LMU community. An advisory board has been integral to making connections with faculty and staff. “We know that certain things are happening and we would like to bring those people together,” explains Sister Judith. “What we wanted to do is bring people together who are already working in like-minded ways. As the CSJ Center has offered platforms, like the symposium, relationships have strengthened.

“We know we have just begun our journey,” says Sister MaryAnne. “Though the CSJ Center has worked with every college and school at the university, they hope to engage with many more people “to imagine, explore and create together in order to be a healing presence in our communities.”

CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice

The World on the Move: Migration and Immigration in Uncertain Times

January 23-25, 2018

The 2018 annual symposium offers sessions that reflect an interdisciplinary approach to the topic, provide expertise from leading practitioners working with the immigrant and refugee community and share the experiences drawn from the testimonies of individuals uprooted and in search of “a home.”

Presentations Include:
• Migration in Africa
• Responsiveness in Refugee Crisis Management
• Immigrant Advocacy on the Ground
• Understanding the U.S. - Mexico Border
• Developing Entrepreneurial Skills Among Refugees/Immigrants
• Contributions of the Foreign-Born to the California Economy
• Talent Acquisition and the Tech Sector
• How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers
• Migration, Theology and Eucharist
• “People of the Immigrant God” Screening

Congratulations Sister Judith Royer!

It is not in a Sister of St. Joseph’s nature to talk about herself. Several Masters of our “Little Institute” instruct sisters to be hidden and give all glory to God. The emphasis is always on our mission of unity with one another and with God.

Sister Judith Royer walks the walk of a CSJ - a Sister of St. Joseph. She keeps a low profile while being a light for others in the arts. However, her sisters wish to share that Sister Judith has received a significant honor from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. The organization renamed the “Excellence in Playwriting Award” after the long-tenured Professor of Theatre Arts: the “Sister Judith Royer Excellence in Playwriting Award.” The excerpt below is from the citation she received with the news.

This is an amazing honor that has been extended to one of the most remarkable individuals in the discipline of new play development in America and around the world. You have influenced so many lives, hundreds of thousands, and that doesn’t even include the thousands of students you have taught and changed throughout your LMU tenure. Rather, you have shaped the world of new play development from one end of the nation to the other. Yours is a lasting influence.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are happy to share this profound recognition of Sister Judith. We are grateful for the example that she is in her profession and for her work in extending our mission through the arts.
As the summer came to a close, a new group of women arrived in California for the St. Joseph Worker Program (SJWP). All four had unique backgrounds and came from different areas of the U.S. but they were all searching for a way to serve and discovered the SJWP. Soon after they arrived and began working at their placement sites, we asked them a few key questions.

There are many opportunities for service available. Why did you decide to become a St. Joseph Worker (SJW)?

Sarah Cornwall: Deep in my heart, I knew God was calling me to the intentional community, simplicity, social justice, and leadership of post-graduate service. My heart has been aching and yearning for an opportunity like the St. Joseph Worker Program. I felt especially called to the St. Joseph Worker Program because of the hospitality in which they welcomed me and the respect in which they honored my individual gifts and talents.

Yadira Enciso: I see this program as not a year long commitment, but as a guide for how I will live out the rest of my life. I was drawn to the St. Joseph Worker Program that honors the ever-changing world that I am in. Yet, spirituality is not merely external practices of faith, though these are important, for external actions are manifestations of internal desires. In this year, I hope to grow in emptying myself of what is not of God. As for the void that is left…may it be filled with simply love for God and my dear neighbors.

Catherine Thanh Nguyen: already learning. inspirational to me and I am in awe of how much I am Sisters and their focus on Catholic Social Teaching are so care for our brothers and sisters. The charism of the these two inform each other as our Catholic faith calls us for its commitment to faith and social justice. For me, of my life. I was drawn to the St. Joseph Worker Program commitment, but as a guide for how I will live out the rest of my time will be spent at the Clinics in Tustin, Santa Ana, and Anaheim.

For the first time in SJWP history, all of your placement sites are located in Santa Ana. What do you do at your site?

Sarah: My placement site is Hurt Family Health Clinic, which is located within the Orange County Rescue Mission, where I am serving as a Physician Assistant. Most of my service will be on the Mobile Outreach Team, which takes two medically-equipped RVs out into the community. One RV is for pediatric patients and the other for adult patients. The Mobile Outreach are intended for the homeless, uninsured, and individuals who would otherwise find it difficult to receive medical attention. The rest of my time will be spent at the Clinics in Tustin, Santa Ana, and Anaheim.

Catherine: I am an Instructional Aide for Kindergarten and 2nd Grade at St. Anne’s Catholic School. I help the teachers with small-group teaching, especially for those students who may need additional one-on-one instruction. I love every moment at St. Anne’s, especially when I interact with the students. I am learning much from the students and staff. From such experiences, I am humbled by being in the presence of their joy and young hearts filled with wonder and awe.

Katie: I split my time between Mary’s Kitchen and Isaiah House. Twice a week at Mary’s Kitchen I help with prep work in the kitchen to make sure the meals are ready to be served. I also help with the sorting of incoming food donations. The other two days I am with Isaiah House where I visit with the women who live there and help with coffee hour and lunch at the Civic Center and distributing water to those living at the riverbed. My hope for both sites is to be able to learn more about the perpetuation of homelessness in OC and the more effective ways to help people experiencing homelessness.

Yadira: After years of volunteer work in schools and various educational settings, I felt the call to serve full time in Catholic Education at St. Joseph School! I spend half the day working as a general aide for all grade levels assisting in reading assessments, one-on-one instruction, and small group centers. Whatever the teachers need, I’m there to support them! The other half of the day I spend in Kindergarten, creating and teaching religion, science, and history lessons.

What do the Four Core Values Mean to You?

Spirituality is the essence of being, and the core of who I am – defined not by the world or even myself, but by God alone. Not being bound by temporal matters, I am free to be embraced by God’s love and will for me, while being detached and indifferent to the ever-changing world that I am in. Yet, spirituality is not merely external practices of faith, though these are important, for external actions are manifestations of internal desires. In this year, I hope to grow in emptying myself of what is not of God. As for the void that is left…may it be filled with simply love for God and my dear neighbors.

Leadership is a process, not a position. How wonderful that leadership is something that is inclusive and accessible to all people! I hope to grow in my servant leadership this year by being a woman for and with others. A servant leader works alongside those they serve, and leads by example with a gracious and generous heart. They work to cultivate the potential in others. A servant leader embraces vulnerability to find the courage to take risks, learn from failure, ask for help and lean into joy. These are the areas I hope to grow in throughout this year.

Social Justice means treating people like people. What breaks my heart the most is when the humanity of people is forgotten and they become another statistic or “issue” the government feels it has to deal with. I find it frustrating that we an find it so easy to alienate or demonize others out of ear or ignorance. My hope for growth in this area is to try to always see the humanity and dignity in others, especially those I do not agree with.

Community means being intentional with another. It means supporting one another with openness and love. Throughout this upcoming year, I hope to grow in my understanding and practice of community. I look forward to learning more about myself and my new sisters in the context of simplicity, social justice, and leadership. I could not be more excited to gain 3 new sisters – Catherine, Katie, and Yadira!
Thank You for Standing with Us

We often 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 the Tijuana Ministry provides medicine and treatment at a free medical clinic, helps operate food and clothing programs and sponsors several high school and college students with bi-annual enrollment fees, school uniforms and supplies.

$350

Your $350 gift to the CSJ Educational Network supports a principal’s on-going professional development. For only $25 more, your gift can sponsor five educators to attend the CSJ Ministerial Formation Program ($75 per person). The Network offers five Ministerial Formation Programs in California.

In Our Next Issue

In each issue of Bridges we have thanked donors for joining our ministry of fundraising and recognizing you for meeting us on common ground with your generous financial support, volunteerism and prayers.

Beginning in 2018, donor names and recognition will only appear in the first Bridges edition each year. This change from our Communications Team allows us to bring you more stories about our Sisters and ministries throughout the year.

The Sisters remember you in our daily prayers at Mass. Your help enables us to impact our world in many new ways.

The Three Hardest Words

Studies have been done on the three most awkward words people say. For some, saying “I love you” is awkward because it makes them feel vulnerable or a little insecure. Others may think it’s a sign of weakness to say, “I don’t know.” Research points to kids answering unanswerable questions rather than saying “I don’t know.”

Though we try to cast off self-doubt and failure and “let it go,” it’s hard! When I’m hurt, it takes me awhile to figure out I’m carrying the burden until I let it go. A friend gave me her August issue of O Magazine. Let It Go! In big letters on the cover got my attention. I poured over the articles about letting go of fear, grief, resentment, difficult truths; even letting go of money and things. Each author taught me it is harder to cling to what hurts me than it is to let it go and start living free.

I’m fortunate to work where we pray openly. Recently, this Prayer for Autumn Days came at the perfect time, with the assurance that letting go and surrender will bring each of us growth, peace and joy.

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything: There is a time for dying and a time for rising.

We need courage to enter into the transformation process. God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk.

Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.

As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence.

May we gain strength from this God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender.

We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.

Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all of this we are grateful.

Amen

To reach Carol Hunold in the Development Office, please call (714) 744-3121 or email chunold@csjorange.org.

In Memoriam

Sister Carmen Sarati, CSJ
February 2, 1931 - October 26, 2017
69 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

Sister Dorothy Anne Yee, CSJ
April 3, 1928 - October 28, 2017
68 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

Sister Betty Foubert, CSJ
December 29, 1931 - November 21, 2017
68 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

Sister Maura Judge, CSJ
June 26, 1927 - July 23, 2017
70 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

Sister Vivian Strymecki, CSJ
December 20, 1920 - October 16, 2017
79 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange
CSJ Center at LMU
2018 SYMPOSIUM
The World on the Move: Migration and Immigration in Uncertain Times
January 23-25, 2018
Visit csjcenter.wufoo.com/forms/rsvp-for-the-world-on-the-move/
There is no cost to attend.

Modern Day Slavery:
The Power Behind Our Purchase
Friday, January 26th
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Mother Louis Room
Presentation and conversation on an important social justice issue for our times.

Unsubscribe
If you are receiving *Bridges* and a change needs to be made, please mail this page to us, Attn: Communications, at the address above. Please indicate any changes as needed.

You may also contact us at sisters@csjorange.org.

Thank you.

Sunday Liturgy
*Now at 9 am*
All are welcome to join us for Liturgy in our Sacred Heart Chapel. Please join us on Sundays at 9 am.