

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL ST. JOSEPH

Le Puy-en-Velay, FRANCE



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Young Adult Program Set for August 2008

In late March, four sisters from different congregations met to form a team and begin to plan the international program for Young Adults, set for August 3 – 13, 2008. The team is comprised of Maria Cristina Gavazzi, Chambéry, (Italy), Marie Thérèse Chapuis, L'Institut, (France), Helena de Fatima dos Santos, Chambéry, (Brazil), Cecelia Magladry, Orange, California, (USA). Susan Glaab, London, Ontario (Canada) is part of the team but was unable to be present for the meeting.

For four days, the committee shared their insights about the potential needs of young adults in the world today, speaking from personal experiences and training. Then, they set about naming what the spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph offers young adults to satisfy these needs and longings. Diversity expressed itself when the sisters from so-called "developed countries" shared their perceptions of needs of youth in their countries, and sisters from emerging countries described the needs of young people in their locales. But, as the week went on, they came to common understandings and a direction for the projected program.

The group titled the program: **Become a Neighbor: Peace Depends on It.** They agreed on 40 as a workable number of youth, ages 21 – 30, to be welcomed from five continents. They see the entire experience as a pilgrimage. It will be multicultural and multilingual, with five languages. Components of the program will include some time with the Taize community, walking a portion of the Chemin de Compostelle, as well as spending time working with persons who are poor in the area of Le Puy-en-Velay.

The team hopes the participants will build community and create a global network of relationships. Through deep sharing enriched by input on the SSJ charism, the 10 days can be more than a mountain top "high," but offer the young people a transformative experience for life. The committee is seeking help with funding the program, particularly with transportation costs. They welcome any resources that sisters and associates around the world might know about.



Young Adult Program Team: left, Helena de Fatima dos Passos, Brazil (Chambéry), Cecelia Magladry, USA (Orange, CA), Marie Thérèse Chapuis, France (L'Institut), Maria Cristina Gavazzi, Italy (Chambéry), Susan Glaab, (Canada) missing when photo was taken.

Three Pilgrimage Groups Visit the Centre in 2007

Three groups of sisters from North America are visiting the Centre and the sites of congregational history in 2007. A group of 12 from the LA Carondolet Province spent three days there in late May. Led by Sr. Joan Lescinski, the sisters made the trip as part of an extended pilgrimage that also included Lyon and Paris.

In July, Edna McKeever, Brentwood, is leading a group of some 28 sisters from the United States. These sisters, though housed in a local hotel, will spend time at the Centre as well as visit places of historical interest in Le Puy and Lyon, along with trips to Annecy, Cluny, Taizé and Paris.

Sisters from the Canadian Federation will come to Le Puy in September, led by Sr. Sheila Ann Spooner.

Four Sisters Participate in the June Sabbatical

Designing their own Sabbath month, four sisters from the United States are spending the month of June at the Centre, deepening their understanding of CSSJ history and spirituality. They are Barbara Hughes and Vivian Miron, Congregation of St. Joseph (formerly from Medaille); Mary Catherine Walton, Philadelphia; Susan Jasko, Carondolet Albany. This time of renewal is offering them the opportunity to be steeped in the atmosphere that *is* Le Puy.

For two days each week, speakers are sharing their wisdom on the topics of the early history of the congregation, the Eucharistic Letter and Maxims and the CSSJ Spirituality. With the three Centre Staff members, they are creating community, if only for 30 days. Pilgrimages include those to Taize, the Lyon Heritage Rooms, Bas-en-Basset, Monistrol, Chartres and perhaps to sites of some of the first "country" houses of the sisters. Two of the participants have historical connections to Bourg, so they will also visit the sisters there. A directed retreat is also part of the experience.

Sister Marie Louise, Annecy, Leaves Board

Marie Louise Vulliez, of the Annecy Congregation, was honored at the May Board meeting for her very valuable contributions to the Centre and her ardent support since its inception. Marie Louise is leaving leadership in her Congregation and, after elections there, a new Annecy representative will be appointed to the Board.



Lent Weekend of Reflection: "The Contemplative Dimension in our Charism"



Sheila Holly and Mary Diesbourg with participants, Paulette Combe and Evelyne Chavanes, Associates,, St. Valier, Denise Paquet, St. Valier, Dorothy Schweitzer, Canada , Pat Bouche, Canada.

11 Countries Represented at Peace and Justice Program

They spoke Portuguese, Italian, French, English, and Spanish to be understood and to share some of their stories. But the 25 sisters and associate who participated in the April program, **CSSJ Global Ministry for Justice and Peace**, because of their wide-spread ministries, spoke many other languages and dialects. Facilitator Sister Carol Zinn was at home in this milieu, given her years of experience as an NGO at the UN.

Stories of individual and congregational works in India, Romania, Algiers, the South Pacific, North and South America, Africa, England and the European continent concretized the global dimension of CSSJ congregations. It was this experience that made participants say, "I came as a member of my congregation, but I leave as a member of the global community of the Sisters of St. Joseph."

The aim of the meeting, according to Carol, was to "create a global CSSJ Justice plan, and what emerged was the importance of relationships and the need for connections between and among us. Thus, we have a solid foundation for the many ways in which we can work together so that 'all may be one' in the healing of our world."

Daily, during the week-long program, the participants used as a backdrop the elements of the SSJ spirituality, with these questions: "How do I see our charism and mission inter-related with justice? How do I see the connection between contemplation and justice? How do I see our justice ministry in terms of our spirituality, 'that all may be one,' in relationships that are active and reconciling?"

Despite the boundaries of language and the variety of experiences and training, the group emerged with a mission statement, a set of goals and the promise of its second meeting next April. They named a coordinating committee: Sister Marie Iñez, Brazil; Sister Anne Rutter, England; Diana Oleskovitch, USA; Sister Nicoletta Danna, Italy; Sister Griselda Martinez Morales, Mexico. These women will assist Carol in maintaining the connections made during the program and will begin to implement the goals among the peoples whom the sisters and associates serve throughout the world.

