

Candidate Curriculum 2024-2026

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 Workers and Partners in Mission.
3. Discern, personally and with community members, whether you are called to Consociate/Agrégée membership at this time:
4. How would your life as a Consociate/ Agrégée extend the CSJ mission of moving always toward profound love of God and neighbor without distinction (action and integration)?
 - a. How does the spirituality of the CSJ charism inform and enrich your life?
 - b. How does this community and your role in it, assist in asking critical questions leading to action regarding issues that matter to you?
 - c. 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 2025 and January 2026, 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 discern experience and progress in candidacy.
- 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, if you have not already done so. You can arrange these tours through the CSJ Ministries Foundation or by reaching out to individual ministries directly.

- Attend at least one justice working group session, justice night, or prayer for the signs of the times (every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm).
- 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 book/article/DVD from resource list below.
- In June 2025, 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 2026 and discuss readiness for Consociate/Agrégée commitment.
- Participate in a guided reflection time/retreat to discern making commitment in January/early February of 2026. 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, 2026, Consociate candidates write a letter to representatives of the Province Leadership Team (PLT) and Consociate Council (CC) 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 Consociate Council meeting in Spring (TBD) to talk about contents of your letter, meet members of the Council.
- Attend ritual rehearsal (TBD)
- Attend Welcome and Commitment Ritual, May 1, 2026, 7:00 pm

Candidate Resources:

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

- Together, the Province newsletter, which will be mailed/emailed monthly, back issues available on the website
- Wisdom Ways Program Guide, printed twice a year, also available online through Wisdom Ways website
- Rapid Relay, daily email notices for prayer and events
- Consociate email, weekly notices for prayer and events

Many books and videos/DVDs are available for loan from the Membership/Association Office Library in the second floor north alcove of the Administration Center. Other libraries on campus include the Wisdom Ways library on the first floor of the Carondelet Center and the Justice Resource Library on the ground floor of the Administration Center. You are welcome to check out books from any of these libraries.

Before the end of your candidacy, please read *Eyes Open on A World: The Challenges of Change, Collaboration by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates, St. Paul Province, 2001*

Also, read/view at least 2 of the following additional resources:

- Historical Context Readings
 - “Historical Context of Associate/ Sister Relationship” by Cathy Steffens, CSJ
 - “History of the Consociate Movement, St. Paul Province” Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates, St. Paul Province
- CSJ Authors: Some examples include:
- Theology:
 - Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love, Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ
 - Quest for the Living God, Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ
 - Beyond Fear and Silence: A Feminist-Literary Reading of Mark by Joan Mitchell, CSJ
- Justice:
 - Common Sense for Common Good: Change Ourselves-Change the World by Karen Olson Johnson, CSJ Consociate
 - From Where I See It by Karen Olson Johnson, CSJ Consociate
 - Hooked by the Spirit: Journey of a Peaceful Activist – Rita Steinhagen CSJ
- National and Global History:
 - Spirited Lives: How Nuns Shaped Catholic Culture and American Life, 1836-1920, Carol K. Coburn &
 - Martha Smith
 - Comunidad para el Mundo (CSJs in Peru) – Mary McGlone CSJ

- In Spirit and in Truth: Mother Saint John Fontbonne – Maria Saravia
- Aloha Ke Akua: The Love of God (CSJs in Hawaii) – Kathleen Marie Shields, CSJ;
- Nuns Without Cloister – Marguerite Vacher
- Anything of Which a Woman is Capable: A History of the Sisters of St Joseph in the United States, Volume 1—the Foundations. By Mary McGlone, CSJ
- Called Forth by the Dear Neighbor: A History of the Sisters of St Joseph in the United States, Volume 2. Mary McGlone, CSJ
- Poetry:
 - In My Best Voice – New and Selected Poems by Mary Virginia Micka CSJ
 - The World Within – Poems by Ellen Murphy CSJ
 - I’m Still Dancing: Praying Through the Good Days and Bad by Rose Tillmans, CSJ
- DVDs and online videos
 - Federation Keynote address 2016, Pat Bergen, CSJ
 - Part one (45 minutes): <https://youtu.be/Zrve2JQpMi8>
 - Part two (60 minutes): <https://youtu.be/EtdcO04Yibo>
 - “Born of Dreams”, video/DVD from 150th anniversary of CSJ’s in St. Paul, 2001
 - “Women and Spirit – Catholic Sisters in America” – DVD produced by LCWR, 2012
 - “Four Sisters for Peace” video/DVD, by Mike Hazard at The Center for International Education. Online (30 minutes): <https://youtu.be/eMAEQ-a7dys>
- CSJ Videos online
 - St. Paul Province Videos (including In Search of the Divine series): <https://www.youtube.com/user/CSJStPaul/videos>

Important candidate event dates

NOTE: Sharing of the Heart gatherings are just for first-year candidates and companions and take place on the third Wednesday of the month. 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; these take place on the third Tuesday of the month. 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 17, 2024: optional CSJ campus tour. 6:00pm-7:30pm, meet at the Administration Center. This event will not be hybrid.
- August 21, 2024: Sharing of the Heart. Carondelet Center, 6:00-7:30pm
- September 17, 2024: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00pm-7:30pm
- October 16, 2024: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- November 19, 2024: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00-7:30pm

- December 18, 2024: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- January 21, 2025: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00-7:30pm
- January 25, 2025: Stirring the Fire Retreat, 9:00am to 12:00pm
- February 19, 2025: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- March 18 and 19, 2025: St Joseph's Day Events, TBD. These will take the place of Community-Wide Mission and Values for March.
- April 16, 2025: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- May 1, 2025: May 1 Ritual of Candidate Welcome and Consociate Commitment, time TBD, Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel
- May 20, 2025: Community-Wide Mission and Values, 6:00pm-7:30pm
- June 18, 2025: Sharing of the Heart, 6:00-7:30pm
- June 2025: candidate reflection project

August 25, 2025 - May 1, 2026: Second year dates

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

- January 2026 TBD: discernment retreat
- February 2026 (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 2026 TBD: meeting with CSJ community leadership groups ahead of commitment ritual.
- March 19: St Joseph's Day
- May 1, 2026: Ritual of Candidate Welcome and Consociate Commitment