



Am Puy

The <<Little Design>> according to Saint Joseph

Charitable and apostolic works are common to all Christians. In community, we receive the mission so as to signify being sent, and to proclaim it through our entire lives.

Since our foundation (1650) as Sisters of St. Joseph, we are called to live this mission in the manner of Joseph. With Mary, Saint Joseph was humbly at the origin of the first Christian community in the world, a community where the most unassuming one receives the responsibility for the group. A community where unity reigns among the members, with God and with all neighbors. A human community, human image of divine communion, thanks to Saint Joseph's acceptance of a task which he could not envision and which absolutely surpassed him, a task which was made possible through painfully renouncing his personal desire to be united with Mary, a task that could only be God's work, which he is called to accomplish with Mary. For him, as for her, "nothing is impossible with God."

Such is the vocation given to Sisters of St. Joseph through Father Medaille (SJ), in the seventeenth century, in his letter on the "Little Design". Vocation where the entire community is called to reveal to the world God's plan for humanity, by living it themselves, through prayer as in apostolic and charitable works. The place where this union with God becomes more apparent is at the breaking of bread: the table of daily bread, which becomes the table of the Eucharistic meal.



*Sister Thèrese Vacher
St. Joseph Institute*



Farewell to Shirley Maloney, CSJ (Albany, NY)

Volunteer at the Centre International from May 28 to July 7, 2015

On July 7, it was with sadness yet with much gratitude that Eluiza and Line bid farewell to Shirley following her six week stay at the Centre as a “volunteer par excellence”!

A few weeks earlier Shirley had written “I am presently volunteering at the Centre International in Le Puy. It is a wonderful opportunity for me to see the areas where the first six sisters lived and worked and where Mother St. John was in Lyon...to hear again the early history of our community. It has also been a time for me to meet many Sisters of St. Joseph from many parts of the world. I am grateful for this experience and give thanks to all who made it possible.”

Shirley, we thank you for your presence, hard work, and community spirit. You blessed each one who entered through the Centre doors and indeed gifted the two of us. May you share the richness you received with everyone you encounter.



Welcoming with joy our 2015 guests . . .



Christina Neunzerling, RSJ from New Zealand on pilgrimage in LePuy.

It was also gift to have with us in April, Sr. Anne Burke, RSJ, another New Zealander.



Lisa Turay, csj and Laurie Roberts (Orange, California); Sally Witt, Pat Byrne, csj, (USA) Therese Vacher, csj (France) visiting the Centre and heritage sites in LePuy in early May (with Eluiza deAndrade, csj, staff)



The Saint Jacques de Compostelle High School was previously directed by the St. Joseph Congregation of Le Puy. It is now under lay leadership, but the Sisters have close connections and ensure guardianship. In October 2014, through Sr. Odile Gaillard, Superior General of the Institute, the Director and High School teaching staff hoping to promote the Charism in the schools came in touch with the International Center. The Centre has since then joyfully hosted individuals in connection with the school. Martine Wendzinski, one of the teachers shares her insights on this new situation :

The Charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the service of a “School for the success of everyone”

In the mission assigned to us assured by the Sisters of St Joseph. This is what we are called to: Empower our students to become promoters of unity and reconciliation in the world. Translated in terms of teaching methods, the mission consists in:

- Creating innovative tools, daring to develop new proposals always better adapted to highly diverse educational needs of youth so as to develop their intellectual, human and spiritual potential.
- Awaken in our students the desire to become creative adults, enlightened and critical thinkers, citizens concerned about their human and natural environments at the service of their neighbor.

Faithful to the heritage of **Father Medaille**, a Jesuit who accompanied our first sisters in 1650 to establish their first community at Montferrand Boulevard, we must ensure quality education for our young people coupled with an education based on **fraternal compassion** and **solidarity**; this is **the school for the success of everyone** which we want to build, under the dual patronage of a few women who in the seventeenth century in the Puy en Velay, threw a large stone in the pond of ecclesiastical propriety declaring they wanted to serve God and their neighbor.

Thanks to our Sisters, here and abroad, for their valuable support!

A part of the text written by Martine WENDZINSKI at the Conference-debate organized by the whole-school community Saint Jacques de Compostella, led by Dr Danièle DESMARAIS, anthropologist (University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada) and sociologist Bertrand BERGIER (the Catholic University of Western France). Director of the Saint Jacques School System is M. Michel BELLEDENT. (May 2015)



(back row) Mihaela Serghi (Romania), Srs. Line et Eluiza, Christine Moure (LePuy), & Bertrand Bergier (Western France) (sitting) Martine Wendzinski (Le Puy) & Dr. Danielle Desmarais (Montreal)





Liesl Lamaret and Caroline Laminaux (Puerto Rico)

A few hours by train to exchange on the Puerto Rican educational system, and on the mission that the Sisters of St. Joseph communicated to our two colleagues. (June 2015)

The Sisters of the St. Joseph Institute open to the world through Youth Education

The St. Jacques de Compostelle School System is an education community for the service of youth. It is open to everyone:

- by promoting the exchange between people and the respect for the beliefs of each person.
- by developing a relational climate founded on trust between parents, educators and students.
- by allowing youth who want to make a commitment in movements or actions of solidarity.

Exchange with Maria Reina Academy in Puerto Rico

Gathering of Co-partners, Associates and Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon from India, France, England/Ireland, United States, Cote d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Egypt, Mexico. May 14, 2015



In the Footsteps of our Founder: Pilgrimage to the original places of the Sisters of St. Joseph



Sisters LuciaLakra (India), Albertine Inasse (Burkina Faso) and Juana María Oseguera F. (Mexico)



Picnic in Monistrol in the yard of the Sisters who warmly welcomed us.



A visit to the prison in St. Didier

Sr. Albertine shared: “This session helped me see that our founders had much courage. In spite of the French Revolution the Congregation bore much fruit visible in who we are today. The Path of our Founders helped me to know further our history as Congregation.

What impressed me the most was visiting the places where they lived: the first community in Le Puy via the kitchen, Msgr. De Maupas in the Cathedral where he served, the stone now in Monistrol that was blessed by Mother St. John Fontbonne, and where she was imprisoned in St. Didier.

Thank you t the Centre team for sharing so much of their time with us so we could know in a greater way our origins.

And from **Sr. Lucia**: I cherish the retreat ... When I walked through the narrow streets of LePuy where Fr. Medaille and our first six sisters walked, I felt the holiness of their footsteps. Pilgrimage to Monistrol and St. Didier was a beautiful experience for me. I marveled for the courage and the daring spirit of Mother St. John who was ready to be guillotined. I experienced serenity and joy within. Through this retreat I came to know more about the Foundation of our Congregation. My love for the Congregation increases. I found that this community of the International Community is the power house for the Sisters of St. Joseph from where their power radiates.

Sr. Juana shares: « *It is not the same thing to know from hearsay as to know the sites where the events unfolded*” Listening to the history, walking the sites in LePuy, Monistrol, breathing, reflecting, imagining and admiring the life of Father Medaille, Mgr. de Maupas, the first 6 sisters, and Mother St. John Fontbonne...All of this in community, that is to say with: Lucia Lakra of India, Albertine Inasse from Burkina Faso, our facilitators Eluiza de Andrade from Brazil, Line Rioux and Shirley Maloney of the United States and Marie Elena Cardenas of Mexico. This experience truly resonated and made me cry with joy. My identity in belonging to this large family was strengthened. I felt really invited to live ever more fully our charisma, this heritage that I received, and continue to transmit it to the men and women of today. I thank God for our founders, our Congregational leaders, and the Centre International community for this gift: the opportunity to experience this session. Gracias, Merci, Thank you!



Dr. Jonatas Accioly Filho from Brazil visits the Centre & Le Puy in June.

Remembrance of History

First, I wish to thank the French for their welcome and their hospitality. I had the opportunity to know the origin of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Chambéry, it has been there in my city, Vacaria for 114 years.

In Le Puy en Velay I was surprised to find a beautiful spot, full of history, with friendly and caring people. Sisters Eluiza and Line graciously welcomed me at the Centre International. Without much effort I was able to enter the culture and the city's tourist sites dating back to the Middle Ages. I realized that these places are not only tourist souvenirs, but also

memories of history with persecutions, suffering as well as strength and perseverance, often related by Sr. Adelide Canci, director of our hospital, Notre Dame d'Oliviers. (Our Lady of the Olive Trees).

Having visited the "kitchen" where the Congregation was founded, with the typical objects of that period, we could touch the past and be brought back to the time when it all started. I also saw the Cathedral of Notre Dame du Puy, the statue of Notre Dame de France, and the College Church, which demonstrates the strong religious element of these places.

Once again, I thank you and would hope that more people who work closely with the Sisters of St. Joseph and their institutions would have the opportunity to experience this magical place, rich in culture, for through culture we have the capacity to assist the neighbor and contribute to a more just society.

Jonatas Accioly Filho is an orthopedic doctor. He works at l'Hopital Notre Dame d'Olivier, in Vacaria, belonging to the Sisters of St Joseph of Chambéry, in southern Brazil.

The Camino

"Revelation of graces and challenges on the pilgrimage of life". Before I began my pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago de Compostella, a wise woman said to me. "The Camino will reveal yourself." Each day when I was preparing to walk, I asked for safe travels and the grace to see whatever God wished to reveal to me and to be open to those graces awaiting me. Soon I learned for myself that the Camino is more than walking.

In walking the Camino I felt a part of the communion of saints as I joined with others on the sacred journey. I felt the presence and accompaniment of Mary, pilgrims from long ago as well as deceased family and friends.

The Camino taught me that I am kind, resourceful, and strong. It also taught me that I am stubborn, weak and doubtful. Most importantly it deepened my call to our mission of unifying love.

In walking the Camino I had a glimpse of God's dream for the world. Community and communion happened through the sharing of encouragement, woes and advice. Communion happened when we walked together day after day on the sacred path. Community happened when we broke bread together and broke open our life story to one another. One might be with another pilgrim for an evening or a few



days or for a brief hour but communion happened and God's unifying love held us.

I was very aware that the Camino does not end in Santiago when you receive your "compestella" (certificate of completion.) The Camino will continue to reveal its graces and challenges as I move forward on the pilgrimage of life. Kathy Brazda, CSJ, Congregation of St. Joseph



The Centre International's continuation of its 10th Anniversary, celebrating with 85 sisters from the French Federation (Annecy, Chambéry, Institute, Lyon) on June 29, 2015 in Le Puy.



Celebration in the Sisters of St. Joseph Chapel



Meal served in the school at the Institute by the Carolys Food Service



A Visit to the Centre International



Directed Retreat in the Heart of our CSJ Foundation



Participants included Sisters/Associates from India, United States, France and the Czech Republic. With Fr. Bill Clark, SJ and Sr. Line Rioux, CSJ June 20—27

Holy Ground: A Pilgrimage of the Heart — A Guided Retreat

with Sr. Kitty Hanley, csj (Carondelet, Albany, NY) from June 28 to July 7





Jody, a participant in the Holy Ground Retreat, shares a prayer with us:

Dear Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today in your light and your grace after having spent another morning tracing the steps of your founding daughters here in this very holy place. For this time of pilgrimage and reflection, we are very grateful. I too am grateful to be surrounded by these devout and loving women who have dedicated their lives in service to you and to others. Thank you Father for this transformational experience. Thank you too for our hostesses who have shown us remarkable hospitality, kindness and who have given us a home away from home. ...Lastly, we pray you will give us each the strength to go forward from this place with generous courage to serve the dear neighbor and keep the charism of the founding Sisters alive and vibrant in a world that is in as much need of it now as it was when you first inspired it. ... **Jody Romano**



**Brentwood CSJs visit Le Puy
and the Centre in July**



Still to come...

LITTLE DESIGN COMMUNITIES REBIRTHING

Begins on Sunday, August 16, 6pm with Dinner and ends after Breakfast on Wednesday, August 26.

If you are feeling called to live more deeply the way of life described in *The Eucharistic Letter*, plan to join us in Le Puy for a 10-day contemplative experience. Rosemary will guide us through a new commentary (100 pp.) on the prophetic-mystical text of *The Eucharistic Letter* (J.P. Medaille, 1660) Through deepening our shared vision, our hope is that animators will go forth and witness to the emergence of Little Design communities manifesting a new vitality for our church/world.

The rhythm of each day flows with a creativity of Spirit movement. Each morning we gather for contemplative prayer and interactive teachings on *The Eucharistic Letter*. Our afternoons invite more flexibility and movement outward as we 'circle the city with Love'. Some may choose the guided walking excursions around Le Puy: *the first kitchen, refurbished archives, Rocher St. Michel, Notre Dame Cathedral, Eglise du College, St. Joseph's Basilica, lace shops, market square etc.* Others may seek out solitude spaces for journaling, painting, or other creative expressions of Little Design. There is a one day trip planned to Lyon to visit the archives and Heritage Room.



Presenter: Sister Rosemary O'Toole, csj is a spiritual director and adult faith educator who has ministered at The Upper Room Home of Prayer in Ottawa, Canada for 31 years. Rosemary created and hosted The Medaille Online Course. She is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada (Peterborough neighborhood). This will be her fourth session on 'Little Design Communities' in Le Puy.

Suggested contribution: 750 to 850 Euros

REGISTER by July 24, 2015

MISSION EFFECTIVENESS: The Charism Alive in CSSJ Ministries

Begins on Saturday, October 3, 5pm and ends Saturday, October 10, after breakfast.

This program offers a pilgrimage for lay partners in mission, providing an immersion experience into the original spirit and global dimension of the charism and spiritual tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph. If you are associated with one of the ministries founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph as an administrator, staff person, board member or supporter, this program will deepen your learning, nourish your imagination and strengthen your conviction in participating in a world-wide movement which fosters union within all creation. The week-long experience offers a rhythm of in-put sessions, interactive participation, prayer and visits to historic sites in Le Puy. A day trip to Lyon is also included.



Presenter: Sister Dolores Clerico, a Sister of Saint Joseph, PA (USA) regularly provides opportunities for deepening an awareness of the CSSJ charism and spirituality among Sisters of St. Joseph, Associates and partners in mission. Sister Dolores currently serves as Director of the Ministry of Spirituality for her Philadelphia congregation.

Suggested Contribution: 685 to 785 Euros

REGISTER by September 4, 2015

Mark your calendars:

- **Directed Retreat in the Heart of our Foundation:** June 19 to 27, 2016
- **Holy Ground-A Pilgrimage of the Heart: Guided Retreat** with Sr. Kitty Hanley, CSJ (Albany): July 26 to August 3, 2016

Stay tuned to our website as we finalize plans for our other programs.

Welcome to Le Puy for ...

We also welcome you for Pilgrimages, Visits, Retreats, Sabbaticals. These can be individually arranged throughout the year.

- Guided pilgrimages and visits for individuals or groups offered in various languages. • * Private retreats and spiritual direction by staff spiritual directors.
- Personalized reflective days and sabbaticals near the cradle of the Congregation.

Write us at centre.international@wanadoo.fr

We look forward to welcoming YOU!

GO TO www.centreinternationalssj.org TO REGISTER for any of the above Retreats and Programs.

