

SSJ Associates' Commitment

As an Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph
of Northwestern Pennsylvania
I desire to deepen my spiritual life
by actively living
the mission of unity
of neighbor with neighbor
and neighbor with God.

From the SSJ Constitutions

We are women who affirm
our mission of unity
of neighbor with neighbor
and neighbor with God.

Our mission is rooted in the
mission of Jesus Christ
the same mission
which continually unfolds in the Church.

That all may be one, as you, Father,
are in me and I in you
I pray that they may be one in us.
John 17:21

Through a profound and radical response
to the Spirit
we fulfill this mission by searching out
and undertaking whatever ministry
may best bring about this unity.
Moved by the love of the Spirit
we commit ourselves to constant response
to the ever changing needs of the world.



Called to Become an Associate

If you feel called to deepen your spirituality and
share in living the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph,
please call us. Associate candidates participate in a
year-long formation process after which they are wel-
comed into Associate membership.

Associates make a commitment which is renewed
annually; they do not take vows. Presently, there are
more than 250 Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of
Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Contact the Associate office
for more information:
814-836-4134



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*As Sisters of St. Joseph, we strive to embody a vision of all people united
in one earth community of love, unity and reconciliation. We do this
through collaborative programs, interaction, prayer and ministry. In
our conflicted 21st century world, the Sisters of St. Joseph seek to bring
our traditions and vision to life in a way that will speak to our con-
temporary society and be a positive influence for change.*



Deepening my SPIRITUAL LIFE

Share Faith, Prayer and Ministry

- Offers opportunities for those not called to the profession of evangelical vows to intensify their commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ.
- The Congregation is able to provide a sharing of its nature and spirit beyond its vowed members.
- Share with the Sisters in faith, in prayer and in various aspects of communal living and ministry.

History

- Foundation for SSJ Associates has roots in the primitive Constitutions of the Sisters of St. Joseph in seventeenth century France.
- The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania Associate program began in 1982.



Open to all Christians

- Associate membership is open to all Christian men and women, regardless of age, marital status, or vocation.
- Associates come from all walks of life: nurses, mothers and fathers, carpenters, teachers, doctors, priests, grandparents, waitresses, and teachers.
- Associates range in age from mid-twenties to eighties and beyond.
- Many Associates are members of different faith traditions.

Living the MISSION

Extending the Reach

Associates extend the charism and mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph through:

- their daily interactions, their work and ministries
- prayerful support of the Sisters' mission and ministry
- starting and/or maintaining various ministries, including St. James Haven in Meadville, St. Patrick Haven in Erie and the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Associates focus on ministries that are part of their own daily lives and many are also involved as:

- lectors
- Eucharistic ministers
- social workers
- volunteers helping the poor and homeless



Why become an ASSOCIATE?



"What drew me was the desire for a greater personal prayer life, and the wish to understand what drew the Sisters to their commitment. I found those in studying the charism. Being an Associate binds me to the Sisters, spiritually, in a unique way."

Joy Greco
Associate since 1987

"There are many things that attract me to the SSJ Associate community but the spirituality of the people and their mission speak to me most of all."

Mark McNerney
Associate since 2001

"Association has provided me a welcome sense of being a companion on a marvelous journey when for years I thought I was just 'going for a walk.' It provides the energy and motivation for the good works I used to do because I needed to 'do well,' and transformed them into doing good works because I need to 'do good.'"

Elaine Clyburn
Associate since 1982

"It gives me the opportunity to live the charism of 'neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God' and gives my faith a living and active presence."

Joe Laythe
Associate since 2010