

Candidate Curriculum 2025-2027

Candidacy Objectives:

1. Learn about CSJ history, consensus statement, acts of chapter and governance.
2. Participate in CSJ activities and ministries with Sisters, Consociates, Friends of St. Joseph, Agrégée, St. Joseph Worker Alum, and Partners in Mission.
3. Discern, personally and with community members, whether you are called to Consociate or Agrégée membership at this time:
 - a. How would your life as a Consociate or Agrégée extend the CSJ mission of moving always toward profound love of God and neighbor without distinction (action and integration)?
 - b. How does the spirituality of the CSJ charism inform and enrich your life?
 - c. How does this community and your role in it assist in asking critical questions leading to action regarding issues that matter to you?
 - d. Do you feel a sense of community and connection and how do you contribute to it?

Candidate Requirements:

- ☐ Attend candidate Sharing of the Heart gatherings.
- ☐ Attend the Community-wide Mission and Values sessions. These gatherings are hybrid and open to everyone in the community but are of particular interest for Candidates.
- ☐ Attend Stirring the Fire Retreat in January 2026 and January 2027, if possible.
- ☐ Communicate with companion regularly, in person or by phone.
- ☐ Meet with assigned contact person at least four times per year: October, December, February, April to see how candidacy is going.
- ☐ Document your participation in CSJ community activities (rituals, prayer services, meetings, social events, etc).
- ☐ Attend 1 Community Assembly or Consociate Assembly over the course of candidacy.
- ☐ Visit 1 or more CSJ community ministries. This can be through Accola (www.accolamn.org) or other organizations where CSJ community members serve.

- ☐ Attend at least one event or gathering sponsored by the CSJ Justice Commission or Justice Office, Example: Prayer for the Signs of the Times (every second Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm).
- ☐ Interview/have focused conversations with 6 CSJ Community members you did not know prior to candidacy. Focus on their story, on what drew them to CSJ, what keeps them here, what questions/critiques they have of the community.
- ☐ Read *Eyes Open on a World* and 2 other books/articles/multimedia items on CSJ community or history. A wide variety of these items are available from the Candidate Resource Library in the Administration Center.
- ☐ In June 2026, create a reflection project on your candidacy so far and share with your companion and contact team person. Some projects examples could include:
 - Write about your evolving understanding/relationship with the values of community, spirituality, and justice at this point in your candidacy.
 - Create a piece of art to represent your candidacy journey so far. Painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, dance, poetry, music...
 - Find an existing piece of art that represents your candidacy journey so far, write a short piece to share why this fits for you.
 - Any other idea you have that will help you in your discernment.
- ☐ Meet with your companion and contact team member in January/early February of 2027 and discuss readiness for Consociate/Agrégée commitment.
- ☐ Participate in a guided reflection time/retreat to discern making commitment in January/early February of 2027. Date and process to be determined.
- ☐ IF discerning Consociate commitment the following is required. IF discerning Agrégée, the Agrégée group will help determine next steps.
 - **Mid-February, 2027**, Consociate candidates write a letter to members of the Province Leadership Team and Council expressing your desire to make Consociate commitment. The names of these representatives will be made available to you. The letter is to include the following:
 - why you desire to be a Consociate;
 - the ways you express the mission of love of God and love of neighbor without distinction;
 - the ways you participate in the community; the gifts that you bring;
 - and what you hope to give to and receive from the community.
 - Attend Province Council meeting in Spring (TBD) to talk about contents of your letter, meet with members of the Council and Consociate Community.
 - Attend Welcome and Commitment Ritual (and rehearsal, if necessary), May 1, 2027

Candidate Resources:

During candidacy, you'll want to keep up with community news. Important community resources include:

- www.csjconsociates.com, an online candidacy resource site
- The forum on the www.csjstpaul.org website. To enter, click on the word “forum” on the top of the page and enter the password: france (no capital letters)
- *Together*, the Province newsletter, which will be emailed 4 times a year
- Rapid Relay, daily email notices for prayer and events
- Consociate email, weekly notices for prayer and events sent every Wednesday

Important candidate event dates

NOTE: Candidate events generally take place on the third Tuesday of the Month. Sharing of the Heart gatherings are just for first-year candidates and companions, Community-Wide Mission and Values gatherings are inclusive of both first-year and second-year candidates and companions as well as the entire CSJ community. All events will be hybrid and meet in the Carondelet Center unless otherwise noted. You can expect a reminder email with a zoom link at least 24 hours ahead of each event:

- July 15, 2025: optional CSJ campus tour. 5:00pm-6:00pm, meet at the Administration Center. This event will not be hybrid. Afterward, join the potluck and music party in the community garden!
- August 19, 2025: Sharing of the Heart. Carondelet Center, 6:00-7:30pm
- September 16, 2025: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00pm-7:30pm
- October 21, 2025: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- November 18, 2025: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00-7:30pm
- OPTIONAL community activity: Advent Dinner, Monday December 8
- December 16, 2025: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- January 20, 2026: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00-7:30pm
- OPTIONAL community activity: January 24, 2026: Stirring the Fire Retreat, 9:00am to 12:00pm
- February 17, 2026: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- OPTIONAL community activities: March 18 and 19, 2026: St Joseph’s Day Events, TBD.
- March 23, 2026: RESCHEDULE Community-Wide Mission and Values (one week later than usual to accommodate St Joseph’s Day)
- April 21, 2026: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- May 1, 2026: May 1 Ritual of Candidate Welcome and Consociate Commitment, time TBD, Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel

- May 19, 2026: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00pm-7:30pm
- June 16, 2026: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- June 2026: candidate reflection project

August 25, 2026 - May 1, 2027: Second year dates

Dates may change due to community preferences. You can count on the following:

- Continuation of Mission and Values/Sharing of the Heart gatherings on the third Tuesday of each month
- January 2027 TBD: discernment retreat
- February 2027 (your schedule): meet with contact team member to discuss discernment toward commitment. If choosing to make commitment, write a letter to CSJ community leadership group/s sharing intention to make commitment.
- March 2027 TBD: meeting with CSJ community leadership groups ahead of commitment ritual.
- March 19: St Joseph's Day
- May 1, 2027: Ritual of Candidate Welcome and Consociate Commitment