

Thank You!

Thank you to our friends in ministry and affection who have graciously donated their resources for the benefit of the Center's ministry. God bless you all.

2010-2011 Donations

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A special thank you for the generous contributions of time and talent given by the Sister Artists for the *Great Love of God: Creative Expressions of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange*

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Sr. Rebecca Rodriguez, CSJ
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Sr. Sharon Becker, CSJ
Sr. Susan Trezek, CSJ
Sr. Teresa Yoon, CSJ
Sr. Theresa LaMettery, CSJ

Remembrance

Geraldine (Geri) Ida Pressley volunteered many hours for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange including the Center for Spiritual Development. Geri entered Eternal Life January 11, 2011 at the age of 84. May her memory be a blessing.

Here Comes 2012!

Start 2012 with a gift to a loved one (yourself included!) of any of these enriching offerings at the Center for Spiritual Development.

New Year's Eve Sacred Time
Saturday, Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m.

Becoming Simply a Human: Albert Schweitzer's Ethics of Reverence for Life
Tuesdays, Jan. 10-31, 7-9 p.m.

Espiritualidad Bíblica: Antiguo Testamento
Sábado, 28 de enero,
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Etty Hillesum: The Emerging Mystic of the Holocaust
Saturday, Jan. 28,
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Vatican II: Vision and Hope for 21st Century Living
Tuesdays, Feb. 7 - Mar. 13, 7-9 p.m.

Sacred Pauses: Finding Time to Breathe Deeply
Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Retreat
Wednesday, Feb. 22, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Espiritualidad Bíblica: Nuevo Testamento
Sábado, 25 de febrero

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life
Mondays, Feb. 27 - Mar. 26, 7-9 p.m.

Praying in Poetry: Lenten Retreat
Mar. 16-18

RCIA Retreat
Saturday, Mar. 17, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Holy Week Retreat
Apr. 1-8

To register, contact (714) 744-3175 ext. 4409 or contact gscharff@csjorange.org

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Spiritual
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A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
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About this issue...

Illuminate's purpose is to bring to light the fullness of the Center's ministry in a clear and quick manner, while also providing items for personal enlightenment. We hope you enjoy these vignettes that look behind the scenes and perhaps brighten your life. Comments and suggestions may be sent to rcogswell@csjorange.org.



illuminate

to bring to light ✨ to make clear

Official Newsletter of the Center for Spiritual Development

2011

Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

by Julie Mussché, MA

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of prisons to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor....(Isaiah 61: 1-2)



Sisters Ann Marie Steffen, Patricia Haley and Theresa LaMettery "made a joyful noise" at the "For the Great Love of God" special event in June.

In 2012, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange will be recognizing their 100th Jubilee year as a Congregation. The concept of the Jubilee year comes from the Jewish tradition as directed by God to set aside the year following the end of seven successions of Sabbatical years (Leviticus 25:8-25). The Jubilee year has been called the "Sabbath of Sabbaths" and during this time, Scripture identifies that the land is supposed to remain fallow, and to be returned to the original family owners, and that indentured servants are to be set free. The convergence of the context and meaning of the Sabbath of Sabbaths year reveals the intention and significance of Jubilee.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld captures the spirit of Sabbath, or *Shabbat*, as a day for walking softly through the world (A Book of Life). While the Sabbath reminds us of God's act of creation, Abraham Joshua Heschel offers, "Eternity utters a day" (The Sabbath) and in this respect, the Sabbath is both bound by and liberated from the elements of time. It is a moment to be in God, to have a glimpse of and help to create heaven on earth. Engaging in the Sabbath is a transformative experience in which we are called to surrender the business of being to the wonders of God's movement in our lives. The Jewish mystics envisage that on Sabbath, heaven and earth kiss.

Accordingly, the very essence of the Sabbath is the joy of making time to be in relationship, not only with God, but also with community. The Gospels are filled with examples of Jesus distinguishing the Sabbath as a time of rest, healing, acts of compassion and caring for each other. The term "assembly" is used in the early writings of the church to describe the gathering of people together to celebrate the Eucharist and God's day. Ultimately, during the Sabbath time, people join together rejoicing in a communal identity as God's people. It's a time to unite in the name of God's great and abundant love and to renew and make relationships whole in that love.

The Center for Spiritual Development celebrates the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange 100th Jubilee, and embraces this passage as more than just an historic marker. ✨



Dear Friends of the Center,

Nowadays, when people invite me to join in conversation about today's world events, sometimes the only thing I can say in response is, "we live in interesting times." While not particularly original as a reply, my use of the phrase isn't done so much out of futility as out of being stunned speechless. How can one, after all, capture the complexity and paradoxes of the global village we share with 7 billion other family members? The challenges being offered to each of us are so varied, where does one begin other than one step at a time?

Robert Kennedy, in his "Day of Affirmation Speech to the National Union of South African Students June 6, 1966, noted: "Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind..." This past year has been a particularly creative year for all of us at the Center.

As many of you know, 2010-2011, we celebrated the Center's 25th anniversary and also began to realize the fruits of the CSD strategic planning effort. In moving toward the next twenty-five years, the voices of those we serve and the lens of our times will guide the growth of the CSD ministry. This year in particular, CSD staff has journeyed with many individuals struggling to cope with the life's difficulties.

The Center has received an unprecedented number of requests for scholarships or price reductions recently for both our sponsored and hosted programs. At this time, the Center has limited monies in our Scholarship Fund to meet these needs. CSD also has other needs related to both operations and the environment. For example, we still need to reupholster or replace 58 chairs in Bernard Hall.

If you've ever had your spirits lifted, felt the touch of God's grace, experienced the joys of community or had a quiet moment of prayer and reflection through your participation in a program or retreat at the Center, please consider sharing that experience with another person through a donation. Like a throwing a pebble in the water, your act of giving resonates outward to many.

Thank you on behalf of all of us at the Center for your ongoing support of our programs by your attendance, through your donations, and by your prayers for our ministry. Through your partnership, you help to sustain and grow the Center's ministry and help make a positive difference in people's lives.

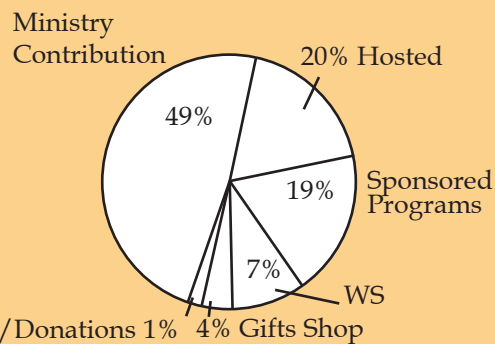
May you and your loved ones be touched by God's love,

Julie K. Mussché
Julie Mussché, Director
Center for Spiritual Development

Stewardship July 2010-June 2011

The Center for Spiritual Development's 2010-2011 actual expenses were \$803,350. Greatly appreciated is the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, who provided a grant of \$452,191 through their Ministry Fund, in addition to significant operational support. A breakdown of income sources is shown below.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and the CSD Staff are grateful to all who support the Center and share in its ministry.



By the numbers...

	2008-'09	2009-'10	2010-'11
Sponsored Programs	89	56	79
Attendance (Sponsored)	1912	1009	1663
Spiritual Direction	95	135	100
Speakers' Bureau	59	36	29
Hosted Groups	63	60	82
Attendance (Hosted)	1390	1205	1766
Private Retreatants	34	43	59

Keeping the Sabbath

By David Hoover © 2011

It came to me recently that there seems to be a great cosmic drama at work in my life, and in the whole world. Perhaps it could be called the struggle between *the Great Love and the Great Refusal of Love*. These two great forces seem to be playing themselves out at the foundations of our lives--and on this whole planet. I experience this tension and struggle daily in my life. And I see it every day as I watch the evening news. It is the drama of life itself.

There seems to be an inner desire and momentum in me towards the Great Love--and another momentum towards compromise and evasion of this Love. My "false self" tends to see itself as autonomously real apart from who I really am in Love. And tries to construct and secure an identity apart from this Love. But like the Prodigal son, I periodically "come to my self" and return home to the open arms of Love. I realize that who I *really* am is who I am as unconditionally and eternally loved by God. Who I *really* am is what's given me in "the first love" -- as Henri Nouwen said ("God loved us first"). Who I *really* am is given to me in God's creation of me as a Beloved human being made for God alone. Made by Love for Love alone. And my identity and spirituality is first of all what's given to me in my deepest being and not just in my psychology, or in my emotions, or in ethical behavior or in my ideas. It's something that comes from God.

This is where "keeping the Sabbath" comes in for me. I need some regular way of taking time to listen and remember who I am. To remember that *only God can tell me who I am*. And a time to gather with a community and remember and celebrate who we are *together*. Wayne Muller once said "*The Sabbath rocks and holds us until we remember who we are*." Henri Nouwen would perhaps have reminded us that keeping the Sabbath is one of the ways in which we can listen to *the inner voice of Love calling us Beloved*. And so I am reminded to take time to sit in childlike vulnerability to the Love which claims me and is always calling me to itself. May we all wake up to this inner voice of Love--that we might allow this Love to prevail in our lives and overcome everything that fears and avoids this Great Love which is our origin and destiny! ✨

100th Jubilee: A Counter Cultural Celebration

by Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

In 2012 the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange will officially celebrate 100 years of existence. With a desire to commemorate the event in the foresighted spirit of our founding Sisters, our celebration plans began in 2010. It was decided that we would not call the celebration an "anniversary," but rather a "Jubilee." This word better frames the focus of our understanding of the existence of our congregation. Reflecting the biblical Jubilee, this 100th year offers us the opportunity to acknowledge that all we are and all we have done is gift from our generous God. Our response to God's graciousness was, in turn, to fashion a Jubilee celebration that is gift for others. Our 100 years is not an "achievement" or a "success" for us, it is a blessing. It is the encouraging story of God's compassionate presence working through the life of the congregation, in lives of the individual Sisters that have formed and are forming the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

As I observe the current trend in TV programming in our culture, I am struck by the proliferation of shows focused on rivalry. Life is portrayed as a win/lose existence, where someone must come out "better" than someone else, the "winner" of the contest. Those who are the "losers" are verbally denigrated for not having what it takes to be the "winner." In a Jubilee there are only winners . . . and the circle is wider than the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. All who have joined with us to cultivate the mission of Jesus Christ that "all may be one" -- friends, family, co-ministers -- form a generous community not a rivalry. Out of that community, hope and life are immeasurable. ✨

Bright Spot

"You have made me so rich, oh God, please let me share out Your beauty with open hands. My life has become an uninterrupted dialogue with You, o God, one great dialogue. Sometimes when I stand in some corner of the camp, my feet planted on Your earth, my eyes raised toward Your heaven, tears sometimes run down my face, tears of deep emotion and gratitude..."

...Sometimes I try my hand at turning out small profundities and uncertain short stories, but I always end up with just one single word: God."

---Etty Hillesum,
Letter from Westerbork,
18 August 1943



June 2011: A good time was had by all guests of "For the Great Love of God: Creative Expressions of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange." Nearly 100 people attended the event. Through storytelling, reflection, art demonstrations and exhibition, participants were energized by an afternoon of fun and beauty.