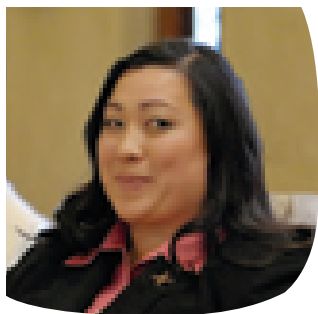


ON BECOMING A SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE



SISTERS
OF ST. JOSEPH
OF ORANGE †



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OF ORANGE †



ON BECOMING A SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH OF ORANGE

*"Today, serving God means taking an active role
in the critical issues of everyday life."*

A Challenge to be Your Best

There are many people who are not aware of the changes that the past few decades have brought for those of us who have chosen to become sisters. The media sometimes stereotypes us as isolated from reality. Even people who are active within parishes aren't fully aware of who we are and what we do.

Religious life has always been characterized by prayer, ministry and community. But, today more than ever, serving God can be an active, joyous life of challenge, spiritual fulfillment and personal growth.



As a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, each of us has the freedom and the support to pursue personal and common goals and to really make a difference in the world.

Our challenge is in our commitment to bring wholeness to individuals, strengthen relationships, and help bring all people into unity with God.



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A Sense of Purpose Through Faith and Commitment

The desire to give, to belong, to be deeply committed to something worthwhile lies deep in all of us. We all need a sense of purpose and a direction for our lives. As a response to our Baptism, many of us find fulfillment in careers, marriage and family. While these goals are attractive and meaningful, they are not the only options.

"Developing my talents and skills, while helping others is exciting to me."

There are those who search for something else for fulfillment in church and charitable activities. Through prayer and reflection, many have found the answer to their search in the religious life.



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The Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Since the early beginnings in 17th century France, the Sisters of St. Joseph have shared a common mission: "to bring all people into union with God and with one another; serving their spiritual and corporal needs in all the works of mercy within the power of the Congregation."

Today, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, collectively and individually, focus their unique and diverse talents to bring unity, compassion, and reconciliation to a troubled world.

*"Helping to uplift
the hearts and minds
of those in need
gives me great joy."*



Because of our desire to follow the example of Jesus, each of us is deeply committed to alleviating the conditions that cause ignorance, poverty, suffering and oppression. It is our commitment to God and our love of Jesus that compel us to participate in these works. We engage in many aspects of education, health care, social and pastoral ministries worldwide.



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Using Your God Given Talents to the Fullest

The ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange is both far reaching and diverse. We call upon specialized talents of most occupations to fulfill our ministry. Many sisters are directly involved in education, health care, sociology, business administration, law, psychology and other specialties. And many conduct missionary work and provide services to the poor.

"The freedom to develop my ability to benefit our neighbor is a tremendous gift."



Once you have become a sister, the members of the Congregation will work with you to determine how you may best contribute according to your own aptitudes, interests and the needs of the church and the world around us.



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A Community of Mutual Support and Friendship

As a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, you will share the common purpose and vision that bonds the Congregation together. You'll feel it in the friendships that will develop and in the understanding and support that you'll receive as you work within your ministry. It's surprising just how much can be achieved when you have our faith and the enthusiasm of a community of sisters behind you.



Of course, as in every walk of life, things won't always go smoothly. You'll struggle and experience heartaches and frustrations, all the pains and joys of being human. Your relationship, love and commitment with Jesus Christ will help you through these times, as will the companionship of your sisters. Often the gift of being in community is that someone will be available to listen and help.

"Our common purpose and vision, sharing the good times and the bad, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange offer a true sense of challenge and belonging."



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How to Become a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange

Becoming a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange is a gradual process of understanding and deepening commitment. It begins with a phone call, or letter to the Vocation Director who will clarify

"As a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange, my work and my life are now in focus."

your questions about religious life. Later, you'll meet with the Vocation Director regularly to discuss religious life and to see if your talents and aspirations coincide with our particular mission. This time of inquiry, reflection and examination lasts six months to a year.

Once accepted into this first stage of Formation, the process

continues as follows:

Candidacy. During this "come and see" period, which lasts between nine months to two years, you will live with Sisters in a local community and participate in their activities as you gradually make the transition into the Congregation.



Novitiate. This is a two-year period of "incorporation" where you will live with and be dependent on the community. The novitiate prepares you to be a vowed member of the Sisters of St. Joseph or Orange. In the first year, you'll deepen your relationship with Jesus through prayer, solitude, religious



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"Becoming a Sister of St. Joseph of Orange is challenging. I know that I made the right decision for my life."

studies, reflection on our spirit and limited involvement in our ministries. The second year broadens your understanding of apostolic religious life and further interiorizes Congregational values by integrating prayer, community and ministry.

Temporary Profession. As a transition from novitiate to temporary profession, you will make temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. To vow poverty is to depend on God, sharing all things in common. To vow chastity is to love as Jesus loved. And to vow obedience is to listen to God within one's self and the community, to be attentive to the needs of the church and world.



During the five to six year period of temporary profession, you will live in a local community and pursue a full-time ministry and/or study. This phase will prepare you for the transition from a temporary vowed member of the Congregation to a perpetually vowed member.

Final Profession. After the period of temporary profession, you make a lifetime commitment as a fully vowed and involved member of the Congregation.

***If You'd Like More Information,
Call or write:***

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
Vocation Director
480 South Batavia Street
Orange, California 92868

(714) 633-8121
www.csjorange.org



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