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FACT SHEET

The Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is a dynamic union of all the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the United States who claim a common origin in the foundation at LePuy, France in 1650. This includes 4,465 Sisters, 2,919 Associates and 26 Agrégées of 16 Congregations throughout the United States.

Together we strive to embody a vision of all people united in one earth community of love, unity and reconciliation. We do this through collaborative programs, interaction, prayer and ministry. In our conflicted 21st century world, the Sisters of Saint Joseph seek to bring our traditions and vision to life in a way that will speak to our contemporary society and be a positive influence for change.

MEMBERS: The U.S. Federation is a membership organization composed of the vowed members and associates of 16 communities of Sisters of St. Joseph, including autonomous congregations, the Carondelet congregation which has 4 provinces as well as vice provinces in Hawaii and Japan, and Peru, and 2 communities which are provinces of French congregations. Carondelet Center, the general leadership team of the Carondelet Congregation, is also represented in the Leadership Assembly.

ASSOCIATES: Though they are not members, Associates are closely connected to the Federation by virtue of their relationships to their congregations/provinces. They participate in Federation programs and serve on committees as appropriate. They run their own Associates Event periodically.

PURPOSE AND VISION: The purpose of the U.S. Federation is:

- To support in all Sisters of Saint Joseph a continual striving to incarnate CSJ/SSJ charism within the mission of Jesus in the church of today and of the future
- To integrate a continuing exploration of CSJ/SSJ charism by an approach that looks toward its living expression as well as its historical roots
- To collaborate in programs which facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the CSJ/SSJ charism as it affects the life and ministry of the members
- To provide the members with a sense of belonging to a movement greater than one's own congregation.
- To serve as a means of linking leaders and members of CSJ/SSJ congregations through the direction of a Governing Board

Together we discover new ways to deepen and expand the CSSJ mission and the power of the charism exploring new ways of being and acting "more as one."

HISTORY: The Sisters of Saint Joseph were among the first Catholic communities to be founded for the ordinary woman. They were not wealthy or educated and worked to support themselves especially by making lace, a common trade in the region of France where they began. Today, those who are attracted to this vision still live among the people and offer their lives in love and service. We carry on the heritage of our founders, six French women who joined a Jesuit priest in 1650 to begin a community without cloister or habit and devoted to the needs of the ordinary people. They shared a profound desire for union with God and the "dear neighbor".

The community grew. Then, caught in the political turmoil of the French Revolution, the congregation was disbanded. Some of the Sisters were martyred at the guillotine and others returned to their homes or went into hiding. After the revolution ended, a heroic woman, Jeanne Fontbonne, who narrowly escaped the guillotine herself, refounded the Sisters of St. Joseph at Lyon, France. In 1836, she sent three sisters to Carondelet, Missouri. From there, they spread across the United States beginning new foundations and now are members of the organization known as The United States Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

MINISTRIES: The basic desire of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is to reflect a "profound love of God and Neighbor without distinction." Our mission is to love and work so that all may be one. By trying to build

relational communities wherever we live and serve, we keep this mission alive.

Today, Sisters of Saint Joseph can be found in soup kitchens, shelters, universities, schools, hospitals, courtrooms, prisons, retreat centers, offices, nursing homes, laboratories, studios and hospices. We are educators, lawyers, doctors, nurses, family therapists, social workers, patient advocates, spiritual directors, parish ministers, theologians, psychologists, physical therapists, administrators, artists, authors, musicians, poets and a myriad of other ministries.

FEDERATION ORGANIZATION

The Leadership Assembly - The Federation is governed by the Leadership Assembly which is composed of the Leadership Teams of all the Congregations. This group meets annually in November for direction setting and corporate responsibilities.

The Leadership Council is the elected leadership team of the Federation. It is made up of 10 members plus the Executive Director and the Treasurer. This group meets several times a year to forward the purpose and direction of the Federation, plan the annual meeting, and carry on business. Co-chairs provide leadership and relate between meetings with the Executive Director.

- Ginny Maitland, SSJ, Springfield, MA., Atlantic Region Representative, Co-chair
- Peggy Sullivan, CSJ, Boston, MA., Co-Chair
- Michele Beiter, SSJ, Buffalo, NY, Lakes Representative
- Theresa Kvale, CSJ, Carondelet/Los Angeles, CA, Pacific Rim Representative
- Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, Erie, PA.
- Meg Gillespie, CSJ, Carondelet/St. Paul, MN
- Jeannie Masterson, CSJ, Congregation of St. Joseph
- Ann Kane, CSJ, Chambery/ West Hartford, CT,
- Eileen McCann, CSJ, Carondelet/Albany, NY
- Therese Blecha, CSJ, Concordia, KS, Treasurer
- Patty Johnson, CSJ, Carondelet/St. Louis, MO, Executive Director

The Finance Committee serves the Leadership Assembly in the management of the operating budget and investments. It meets 2-3 times annually with the Treasurer to monitor finances, oversee investments, develop budgets, prepare finance reports for the Leadership Assembly.

The Regions are now a part of the formal governance structure. Business and information can flow between the regions, the Leadership Council, Executive Director, etc. Currently there are four Regions:

- The Atlantic Coast (Boston, Brentwood, Philadelphia, Springfield, St. Augustine, West Hartford, and Winslow)
- The Lakes (Albany, Baden, Buffalo, Erie, Rochester, and Watertown)
- Heartland (Carondelet Center, Concordia, Congregation of St. Joseph, St. Louis and St. Paul)
- The Pacific Rim (Hawaii, Los Angeles, and Orange)

Committees and Programs

- Federation Novitiate - Canonical Novitiate Program - Betty Suther (Concordia) Director, Mary Jo Thummel (Concordia) Assistant. This program is currently housed in Concordia, KS.
- Life-Long Formation Committee - to assist the life-long formation needs of member Congregations in these three life stages – Initial Formation, the Federation Novitiate and Ongoing Formation.

Interest Groups are self-initiated and sustained. They link persons from the various communities around similar interests, ministries, etc. Current Interest Groups include:

- Treasurers
- Development Personnel
- Communications Personnel
- Justice and Peace Personnel
- Vocation/Formation
- Artists
- Associate Directors

International Centre: This is collaboration among the worldwide federations and congregations of St. Joseph. The International Centre is a center for promotion of the charism and mission, international in focus and experience, located in LePuy, France. Much of the work of the Federation is carried on by Committees which are established by the Leadership Assembly/Council to promote the goals and purposes of the Federation. Membership includes sisters, associates, staff colleagues, and the meetings are hosted by congregations/provinces around the country. Some committees plan and run programs; others carry out specific tasks for us all.

Sisters of St. Joseph at the United Nations: The Congregations of St. Joseph embrace 10,131 members worldwide, found in 49 countries on six continents. Belonging to 30 independent congregations, the Sisters of St. Joseph work together and support one another through 4 national federations (Canada, France, Italy and the US) and 3 international congregations (Annecy, Chambéry, Lyon) as well as the congregation of Argentina.

In order to accomplish this, the Congregations of St. Joseph have had an official presence as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the UN since 1979. In 1999, we were granted General Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has given us the opportunity to express our views and make statements during official UN conferences and meetings, on topics that we deem significant.

THE CENTRAL STAFF INCLUDES:

- Executive Director: Patty Johnson, CSJ, Carondelet/St. Louis
- Administrative Assistant: Joe Favazza
- Communication Director: Debbie Timmis, CSJ Carondelet/Albany
- Treasurer Therese: Blecha, CSJ, Concordia

CONTACTS

- Patty Johnson, CSJ – Executive Director (pjohnson@cssjfed.org)
- Ginny Maitland, SSJ – Leadership Council Co-chair (gmaidland@ssjspringfield.com)
- Peggy Sullivan, CSJ - Leadership Council Co-chair (margaretl.sullivan@csjboston.org)