

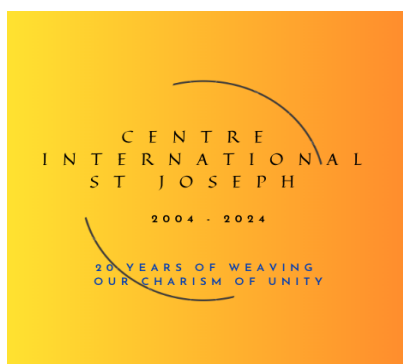


Au Puy

Volume 17, Number 3, October 17, 2024



*Happy 20th Anniversary
International Centre St. Joseph*





Sr. Vianney Thanniath, Annecy Congregation; ***Carole Umana***, Canadian Federation; ***Sr. Maryellen Kane***, US Federation; ***Sr. Judy Donovan***, Lyon Congregation; ***Sr. Barbara Bozak***, Facilitator, Chambery Congregation; ***Sr. Celine Kalathoor***, Chambery Congregation; ***Sr. Simone Saugues***, Translator, Institute St. Joseph; ***Sr. Lucia Gallo***, Italian Federation; ***Sr. Odile Gaillard***, French Federation.

Dear Members of the worldwide Joseph Family,

I am happy to present to you this edition of the newsletter commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the International Centre. Our beloved congregation began in 1650 with the dream of six women and a Jesuit priest who desired to live out their faith by serving their dear neighbors while living as sisters of the neighborhood. Over the years this dream has spread to over 49 countries throughout the world.

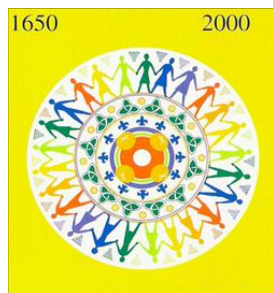
On April 1, 2002, seventeen dreamers again gathered in Le Puy-en-Velay. These seventeen sisters represented the five Federations, France, Italy, Canada, US and Argentina as well as the three International Congregations, Annecy, Chambery and Lyon. Together they dreamed of establishing an International Centre and gave voice to its vision and mission. This dream became a reality on October 15, 2004, with the opening of the International Centre St. Joseph.

Dreams have power especially when they are shared. They inspire us to reach higher, to imagine things beyond which we can see and touch. Dreams give us a sense of purpose and enrich our lives with meaning. Over the past twenty years this dream of the International Centre has been shared and supported by numerous people. We are grateful for the generosity of staff, boards, presenters, translators, and pilgrims. All of whom have kept the dream alive and growing. You will read some of their stories and view their pictures in this newsletter.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to come to the International Centre, I hope that this newsletter will inspire you to dream and plan on joining us in the future in Le Puy-en-Velay.

In gratitude for the dreamers,
 Maryellen Kane, CSJ
 Executive Director, US Federation Sisters of St. Joseph
 Board President, International Centre St. Joseph

*The Centre officially opened, October 15, 2004, at the house in Aiguilhé,
given for our use by the Sisters of the Institute St. Joseph*



In October of 2000, the French Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph hosted a celebration and a "colloque" in honor of the 350th anniversary of our foundation. Representatives of the various Federations and International Congregations were invited to an initial meeting in April 2002 to discuss the concept of such a Centre, and its feasibility. On April 11, 2002, seventeen Sisters of St. Joseph, representing Congregations and Federations with more than 14,000 Sisters worldwide, gathered in Le Puy-en-Velay. These Sisters recognized the presence and call of the charism as experienced by women and men around the planet, and the desire to fan the

flame of the charism in the hearts of all our members. Grounded in this dream, they reached a decision to proceed with the project and to form an international committee to make the Centre a reality.

Representatives from each of the four Federations:

French: Sr. Catherine Barange

Italian: Sr. Gemma Delmasso

US: Sr. Kathy McClusky

Canadian: Sr. Mary Diesbourg

Representatives from each of the three International Congregations:

Annecy: Sr. Marie-Louise Vuillez

Chambéry: Sr. Barbara Bozak

Institute: Marie-Paule Rasclé

Lyon: Sr. Janet Gagnon and Sr. Catherine Fromager

When possible, a representative from the Sisters in Argentina was present. Sr. Raquel Pividori who was studying in Lyon attended the meetings for one year. Sr. Phyllis Manda (US) served as facilitator and translators were secured for English, French, Italian and Spanish.

The work of the committee consisted of the following:

- Discerning the movement of the Spirit in this idea,
- Developing the vision and mission statement for the Centre,
- Finding the resources to begin, including a house,
- Forming a legal Corporation (in France called an "Association") to establish the legitimacy of the Centre,
- Selecting a Staff and planning the opening celebrations.

On May 28, 2004, the Corporation held its first official meeting. A Board of Directors was named and the following officers and members selected:

President: Janet Gagnon (Lyon)

Vice President: Kathy McCluskey (USA)

Secretary: Barbara Bozak, (Chambéry)

Treasurer: Catherine Fromager (Lyon)

Luigina Dalmasso (Italy)

Catherine Barange (Lyon)

Raquel Maria Pividori (Argentina)

Vision Statement

We recognize in the global realities of our times, the urgent call of God to act more as one in addressing our mission of communion. Centre International St. Joseph exists to promote interaction, collaboration and communion, among Sisters, Associates and lay partners, in creating an earth community based on the values of right relationship with God, with others, and with the planet.

The Centre welcomes both Sisters and their lay partners. We offer opportunities to understand and interpret our charism in light of today's realities, the needs of our world for reconciliation and peacemaking, and the hunger of young people for relationships. These opportunities include prayer, study, reflection, discernment, research, creative thinking, retreats, sabbatical experiences, rest, and physical work.

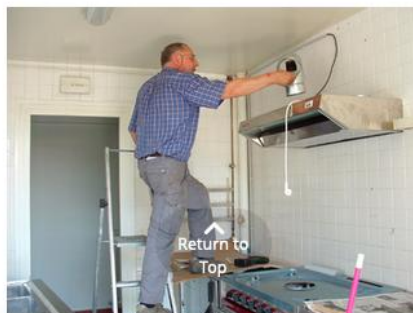
Mission

Embracing the past, we study and deepen our awareness of our history, tradition, and spirituality to ensure the preservation of our "story" for future generations.

Nurturing the present, we engage Sisters of St. Joseph, associates, and lay partners in deepening their understanding of our mission and charism; we do this within an international setting and with a global focus.

Creating a new future, we interpret our charism in light of today's world, and informed with this new understanding, help establish ways to incarnate the prayer "that all may be one," particularly among the young and in areas in need of reconciliation.

Renovating the Centre -- 2004



Screenshot

Centre Newsletter – 2004

Opening of the Centre International – October 15, 2004



The first staff consisted of Josette Gocella, (Erie, USA), Mary Diesbourg, (London, Canada), and Sheila Holly, (Philadelphia, USA).



Members of the Planning Team



First key of the Centre



Opening ceremony



Sr. Janet Gagnon (Lyon-Maine) and Sr. Jean François (Institut des Sœurs de St. Joseph-Le Puy) officially open the Centre

Program Directors through the Years

Dolores Clerico	Maria Christina Gavazzi	Sue Wilson
Jane DeLisle	Patricia St. Louis	Joan Atkinson
Mary Rowell	Bill Clark, SJ	Mary Diesbourg
Kitty Hanley	Marie-Jean Pougheon	Sheila Holly
Lina Buck	Margo Ritchie	Josette Gocella
Janet Mock	Phyllis DiFuccia	Monica Hartnett
Nadia Boudon-Lashermes	Gloria Phillip	Mary Southard
Catherine Louis	Line Rioux	
Janet Gagnon	Michelle Leshner	
Rosemary O'Toole	Kristen Whitney Daniels	

Translators through the Years

Simone Saugues	Ivani Marie Gandini	Gemma Dalmasso
Elisabeth Reis	Ieda Tomassini	Gloria Philip
Mary McGlone	Rita Bujold	Benedicte de Vaublanc
Maria (Pepis) del Pilar Sordo	Gloria Cruz	Maria del Espiritu San
Joana Mendez	Rosa Maria Lopez	
Maria Cristina Gavazzi	Nicoletta Danna	

Board Members through the Years

Catherine Barange	2004-2022	Nicoletta Danna	2011-2017
Barbara Bozak	2004-2009	Patty Johnson	2012-2019
Kathleen McCluskey	2004-2011	Nancy Sullivan	2013-2016
Gemma Dalmasso	2004-2010	Maria Goretti O'Connor	2014-2019
Janet Gagnon	2004-2011	Loretta Manzara	2017-2021
Marie Louise Vuillez	2004	Claudia Francia	2018-2019
Catherine Fromager	2004-2008	Lucia Gallo	2020-present
Marianne Bode	2006-2009	Vianney Thanniath	2020-present
Martina Gmuender	2009-2010	Maryellen Kane	2020-present
Ieda Tomazini	2010-2021	Dolores Lahars	2022-2023
Valerie Van Cauwenberghe	2010-2012	Carol Umana	2022-present
Ellen Breen	2011-2013	Judith Donovan	2023-present
Odile Gaillard	2011-present	Celine Kalathoor	2023-present

Staff and Volunteers through the Years

Josette Gocella	Kathleen Robbins	Deirdra Griffin
Mary Diesbourg	Donna Cicalese	Shiji James
Sheila Holly	Josette Guirard	Rita Bujold
Rita McCormick	Carol Crepeau	Dominga Zolet
Kate Fella	Martha Thomas	Anita Pastore
Gracy Thomas	Dorothy Pilkington	Line Rioux
Claudette Des Forges	Joyce Murray	Eluiza de Andrade
Rita Baum	Shirley Maloney	Olga Bonfiglio

Tenth Anniversary – October 15, 2014



On October 15, 2004, the International Center of Saint Joseph opened its doors. Ten years later the global community of St. Joseph began a yearlong celebration of the first ten years of the International Center, its accomplishments, the present reality and the future planning.

It was on another very significant anniversary, the 350th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Sisters of St Joseph that the idea to create an International Center was born. Representatives of the four federations and three international congregations began the work that has led them to today.

Renovations at the Centre

Since early January the Centre has been undergoing renovations (security upgrades). Some of what's happening: Doors are being replaced by fire doors in every bedroom. The stairway is being enclosed, and a handrail has been put in on the right hand side. A fire door is being installed on third floor at the end of the hallway, which will exit to an enclosed metal fire escape. New exit signs have been put in. New regulations state that we need a Handicap Accessible room, so it is being constructed in what was the car garage. A few pictures highlight some of the goings on!



Cultural Diversity & Conflict Management Program – 2016-2018



Sisters of St. Joseph from all over the world gathered at the International Centre for five different sessions of the 10-day Cultural Diversity and Conflict Management project. For many of them, coming to Le Puy was their first time out of their country or on an airplane. However, the sisters quickly became a cohesive group despite their mix of cultures and languages because of their common bond as Sisters of St. Joseph who came to invest in and develop skills in cultural diversity.

In fall 2015, the Design Team from different congregations and countries gathered in Le Puy to develop a curriculum for a series of five 10-day sessions for formators on Cultural Diversity and Conflict Management, a project funded by the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#).

“The project was developed in response to what global leaders of the Sisters of St. Joseph describe as their most pressing concern, helping new sisters incorporate into communities that are rapidly becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse,” said Sr. Patty Johnson, the Director of the [US Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph](#) and a member of the Design Team.

“In some countries, sisters are living in community with sisters who are from ethnic factions that are warring and killing each other. Modeling non-violent conflict management in their community life is both an unprecedented challenge and timely transformational opportunity.”

Sr. Irene O’Neill, from St Paul-Carondelet, another of the grant developers noted that “Women religious have the unique call to bridge gaps between opposing cultures. They understand the interconnectedness of life itself. Globalization and migration intensify this diversity among the sisters and those with whom they minister.”



Conrad Hilton Foundation

The Cultural Diversity program was made possible by a grant from the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation of Agoura Hills, CA](#). The foundation is committed to funding religious organizations that work to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people throughout the world. It has taken a special interest in [supporting the development of Catholic sisters](#).

"Catholic sisters contribute to human development through their spiritual witness and service to those in need," states the foundation's website. "More than 700,000 sisters around the world educate our children, care for the vulnerable, stand with the oppressed, promote peace, and advocate for justice. Like our founder, Conrad N. Hilton, we recognize sisters as resourceful, efficient, and powerful agents of social change."



Countries Represented

Argentina	France	Mexico
Bolivia	Haiti	Norway
Brazil	Honduras	Pakistan
Burkina Faso	India	RD of the Congo
Cameroon	Italy	Senegal
Canada	Ivory Coast	Sri Lanka
Chad	Kenya	Switzerland
DR of the Congo	Lebanon	United States
Egypt	Madagascar	



Program Facilitators



May 2016 – Sr. Janet Gagnon and Sr. Gloria Philip
October 2016 – Sr. Janet Gagnon, Sr. Gloria Philip, and Sr. Marie Louise Ralisoa
May 2017 – Sr. Lorraine Delaney and Sr. Elisa Zuanazzi
September 2017 – Sr. María (Pepi) del Pilar Sordo and Sr. Griselda Morales
May 2018 – Sr. Gloria Philip and Sr. Elisa Zuanazzi

Sr. Griselda Morles served as director for the Cultural Diversity Program

Translators

Sr. Mary McGlone (US Federation--Carondelet) -- English and Spanish
Sr. María (Pepi) del Pilar Sordo (Lyon Congregation) -- French and Spanish
Sr. Elisabete Reis (Chambéry Congregation--Brazil) -- English and Portuguese
Sr. Elaine Hollis (US Federation--Rochester) -- English and Portuguese
Sr. Simone Saugues (Institut St. Joseph) -- French and English

Researchers

Avila University Professors Carol Coburn and Ken Parsons have been working with the sisters to design, refine and evaluate the Cultural Diversity & Conflict Management curriculum, which is part of a three-year grant funded by the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#). Carol is a professor religious studies and women's & gender studies while Ken is a professor of Philosophy and the director of the Center for Global Studies & Social Justice. [Avila University](#) in Kansas City, MO, is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.



Living History Centre – 2016



Sr. Nadia Boudon-Lashermes



In 2010-2011, Sr. Odile Gaillard and the Leadership Council of the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph in France asked Sister Nadia Boudon-Lashermes to assume responsibility for the Archives of Le Puy-en-Velay with the task of reconsidering its organization once the major work would be accomplished.

It focused on two aspects:

- The preservation of the Archives and the conditions for their consultation
- Welcoming the public by making the Archives display more attractive and easier to access today.

Living History Centre

Using today's technology, we thought of setting up the Living History Centre to enable visitors to enter our history and provide them an opportunity to experience it.

With Sister Catherine Louis and Sister Thérèse Chantal Charras, we worked for 2 years in developing this project from 2012 to 2014. It was clear to us that it was necessary to present an intuition and its evolution over time, an intuition that has endured the passage of time through its turbulences.

We have presented a time-based sequence with 3 axes:

- A general history: the history of France,
- A particular history: the history of the Church in France and
- A unique history: the history of our Foundation

This course of events is "woven" into the gospel of Luke and the "Eucharistic Letter."

We used precise "chronological milestones":

- What preceded the foundation, the end of the religious wars, and up to 1994 when the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Le Puy fades into the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- We had to set limits considering the available space and the wide range of people that would be passing through.

That is why we contacted Mr. Fortunier from the "Muséophone" Enterprise in Saint Etienne, to implement this work. The project "allows one to see and to hear," that is to say, as visitors stroll through the time line they are invited to pause and listen to excerpts from the Gospel of Luke and the Eucharistic Letter. So as to enter fully in this unique history, music will be diffused from the main room allowing the person to internalize what is discovered.



Preservation

The other important aspect, Sister Edna McKeever (USA Sister archivist) had emphasized, is the preservation of certain pieces of the collection, especially photos and ancient papers. We contacted several designer studios:

- **Madame Catrin**, of Lyon restored major photos, paintings displayed, particularly the one on the vows giving it a new lease of life.
- **At the Heritage Studio** in Bordeaux, Madame Sebin advised us on documents that needed restoration. The studio did an absolutely amazing job in restoring a good number of documents and making facsimiles to protect the originals.



The project took longer than expected. But its achievement is realized today, thanks to the generous donation of the [Anna-Maria Moggio Foundation](#) and through the investment of the **Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph**, rewards the efforts of all those who worked to make this space a heritage place from where we can perhaps draw on essential elements to build our future.

Anna-Maria Moggio Foundation



The Anna-Maria Moggio Foundation was established in 2006 in memory of the late Dr. Anna-Maria Moggio, whose love of and devotion to the arts, education, humanities, scholarship, and the well-being of children were expressed in her deeds as a faithful daughter of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Moggio's generosity and stewardship have inspired others to carry on her philanthropic work. The Foundation is dedicated to continuing the fundamental principal with which Dr. Moggio lived her life – *Deus intra nos movet* – (God is working within us) under the direction of Joseph T. Rogers, President and Trustee. Dr. Moggio passed away in July 2005 in Worcester, Massachusetts after a brief illness.



Archives program – July 2019



Sisters Nadia Boudon-Lashermes and Catherine Louis, presenters

Seventeen sisters, two presenters, and three translators from 11 countries on five continents came to the Centre for a workshop on archival materials. This was the first time the workshop had been offered. Participants learned about the different types of archives (written, sound, architectural, artistic, etc.) and the ways archivists handle them in order to write history. They also learned about the purpose of archives, ways of preserving them and various means of transmitting them to future generations. Participants then had several opportunities to work in break-out groups to try to interpret original documents



Portuguese work group



English work group



French work group



The translators for the program were Sr. Elisabete Reis (Chambéry-Brazil), Sr. Pepis del Pilar (Mexico-Lyon), and Sr. Rita Bujold (Lyon-USA).

Signature of Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script on a piece of paper. The signature reads "Jean-Pierre Medaille" and "aumônier de la compagnie".

Roots and Wings – 2022 and 2023

The Roots & Wings program was designed to provide sisters with temporary or one year of perpetual vows an opportunity to meet Sisters of St. Joseph from other parts of the world in order to integrate their life and initial formation experience and to reflect on their commitment. The intensive 7-day program included re-reading the sister's life and vocational call, exploring it in the light of our origins as Sisters of St. Joseph, and moving into how to live their vowed 'yes' today within the reality of our world and the "Dear Neighbor" near and far. Time together interweaved an understanding of holistic human health with SSJ history, spirituality, mission and charism within a context of international relationships, prayer, sharing and relaxation.



Sr. Judy Donovan (Lyon-Maine) and Sr. Gloria Philip (Buenos Aires) served as presenters, and Sr. Simone Saugues (Institute of St. Joseph) was the French-English translator.



Changing Populations at the Centre

One interesting phenomenon over these past 20 years of the Centre's existence is our guests. Originally designed for sisters, associates, and agrégées, the Centre has blossomed to attract many other groups including university and high school students, SSJ institutional staffs, high school and college alumni, friends, and partners of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The ever-evolving composition of the "Family of Joseph" is in plain view at the Centre as it is in your various communities and institutions—only we do it on an international scale. If this is what the present holds, we are truly excited about what future will be!



Congregation of St. Joseph (USA)



"Called to the More" for lay people – Orange (USA)



Fontbonne University (USA) 100th anniversary



St Catherine University



Association of Colleges of the Sisters of St. Joseph



Our Lady of Peace Academy students (USA)



Mt. St. Mary's University Board, Faculty, and Staff (USA)



Mt. St. Mary's University students (USA)



Young lay women – Charism in Motion program



Mary Louis Academy (USA)



Avila University student musicians (USA)





François Patinato Association of Père Médaille (Lyon)



Community managers for the Institute of St. Joseph's nursing homes and retirement centers



Institution of Saint-Joseph of Tassin la Demi Lune (Lyon, France)



Visitors ready to walk the Camino

Sisters come for short visits, meetings, and celebrations



Congregation of Chambéry



Istituto Suore di San Giuseppe (Italy)



Extended General Council (EGC) of the Lyon Congregation



Institute of St. Joseph retreat center – Vanosc



Institute of St. Joseph (Le Puy)



Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy



Sisters from India



Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia pilgrimage



Institute of St. Joseph (Le Puy)



Birthday celebration



Sisters from Africa

Of course, the Kitchen is what unites us all....

and people are coming from all over the world to visit it



*Many thanks for your love and support for
the Centre International over the years.
It is a rare privilege to possess such a treasure with
Sisters, Associates, and Partners in Mission
throughout all the world.
May God continue his many blessings on this ministry.*

