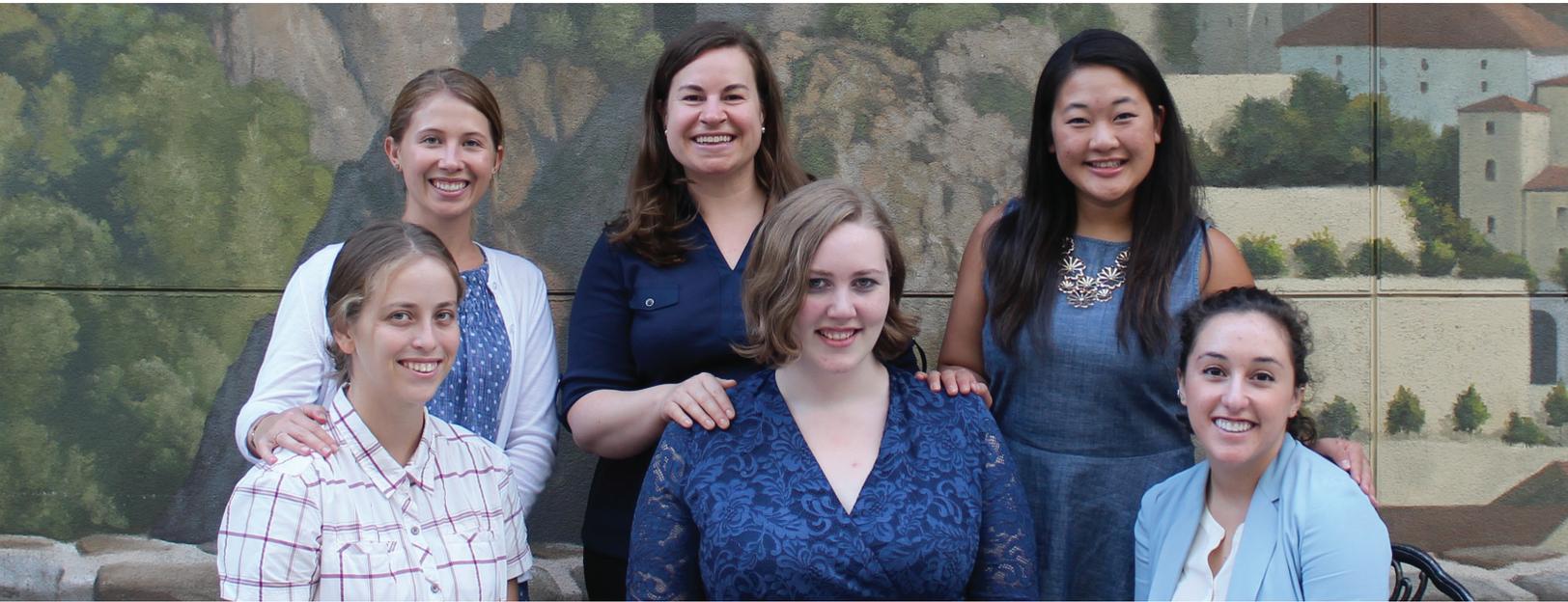
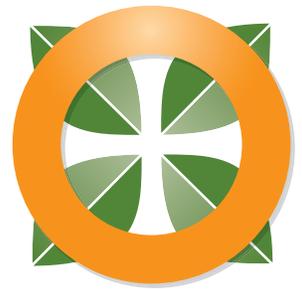


Mission Messages

A publication of the **St. Joseph Worker Program of Orange**

Fall 2018



Two SJW Communities: We have expanded to Napa!

We welcomed five new St. Joseph Workers to the 2018-2019 year on August 12, 2018. After orientation and training, three women journeyed to Napa to begin a new ministry site. We have a community of three in each city!

Orange Community

- Christina West (Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ)- Teaching Assistant at St. Joseph School, Santa Ana
- Brittni Robinette (Tacoma, WA)- Teaching Assistant at St. Anne's School, Santa Ana
- Luz Peredo-Muniz (Carmel, IN)- Health Advocate and Resource Specialist at Mission Hospital, Mission Viejo

Napa Community

- Jessica Kuretich (Phoenix, AZ)- Registered Nurse at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Napa
- Genny Say (Napa, CA)- Social Worker at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Napa
- Monica Patti (Seattle Washington)- 2015-2016 St. Joseph Worker, living with and supporting the Napa team as she earns hours towards social work licensure at Napa Valley Unified School District

Mission

Empowering women to respond to the needs of the times in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Vision

We create a year-long service opportunity for women in preparation for a life-long commitment to social change and personal transformation. Individual growth and development is built on the values of leadership, spirituality, social justice and intentional community grounded in living simply and sustainably. Rooted within the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Workers live the mission: "Love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction."

You're Invited

We invite women aged 21-35 to become St. Joseph Workers from August to June.

Contact

Sister Joanna Rosciszewska: 714-515-0471
Gena Gadiant: ggadiant@csjorange.org

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

Gathering in the Kitchen

The Sisters of St. Joseph began with six women in Le Puy France in the year 1650. Only one of them could read and write. They gathered together in the evening for meals, prayer and lace making. These moments not only provided nourishment and financial support for the poor, but created a space to further their true purpose: to bring all people to God.



Three hundred and sixty eight years later, St. Joseph Workers from around the nation continue to intentionally gather for meal and prayer in their small communities. We asked the St. Joseph Workers of Orange to reflect on their gatherings in the kitchen and the graces received from those experiences.

Luz

There is a certain level of intentionality that comes with having meals together every day of the week, learning from, and being present to each other in community. The kitchen is the environment that helps foster this climate of respect and mutuality. Whether we are trying a new recipe or challenging each other to apply each of the St. Joseph Worker Program pillars into our daily lives, the kitchen and dinner table are central. I am thankful for the opportunity to be intentional about gathering and working together to solve problems.

Jessica

During college, I spent one semester abroad in Madrid. One of my favorite things about Madrid was learning about how they eat. Often, the conversations and relationships that are formed are more important than the food. Our community mealtime gatherings remind me of the Spaniards: intentional, engaging, joyful, relaxed, and very fruitful. It is a time and space for us to freely share what is on our minds, to learn more and to be present with one another.

Genny

From beginning our days with brewing coffee and packing our lunches to ending our day with boiling water for tea and putting away our dinner plates, the kitchen is a vibrant setting that displays the heart of our life as a community. The daily activities give us the opportunity to love each other through the actions of cooking and washing the dishes for one another. It is through these simple daily tasks that we can show the greatest love.

Brittni

As an intentional community, we commit to spending time together in a peaceful, judgement-free place. We rotate cooking duties so everyone has a chance to equally share their skills and experiences through food. It's important for us to try new things together and to share what's on our minds in a relaxed environment. Because we're all at different service sites during the day, it seems essential for us to come together in the evenings to pray and reflect on the events of the day.

Monica

Eating a meal together is timeless. Shared meals uniquely facilitate deep listening and sharing, in a way that few other activities do, and it is this listening and sharing that makes community meals so rewarding. Outside of time, we are one with the women of the Le Puy kitchen, coming home and supporting one another. We respond to each other with encouragement and insight that take us beyond ourselves, and sharing that connects us.

Christina

"How was your week?" Angelina, a staff member at St. Joseph School asks me. "What did you cook?" She loves hearing about what my community members and I are making because she remembers how she first learned to cook and became more confident in the kitchen through trial and error. I find that cooking is a way to learn about my community and myself. I've been reading a California cookbook to discover what dishes and ingredients are local to this area. I'm learning to adjust to dairy-free and vegetarian cooking to satisfy the needs of my community, but I still like to experiment with different flavors!

Inspiring Stories

My name is Natasha Pena and I am a junior in high school. When I heard about the St. Joseph Worker Program (SJWP), I was in awe of the Sisters' mission to give young women the opportunity to devote their time to worship and service. I reached out to the Sisters hoping to gather more information about the program and what I found was an inspirational community of women working passionately to serve others and further explore their faith. I began to speak with Workers from previous years to learn more about the SJWP and its positive effect on the community, as well as its impact on the Workers of the program.



Visit the media page on sjworange.org to read my interview with Yadira Enciso.



Where are last year's St. Joseph Workers now?



Catherine Nguyen has returned to Annandale, Virginia and is co-teaching 2nd grade at Queen of Apostles school in Alexandria, Virginia.



Sarah Cornwell has returned to Michigan and is working at Covenant Community Care, where she is working as a physician assistant serving the underserved and vulnerable of Detroit.



Yadira Enciso is working full time at Loyola Marymount University in the Student Financial Services Department and is continuing to look and apply for graduate schools. She has also continued to volunteer her time in prison ministry with Sr. Monique Gautier at California Institute for Women.



Katie Christy started at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry this fall. She is pursuing her Masters in Divinity.

Deepening the Mission in the SJW Extension Community

In 2017, St. Joseph Worker alumni were offered a space where they could continue to live together and grow in the core values of spirituality, social justice, leadership and intentional community. The vision is that this community can be an option for women who transition out of their St. Joseph Worker year into their next phase of life, while further extending the mission of the Program and Sisters of St. Joseph. We asked the women in our current extension community, to share their experience.

Gena, SJW 2015-2016, Program Manager of Orange

When I signed up to be a St. Joseph Worker in 2015, I would have never dreamed this is where I would be three years later as we start our 4th year in Orange and expand our ministry to Napa, CA! The program has offered me more than I could have asked or imagined. The intentionality behind the core values has transformed the way I live.

Living in the extension community has truly been a gift. Speaking with numerous long-term volunteers, I learned it's often the transitional period of time after a service year is completed that is most challenging. A deeper awareness of social injustices and a journey of faith are sometimes just beginning. Continuing to live and work where one is supported allows the values to become more deeply rooted in one's heart and soul. The extension community provides nourishment in a vital time to continue life-long habits.



Our intentional prayer and sharing has allowed Fernanda and I to grow deeper in relationship to Christ, become stronger leaders in our ministries and hold one another accountable in striving to live a life of the values we learned as St. Joseph Workers. We express our deepest gratitude to the Sisters of St. Joseph for offering such an experience and will never stop sharing their story!

Fernanda, SJW 2016-2017, Patient Advocate at La Amistad Clinic, Orange

The St. Joseph Worker Program taught me the value of self-reflection which has led me to a period of growth and spiritual awakening. I meet Jesus in the face of my patients and I would never be in this position if it were not for the program. I love sharing all of the accomplishments and the impact that Sisters have made in Orange County and worldwide.

Currently, I live with Gena. Though it is small, living in community in itself has been a powerful form of perpetual prayer. We are always thinking about each other, checking in, and considering how our choices can affect the other person. We remind each other that we are cared for and loved. For me, it's a reminder that prayer can be manifested in many ways. God's love is real, and it is manifested in the community that I live in, which helps me become closer to our Creator. We pray as Our Lord has taught us, and we ask Him to give us this sacred day, and our daily bread.

Thank you for your support!

We are grateful for the many ways you support the St. Joseph the Worker Program – your presence, prayers and contributions - spreading the news and sharing your resources! Each St. Joseph Worker is placed at a local site where their gifts and talents are needed most. Because of your support we are able to focus on the values and the personal development needs of the women who serve. We are so very thankful to the generosity of Miles and Kelley Construction for sponsoring a worker serving the homeless at Mary's Kitchen and Catholic Worker/Isaiah House this past year.

We welcome any amount to help us cover these monthly expenses for one worker:

- \$1000 room and board
- \$300 medical insurance
- \$50 transportation.

Please consider a gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Donations are graciously and gratefully accepted:

- Online at sjworange.org
- Mailed to St. Joseph Worker Program at 440 S Batavia St, Orange, CA 92868