All you Saints of God, we need these days be with us. They remind us what we have who we are, a great family of loving people who have God ahead of us in eternity and in some meal may agree with us who are the gift sent to us who support us who live in our histories are now.
Welcome Back
The Return of Bridges Magazine

After a long hiatus, Bridges is back. We’ve got news for you!

If you’re someone who has a shelf or two of National Geographic magazines and view the dates on the yellow edge to be sure all issues are accounted for, then we need to make a statement for the record. The last issue of Bridges was Fall/Winter 2017. There was no issue in 2018. There was no Spring 2019 issue. Summer 2019 - this one - is next in line.

Plenty has happened in the time away. This extra big issue will help to catch up with our readers. We especially wish to recognize the 2018 Jubilarians along with the 2019 group of celebrants. Their many years of service deserve to be recognized in print. Likewise, the CSJ Educational Network recognized a 30-year milestone.

On the Cover
The Motherhouse Community Room has often had artwork adorning its bulletin board to reflect the season. These brilliant, beautiful, thought-provoking works go up and come down. Once down, they may be gone for good. Sometimes a sister will save one. This treasure on our cover by Sister Madeleva Williams is one that had been tucked away. Though it’s from All Saints Day, it feels appropriate anytime to reflect on the community of the Great Love of God.

Do People Still Explore the Call to Religious Life?

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be a sister in a religious community? Do people still have these thoughts, though maybe don’t know how to take a next step? Yes! God continues to move within the hearts and minds of many.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are responding to the needs of women who feel a desire and call to explore religious life by offering a series of monthly education and reflection days on different aspects of religious life. We invite you to join a group of women who like yourself are exploring and discerning where God is calling them.

By coming together, discover how to discern a call to religious life and to which religious community. Grow in your relationship with God with different styles of prayer. Learn about religious communities and their “charisms.” Focus on varying aspects of religious life: ministry and community life, prayer and Eucharist, and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

The series is offered on Sundays, from 9 am to 3 pm.

It begins with Sunday Mass, followed by brunch with sisters and guests. Those interested then gather for a brief teaching session, personal guided reflection, time for sharing, and community building. Each day will end by 3 pm. There is no fee.

If you are interested in Exploring the Call to Religious Life, contact Sister Sharon Becker, CSJ at 714-744-3159, or sbecker@csjorange.org or sign up online at emmausspiritualministries.org/events.

Sep 8: The Tapestry of Religious Congregations
Oct 13: Living from a Discerning Heart
Nov 10: Discover Varying Styles of Prayer
Jan 12: Community and Ministry
Feb 9: Prayer and Eucharist
Mar 8: Understanding the Vow of Chastity
Apr 5: Understanding the Vow of Obedience
May 3: Understanding the Vow of Poverty
A Safe Space to Seek God: 
*Spirituality Series Invites Men to Let Down Their Guard*

Raised to be strong, stoic and in control, men react differently than women to life’s challenges. They use the force of their will to solve every problem they encounter. Unless the problem can’t be solved.

What then?

“Men practice avoidance to look invincible,” says Rev. Brad Karelius, author of the newly released *Desert Spirit Places* and a presenter for the upcoming men’s spirituality series, On the Road. “We escape into work or drink too much. But deep down, what we long for is connection with the Divine.”

Fr. Brad shares from the heart. His own experience with the devastating illness of his young son left him trying to bury his grief with work. It didn’t succeed.

“I began to yearn for relief from the noise and clutter and multitasking of my life,” he says. “I yearned for a place to encounter God’s love and grace.”

Like the ancient monastics and Jesus himself, Fr. Brad eventually found that place in the desert. He will share his story during his session, *Journey in the Desert: A Spiritual Treasure Map.*

“The desert is a place for letting go, falling apart, and coming together,” he says. “I hope my story helps others open up to their own need for divine connection.”

The men’s spirituality series was created in response to a community survey indicating a need for men’s programming. On the Road presenters include Fr. Brad Karelius, a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles; Rev. Jim Clarke, Director of New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; and Daniel Smith-Christopher, Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

The five part series offered at Emmaus Spiritual Ministries runs July 2019 – February 2020. You may register for one session or all. Learn more at emmausspiritualministries.org/events.
As soon as they arrived in California in 1912, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange jumped into education ministry. They opened their own schools and staffed parish institutions. At the time and for many decades to come, sisters made up the majority of the faculty and staff. But in the 1960s, there was a shift. Fewer women were entering religious life in the U.S., and many sisters were exploring other ministries besides education. The number of lay leaders in Catholic schools rose until sisters were in the minority.

But those lay leaders didn’t want to lose connection with the sisters. They wanted the congregation to stay involved in the schools. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange responded by creating the CSJ Educational Network, which turned 30 in 2018.

Celebrating the anniversary began in July during the congregation’s Community Days. Sisters were treated to the debut of a video recognizing the history and impact of the ministry. Additional celebrations have continued with Network schools, teachers, and programs throughout the year.

Part of the 30th anniversary has also been marking the transition in leadership within the ministry. In 2018, Bret Allen became the Director of the CSJ Educational Network. With the blessing of Sister Judith Dugan, Allen assumed the Director role after joining the Network as Associate Director in 2017. Sister Judith now serves as Director Emeritus.

While the role may be new, Allen is a Network veteran. He was principal of two Network schools and served on the Network’s Advisory Committee for nine years. (See sidebar)

As he looks ahead to the future, he says, “The primary thing for me is how do we infuse the value, the mission, and the vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph in everything that we do?”

That question, and its answers, have informed the Catholic school ministry for the last three decades.
expanded into Orange. At the Diocese’s request and out of a desire to support the development of future school leaders, the CSJ Educational Network even ran the program for Vice Principals.

You could say that each new step for the CSJ Educational Network required bold faith, and you would be right. But the biggest leap of faith came when two schools in San Diego were faced with uncertain and potentially bleak futures.

**ST. KATHARINE DREXEL ACADEMY**

In the Summer 2017 edition of Bridges, “A New Path for Catholic Schools” detailed how the CSJ Educational Network was helping to merge two schools in San Diego. Both Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (OLSH) and Blessed Sacrament School were facing closure due to lower enrollment. But Bishop McElroy and John Galvan, Director of Schools for the Diocese of San Diego, didn’t want to see the two schools, located only two miles apart, close. Instead, the CSJ Educational Network was invited to make a proposal to help the two schools integrate. The two-year process was comprehensive and not without challenges, but the results speak for themselves.

In August 2018, St. Katharine Drexel Academy opened in San Diego. Thought and deliberation went into selecting the patron saint for the new institution. Who would best represent the hope and bold future of the school? St. Katharine Drexel was selected because of her belief in quality education for all, her work addressing and counteracting social inequalities among minorities, and her dedication to the unity of all peoples. The selection of a modern, female saint, who is one of only two natural-born U.S. citizens to be canonized, also honors the women who were instrumental in the founding and staffing of OLSH and Blessed Sacrament.

The newly christened school utilizes the Blessed Sacrament campus and boasts students and faculty from both schools. In their first year, the Crusaders retained 87% of students from OLSH and Blessed Sacrament.

The success of St. Katharine Drexel Academy particularly touched Sister Judith. “I think really for me a highlight of all of these years is the work we’ve done in San Diego with the two schools,” she said.

**30 YEARS AND BEYOND**

The influence of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange on Catholic education remains prevalent and empirical. St. Katharine Drexel Academy is certainly proof of that, as are the results of a recent impact study. The responses from teachers and faculty members speak for themselves:

- Over 90% of participants identified institutional values and practices that foster loving relationships.
Bret Allen Named Director of the CSJ Educational Network

When Bret Allen left his job as the Associate Superintendent for the Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, he called Sister Judith Dugan. The two had known each other for almost 20 years. They had built up a rapport when he was a principal and a member of the CSJ Educational Network. That friendship continued as he moved from one job to another, always staying connected with the Network.

But Allen wasn’t calling Sister Judith looking for a job with the Network. Instead, he was asking what she knew about a position that was available in Santa Barbara. Sister Judith was surprised. “Are you willing to relocate?” she asked. Allen told her he was. “Don’t do anything until we talk,” she said.

A month later, she called again. In the interim, she had worked with the congregation’s General Council and put together the Associate Director position, which she offered to Allen. Sister Judith’s hope was that Allen would spend a year as Associate Director and then, if all went well, he would assume the Director position. And that’s exactly what happened.

“IT just seemed it was a logical next step in my career in Catholic education,” Allen said.

Sister Judith, too, felt it was meant to be. “Bret could’ve not called and none of this would’ve happened,” she said. “That’s God’s providence. That’s God taking care of us.”
A Year of Celebration. A Year of Change

It has been a banner year for Sister Judith Dugan. She celebrated her 60th Jubilee in 2018 and marked the 30th anniversary of the CSJ Educational Network, the ministry to which she has devoted herself the last 26 years. It is also the year she shifted out of the role of Director.

About five years ago, Sister Judith began the process of transitioning away from being Director of the CSJ Educational Network. But the process was slow, mainly because she had no one to takeover for her when she left. She was determined to leave the ministry in good, capable hands that would help it continue to grow into the future.

When Bret Allen entered the equation, that’s when things really went into motion. Sister Judith and the CSJ Educational Network Advisory Committee had always had a list of qualities in mind for the next Director of the Network. They wanted someone who was familiar with the congregation. They wanted someone who understood and could promote the Network. They wanted someone who had experience in Catholic education. Allen ticked each of those boxes, plus he understood the charism of the sisters and the mission of the Network.

It was with pride and joy that Sister Judith welcome Allen as Associate Director in 2017 and then as Director in 2018. “I know in my very bones, he’s the right person, and this is the right time.”

But she isn’t stepping away from the CSJ Educational Network completely. As Director Emeritus, she is still involved and present in certain aspects of the ministry. She attends various activities and programs important to the advancement of the Network as requested.

Director Emeritus is a new experience but one abundant in opportunities. She has more time now to reconnect with friends and family she has missed over the last few years. Her 60th Jubilee was a time of wonderful celebration, but more importantly for her, it was a time for her family to come together.

In addition, Sister Judith hopes to connect with school boards, whom she calls, “the guardian of the mission of the school.” Schools that are a part of the CSJ Educational Network actively work to reflect the mission and values of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Judith would like to see the boards of Network schools support this effort and do the same. Her job title may have changed but her investment in Catholic education and the CSJ Educational Network remains the same.

“She exemplifies the core values of Catholic identity, justice, excellence and dignity. Her dedication to the support of educators was consistently evident in her strive to improve the quality and relevance of programs and presentations.”
-Terri Treiber, Communications Coordinator

“Sr. Judith is a women of honesty and integrity. She is not afraid to speak her truth. She has a deep commitment to Catholic education.”
-Sr. Susan Trezek, Volunteer

“Three words that describe her are joyful, generous, and self-giving.”
-Sr. Margaret Ann Chincholle, Volunteer

“Working with Sr. Judith has been of immeasurable value... Her professionalism, kindness and genuine love for education has left a lasting impression on our ministry.”
-Andrew Perias, Marketing Coordinator

“She used her wisdom, humor and ability to tell a great story to inspire co-ministers to get the job done... She identifies the gift we each have to offer and empowers us with her confidence and trust.”
-Therese DiMillo, Administrative Coordinator
A FAITH-FILLED

Giving Thanks

For Sister Madeleva Williams, her Jubilee year was a time of reflection and gratitude. As she thinks on who has helped shape her life and experiences, a few individuals stand out.

First is her mother.

Her mother made sure their house was alive with books, art, and music, which cultivated a lifelong love for learning, reading, and the arts. Despite working and raising a houseful of kids, her mother was always looking for ways to help others and to give back. Sister Madeleva still carries that model of kindness with her.

Her mother also had a gift for teaching, something she surely passed along to Sister Madeleva, who was a schoolteacher for 35 years. And it was her mother who first noticed how much she loved to draw. In the classroom, Sister Madeleva used art to better engage her students in every subject but math. “And I didn't teach math,” she jokes.

Then there is Sister Corita Kent, who became a mentor and friend after Sister Madeleva studied under her at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles. It was through Sister Corita’s encouragement and inspiration that Sister Madeleva discovered and cultivated her own iconic style. The brilliant colors and poignant quotes featured in her artwork now adorn walls wherever the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange extends.

And, of course, there are the sisters themselves.

Initially, Sister Madeleva was going to enter a different congregation, but a priest who had been taught by the CSJs suggested she meet some of the sisters from Orange. The rest is history. As she looks back on 70 years in the community, Sister Madeleva is thankful for the opportunities the congregation has afforded her and to the sister mentors who have guided her.

Describing her feelings on her Jubilee, Sister Madeleva says simply, “It is a litany of gratitude.”

Responding to the Call

When Sister Miriam Eckery entered the community at age 17, she already knew she wanted to serve in the Solomon Islands. It was her dream, her passion. But she wouldn’t set foot there until after her 30th birthday.

First, she was sent to teach at various schools. She filled in wherever she was needed. Sometimes it was for a few weeks, other times a few years. At Notre Dame des Victoires School, she met a sophomore named Phyllis. When Phyllis later became a Sister of St. Joseph, the two women reconnected and became friends.

Eventually, in 1963, Sister Miriam was sent to Papua New Guinea where she served as a nurse for six years. In that time, she covered 10 villages and made friends with the local witch doctor. She became fluent in the native language, pidgin. Once a month, she was rowed over to another island to tend to the people there. The villagers respected and admired her so much that the “big man” of the village requested she name his newborn daughter, a great honor usually reserved for the island's priest. Sister Miriam was touched. She gave the baby girl her own mother’s name, Josephine.

The experience was everything she had hoped for it to be. “It was just an enjoyable, enjoyable time,” she says in obvious delight.

When she returned from the Islands, she went back to school and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. For the next 15 years, she taught health education in hospitals in Santa Rosa and Fullerton, even attending the doctor’s staff meetings to provide insight when called upon.

Wherever she served, Sister Miriam has always responded to the congregation’s call to, as she puts it, “be there for others in need.”
Ms. Thomas By Day, Sister Joy By Night

Sister Joyce Anne Thomas speaks with such affection about her 52 years of teaching that it’s easy to understand why she was beloved by her students.

Being a sister was part of her plan, but teaching wasn’t. While a student at Cathedral Girls High School in San Diego, she and four classmates were inspired by their teacher, Sister Benedict, CSJ.

Sister Joy had hoped to be a sister nurse. As a teenager, she had a formative experience working in a hospital one block from the White House. There, she saw firsthand the racism African American workers and patients were subjected to.

When she took her vows, she embraced the mission to “serve the Dear Neighbor without distinction.” But at the time, the community needed teachers, not nurses. Sister Joy found she enjoyed the classroom and decided to stay. Decades of students are glad she did.

For 27 years, she taught in Catholic schools throughout California. After Rosary High School closed, she remained in San Diego to care first for her grandmother and then her mother as well as a former member. In 1977, she was hired by San Diego City Schools. For the next 25 years, as she taught public school at Bell Junior High, she was “Ms. Thomas by day and Sister Joy by night.”

Today, she lives in San Diego, with her cat, Cuddles, a stray whom she adopted. Her ministry work for the last 15 years has been at St. Patrick’s Parish, where she attends Mass and volunteers with several groups including the music ministry and Collection Counting Committee.

She is still recognized and happily greeted by former students. The Most Reverend Edward Wm. Clark even invited her, his 8th grade teacher, to his ordination as the Auxiliary Bishop in Los Angeles.

And throughout the last 70 years, Sister Joy always remembered the call to “love one another.”

“It’s easy to love one another, in a sense,” she says. “The way Christ loves us? That’s a task. That’s something that I tried to always do.”
What influenced your decision to become a sister?

SR. JO ANN EANNARENO: Some sisters knew from early in their lives that being a sister was their call. That wasn’t true for me. One sister I knew always engaged me in conversation about the possibility of choosing religious life in this community. She always invited me to visit the Motherhouse for various occasions. I declined until that day in August 1958 when I made this vocation my choice.

SR. FLO BOVY: As a young child growing up, I always had the desire to become a religious sister and join a Community. My parents were very instrumental in my vocation and each night we’d prayed the rosary that I’d become a religious sister.

SR. KATHLEEN MCCUISTION: A second grader’s dream of becoming a Sister was realized when I met the CSJ’s at Mater Dei High School. Their joyfulness, kindness, and love sealed the choice.

SR. REBECCA RODRIGUEZ: My decision to become a sister in 1958 was a slow process. It was a lingering thought that I didn’t recognize. I met a CSJ in high school and was attracted to her peaceful happiness but she also liked to have fun. Well, that did it. I wanted to have the same thing.

SR. TERESA DOLORES MONTANEZ: I always wanted to be a sister. I had Franciscans in religious education as I went to public school. I wanted to be a sister as a young child. I felt I was called by God.

SR. PAT HALEY: The Sisters I met in school certainly influenced my decision. And I recall especially my 5th grade teacher. One day she asked “have you ever thought of becoming a sister?” I was ten years old at the time!

What is a ministry that is particularly special to you?

SR. JUDITH ROYER: I’ve been at LMU for 45 years. Because the school has a strong social justice component, I am able to teach and do work related to that component with students (Voices of Justice class, for example) and as Director of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice. As a faculty member, I am able to combine my professional and academic work as a director, playwriting mentor, acting teacher as well as introduce students and colleagues to the power of the arts as social change. As Director of the CSJ Center, I am able to work with colleagues toward the University mission of fostering a faith that does justice and training men and women for others.


SR. KATHLEEN M.: I spent almost 50 years teaching, throughout Orange County. Then Sister Carmel gave me a computer and said, “Learn.” So then I started teaching computer skills to K – 8 graders which I enjoyed. That led into helping at Bethany, our homeless shelter, as night supervisor, and teaching the homeless women computer skills, my favorite ministry now.

SR. JO ANN: I have spent the greater portion of my ministerial life in Education of some sort. I really enjoyed my students and the colleagues with whom I worked. If you are lucky to live a long time (or started teaching very young), you can have the experience of seeing former students later in their adult lives. It is a
joy to stay acquainted or get reacquainted and learn of their lives post my classroom. It is the relationships that endure. What wonderful persons each has become developing the individual gifts and graces that have come his/her way.

SR. REBECCA: All the ministries that I’ve had have been my favorite at the time. Whether it was when I was a teacher in our schools, helping young adults at Taller San Jose, working with battered women or women in jail and prison, teaching ESL with non-English adults, or connecting with men from Home Depot, each one was a favorite ministry at the time.

What have been some of your favorite moments in ministry and/or in religious life?

SR. FLO: My favorite thing I’ve accomplished was being able to teach, which I did for 60 years. I really have enjoyed how Jesus guided me to different schools in California and primary grades. Jesus exceedingly fulfilled my dream.

SR. KATHLEEN J.: Just helping others at work and at home.

SR. PAT HALEY: It continues to be a joy for me whenever I come into Sacred Heart Chapel, having served on the chapel renovation committee with such an outstanding group of generous Sisters, and having the encouragement and freedom from Sister Nancy and the Council.

SR. KATHLEEN M.: In the last 30 years I have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. I have enjoyed helping to select families, painting houses, and especially presenting the key to the family’s new home. In addition, I have met some wonderful people who have given of their time & energy to serve others. Love is about service. During
the same time, I have served on the Guild Board in planning fundraising events for St. Francis Home.

SR. JUDITH D.: When I entered the community, we were given a choice between nursing and teaching. During my grade school years, I used to play school and thought of myself as a teacher. So, you can imagine my joy the first time I entered the classroom as teacher. I learned a lot that first year.

**What are some of your hopes for the future?**

SR. PAT: That as a community we express our love for God and all people with an inclusive, deep friendship as we savor the gifts of our charism with them, on each and every encounter!

SR. KATHLEEN M.: I am very hopeful for the future of our Community for we have involved lay people in our Social Justice and Eco-Justice Committees and now the Family of Joseph. Actually, we strive to work in unity with all people in all our ministries.

SR. JO ANN: When I see and listen to our younger members, I am encouraged that the future will be very bright. Religious life is ever evolving and while it may not look the same or even similar to now, the charism of all-inclusive, unioning, reconciling love will still be a movement much needed in our world and universe.

**Who has been an inspiration to you?**

SR. KATHLEEN J.: Sister Molly Stevenson and Mr. Louis.

SR. TERESA DOLORES: Sister Dividica and Sister Agnella. I believe I got my vocation from God and the Sisters helped me to become a CSJ.

SR. JO ANN: I don’t come from a family with a lot of priests or sisters. In fact, my Mom was quite opposed to my choice to become a sister. It wasn’t until many years after I was here that she remembered that her mother, my grandmother, wanted to be a sister. She was not permitted to do so. My Mom said that maybe I was taking her place. Though she died when I was quite young, I was always very close to her and chose her name as my Confirmation name. She was an inspiration to me.

SR. JUDITH R.: Sister Teresa [Groth, DMJ], who is the Director of the Francisco Homes. I think she is just a walking saint. The work that she has done is so amazing. Several of the Carondelet and CSJ sisters who work with CAST on human trafficking and immigration are important to me. I think Oscar Romero is a kind of hero. Doris Baizley, who is one of the co-writers of the Sister Stories, is a social justice hero and has been for more years than I’ve known her. Our collaboration has been wonderful. Some of our [LMU] alums, what they’re doing and what they’ve become makes them heroes. And those people who are out “doing” instead of just “talking,” including a number of our sisters such as Sisters Rebecca, Barbara Jean, Louise Ann Micek, Jeannie Fallon, Felicia Sarati, Elena Jaramillo, and Alicia, and Maria Elena Perales [Director of the St. Joseph Justice Center]. They inspire me.

SR. REBECCA: Sr. Jacqueline Morin was the sister that drew me to the community. Her wisdom, kindness, and humor inspired me to be like her.

**Is there a certain memory that stands out to you from the last 60 years?**

SR. TERESA DOLORES: How special my vocation was/is. I always admired my parents for not standing in my way to become a sister even if they did not approve. I am very thankful for the gift of my vocation from my parents.

SR. FLO: I am thankful for my vocation, which has given me so many wonderful gifts through the years: daily Eucharist and other prayer together, an excellent education, opportunities, teaching, the gift of sharing as a community member. I am so blessed to be a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange for 60 years.

SR. JUDITH R.: Right after the 2016 election, one of the students who I had worked with a number of times came up and said, “How are you doing?” I said, “Well I feel like I just worked a really long time on things that are just going to be destroyed and we’ll be back 100 years.” And he said, “But that’s what you have us for.”

I just thought, “Oh my gosh, he has just said, ‘We’ll be the next generation, we’re going to take care of it. It’s our job now.’” And that was an amazing experience. It was so humbly said, so innocently said. Those are moments you can’t replace.
The 1960s were a decade of change. There was a resurgence of youth and energy as young people sought out ways to serve their communities and make their voices heard. Religious life was changing too. Like other congregations, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange were exploring new ways to connect with the communities around them.

It was amid this atmosphere that Sister MaryAnne Huepper entered and took her vows. She quickly moved into teaching and soon became principal. While the community was beginning to explore new ministries like pastoral ministry in parishes and chaplaincy in hospitals, Sister MaryAnne remained passionate about education.

“We were educating for a different era,” Sister MaryAnne says. “We were educating with a lens focused on of the global and the local communities.”

Her years teaching at Rosary High School in Fullerton were particularly memorable. There was a challenge and an excitement in teaching that age group. The students were creative, thoughtful, and thought-provoking. She enjoyed helping them develop their skills and passions.

Each ministry position was special in its own way. In every new role or location, she gained or honed another skill that better prepared her for whatever came next. When she became Executive Director of the Center for Spiritual Development, a position she held for nine years, she had the administrative and theology background already in place.

For the last five years she has served as Associate Director of the Center for Reconciliation and Justice at Loyola Marymount University.

There, her decades of teaching and her gift of building up others have found the perfect home. True to the Center’s mission, Sister MaryAnne facilitates the efforts of faculty, staff, students, and alumni in their collaborative efforts to work toward reconciliation and justice locally and globally.

For Sister Marian Schubert, reflecting on 40 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange means reflecting on almost the same amount of time serving in healthcare.

Her roles have covered a multitude of areas. One of her first jobs was cleaning surgical dishes, which she did by standing on a box to hunch over a sink.

When she was only one year out of nursing school, she and three other women were asked to open St. Joseph Hospital’s first free clinic. La Amistad de Jose provides medical and dental services to persons who otherwise wouldn’t have access to those services. The clinic transformed Sister Marian’s passion for healthcare ministry.

“When I went to work in the community, all of a sudden the walls opened up and I loved it,” she says.

La Amistad became the model that other hospitals followed when opening their own clinics. Sister Marian went on to work at clinics for Santa Rosa Memorial and Mission Hospital. Because of her hands-on experience with those most in need, she could see beyond the business side of healthcare to the heart of the work.

Starting in 2000, Sister Marian progressively became involved with Mission Integration at various hospitals. In this role, she helped ensure the congregation’s mission and values are reflected in our health care institutions. As Catholic health care desires to remain faithful to the healing ministry of Jesus, the need for Mission Integration is even greater.

“That’s what Mission Integration is truly about,” Sister Marian says. “It’s the healing ministry of Jesus.”
PURPOSE DRIVEN

“What is my purpose?”

That’s the question Sister Christine Ray was asking herself in her mid-20s. She had grown up experiencing the impact of the Vietnam War, political assassinations, and country-wide protests. It stirred in her a need to do something meaningful.

When she met the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, she was impressed with their character and values. Living out the congregation’s mission became a worthy way to find her purpose.

Her work has often been in “ministries of presence.” She served as a parish sister in Guaymas, Mexico, an Operations Coordinator at Taller San Jose Hope Builders, at St. Joseph Hospital working with cancer patients, and is now an Addiction Counselor at Mission Laguna Hospital. The work was sometimes difficult mentally and emotionally. “But I like challenges,” she says.

One ministry that stands out to her was being part of the Pastoral Care Team at St. Joseph Hospital. “When I was called to the ER or ICU for an emergency, my heart always beat really fast and it was a challenge. Family members were afraid. The team caring for the patients sometimes needed to process the crucial event,” Sister Christine says. “But I hope I made a difference by my presence.”

Through the years she has been inspired by several people. Oscar Romero. The elected officers of the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR). And her father, who taught her “there is nothing that can’t be fixed or restored,” a value she sees reflected in the charism of the congregation.

“It’s easy to create fear and division in our world,” she says, “but to care for your neighbor when it calls you to push your courage beyond what you believe you have, to make people's lives better with dignity, is much more demanding. I’m inspired by women and men who don’t shy away from their values and integrity.”

THE CAMINO WAY

Even though Sister Teresa Yoon had previously completed two pilgrimages, she felt her 25th Jubilee called for a special celebration, one that was nearly 1,100 miles long and took her 60 days to complete.

The Camino de Santiago (St. James Way) is a series of ancient trails that formed a major Christian pilgrimage route. The path that Sister Teresa took started in Le Puy, France, where the Sisters of St. Joseph were founded, and finished in Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

Because 2018 was her Jubilee year, for the first time Sister Teresa felt an intrinsic link between the “Camino” and religious life.

“It looks like it’s just a walking pilgrimage, but it’s more than that,” she says. “It’s an inner journey.”

She navigated hills and valleys all by foot, often in the rain, and always following the roadmarks: red and white stripes in France, yellow arrow in Spain. It reminded her of trusting God and obeying Him wherever He leads her, even when she can’t see the path ahead.

Beauty was all around her: fields of flowers, hillsides lush with greenery, livestock pastured in trailside fields, and too many butterflies to count. Birds sang so beautifully that Sister Teresa felt it was nature’s orchestra around her. The sounds brought her peace in moments of weariness.

As she walked, she opened herself to her thoughts and found healing for struggles or worries. She drew strength from God’s love and realized how much love she has to return to Him and to give to others. She was filled with gratitude that through her vocation she can bring people into relationship with God and with one another.

The pilgrims often stopped in for Mass at some of the many cathedrals dotting the landscape. In the town of Conques, Sister Teresa received a pilgrimage blessing and felt her heart lift with the Holy Spirit as they sang. The Camino was a celebration, yes, but also a way to thank God for her 25 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange.
Inclusive Love Takes Action

The work of social justice can be a balancing act. On one hand, Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching and our own hearts demand that we speak out and take action when we find people in conditions that cause ignorance, poverty, suffering and oppression. On the other hand, in our wounded world, alarm bells in the name of social justice can be rung all day and all night. Apathy can emerge from simply being tired of hearing it. And apathy is a mission fail.

The St. Joseph Justice Center strives to find the sweet spot. Through an impressive amount of collaboration, the Justice Center enables and energizes people to be agents of change for social justice through consciousness raising, advocacy and direct service.

"We cannot do the work alone," says St. Joseph Justice Center director, Maria Elena Perales. "It is through dialogue and partnerships with organizations and community leaders that we are able to generate awareness about the climate crisis, advocate for our homeless sisters and brothers, and be of support to our immigrant communities at this time of utmost need."

Justice work is more than helping to fix what’s broken. It is an expression of reconciling, inclusive love. Here are five ways the Justice Center offers to help put inclusive love into action.

1. **Summer Public Witness.** Come join us Thursdays from July 11 - September 19 for an act of public witness in support of children and families that have been inhumanely separated at our borders. There are still 55 children separated from their families and under the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Join us at 6 p.m. for prayer on the front steps of the Motherhouse. Then walk to the sidewalk where we will make a public stand through prayer in support of children separated from their parents seeking refuge.

2. **Speaker Series fosters Care for Our Common Home.** The 2019 series features expert speakers on different elements of climate change. We hope to provide opportunities for conversation and involvement. Join us on Thursday, August 15 to hear Dr. Shahir Masri share insights about air pollution and connecting communities with policy makers across the US to address climate change. On Thursday, October 17, we will view the film Paris to Pittsburgh and celebrate how Americans are developing real solutions in the face of climate change. Allic Druffel from California Interfaith Power and Light will moderate conversation.

3. **Film and Conversation on Global Refugees.** Tuesday, September 10. Artist, activist and director Ai Weiwei captures the global refugee crisis - the greatest human displacement since World War II – in this breathtakingly epic film journey HUMAN FLOW.

4. **Day of Service in Our Neighborhoods.** Join us Saturday, September 28. Like Sisters of St. Joseph have done for nearly 370 years, we will go into our neighborhoods, working together to meet the needs we find. You can learn more and sign up for our 4th annual Day of Service by visiting the website at http://csjorange.org/ministries/justice-center/day-of-service-2018/

5. **Participate Online.** Subscribe to 100 Days of Prayer. Born from prayers that accompanied the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, 100daysofprayer.net has continued because of popular demand. We offer three 100-day prayer series each year. Find past prayers and sign up to have new posts delivered to your inbox. A flyer featuring daily prayers from Sunday to Saturday is posted the week prior. You can also subscribe to Wednesday Splash - a weekly e-mail featuring a splash (not an overwhelming wave) of resources on social justice topics. Links to more info and opportunities to take action are provided in serving just small enough to wet your whistle. Visit csjorange.org and click the Wednesday Splash slide to sign up.
Luz Peredo-Muniz looked up from her desk and smiled, but the woman in front of her lowered her eyes. She held a baby on her hip and a toddler by the hand. She spoke into the baby’s head. She needed a lawyer. Today.

Luz wasn’t surprised by the young mom’s timid behavior. Like others who visited the Family Resource Center in Lake Forest, CA, she would need help with an urgent issue like immigration, mental health, Medicaid, or food stamps. Immigration, Luz guessed.

Luz had just begun work as an information and resource specialist through the St. Joseph Worker Program (SJWP), a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Her college professors might have been surprised at her decision to take this volunteer stint instead of a job in her field of athletic training. But Luz was drawn to service. She had followed her heart.

Now, she would have to break it to the woman that attorneys don’t take walk-in appointments. She would have to wait. Luz began to explain when she noticed bruises on the little boy’s arm and face, and had another thought. Maybe she needs more than a lawyer.

Steering the family over to a quiet corner, Luz sat down with them. She asked, gently, what was wrong. The woman broke down. Her husband was violent. She was afraid for her children’s lives.

“I will never forget her,” Luz says. “I just rubbed her back and handed her tissues. Once she was quiet, I contacted a social worker who got her and the children into a
domestic violence shelter that same day. I also contacted a lawyer for her. I’m so, so happy I was able to help.”

Luz is one of five workers to serve in the 2018/2019 SJWP. With placements in social services, health care, education and other fields, the program empowers young laywomen to extend the ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph while supporting the workers’ growth in leadership, social justice, community and spirituality.

“The SJWP workers are making a big difference in the lives of those they serve,” program director Sister Joanna Rosciszewska, CSJ says. “They make a big difference in their own lives, too.”

Genny Say, who is serving in Napa County, says she couldn’t agree more. A social worker, her education prepared her to help people with difficult life situations. But what she’s experienced through the SJWP over the past year is an opportunity to grow in relationship with others.

“I don’t just work on helping clients get Social Security benefits, I really get to know them,” Genny says. She relates stories about clients who, for example, have suffered traumatic brain injuries that leave them unable to resume their normal lives.

“I help them apply for services, but more than that, I help them regain their sense of self worth.”

Genny says she now understands her role in a larger context.

“Even though my clients have terribly difficult challenges, they are excited to teach me what they know, whether a cooking tip or some deep insight,” she says. “They’ve helped teach me that I’m an instrument of God’s love. I can advocate and connect them to services and journey with them, but there’s so much more.”

Be a St. Joseph Worker
Are you a 21- to 35-year-old woman with a passion to serve? Learn more about the SJWP! Visit sjworange.org, or contact Sr. Joanna at Rosciszewskaj1@csjorange.org or 714-515-0471.

Support a St. Joseph Worker
Your gift will of $50-$500 will help cover room, board and program services for a SJWP Worker. Please contact Sr. Joanna to learn more: Rosciszewskaj1@csjorange.org or 714-515-0471.
Celebrating a 40 Years

Discerning God’s Call
by Sister Paulette Deters

Sister Mary Elizabeth’s teaching career began long before she became a sister. In high school, she taught religion to first graders at her home parish. While attending college, she became a full-time preschool teacher. “Miss Mary” loved her work and knew her field was education. But she also knew she was meant for religious life and was pleased to find an answer to both callings in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

“What I love most about teaching is being able to mold kids for life,” she says. “It’s helping kids and parents when they’re feeling excluded—how to get along, to be kind, to reach out beyond themselves and be loving. It’s teaching compassion.”

Leaving education to work in vocations was difficult, but Sister Mary Elizabeth accepted the challenge. As Director of Vocations, she enjoyed helping young women discern God’s call. “Sharing their journey continues to be a blessing to me.”

Throughout her life, she’s found that art—from colorful classroom bulletin boards and children’s art projects to reflective prayer services and watercolor paintings—releases another side of God’s beauty and love.

Currently, Sister Mary Elizabeth serves on the congregation’s General Council. The role allows her to look toward the future and discover how partnering with other religious women broadens our vision, strengthens our voice, and empowers us to do better that which we could do alone.

“Being a part of the Sisters of St. Joseph is all about building relationships. That means going beyond ourselves and reaching out to those in need—wherever the dear neighbor is found,” she says. “That’s our CSJ charism—unity and reconciliation.”
The Spirit of the Good Samaritan
by Sister Alicia Rivera

In 1984, the story of the Good Samaritan became real for me in the streets of Los Angeles on Skid Row. There, I saw Sister Sue Dunning assist a poor, dirty, smelly man by helping him pull up and fasten his trousers so he could line up for a hot meal. Everyone else around had just ignored him.

Sister Sue invites everyone to the table and makes an effort to connect with each person. Although she took Spanish in high school and college, she became fluent in the language and culture by working and living in Guaymas, Mexico. She was determined to learn Spanish well enough to express herself and to live with those around her.

It wasn’t until I met her parents that I discovered why Sister Sue is so kind, generous, loving, caring, and hospitable. She is definitely the spitting image of them. Sister Sue has carried on the values of her parents in ministries, schools, parishes, Mexico, Africa, Formation, Leadership, and as a friend.

Sister Sue, may our Triune God continue to fill you with many graces in the years to come.

A Spiritual Director, Missionary, and More
by Sister Kit Gray

The Constitution of the Sisters of St. Joseph says that “we live and work that all people may be united with God and with one another” and “to bring about this unity, we search out and undertake any spiritual and corporal work of mercy within the power of the Congregation.” Sister Sharon Becker has lived this mission zealously in many roles including as a nurse midwife, missionary, and spiritual director. In addition, she has served as Vice President for Sponsorship, member of the Leadership and Formation Teams of the Congregation, a hospital board member, and member of the Sponsors Council for Providence St. Joseph Health. The list could go on.

In all these ministries, she has been collaborative and creative, such as establishing maternal-child clinics in Papua New Guinea and in Apple Valley, CA. In response to an invitation, she organized a team and developed a program to train Sisters in Ghana and Tanzania as spiritual directors.

As a third-grader, Sister Sharon knew she wanted to be a missionary, and she has made that goal a reality. In the U.S. and beyond, she has been a joyous and effective missionary of unity and reconciliation. Congratulations, Sister Sharon, on your Jubilee.
Feeling Welcome
by Stephanie Coats

Here’s a secret: Sister Ann Marie Steffen is cool.

When I started working for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, my limited understanding of modern sisters was immediately thrown out the window. I discovered sisters had a breadth of interests, ministries, and life experiences. Perhaps no one has made a bigger impact on me than Sister Ann Marie.

I’ve only known her while she has worked in the Liturgy and Communications Departments, but her ministry history goes far beyond that. She was a math teacher and then the IT Director for the congregation for 26 years, leading them through formative years of technological growth and rapid change. I also know other things, like how she went to see Star Wars the night before she made final vows in 1977. She has a miniature blue parrot named Einstein. She has a key to Disneyland!

But the best things about Sister Ann Marie are her warmth, humor, kindness, and acceptance. From day one, she made me feel welcome, like I was a part of this community.

Not long after I was hired, my dad helped me hang art in my office. Sister Ann Marie stopped by, and I introduced her to him. He asked about her shirt, which had drums on it. She explained that during a sabbatical she had learned to play. My dad was flummoxed but delighted. “That’s really cool,” he said.

So, yeah, Sister Ann Marie is cool. Just ask my dad.

Companions on the Journey

Community has always been essential to Sister Pat Lipinski. It was community that encouraged her to respond to God’s call to religious life. In working and living alongside multigenerational sisters, she learned about bold faith, foresight, and humility. Through her 30-year friendship with Sister Adele Marie Korhummel, she discovered what being “companions on the journey” means.

Sister Pat is so gracious it’s hard to make any praise stick. That doesn’t stop Sister Adele Marie who says, “One of the things she does so well is she listens to people.” Nurses, sisters, family, and friends often stop by or call for advice or her compassionate presence.

But she also has a fearless side. In the 1980s, her pastoral care ministry expanded to include persons suffering from HIV/AIDS at a time when there was still significant misinformation and fear surrounding the diseases. She partnered with Sister Adele Marie to provide community to two men with AIDS by having elementary students call them to talk about simple things like animals or nature. The students even made presents and decorated their Christmas tree. Later, she coordinated the Circle of Women ministry aimed at helping women with AIDS.

Sister Pat is adventurous too. When they lived in Eureka, CA or visited the Pacific Northwest, she convinced Sister Adele Marie to learn to fish and even go rafting on river rapids. Memories of those times make the sisters light up with laughter. They’re still companions. The journey continues.
A Blessed Life
by Sister Chris Hilliard

When reflecting on her ministry as teacher/principal in elementary schools, Sister Jane DeLisle wrote: “Each day was a new challenge and another opportunity to touch lives, see the face of God, and make a difference in every way possible... My years in education were blessed and growth filled ones.”

This actually describes her whole life as a Sister of St. Joseph. For Sister Jane, being abundantly blessed by God enthusiastically translates into being a blessing to others in whatever way she can.

Over the past 50 years, I’ve traveled with Sister Jane numerous times. While we organized our trips carefully, sometimes plans have to be shifted. Once, we drove her Prius from Orange, CA to Sedalia, CO for our annual retreat. Taking the “northern” route over mountains really put a strain on that little Prius! With creativity and out of compassion for the car (and our nerves), she suggested we return after retreat via the southern route. This turned out not only to be healthier for the Prius, but a delightful experience for us as we explored new and beautiful sites. It is just one example of how Sister Jane recognizes God’s blessings and shares them with others.

60 Years

From Teacher to Treasurer
by Sister Judith Fergus

Sister Mary Bernadette McNulty came to Orange from San Francisco in 1959 with one desire: to serve God and His people. She spent her first 17 years as a teacher and principal. Her students loved her because she made learning fun. Her habit didn’t hold her back from playing baseball and basketball with the boys. One eighth grade class gave her a large trophy recognizing her as their favorite teacher.

In 1979, she was asked to consider being the congregation’s treasurer. Despite being a principal at the time, she began night classes in Finance at CSU Fullerton. Soon, she was learning about the Finance Office from Sister Carol Marie Kelber, who was pleased with the younger sister’s new ministry. But Sister Mary Bernadette’s mother was less sure.

When she told her parents she was being asked to serve as the community treasurer, her Irish father was proud but her Irish mother thought teaching was a more noble profession. She was sure her daughter was being punished! Sister Mary Bernadette explained that that was not the case. Mrs. McNulty continued to love her daughter in spite of her “demotion” to treasurer.

Our community has been blessed with good treasurers, and Sister Mary Bernadette has continued that tradition. After 60 years in the community, she is more commonly known as Mary Bern. She quietly, calmly, and fastidiously continues serving the dear neighbor from the Finance Office.
Mentor and Friend

by Sister MaryAnne Huepper

It is with special fondness that I write in celebration of Sister JoAnn Tabor’s 60th Jubilee. Sister JoAnn was a significant presence during my years of formation. She was my mentor when I was an initially professed sister, guiding me through final vow preparation in 1976. I also had the opportunity to live with her during my first year of teaching in Ontario.

Since those early years I have had the privilege of witnessing the generous ways in which Sister JoAnn, ever the artist and “lady”, made faith, foresight, and flexibility tangible through her willingness to say yes to a variety of ministries: teaching, administration, formation, spiritual direction, diocesan leadership, and more. I have always admired her practice of work/life balance. Taking the time to “smell the roses” or enjoy a good book is an important part of her personal practice.

Sister JoAnn’s wit and wisdom serve her well; she does not take herself too seriously, often enjoying a good laugh at herself. She also values relationships within the community and beyond. She’s a faithful friend and a companion in times of sorrow and joy.

Sister JoAnn, thank you for your life among us. You are a gift!

La Joie de Vivre

Throughout her life, Sister Monique Gautier has experienced God’s faithful love and guidance. Having always felt drawn to missionary work, she journeyed from her home in France to Australia to become a Sister of St. Joseph. Leaving her family and country was difficult and her mother’s support was crucial to her pursuit of God’s call. Less than a decade later, Sister Monique was ministering in Papua New Guinea.

“Being immersed in the culture and tradition of the people taught me so much about life and the love and joy of expanded family and community.”

When her 22 years in PNG concluded, she made her way to Orange, CA. For three special years, she worked with Cambodian communities before transitioning to healthcare ministry. At St. Jude Medical Center, she created and coordinated the Youth Volunteer and “We Care” programs and later worked in Mission Services at St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare.

Her years in healthcare were invigorating. The passion of young people and the relationships with co-workers energized Sister Monique. She looked for new opportunities to address the needs of the marginalized. God’s response was, as she’d come to expect, creative.

For the last 15 years she has volunteered at the Women’s State Prison in Corona. “I am deeply touched by the women’s welcome, their stories, and faith journeys while incarcerated,” she says. “I feel strongly connected with each of them at a heart level. They are my sisters. I enjoy being with them, sharing in their joys and struggles, and celebrating eucharist and unique events together.”

Everything continues to grow from the same seeds: Connections and relationships, love and life, joy and gratitude.
Working Behind the Scenes to Make a Difference

by Maria Elena Perales

I’ve known Sister Barbara Jean for 13 years, and I have had the privilege to minister with her on several social justice issues. She is often busy with both assigned and improvised tasks, the latter of which she calls “graces” or “unplanned blessings”. Sister Barbara Jean is a humble and caring person who is constantly doing for others and often operates behind the scenes.

When reminiscing about her 60 years as a sister, she spoke about her meaningful ministry as a Chaplain at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa. When asked what she loved most about living “up North”, she said, “God’s country up North” and chuckled.

When she left Napa and came to Orange in 2002, she found herself working at Mary’s Kitchen and later became involved in promoting awareness about human trafficking. She became, and still is, a member of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force and has mentored survivors, joined other groups, and helped with awareness events.

Sister Barbara Jean is genuine when sharing her thoughts and ideas, and I know I can rely on her when things need to get done. She is well known for sending a hilarious email to brighten your day. She has taught me to be persistent in encouraging others to become involved and grateful for the gifts we encounter in our daily lives.

Life as a Catechist

Sister Nadine McGuinness has a love for teaching and developing others. Starting in high school, she aspired to be catechist and gravitated towards Sister Henrietta, a catechist herself. Mother Felix helped to further her aspirations by sending Sister Nadine to the University of San Francisco to earn a Master’s in Theology.

With a background in teaching, she went on to work at the LA Archdiocesan center where she instructed teachers and began writing textbooks and teacher’s manuals. That, in turn, led her to become a national consultant for a major religious education publisher.

Around this time, she also started giving workshops and seminars through diocesan conferences from the Great Lakes to the Gulf and from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Later, while studying for her Ph.D. in Theology, Sister Nadine taught in the Diaconate formation program for Native Americans in Ontario, Canada.

When she returned to California, she was invited to help create the Ministry Formation Institute of the San Bernardino Diocese. There, she helped to develop instructors for local ministers, a televised formation program, and an education program for parish ministry coordinators, all in English and Spanish.

Her love for learning and desire to pass on knowledge and God’s goodness to others hasn’t waned. Recently, Sister Nadine presented Pope Francis’ Encyclical and Apostolic Exhortations to the congregation, parishes, and at diocesan conferences.
I Will Do It

Sisters of St. Joseph are charged to seek out the needs of the community and find ways to address them. At first, Sister Marie Jeannette Ansberry was doing just that as a teacher. It was good work and she enjoyed it, especially interacting with the students. But, in the 1970s, she discovered one of her students was being abused at home. She was appalled. Even worse, no one seemed interested in helping the student.

So she did it herself.

That decision launched a new mission for Sister Marie Jeannette. She wanted to give children a better life, to return some part of childhood that abuse had stolen from them. First, she spent two years at Casa de los Ninos in Tucson. Then, in 1987, she founded Casita de San Jose in Santa Ana to provide long-term shelter and counseling for abused children.

Her calm, loving manner made people feel relaxed and safe with her. That was important in later years too when she was the Chaplain at Redwood Memorial Hospital and when working in the Religious Education office of Assumption Church in Fortuna, CA. The needs of the community kept changing but Sister Marie Jeannette was always ready to respond.

Teamwork

by Leo Catahan

I have worked with Sister Adele Marie Korhummel since 2002, though we met in late 2001. At first, I didn't know what to expect. I was told that she would be taking over in the Archives Department for Sister Annette Bachand, who I had been working with. It took some time to get used to Sister Adele Marie's schedule since she had commitments outside the Archives at the time. But when we got to know each other and how we worked, we clicked immediately.

I feel that we complement each other in our skills. She brings in her library skills to the Archives, which is helpful when I have questions about how to approach a problem. She is also well versed in “sister talk” so she can interpret requests that, as a layperson, I might not understand. She has a profound love and respect for the CSJ heritage and has helped instill in me the value of knowing and preserving the congregation's history.

Sister Adele Marie is determined, resourceful, and insightful about the future. She's a very put together and confident person but also very approachable. When work in the Archives is slow, we sometimes catch up on what's happening in our own lives. I particularly love hearing stories about the many schools where she worked and how they made do with what was available. Our chats about anything and everything have strengthened our working relationship. I'm grateful to know her and serve alongside her.
Childhood Dreams and Beyond

In 1965, Sister Clare Oldfield arrived in Papua New Guinea (PNG) feeling that God had worked everything out for her. Her childhood dream to be a missionary and her call to religious life had converged when she discovered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange had opportunities to serve in PNG. She served first as a principal and later as a teacher helping to equip girls with the education and skills they needed to build better lives for themselves and their communities. The nine years she spent ministering in PNG were “probably the happiest years of my life!”

But what do you do after you fulfill your childhood dream? You keep serving. In the 1980s and 90s, Sister Clare provided care for people living with AIDS in her home country of Australia. In this role, she grew to understand the loneliness, pain, and rejection of people with AIDS and witnessed the healing and compassion of Christ.

Today, she volunteers at St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare where she enjoys interacting with co-workers as they carry on the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is work she hopes to continue doing in the coming years.

Reflecting on the past 70 years, Sister Clare says, “I firmly believe I was in the right place and in spite of many hardships and challenges, I knew that God would sustain me, and He always has. I have confidence that He will continue to do so. I look forward to what lies ahead.”

Continuing the Mission

Sister Martha Ann Fitzpatrick’s ministry work has often evolved in leaps and bounds. But when asked about it, she chuckles and says, “I’ve really enjoyed everything I’ve done.”

The first big jump was switching from teaching second graders to teaching sophomore boys. Next was when she went off to Catholic University, at the request of Mother Felix, and earned a master’s and Ph.D. in American history. Then she went back to teaching but another big shift was on the horizon.

In July 1977, Sister Martha Ann was elected to serve on the congregation’s General Council. It was a season of major change in religious life, and, though the work was challenging, the bond she formed with her councilmembers provided an invaluable lesson in teamwork.

When her decade in leadership ended, Sister Martha Ann wasn’t sure how to return to teaching again. Around that time, the St. Joseph Health system was taking shape, which intrigued her. She wanted to pursue an answer to the question: how does the congregation continue healthcare ministry with fewer sisters?

After gaining a little experience, she became the Vice President of Sponsorship at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. Today, she is the Vice President of Advocacy and Ministry Formation at Mission Hospital. There she provides a voice for the marginalized and, yes, answers that question by helping to develop employees to carry on the mission and values of healthcare ministry.
**Good and Faithful Counselor**

When Communist rule in Hungary ended in 1989, Sister Helen Szekely saw an important opportunity. She had a Ph.D. in Psychology and wanted to use it to provide much-needed counseling in her home country. She asked Sister Hildegard Dittrich to go with her.

The two sisters had connected quickly when Sister Helen arrived in Orange in 1978. They found common ground through their European origins.

Sister Hildegard has always known her friend to be tough. In Hungary, they stayed at a rectory where the priests wanted the sisters to cook and clean for them on the weekends. Sister Helen wouldn’t hear of it. She made sure everyone worked together. That’s just the type of person she is. Straight-forward. No-nonsense.

But Sister Hildegard has also seen Sister Helen’s great compassion for people. The work in Hungary was difficult. Years of fighting and being under Communist rule had left Hungarians devastated and hurt. Sister Helen understood this and was dedicated to helping any way she could.

For 13 years, she remained in Hungary, where she opened a counseling clinic and taught Marriage and Family Therapy. When she returned to the States, she opened another clinic and continued counseling until retiring in 2014. That desire to walk with people who were hurting had never gone away.

“She was always willing to do something to help people,” Sister Hildegard said.

**See the World Through Parish Ministry**

Sister Caritas Gorski didn’t become a sister to see the world but it happened anyway.

At first, most of what she saw was different areas of California. She traveled from San Francisco to San Diego and many places in between to teach wherever there was a need. In 18 years, she had served at nine different schools. But things began to change when she moved to Lubbock, TX in 1969 to work with and minister to the Mexican population there. Once her eyes had been opened to the needs of international communities, there was no going back.

After four years in Texas, Sister Caritas returned to Orange, CA to work with the Vietnamese community. Then, in 1987, she moved to Guaymas, Mexico to begin parish ministry, which became her enduring passion.

Parish ministry was personal, hands on, and allowed her to share in others’ culture. Quiet and unassuming, Sister Caritas thrived in this setting. She joyfully spent ten years in Mexico and another nine in Peru. True, it was an experience she had never envisioned for herself, and yet, she never doubted it was exactly where God wanted her to be.
**70 Years**

**An Enduring Love for Education**

In June 2019, St. Joachim School and Parish held a celebration for Sister Kathleen Marie Pughe to recognize her 50+ years as a principal (including 13 at St. Joachim) and 60+ years in education ministry. The joy of the event was fresh in her mind when she reflected on her Jubilee year.

“I’ve always loved the ministry of education,” she says. “I have an innate love for children of all ages. Children have added life to my years and years to my life.”

She was the first born of 13. From a young age she knew she had a loving heart and was meant to be a sister. That certainty hasn’t wavered and neither has her love for sharing God’s gifts. Sister Kathleen Marie has enjoyed all 11 schools she’s served at, from Point Loma to San Francisco and everywhere in between.

“My years of teaching and administration have been blessed with so many relationships that continue to this day.”

She has always believed education helps to form and impact young people for life. That truth was never more evident than during the celebration by St. Joachim. Students from the past six decades smiled and thanked her. In ways big and small, she had touched their lives, and they hadn’t forgotten.

The feeling is mutual. For Sister Kathleen Marie, 70 years is a time for deep gratitude. She’s grateful to God, her parents and siblings, and the sisters who helped form her and to the students, parents, and teachers who have enriched her life.

“My heart is filled with thanks and happiness.”

**80 Years**

**Young at Heart**

Sister Anna Louise Leveille wanted to be a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange when she was eight years old, having met Mother Louis and Sister Elizabeth who were on a visit to her hometown of Bonnyville in Alberta, Canada. She waited to turn 18. “Coming to Orange was a dream come true,” recalls Sister Anna Louise.

It wasn’t long before she was asked to teach at Notre Dame de Victoires in San Francisco. Sister Anna Louise taught Kindergarten there for nearly a decade.

Like many teachers, Sister Anna Louise moved to different schools throughout California and Texas, though most of her teaching years were in parish schools in Fullerton or San Francisco. Over a few years at All Hallows School, she had 100 kids per day, 50 in the morning and 50 in the afternoon.

She often taught the youngest primary grades and fondly remembers having a few of our own sisters as kindergartners. Preparing kids for Sacraments stands out in her memory, as do games of kickball, and being resourceful to make her bulletin boards. Her ministry in Catholic Education spanned 50 years!

In Sister Anna Louise’s classroom, there was time for fun (recess) and time to learn (little ones need structure), though learning could be fun too. One cannot last decades with elementary-age kids without being young at heart. It is revealed today with her delightful smile and sense of fun.
Four years ago, Sister Eileen McNerney was sick with sepsis. She received treatment, recovered, and six weeks later... she had sepsis again, this time in her heart. When she was released from the hospital a second time, she recovered for several weeks in Regina Residence, our retirement home for sisters. Feeling weak in body and soul, every day Sister Eileen says she “whined” to God. What was she supposed to do now? What did God want her to do? She didn’t have the vigor of past years.

But God knew that and responded, “I want you to pay attention to the long-suffering.”

**Living Well?**

Over the last century, life expectancy in the U.S. has jumped from 46 for men and 48 for women to 76 and 81, respectively. That's approximately a 60% rise in life expectancy. But living longer doesn't always equate to living well.

Sixty percent of people will die from chronic illnesses such as heart disease, Parkinson's, diabetes, kidney disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and the long-term effects of Alzheimer's or dementia. This translates to a lot of people enduring illnesses and the side effects of them for longer than they could have imagined. It means 60% of people will likely fall into the category of “long-suffering,” meaning those who are living with chronic or debilitating illness and those who are living with the loss of a sense of “well-being.”

Sister Eileen considers herself a “learner” in companioning the long-suffering. Preventing disease is not Sister Eileen’s goal. In fact, that’s a hard realization she had to come to right from the start.

“I can’t fix what they have. I can’t make it better,” she said, “but I can visit the sick and comfort the afflicted. I can listen deeply and well and faithfully.” Sister Eileen has come to understand her ministry as providing palliative care for the soul.

So that’s what she has done the last few years. She calls her ministry “the Company of the Long-Suffering.” She visits five women, all of whom are diminishing due to illnesses. They are either women she's worked with in ministry or her fellow sisters. She’s not there to offer medical advice or to entertain them. In the simplest terms, Sister Eileen is there to listen. She doesn't make demands or force someone to interact with her or even to trust her. She just shows up ready to listen. Faithful presence matters more than you might think because, in the end, as Sister Eileen says, “We are meant to walk each other home.”

**Strength of Heart**

A central part to companioning the long-suffering is prioritizing the other person's feelings above your own. Visiting a sick and dying friend is difficult. One of the women Sister Eileen visits told her she wakes up each day thinking, “How much pain can I bear today?” Another said she wished she had a death certificate already in-hand so she knew how much longer she had to bear her illness.

Those are hard words to hear from someone you care for, but they are unimaginably harder to say, to feel every day. Therefore, Sister Eileen asks for God’s help in putting the feelings of the women she visits- their thoughts, fears, anxieties, sorrows, and frustrations- above her own. She asks for the grace to shore up her heart to be strong enough to listen no matter what she hears. That, in turn, requires deep empathy.

It also requires adapting how we interact with others (see sidebar). Asking a long-suffering person, “How are you?” will get you nowhere fast. Instead, Sister Eileen says, “It’s good to see you.” She’s learned that “while we live our lives forward, we understand them backward.” As such, she sometimes asks her friends to share about a past life experience, and she is always willing to reciprocate.

“If my relationship is faithful and constant,” she said, “every time I’m with somebody, our bond grows deeper.”

**Whole Person Care**

In the last 20 years, assisted suicide has slowly become legalized in more states. Currently, seven states and
Washington D.C. allow assisted suicide. The California law went into effect in 2016. Prior to that, bishops in California, realizing assisted suicide would likely pass, understood there was a need to teach about end of life issues as they related to the Catholic faith. The Diocese of Orange formed the Whole Person Care Committee, and Sister Eileen was invited to join. Other members of the committee include Sister Thuy Tran and Cindy Mueller, Program Director of Emmaus Spiritual Ministries at St. Joseph Center.

The Whole Person Care initiative is an effort to reframe the approach healthcare takes to death and dying and to lay out a vision of care for the physical and spiritual needs of patients. On October 25, 2018, a Whole Person Care Conference sponsored by the Diocese of Orange helped those in attendance understand end of life issues and directives of the Catholic Church that relate to those issues. Sister Eileen was one of the speakers at a breakout session on “Companioning the Long-Suffering.”

Her goal at the breakout session, and when discussing the ministry at all, was not to tell people they should be visiting as many sick and dying people as possible. After all, she started with just one person. That grew to five, a number she feels she can remain committed to because commitment is key. Constancy matters far more than frequency.

And just in case you think this ministry is all about giving of yourself, there’s plenty you may end up learning about yourself in the process. Companioning the Long-Suffering teaches us how to tend to our relationships through active listening, quiet companionship, and appreciating the dignity of every person, no matter their physical state.

**Draw a Circle**

Many years ago, Sister Eileen was fortunate to attend a presentation by Mother Teresa. To the crowd of 10,000 people who had gathered to hear her speak, Mother Teresa offered this advice about helping others: Draw a circle around your life. Who in that circle can you help? If there’s no one to help in the first circle, draw a bigger circle to encompass your community, your city, maybe even your state. Who within that circle can you help?

That is Sister Eileen’s advice for palliative care for the soul too. Who close to you could you visit regularly? Maybe you don’t know anyone who is “long-suffering.” Or maybe you’re simply unaware that someone close to you is suffering the loss of health or the grief of diminishment. We all manage our pain differently. You may already be in contact with someone who would benefit from your faithful presence. Draw a circle around your life. Who is in that circle?

**Sister Eileen’s Recommendations When Visiting the Long-Suffering:**

1. Don’t ask: “How are you?” Better: “It’s good to see you!” or “Hey what’s up?”
2. Don’t give any medical advice related to a doctor, a possible treatment, or a medication.
3. Ask God to help you remember that the person you are visiting, no matter how debilitated, has lived a vibrant life and that this life is still vital within them.
4. Ask for the grace to accept that there are things in this person’s life that you cannot make better.
5. Understand that your presence is the most sacred gift that you can give.
6. Listen more, talk less.
7. Remember the power of a simple, shared Our Father or Hail Mary at the end of a visit.
With Thanks
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We are tremendously grateful to our friends who gave selflessly and generously toward the care of retired sisters.

Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes
Arthur Turner
James F. Wisley

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The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange are grateful for the ongoing generosity of our business associates and partners between June 23, 2017 and December 31, 2018.

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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 June 23, 2017 and December 31, 2018.

All Deceased Sisters
by Barbara A. Erhart Smith
Andrea Choong
Angelo & Kathy Leonardi
by Linda & Lawrence Biondini
Anthony Pisano
by Patricia J. Casey
Betty R. Vargas
by Roger N. Vargas
Bonnie Pryor
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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 John and Mary Boere
Estate of Nancy Joan Curcio
Estate of Betty Rae Vargas

In Memoriam

SISTER FRANCES QUIROZ, CSJ
March 9, 1928 - February 25, 2018
68 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER RITA MARIE KROP, CSJ
March 20, 1917 - September 8, 2018
86 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER ALMA MARIÑEZ, CSJ
August 21, 1963 - February 2, 2019
21 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER ANNE THERESE ALLEN, CSJ
September 11, 1921 - February 12, 2019
79 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER RITA TRUDELL, CSJ
August 4, 1935 - March 13, 2018
64 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER REBECCA RODRIGUEZ, CSJ
September 2, 1910 - October 4, 2018
60 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER JUDITH WEMMER, CSJ
January 11, 1927 - March 27, 2019
72 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER MARGUERITE GENDRON, CSJ
February 23, 1915 - December 21, 2018
86 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER MICHAELA ROCK, CSJ
August 31, 1938 - June 7, 2019
62 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

SISTER JUDITH WEMMER, CSJ
January 11, 1927 - March 27, 2019
72 Years a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange
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   July 2017 - December 2018
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   by Daniel & Karen Van De Mark
Venita Sanger
   by Germaine C. Tanner

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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” button beneath any of your preferred options. Please consider making a monthly recurring gift.

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

**On the Road**

**Men's Spirituality SERIES**

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Fulfilling an unmet need. Visit EmmausSpiritualMinistries.org for more info.

**Save the Date**

Saturday, Sept. 28

*Day of Service in Our Neighborhoods*

Visit csjorange.org for more info.

**Discernment Retreats**

For Women Who Feel a Call to Explore Religious Life

Sundays, Sept. 2019 - June 2020
9 am - 3 pm

See inside for dates and details. For more info, contact Sister Sharon Becker at sbecker@csjorange.org.

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

Thank you.