

U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph

www.cssjfed.org

“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 Le Puy, France in 1650. This includes 3,351 sisters, 3,076 associates and 46 agrégées of 16 Congregations throughout the United States.”

At the 2017 Leadership Assembly elected leaders affirmed the following Mission, Values and Vision statements and embraced a bold new dream.

Mission:

The US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph embraces the Gospel Charism of unifying love for the healing and transformation of the world.

Values

The US Federation is grounded in the following values:

- Love of God and neighbor without distinction, from whom we do not separate ourselves
- Prayer, contemplation and discernment that lead to courageous action
- Responsiveness to the needs of the world and oneness with creation
- Unity forged through respect, appreciation of diversity and collaboration

Vision

As Members of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, we respond to the movement of the Spirit to keep the flame of the charism alive. We embrace an all-inclusive and self-emptying love that nurtures unity among ourselves and the “dear neighbor” without distinction. Imbued with our rich heritage and attentive to the evolving needs of the world, we proclaim the Gospel message of unifying love thereby becoming a transforming and healing presence in the world. With the vision, “that all may be one, (John 17:21)” members of the Federation deepen mutually sustaining and life-giving relationships.

History

For much of history, women’s religious communities faced great control from the Vatican (and sometimes their home countries). Outside forces dictated that all women’s communities operate in a similar way, along the lines of a monastic community, with limited interaction with the outside world and with expectation of regular prayer times. With this emphasis on uniformity and protection, the founding stories and unique missions of many communities were lost.

The Federation was formed in 1967 after Vatican II when the Sisters of St. Joseph (and all sisters around the world) were given the call to re-discover their founding stories. A team of CSSJ sisters from different parts of the world were sent to Le Puy where they did an amazing amount of scholarly work re-connecting to those first communities and their founders. The Federation began to have yearly gatherings, called “events”, to disseminate this amazing and exciting information to Sisters.

Today, the US Federation is run by an Executive Director, a Leadership Assembly (which consists of the Leadership Teams of all the member congregations), a Leadership Council (a smaller group of ten elected leaders plus the ED and treasurer). Although associate groups are not “members” of the Federation, they participate in Federation activities through their congregations. Associates are also active members of the Associate Interest

Group of the Federation. Recent years have seen a great increase in associate involvement and recognition in the Federation.

Some activities of the Federation include operation of the International Center in Le Puy, operation of Sisters of St. Joseph NGO at the United Nations, coordinating a major “event” every 5 years, Federation novitiate for sisters in formation, supporting inter-congregational work, and other important work.

The Federation has active Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube accounts as well as a website with more in-depth information.

