



# Au Puy

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**Have a blessed Advent  
and a holy Christmas**

**Eluiza and Olga  
Centre Staff**

## Sisters of St. Joseph in the World

### The Sisters of Saint Joseph in Italy for 200 years

It is with joy and gratitude that on Sunday, October 17, the Italian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated in Turin, the Bicentenary of the arrival in 1821 of the Little Design in Italy.

The first three Sisters from Chambéry arrived in Turin in September of that year, at the invitation of the Marquise Giulia di Barolo, who wished to improve the conditions of Borgo Dora, a degraded area of the city by starting, with the help and commitment of the Sisters, a school for poor girls.

The beginnings of this new religious presence in Turin were not easy, but with the help of Providence and the collaboration of many people, the first community of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Italy grew and opened up to new services and activities always in favor of the poorest, especially girls and women in difficulty.

This first community gave birth to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Turin, which is now part of the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph, after the union in 2006 with the Congregations of Novara and Susa.

The Federation, celebrating together the Bicentenary of the arrival of the Little Design in Italy, traced the origins of all the St. Joseph Congregations present in our country and thanked God for his faithful love that has always accompanied and sustained the journey of each community, it has indicated the path to follow and, through circumstances, people and events, has opened new ways of service and attention to the poor.

This year, the Congregations of Aosta and Cuneo are also celebrating a special anniversary: both, although in different circumstances, were born in 1831 and are



celebrating 190 years since their birth. Four sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Lyon founded the Congregation of Aosta. The bishop of Aosta had asked Mother Saint Jean Fontbonne to have nuns available for the city of Aosta and to dedicate themselves to the education of girls.

The Congregation of Cuneo was born on the initiative of the Canon of the Cathedral of Cuneo who, wishing to establish a community of nuns dedicated to the education of poor girls, had welcomed on the premises of the parish priest 5 girls from the region wishing to dedicate themselves to God, in the service of the poor. These first 5 sisters came to know the spirituality of the Little Design through the Constitutions of Lyon and by forming themselves from this text.

The Italian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph is presently composed of the Congregations of Aosta, Cuneo, the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Italian Province of the Congregation of Chambéry which, since July of this year, has welcomed the Congregation of Pignerol through a process of fusion.

The tree of the Little Design, born in Le Puy en Velay in 1650, little by little, through the vicissitudes of history, has grown and been enriched with many branches, one of which is the Little Design in Italy. A branch that today is 200 years old: it has borne so much fruit and will still be able to offer more, because it draws its strength from the heart of the Trinity and from the gift of the Eucharist, to be an instrument of communion even today, in our time.





## SEASON OF CREATION

During the *2021 Season of Creation*, September 1 through October 4, hundreds of thousands of Christians were uniting around this one theme:

### *“A home for all?*

At LAST, OUR WORLD UNITES TO TACKLE the crisis that can destroy homes and habitats—CLIMATE CHANGE. For this year's Season of CREATION, we will focus on **COP26**

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow October 31 through November 12, 2021



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The eyes of the world were on Glasgow this November, when leaders from 196 countries and around 30,000 delegates arrived in Scotland for a mega-environmental summit. They were expected to be joined by Queen Elizabeth II, Pope Francis, and Greta Thunberg. COP26 will be the largest summit the UK has ever hosted, including world leaders, experts, campaigners, youth and government officials.

#### **What does COP26 hope to achieve?**

Countries are being asked to put forward ambitious **2030 emissions reduction targets** in the hope of reaching **net zero by 2050**.

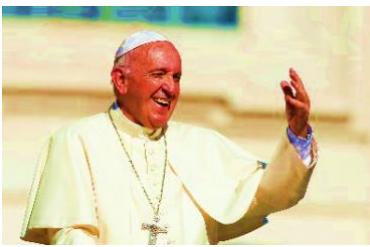
To deliver these targets, countries need to:

- accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels,
- slow down deforestation
- speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- invest big in renewables.
- protect communities and natural habitats.

**COP26 will work together to enable countries affected by climate change to:**

- protect and restore ecosystems
- build resilient infrastructure to avoid loss of livelihoods and lives.
- work together to deliver these targets.

There were ample opportunities for young people to propose ideas and actions to address climate change. About 400 young people aged between 15 and 29 from 186 countries met in Milan from September 28-30, 2021 to address the challenges of climate action. This meeting was part of the process of involving young people, which started in 2019 with the *United Nations Youth Climate Summit* held in New York in 2019.



## Prayer for our Earth by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.  
Amen.

## Prayer Suggestion

“As the United Nations climate conference, COP26, takes place in Glasgow, let us bring our prayers to the Creator who made the earth and all within it. We pray for Pope Francis as he visits COP26, that his call for the care for our common home may illuminate the hearts and minds of all his fellow participants and that God may grant them wisdom to make decisions which respect the earth and all that live in it. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for the Church; may we speak and act together as we urgently work towards better stewardship of your creation and your presence in all living things. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our world, the interdependence of all living things, the beauty and flourishing of our planet, plundered and misused for generations by human activity, may we all, through our actions, help repair the harm we’ve done.  
**Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for those already facing droughts, floods and storms, that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our parish and for our local community, that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good. **Lord, in your mercy...**

Creator God, we pray for our brothers and sisters and all species that suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change. **Lord hear us...**

We pray for world leaders delegated to make decisions, so that the web of life may be mended through their courageous decisions and our determined actions to limit carbon emissions. **Lord hear us...**

Lord God, we pray that love and wisdom may inspire my actions and our actions as community, so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of our brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our best to care for all life. **Lord hear us...**

Creator God, may love transform us and our world to take new and bold steps toward life for all. **Lord hear us.**

## **Prayer Suggestion:**

Pray the Rosary or a decade of the Rosary each day for the success of COP26. E.g. for pray for one of the following with a Hail Mary.

**THE COP26 PRESIDENT: ALOK SHARMA**

**THE PRESIDENT'S TEAM**

**LEADERS OF NATIONS, PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS**

**UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL  
DELEGATES**

**DAVID ATTENBOROUGH: COP 26 PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE**

**MARK CARNEY: KEY FINANCIAL ADVISER TO THE UN AND THE U.K.**

**YOUTH**

**CLIMATE SCIENTISTS**

**THE MEDIA**

**CLIMATE ACTIVISTS**

**CAMPAIGNERS**

**POLICE AND PUBLIC ORDER OFFICIALS**

**THE PLANET: ITS PEOPLES AND ALL LIFE ON EARTH**



***"Will we adopt, as an international community, the necessary measures to stop the devastation of the environment or will we continue denying the evidence?" (Pope Francis)***

***The success of COP26 depends on each of us and all of us—  
together.***

*Many thanks to Sr. Henrietta Curran, SSJA, and Sr. Bridget Pritchard, SSJA, both of the United Kingdom (UK) for providing this information and reflection on COP26. Both sisters are presenting the "Listening to the Heartbeat of the Creation Retreat" at the International Centre on August 2-9, 2022.*

## 2022 Programs

### Laudato Si – June 12-18, 2022

The creative energy of God is alive in our world and in the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Yet, our world is in peril and our call to incarnate the charism of unifying love is needed now more than ever. Pope Francis' call for integral ecology in his encyclical, Laudato Si, calls us to a new level of commitment toward the dear neighbor – seeing the connections found in the “cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor” of poverty, migration, and climate change. What is this calling us to as we look at a radical commitment to be a transformational presence in our world?

Together, we will reflect on the heart of the CSSJ charism over time, its roots and expanding nature, evolutionary patterns and our call today and for the future. “What is ours to let come, to receive and to give” in this invitational time? (Margo Ritchie, CSJ) This program is for all who experience a connection with the charism of unifying love. The week-long experience offers a rhythm of individual and communal prayer and meditation, input presentations, interactive participation, reflection, as well as an orientation to the city of Le Puy, visiting the Kitchen and Living History Museum, and time for strolling through the streets of Le Puy.

**Presenters:** **Sr. Linda Buck, CSJ** is a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange (CA) in the USA. She is the Director of the Leadership Collaborative, fostering the formation of leaders and what is emerging in Religious Life. Linda is a psychotherapist and spiritual director, and has background in initial formation and governance. She is a frequent presenter in the areas of theology, spirituality and psychology. **Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ** is the vocations director of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada and a professor of theology at the University of Toronto.

### The Prophetic Stance of Relationship: *The Two Trinities as a Model of Dynamic Love* – June 25-July 2, 2022

We will explore the prophetic nature of our call in the world today and learn how the dynamic love as expressed by the Two Trinities is a model of our call toward relationality in our wounded world. It is in this openness to relationship that we incarnate Triune Love and participate in the process of bringing God alive in the world.

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### Listening to the Heartbeat of the Creator Retreat – August 2-9, 2022

We will explore the story of creation as revealed to us today, from the splendor of the universe to the interdependence and interconnection of all life on our planet. What are the Creator's deepest desires for us at this time? Where do we come from? Why are we here? What ought we do?

**Presenters:** **Sr. Bridget Pritchard, SSJA** lives in the UK. Formerly a biology teacher, she is presently on staff at Ty Croeso Spirituality Centre, where she leads days of prayer and retreat. Bridget works with parish and school groups introducing the new consciousness. **Sr. Henrietta Curran, SSJA**, lives in the U.K. A retired teacher, she is currently working in JPIC as Congregation Justice and Peace Leader. She has given many sessions on the above topics whilst working with JPIC Leaders from India, Africa and England. She represents SSJA on the Global Sisters of St Joseph Forum.

### The Lace is Not Yet Finished – September 13-19, 2022

In each generation since, the Holy Spirit has awakened God's compassionate presence in the hearts of women to respond to the ever-changing needs of the people of God. In this program participants will get in touch with and claim once again the transformative power of this charism in our midst and into the future.

**Presenter:** **Sr. Jane Delisle, CSJ** is a Sister of St. Joseph from Orange, CA, USA. Jane has come to Le Puy-en-Velay many times with sisters and staff from the Orange Health Systems.

## **Mission Effectiveness: The Charism Alive in CSSJ Ministries – September 24-October 1, 2022**

This program offers a pilgrimage for lay partners in mission and provides 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 is for you!

**Presenters:** **Sr. Dolores Clerico, SSJ** is a Philadelphia Sister of Saint Joseph (USA) with ministry experience in the academic, parish, diocesan, and congregational arenas. **Sr. Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ** is a Sister of St. Joseph from Erie, Pennsylvania (USA) who was a member of the U.S. Federation research teams on the origins of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

## **Global Prayer Calendar for November**

The Global Joseph Family includes 11,000 sisters, 5,666 associates, 34 agrégées, and 26 charisma passers in 52 countries. Each week of each month, a different country is featured so that we may be united in prayer to listen to the heart of the world and pray for the ministers and their ministries in a given country. Many thanks to the [Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada](#) for the calendar.

### **Sisters of St. Joseph – Tanzania**

Sisters: 21

Associates: 0

Languages: English, Swahili

Congregations: Chambéry, Annecy



### **Week 1**



### **Sisters of St. Joseph – United Arab Emirates**

Sisters: 3

Associates: 0

Languages: Arabic

Congregations: Chambéry



### **Week 2**

### **Sisters of St. Joseph – United States**

Sisters: 3740

Associates: 2609

Languages: English

Congregations: 16 Congregations



### **Week 3**

### **Sisters of St. Joseph – Wales**

Sisters: 56

Associates: 10

Languages: English

Congregations: Annecy



### **Week 4**

Check out our new website:

<https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/>

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please type, or print in block letters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Province/Region \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the Congregation (Sister, associate, employee, co-collaborator...)

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Name and date of program for which you are applying: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What do you hope to gain from participating in this retreat/program?

2. Do you have any particular dietary or health needs? Please be specific.

Please complete this form and send it to Centre International by e-mail, scan, or regular mail to: Centre International St. Joseph. Thank you for your payment in EUROS when you arrive. (Direct bank transfer is also possible, but a fee is usually applied by the bank, which is passed on to you.)

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