

Sister Simone retires from the Centre



Board President Deirdre Griffin recognizes Sister Simone's service to the Centre at the Board meeting in March.

Sister Simone has been the French-English translator for the Centre since its beginning in 2003. She assisted various teams at the Centre in French language and culture, and for several years gave tours of the Kitchen with her unique wit and authenticity. She could always be counted on to lend a hand at the Centre, like watching over the building while staff were away. Sister Simone will continue working with the Centre in the foreseeable future by translating texts from English to French, and of course, she will continue being a friend of staff members.

Anyone who would like to express their gratitude to Sr. Simone is invited to send a thank you note to Sr. Deirdre Griffin at the U.S. Federation office in New York or to the Centre International in Le Puy.

Sr. Deirdre will deliver them to Sr. Simone at the next Board Meeting in September. The mailing addresses are:

*U.S. Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph,
86-44 Edgerton Blvd., Jamaica Estates, NY 11432*

*Centre International
3 chemin du Coteau, 43000 Aiguilhe, France*

Merci mille! ~ Deirdre



Sister Simone's favorite sweet treat is chocolate. Board members indulged in French chocolate pastries in her honor.

For more photos, [click here](#).

Mount St. Mary's University annual pilgrimages



The students of Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles, California (USA) spent their spring break at the Centre learning about the history and spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph. They visited the Kitchen and other SSJ historical sites in Le Puy, Bas-en-Basset (right below), Monistrol (left below), and Lyon. In Le Puy, they climbed St. Michel (right above) and the statue of the Blessed Mother. They also attended the Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral. Many students believed the pilgrimage was an opportunity of a lifetime made possible by their university's scholarship program for the trip. Shannon Green, senior director of the CSJ Institute, Michelle Melendres, professor of social work, and Tavala Luxon, assistant director of residence education led the group.



The students meet with the sisters in Monistrol.



The students visit Bas-en-Basset.



In May, the faculty, staff, and friends of Mt. St. Mary's University made their annual pilgrimage led by President Ann McElaney-Johnson. The 28 pilgrims first stopped in Annecy, where St. Francis de Sales and Mother Jane de Chantal established the Visitation Sisters. In Le Puy, the pilgrims visited the Kitchen, SSJ historical sites as well as St. Michel, the Cathedral, the lace shop. On their last day they went to Bas-en-Basset to see the birthplace of Mother St. John Fontbonne. They also had an amazing feast of a picnic. Then on to Monistrol to visit the sisters there and to see the church where Mother St. John was arrested. They spent their last two days in Lyon. President McElaney-Johnson is keen on carrying on the SSJ charism at the University through these pilgrimages that are sponsored by the CSJ Institute where Shannon Green is the director.

For more photos click on the [Students' Pilgrimage](#) and the [President's Pilgrimage](#).

Choral students from Regis College sing in Le Puy



Even though many of the students had been studying Spanish, choral members of Regis College learned to sing several songs in French much to the delight of their audience during their May 11-14 pilgrimage to Le Puy. Their mini-concert was performed for elderly Sisters of St. Joseph and laypeople of the Maison St. Joseph nursing home in the chapel in Le Puy.

The choir also sang in the chapel of St. Michel after climbing 268 steps up a 279-foot mount.

Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson (top right), associate professor of humanities, led the group.

Regis College was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston (USA) in 1927. Regis is a co-educational, non-profit college in Weston, Massachusetts, 12 miles west of Boston that offers undergraduate and graduate academic programs in the arts and sciences, business and communication, nursing, and health sciences.

[Click here](#) to see a video of the choir's performance.

Orange Sisters hold "Called to the More" annual pilgrimage

This year 12 people participated in the Annual Orange Sisters Pilgrimage titled "CALLED TO THE MORE: An Experience of the CSSJ Spiritual Legacy" May 4-13. The pilgrimage was led by Sister Jane DeLisle and Sister Mary Beth Ingham.

The pilgrims learned how the power of the Holy Spirit was at work in six women who lived in Le Puy-en-Velay in 1650, whose hearts were enflamed to respond to the difficult times of war, pestilence, poverty, famine, and loss. They discovered how this small group of women found their home in the spirituality of the itinerant Jesuit priest, Jean-Pierre Médaille and extended the love of God and the dear neighbor to become the community of God's Great Love, the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Finally, the pilgrims studied and reflected on how the spiritual legacy begun 375 years ago continues to enflame hearts to love God and serve God's people today so "That All May Be One."



The pilgrims engaged in a movement of guided presentation, sharing, reflection, prayer, journaling, and the exploration of sacred sites in Le Puy, Annecy, and Lyon to encounter the persons, spiritual legacy and charism that has shaped the Congregation of God's Great Love.

[Click here](#) to see a summary video of the pilgrimage.

Short Visits



The Centre hosted Sr. Elsy Joseph from India and her traveling companion, Sr. Nadège Zerbo from Burkina Faso, on January 22-23. Sr. Elsy had served in Ghana for 14 years as principal in a school for young children. Sr. Nadège was previously missioned in Ghana where she met Sr. Elsy. She currently ministers to guests at the International Community in Lyon.



Thirteen sisters and lay people attended a weekend retreat at the Centre on January 24-25 organized by the Maison Saint Joseph de Vanosc (90 minutes east of Le Puy). The group reviewed and prayed over the Eucharistic Letter in order to more deeply relate it to their ministries. Leaders included Sisters Martine Goury, Marie-Thérèse Desmartin, and Monique Vallon.

The Maison Saint Joseph de Vanosc is a retreat house that focuses on helping people to grow in their human and spiritual life through the Ignatian method.



The superior general of the St. Vallier Congregation visited the Centre at the same time as the Vanosc group. Sr. Mimose Saintilbert was visiting France in January and staying with the Institute St Joseph of France.

Sr. Mimose is from Haiti, one of the missions of the St. Vallier Congregation, whose motherhouse is currently in Quebec, Canada.

The St. Vallier Congregation was originally located in St. Vallier, about 2 hours south of Le Puy. In 1905 when France declared secularization—and religious communities could no longer identify or distinguish themselves as sisters—the sisters from St. Vallier left for Quebec where they have remained to this day.



The Institute St. Joseph of France sponsored another charism training program for its EPHAD managers on March 23-24. An EPHAD is a senior citizen health care facility. Sister Marie Heckman, Sister Marie-Christine Passelaigue, and Sister Beatrice Levèque directed the group. Sister Mathilde Isaac, general superior, was also present.



The Lyon Congregation’s “Kindling the Flame” group spent a day in Le Puy to visit the Kitchen and other SSJ historical sites. In the afternoon they went to the church in Monistrol where she was arrested by revolutionary leaders in Monistrol.

Kindling the Flame is for Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon under 60 around the world. Small groups from mixed countries and cultures spend two months together outside their home province/region/sector in order to (1) build

relationships among themselves and younger sisters in their host countries, (2) experience life/mission/community as well as older sisters in another country/culture of the Congregation, and (3) to learn or strengthen one of the three languages of the Congregation (English, French, Spanish). This year mixed cohorts are in France and Mexico for two months. Last year they were also in Egypt and Maine/US. They'll soon be discerning the host locations and participants for 2027.

Easter Sunday in Monistrol



The Centre's staff spent Easter Sunday with the Institute sisters at Monistrol. Our seven-course French-style meal that included stuffed chicken, potatoes, asparagus, cheese, dessert, and wine. Sister Deirdre Griffin (second from the left standing), executive director of the U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph joined us. She spent the week with us after the March meeting of the Centre's Board to learn more about the Centre and Le Puy. Sister Eluiza is in the front row on the right.



The Centre's beautiful cherry orchard yields a delicious crop

Spring was an on-again, off-again phenomenon this year. Temperatures were sometimes warm enough to go outdoors with only a top and sometimes cold enough for a winter jacket. The cherry orchard behind the Centre was especially beautiful, though, with the trees donning their white blossoms while 22 ewes, one ram, and six lambs made a much-awaited return appearance munching green grass. A few of the sheep returned to "mow" part of the front yard. They clip the grass short enough to last almost through the summer. Olga holds a bowl full of freshly-picked cherries in early June.

