



# An Puy

## Saint Joseph International Center: Interaction, Collaboration, Unity

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have their origins in the Congregation founded in 1650 by the Jesuit Jean Pierre Medaille and six women from Le Puy-en-Velay. Mgr. Henri des Maupas, at the time bishop of Le Puy, formalized the Congregation.

In the 21st century, faced with the urgent needs of understanding and respect among peoples, cultures and religions, the Sisters of St Joseph from around the world created the International Center.

The Mission of the Center is to facilitate interactions, collaborations and unity among the sisters, associate members, lay partners and friends, thus creating a community of peoples of the earth, based on just values of relationships with God and others who are open to the world.

What we do at the International Center is threefold.

**Welcome the past.** We want to study and deepen the meaning of our history, our traditions and our spirituality, to ensure its transmission to future generations.

**Feed and nourish the present.** We want to invite the Sisters of Saint Joseph, associate members, laity and friends, to deepen our Mission and Charism and invite them to an international experience in a global dimension.

**Create the Future.** We want to realize our Charism in the light of today's world and discover ways to live the prayer of Jesus: "Let all be one".



**In 2018, the Centre has welcomed several groups to participate in different spiritual programs and pilgrimages.**



## **The College of St. Rose Choir Sings for Le Puy March 3-5**

Forty-eight students from the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York, came to Le Puy for

the weekend of March 3-5 to perform a concert at the *église des Carmes*. The International Centre was among the sponsors for the event.

Dressed in formal black concert attire, the students sang sacred and secular selections.

Michael Levi, professor of music at the College since 1998, has taken the choir on international singing trips in Austria and Ireland as well as France. He is the choir's conductor as well as a pianist, composer, and arranger.

The College of St. Rose was founded in 1920 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



Michael Levi

### **Sisters from the College of St. Rose**

Sr. Sean Peters, director of Mission Experience in the Office of Spiritual Life, and Sr. Mary Anne Nelson, associate professor, School of Arts and Humanities, traveled with the choir of the College of St. Rose. The sisters also visited the Kitchen, the Archives, and the International Centre.

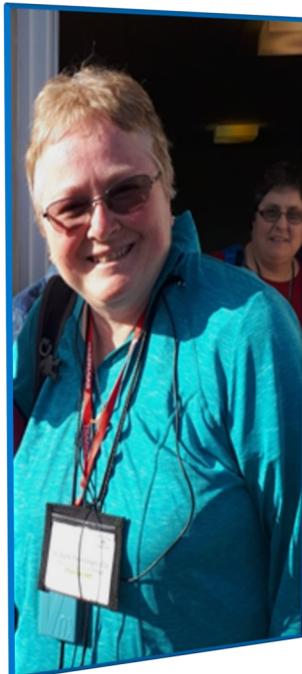


## Providence Health Systems of the Congregation of Orange, California - April 9-10



Forty-five members of the Providence Health Systems of the Congregation of Orange, CA, made their way to France to learn more about the origins of the Sisters of St. Joseph. They came to Le Puy to visit the Kitchen and the Living History Centre and were hosted to a wine and cheese party at the International Centre.

The group was led by Sister Jayne Helmlinger, General Superior of the Orange Congregation, and her colleague, Sr. Marian Schubert.



*Sr. Jayne Helmlinger*



# Cultural Diversity and Conflict Resolution Program May 9-20

Sisters in the fifth and final Cultural Diversity program formed into a cohesive group despite their mix of cultures and languages May 9-20. They came from all over the globe: Madagascar, Senegal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Italy, Argentina, Mexico, and USA.

They were led by Sisters Gloria Phillips (Argentina) and Elisa Zuanazzi (Brazil). Sister Griselda Martinez Morales (Mexico) is the program director for the five-part program. Translators were Sisters Simone Sauges (French), Mary McGlone (Spanish), and Maria Elizabeth Reis (Portuguese).



*Sr. Gloria (right) greets Sr. Aimee*



**Sr. Elisa (center) leads  
Sisters on a walk**



**Sisters in Prayer**



**Sr. Mary McGlone translates for  
Nirmala (India), Melinda (USA)  
and Norma (Honduras)**



On Culture Night, sisters from three different regions presented information about their cultures. They started with a parade of nations, complete with costumes and flags. Many danced. At the conclusion, the sisters shared some kind of food or gift from their culture.

*Joly (India) applies the bindi to Elisabeth (Bolivia) at the start of Asia Night.*



*Sr. Kiran from Pakistan*



*Sr. Yoldie from Haiti*



*Sr. Jamila from Pakistan*



*Sr. Mary Preenika from Sri Lanka*



*Indian — Asia sisters' presentation*



*America Sisters' presentation*



*African sisters' presentation*

One unexpected event during the program was the thick blanket of snow that descended on Le Puy on May 13. Most of the sisters were quite uplifted and squealed with joy and wonder at the white, fluffy stuff. The sisters posed with each other in the snow, especially those who had never seen it before. Many regarded it as a gift from God and they gave words of thanks and praise for it.



*Sr. Mary McGlone (centre) showed Josiane (Brazil) & Reen (India) how to have a snowball fight.*



*Albertine (Congo) & Regine (Cameroon)*



*Ivanliza (Brazil)*



## The Lace Is Not Yet Finished - May 23-29



Fifteen consociates from St. Paul, MN, two sisters from Brazil, two sisters from India, and one sister from Burkina Faso participated in "The Lace Is Not Yet Finished," held May 23-29, and led by Sr. Jane De Lisle (Orange).



*Sr. Maria Elizabeth translates English to Portuguese to Brazilian sisters*

The objective of the program was for participants to discover how *they* are called to continue to be moved by the Holy Spirit to get in touch with and claim once again the transformative power of the charism now and into the future.

The group walked the cobblestone streets of the city as the first sisters did in Le Puy. They visited the Kitchen and the Living History Centre, and climbed the mounts of St. Michel, Notre Dame, and St. Joseph. As they prayed together, ate together, and lived together, their energy increased with each day. At the last session, participants shared what the program had meant to each of them.



Then they blessed each other's eyes, heart, hands, and feet so that they could each engage and continue the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The group had coalesced quickly and ended with hugs, signs of friendship, blessings and wishes of solidarity and hope.

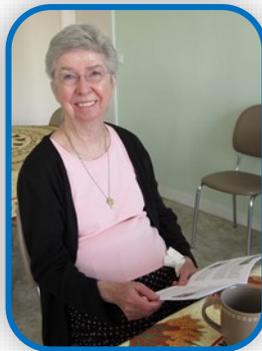


*Sr. Jane distributes pilgrimage medals from Le Puy*

## Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Our Founders - June 6-15

Sixteen sisters from the Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia) congregation weathered torrential rains and a hail storm during their week-long pilgrimage to Le Puy, June 6-15, with enthusiasm, patience, and excitement about “coming home.”

The pilgrimage of “walking in the footsteps of the sister-founders” was led by Sr. Dolores Clerico and former Centre staff member, Sr. Sheila Holly.



*Sr. Dolores (back left) conducts the morning session around a candle.*

*Sr. Sheila Holly*

Each morning, the sisters prayed together around a candle and received some input on the history of the founding sisters. In the afternoons they visited C/SSJ sites in the city and explored other interesting places like the Cathedral of Notre Dame, St. Michel, St. Joseph.

Before returning to Philadelphia, the sisters headed for Lyon to learn more about Mother St. John Fontbonne. On the way, they stopped at her birthplace in Bas-en Basset and Monistrol, the town where she entered the community and later became a local superior.

## St. Joseph Academy of Baton Rouge - June 10

Alumni, former teachers and current students spent the afternoon on Sunday, June 10 in Le Puy to discover the 1650 foundations of the

Sisters of St. Joseph. They arrived at the Centre in a huge bus where they heard a brief presentation about the history of the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Le Puy as well as the mission of the International Centre. Then they headed out to visit the Kitchen with Sister Simone Sauges who talked about the beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Afterward, they visited the Living History Center (photos).

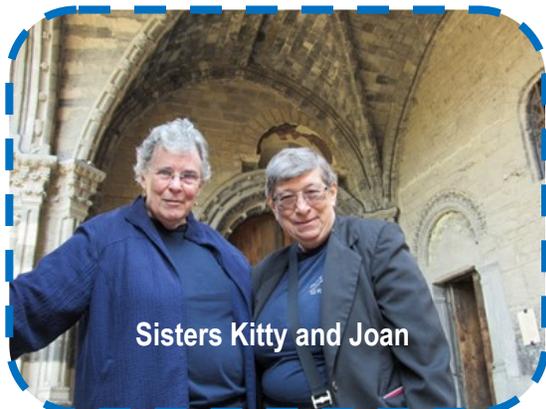


## Students from C/SSJ Colleges make a Pilgrimage to Le Puy June 17-21



Sixteen students from the nine colleges in the Association of Colleges of the Sisters of St. Joseph (ACSSJ) visited Le Puy June 17-21 to learn more about the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Two representatives from each college attended.

- Morgan Berhorst and Mary Sommerhauser – Avila University, Kansas City, MO
- Carolina Perez and Thomas Repsik – Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA
- Kayla and Sarah Frankzken –The College of St. Rose, Albany, NY
- Jane Dugan and Monica Karriem – Elms College, Chicopee, MA
- Brittany Hanewinkel and Cecilia Meyer –Fontbonne University, St. Louis, MO
- Daisy Cruz and Caitlyn Keeve –Mt. St. Mary's University, Los Angeles, CA
- Ariana McCormack and Megan Bubello –Regis College, Weston, MA Emily Carman and Amanda Williams – St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
- Tatiana Belanich and Veronique Mathieu –St. Joseph College, Brooklyn, NY



Sisters Kitty and Joan



Dan, Lori and Martha

The students were led by Sisters Kitty Hanley and Joan Lescinski together with Dan Leahy (Director of Campus Ministry and Service, St. Regis), Lori Helfrich (Director of Campus Ministry, Fontbonne University), and Martha Malinski (Executive Director, Association of Colleges of Sisters of St. Joseph).

One of the highlights of the 16 ACSSJ students' trip was the 7 a.m. Mass held at the Cathedral of Notre Dame for the pilgrims going to Saint Jacques de Compostelle.

Although is 500 miles long from Le Puy, the students walked the first 4 miles.



*Receiving a pilgrim medal at the Cathedral.*

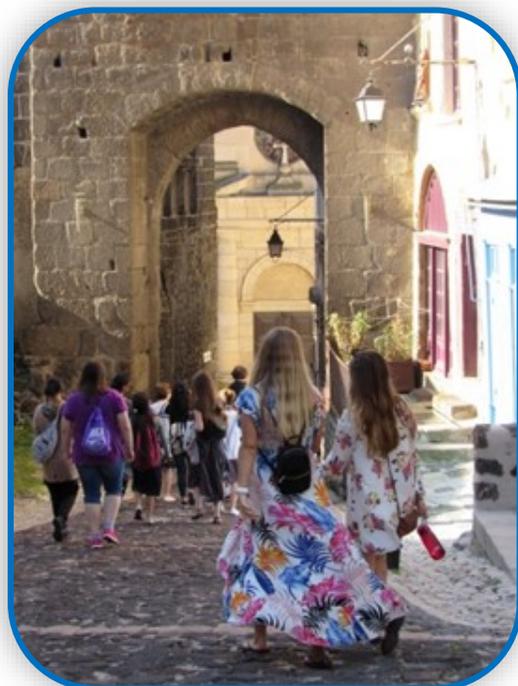


*Students with statue of St. Joseph on the pilgrimage.*



*Sr. Kitty leads the students in blessing each other before their pilgrimage*

*Students on their pilgrimage.*



## Mount St. Mary's University Makes Annual Pilgrimage June 22-30

Representatives from the Mount St. Mary's University faculty and staff were "unstoppable" in their energy and enthusiasm during their annual pilgrimage to Le Puy, June 22-30, led by President Ann McElaney-Johnson and Shannon Green, Director of the CSJ Institute at "The Mount".



*President Ann  
McElaney-Johnson*

*The week-long pilgrimage allowed the 20 pilgrims to learn more about the history and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph. They visited The Kitchen and the Living History Centre.*



*Shannon Green, Director  
of the CSJ Institute*

The group visited important places in the life of Mother St. John Fontbonne: Bas-en-Basset (her birthplace), Monistrol (her first mission), St. Didier en Velay (where she was imprisoned during the French Revolution), St. Etienne (where she gathered the Black Daughters after the Revolution) and Lyon.

As a special feature to the day-long road trip, the pilgrims had a picnic lunch in Monistrol at the convent of the sisters who live there. Everyone pitched in to set-up a lunch of pork slices, saucisson, baguette, cheese, salad, chips, cookies, soda and water.

Throughout the pilgrimage, the group took time to reflect on their experiences and to share how they applied to the early sisters and to their own work and ministry at the university.

## International Exchange Students visit College Saint Joseph

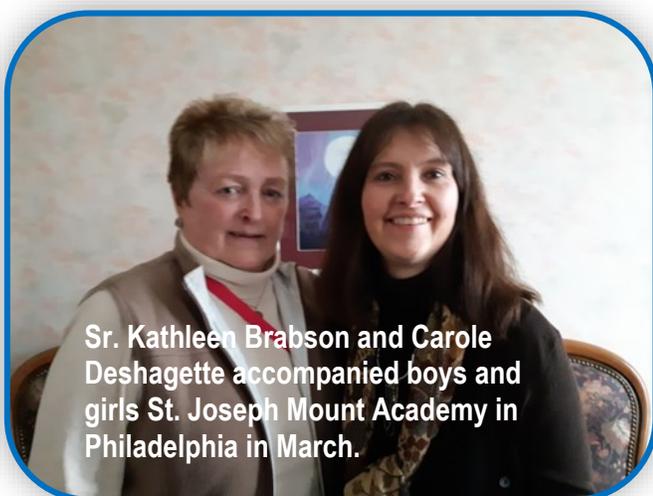
Several American high school students participated in an international exchange program between their schools and the College of St. Joseph, a former Sister of St. Joseph high school. The students lived with French families while their directors stayed at the Centre. The program is led by Martine Wendzinski, a teacher at the College.



*Michael Perrins accompanied selected boys from St. Edward High School in Cleveland in March*



*Sr. Marirosa Orlando and Elena Maltiazzi accompanied boys and girls from Istituto Maria Immacolata – Pignerole, Italy, in March.*



*Sr. Kathleen Brabson and Carole Deshagette accompanied boys and girls St. Joseph Mount Academy in Philadelphia in March.*



*Maureen Arbeznik (left) accompanied students from St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland in March.*

## Congratulations to the New Board of the International Centre - April 4-7

In April, the Board of the International Centre gathered for its semi-annual meeting. Sister Claudia Frencia was recently named to the Board to represent the Italian Federation. Sister Mariarita Bolati accompanied her.



*(left to right)*

*Sisters Odille Gaillard (France-Institute), Claudia Frencia (Italy), Mariarita Bollati (Italy), Loretta Manzara (Canada), Maria Goretti O'Connor (France-Annecy), Catherine Barange (France-Lyon), Simone Saugues (translator), Ieda Tomazini (France-Chambéry), Barbara Bozack (facilitator), and Patty Johnson (USA).*



## Tammy & Rafael Naville April 25

Tammy and Rafael from Valance, France, visited the International Centre and the Kitchen on April 25. They brought their beautiful five-month-old baby girl for the day-trip.

## Betsy & David Weist May 4-7



They were on their way to Rome for a friend's wedding but took some time to stop in Le Puy May 4-7. Betsy is an agrégée from the Congregation of Erie, PA, as well as social justice coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern (Erie) Pennsylvania. Dave helps her with many projects there.

## Italian Congregations Visit - May 22-23



Sister Lucia Gallo (*left*) of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cuneo, Italy, brought four young African sisters from her community and two Italian sisters from Pinerolo, Italy, for a pilgrimage to Le Puy on May 22-23. They visited the Kitchen and the Living History Centre and had dinner at the Centre. The group included Sisters Wivine Mboma, Berthe Mayang, Séraphine Kafuti, Adèle Bieto, Elsa, and Rinalda. They were accompanied by a driver, Giampiero Martini, who made sure the sisters were comfortable and safe at all times.

## Sister Tess Egan from Sidney, Australia June 1-15

Sr. Tess made a private retreat at the Centre. She also accompanied the Philadelphia sisters on their visits to SSSJ sacred spaces in Le Puy, which made her time here more complete. Sr. Tess is a Sister of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart.



## John & Patricia Gries visit the Kitchen June 10



They only had one day to spend in Le Puy on June 10, but John and Patricia Gries, both consociates of the St. Paul Sisters of St. Joseph, knew exactly what they wanted to see: the Kitchen. They were unable to attend “The Lace Is Not Yet Finished” program (May 23-29) with their fellow consociates, but they at least took the opportunity during their travels in France to stop by Le Puy. And we’re glad they did!!

## Sister Claudette makes Retreat June 30-July 7



Sr. Claudette Des Forges (Orange) made a private retreat at the Centre June 30 – July 7. The former staff member of the Centre (2010-11) was later joined by her friend, Fr. Jan Fecko of Warsaw, Poland, who oversees a diocesan formation program for aspiring missionaries.

## 2018 Fall Programs

### Pilgrimage to Our CSJ Origins

Begins on Monday, October 22 with evening meal and ends after breakfast on Tuesday, October 30.

**GO TO [www.centreinternationalssj.org](http://www.centreinternationalssj.org) for more information and to REGISTER for any of the above Retreats and Programs.**