



**May this Christmas season give you hope, peace,  
and joy with many blessings  
for the new year.**

## 2026 Programs at the International Centre

### Stepping into the Past, Living in the Present, Journeying toward the Future – June 2-8, 2026

Welcome to Le Puy! Come and enjoy an exciting opportunity to discover, in fresh ways, the history, spirituality, and charism of the Family of Joseph as it unfolds for a new day. Come and listen to the ageless echo of the footsteps of the first members on the cobble-stone streets of France. Let them touch your soul. Explore the resonance and relevance of the echo from the past animating us to life in the present. Journey, with others, into the promise and hope of an evolving and unknown future at the very heart of this beautiful and dynamic charism. Come to appreciate ever more deeply your special place, your own call and journey into the mystery of relationship with God and with others. Embrace anew the spirituality that calls us always to “expansive and inclusive love” in the realities of the contemporary world. This seven-day program will integrate prayer, reflection, presentations and sharing, visits to special sites in the story of the Family of Joseph and the enjoyment of “walking together” in the movement of the Spirit. Come and be in Le Puy!

**Presenter:** Sr. Mary Rowell, CSJ, is a Sister of St. Joseph in Canada and is vocation and first formation director for her Congregation. She currently works in retreat and environmental ministries at Villa St. Joseph in Cobourg, Ontario. In that capacity, Sr. Mary provides presentations and retreats across Canada and the United States, many of which focus on the CSSJ charism for all members of the “Joseph Family”. She also facilitates general chapters for various Congregations.

### Hospitality of the Heart – June 12-18, 2026

At the very heart of CSSJ Charism and Spirituality is the call to hospitality. At the birth of the Congregation, during its early years, at the time of its renaissance following the French Revolution, and in its global expansion members of the Family of Joseph have provided a home in the Spirit in hard times.

When we gather together in Le Puy we “come home” in a very real sense. The experience welcomes us to explore deeply the embrace and activation of Charism in days very similar to our own. We can “feel” the faith, love, creativity and courage of the early women as they responded to the signs of their times. In turn, we are inspired anew to create welcoming space in our difficult and transitional times.

Through pilgrimage, prayer, presentations and sharing, the program draws us beyond common and limited understandings of hospitality for mission in a new day. In the light of our charism we will reflect on God as the Source of Hospitality, reception of the gift of Divine Love, hospitality to the self, an evolving understanding of love of the “dear neighbor” including all of creation, and hospitality to an unknown future. A warm “welcome home” to all members and friends of the Family of Joseph!

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## **Lentils and Lace – June 24-30, 2026**

Integral Ecology is a concept which recognizes that our actions on Earth are inseparable from our economic, cultural, and spiritual ways of being. It reflects and supports the legacy of Pope Francis', and now Pope Leo XIV's, emphasis on synodal care for the Earth and care for the poor. Integral Ecology also reflects the Sisters of St. Joseph charism of unifying one's love of God, Creation and the Dear Neighbour.

A visit to the sacred setting of Le Puy-en-Velay offers a unique encounter with the Sisters' charism and history. By exploring the origins of the global St. Joseph family, we have a singular opportunity to grapple with the twinned cries of the Earth and the poor, while being in hope-filled community.

This program will draw on the stories found in Le-Puy's unique natural history and call participants to be recharged through interactive exercises of "caring, sharing, and daring". Throughout, we will focus on our past, present, and future planetary relationship so that, at the program's conclusion, participants will feel re-energized to begin, or continue anew, in consistent education, advocacy, and action in their home countries.

This 7-day program will include prayer, reflection, a heritage meal, as much time outdoors as possible, and walking visits to historic sites in Le Puy-en-Velay. It is appropriate for all engaged in the work of the Sisters, including staff, Sisters, Associates, agrégés, and other partners in mission.

**Presenter: Sabrina M. Chiefari, BES**, is currently the Integral Ecology Specialist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto's Ministry for Social Justice, Peace, and Creation Care. As a long-time Environmental Educator, her work centers on community engagement, outdoor education and ecological well-being. She uses story-telling, local engagement, and spirituality to help all people understand how to act wisely towards our air, water, earth, and each other.

She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from York University, completed an internship with the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, and spent almost 15 years with the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority delivering diverse formats of educational programming. She's also authored a number of short, fictional stories, and articles in Canada and the US, and has facilitated several professional development workshops among colleagues in Ontario.

## **Mission Alive! – September 5-12, 2026**

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 Saint 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! Come deepen your learning, nourish your imagination and strengthen your conviction in participating in a world-wide movement that fosters union with God in drawing all into one. The week-long experience offers a rhythm of presentations, interactive participation, prayer, and visits to historic sites in Le Puy-en-Velay. A day trip to Lyon is also included.

**Presenter: Sr. Dolores Clerico, SSJ** is a Philadelphia Sister of Saint Joseph (USA) with ministry experience in the academic, parish, diocesan, and congregational arenas. She is a frequent speaker, workshop presenter, and retreat facilitator for sisters, associates, and partners in mission throughout the United States and annually at the International Centre.

## The Lace is Not Yet Finished – September 14-21, 2026

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.

**Suggested contribution for all programs:**  
655 to 755 Euros (if paid with cash)  
675 to 775 Euros (if paid with a bank transfer)

### 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...)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Centre International St. Joseph  
3 chemin du Côteau, 43000 Aiguilhe, FRANCE  
Tel: 33(0) 4.71.05.69.52  
[centre.international@wanadoo.fr](mailto:centre.international@wanadoo.fr)

## Board Notes



The Board of the International Centre experienced many changes in its membership at its October meeting. There was an election of new officers, the acceptance of new members, and a good-bye to retiring members. Sr. Barbara Bozak (facilitator) and Sr. Simone Saugues (translator) are in the center of the first row.

### New officers



Sr. Deirdre Griffin  
President  
Springfield-USA



Sr. Celine Kalathoor.  
Vice President  
Chambéry-France



Sr. Catherine Fromager  
Treasurer  
Lyon-France



Sr. Marie-Paule Rascle  
Secretary  
Institute-France

### New members



Sr. Tessy Thekkedath.  
Annecy-France



Sr. Colette Soro  
Lyon-France



Sr. Mary Jo Radey  
Sault Ste Marie-Canada



Sr. Yvonne Rasoarimalala  
Aoste-Italy

### Retiring members



Sr. Maryellen Kane  
Brentwood-USA



Sr. Lucia Gallo  
Cuneo-Italy



Carole Umana  
Toronto-Canada

## Scenes in the Sky

The annual Hot Air Balloon Festival in the Le Puy area honored Gilbert du Motier, marquis de La Fayette, who lived in a chateau in Chavaniac, about 40 minutes from Le Puy. Lafayette, as Americans know him, was a close friend of George Washington, first president of the USA. Lafayette helped the Americans fight for independence from England in the Revolutionary War (1775-83). Also included is a photo of a particularly dramatic foggy morning that features the statue of the Blessed Mother.

