

Mission Messages

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

Fall 2019



An Intercultural Community In the 5th Year of the St. Joseph Worker Program of Orange

Ana María Feijóo Otálvaro, Cali, Colombia;
Service Site: Mission Hospital

“I hope to get closer to human truth, pain and fragility, and from this situation walk with them, motivating the faith and hope with which Jesus walked and accompanied multitudes without any distinction; promoting life from growth and service, carrying a deep message of love and trust in a living Christ for both myself and those around me.”

Lutonia Naicker, Durban city (East coast province of South Africa); Service Site: Isaiah House and Mary’s Kitchen

“My faith has guided me and played an important role in being my moral compass, therefore, I am very excited about the SJW program. During this year, I hope to strengthen my knowledge in learning about the four pillars of the St. Joseph Worker Program and to grow within my faith in God.”

Chelsea Yu-Hsien Lin, Taipei, Taiwan;
Service Site: Hurtt Family Health Clinic

“I hope that this year I could gain more experience in both of my passions and I’m excited to see how these experiences this year change me as a person.”

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

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A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

Honorine Uwimana Kigali, Rwanda; Service Site: Regina Residence

“I long to wake up every day to make someone’s life better; I want to be the reason why the world believes again in love for the neighbor as Jesus Christ thought and described it. I hope to learn from the core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph and transmit them to whoever I will meet.”

Annie Voegelé, Columbus, OH; Service Site: Mission Hospital

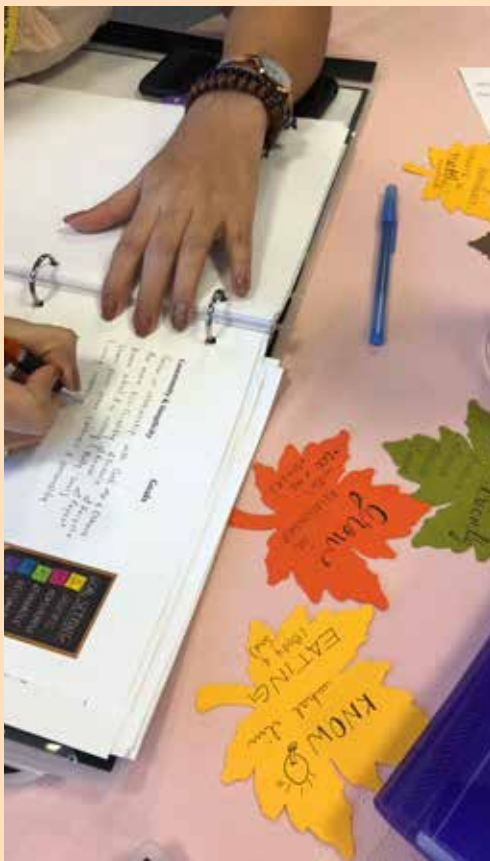
“I am a Registered Nurse with a passion for serving alongside the poor and other vulnerable populations where there is great need. My overall hope is to give of myself and to empower the community in which I will be serving.”

Mary Furlong, Old Orchard Beach, Maine; Service Site: L’Arche Wavecrest

“I was a Health Science major and was passionately involved in Best Buddies and My Brother’s Keeper during my time at Stonehill, which inspired me to pursue a year of service. I look forward to staying away from the snow this year and exploring a new part of the country!”

Gathering Our Goals

Growth is the goal, and that goal is never complete- art must be in constant change. – Tom Wesselmann



Each year the St. Joseph Workers begin orientation reflecting on the program mission and core values. To symbolize these, the program has created a tree. The roots of the tree contain the Sisters of St. Joseph mission: “to bring all into union with God and one another”; The trunk of the tree is the SJW mission and the branches hold the values: community, spirituality, social justice, leadership and simplicity. The tree has grown each year as each of the women take time to write thoughts, dreams and goals on the leaves. As the years pass, they take time to reflect on these areas and watch the tree continue to “grow and change”. You’re invited to see where the SJWs have grown and continue to plant seeds on May 1st.



SAVE THE DATE: *Evening of Friday, May 1st 2019*

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker & 5th Year Celebration of current and alum SJWs, placements, supporters and those we serve.

Gathering In the Kitchen

"All great change begins at the dinner table." -Ronald Reagan

From the G8 summit table that narrates the world's important decisions, to the table in Le Puy, France where the Sisters of St. Joseph found their origin, to the Last Supper table that can recount one of the most significant moments of the gospel of Jesus Christ, every table holds memories and meaningful decisions.

Our table welcomed us; the six of us hailing from all corners of the world to plop into a strange place, navigate new customs and new venues; it saw us turning this strange home into an organized haven. This table carefully wraps our chiming laughter over our adventures, miseries, and unfolding personalities. It embraces our agonies over failed plans, homesickness, vulnerability, and aching compassion.

There is no better mechanism to replace this invention that a board and four sticks teach us to live in community, laugh and connect, accept and respect. Gathering around it, we look at each other, we know each other, and we love each other. It unites and enriches not only our body, but also our souls.

On our table we fill our plates and cups with food and drinks, you may say, but for each of us it represents more than that. For Mary, coffee represents awakening and the promise of a new day. In another light, hot chocolate provides the warmth Chelsea needs to conquer another day with courage. The cup of tea in Ana Maria's hands brings old anecdotes to life. Bread offers us comfort, gratitude and a sense of coming together. Lutonia seeks to enrich herself with the simplicity of those very ingredients baked with love to nourish us. One of the beverages one finds in every corner of East Africa is iced passion fruit juice; a glass of passion juice on the table defines home for Honorine. It reminds her of the uniqueness of her origins and fills her with the zeal of sharing her home culture with everyone. For Annie, the potential encapsulated within the pumpkin provides a sense of adventure in the kitchen. From a nice warm cup of pumpkin soup to delicious walnut pumpkin bread, the pumpkin is a sign of abundant blessings.

Our table brings us together as a family. It becomes a platform where our similarities and diversities meet; a place where we share food together and share ourselves with one another. We are making an everlasting memory at this table.

-The 2019-2020 St. Joseph Workers



Letting Go

It feels like yesterday when I would hop in my car and during the 27-minute drive to work that I would call my best friend Allie and say every morning “I am just not happy, what is God calling me to?”. I was living in D.C. and working in advertising, I was recognized for my efforts and seen for future promotion. My family and peers were proud, but my heart was dying. I knew that it was not the right fit, but I was crippled and attached to the lifestyle, the budget, and the flexibility. It was hard to see myself anywhere else.

After 6 months of this daily heart numbing routine, Allie called me about the St. Joseph Worker Program. My first response was to laugh and say it was impossible, but after hearing her firm conviction to just call, I took the first step.

In that moment, I felt God in my heart say “what do you have to lose?”

I listened to a sermon from Mike Schmitz, that he said we move when the discomfort of staying stagnant weighs more that the struggle to change.

The day I made the decision to go to the St. Joseph Worker Program, God sent me beautiful hands to hold me through the process of letting go. Letting go of my possessions- only taking what can fit in my small car, letting go of my apartment, letting go of my job, but the hardest part of all letting go of the successful image I portrayed to my family and hearing the utter disappointment regarding my choices.

One year. In one year I learned how humbly a person can live and still have sparkles of joy in their eyes. I learned



that God’s path isn’t always the most successful by worldly means, but explodes your heart with overflowing love. I learned that love and vulnerability connects us to one another in the most beautiful way.

SJWP allowed me the space to hear God’s call, space to let God love and provide for me, and space to learn who I was and love my beautifully broken self.

After SJWP, I felt free enough to choose my new found passion of social work. I felt called and freely chose to move to Chicago to work as a Therapist for children who have experienced severe trauma. I now try to hold that space to love the children and caregivers through the difficult experience in their lives and so that they too can love their beautifully broken selves.

-Cathy Wahl, SJW 2016-2017

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 welcome any amount to help us cover these expenses for one St. Joseph Worker:

- \$50 weekly food costs
- \$150 monthly transportation costs
- \$200 toward Domestic Violence training offered by the Women’s Transitional Living Center
- \$325 Monthly Medical Insurance

Please consider a gift. Donations are graciously and gratefully accepted:

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