

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Province of USA & Canada

Connections

*Saint
Joseph,
the Just
One,
our
Patron,
Protector,
Provider,
Guide,
and
Model,
pray
for
us.*



By: Sr. Marie Celeste OCD Carmel of Reno, Reno Nevada
Our thanks to Carmel of Reno, www.carmelofreno.org

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From the Editor's Desk



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The air is still, and there is just a hint of a nippy little breeze to remind us that summer is nearly gone and autumn colors will soon change the view of the trees and flowers outside my editor's window. And what a summer it has been!

We have remembered and rejoiced over the gift that Anne Marie Javouhey was to this world, and to the countless people whose lives she touched. We, as Clunys, proudly bear the name of her followers. Celebrating the accomplishments of our founder and sharing in her mission has caught us up in a whirlwind of effort to accomplish more than we ever dreamed. The little French girl from the fields of Burgundy has formed an army of followers, not laden with weapons and wealth, but alive with the belief that "in Him all things are possible." We have dreamt, and we have prayed; we have built and torn down; we have inaugurated and flourished in lands we didn't know. And yes, we have mourned and sorrowed, as we said goodbye to our dear companions.

As we come to the end of another summer, our celebrations and achievements as a missionary congregation give us hope and courage for the future. Some things didn't go the way we hoped, but what are our paucity little ideas compared to the challenge before us? Yet in Him and through Him, and with Him, we will press on, however few, however limited. And we will continue to follow in the footsteps of Anne Marie Javouhey.

Sister Anne Marie

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Joseph, Dreamer of Dreams

Sister Regina Brunelle
(April 9, 1933 - December 16, 2016)

Authentic Jew that he was, Joseph must have had a dream. He must have yearned with all his heart for the coming of the Messiah as much as we today yearn and for peace. And like most of his countrymen, he probably had a personal dream to marry and raise a family faithful to his religious traditions. But Joseph not only had a dream, he also dreamed dreams. If we are to believe the Scriptures, above all else Joseph was a dreamer!

Three times in Matthew's gospel we read that an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream. In each case, Joseph listens, trusts the message, and acts on the dream. And then he waits. In the listening and the trusting, in the acting and the waiting, Joseph is stretched beyond the letter of the law and gradually freed from its constraints until he can embrace its spirit, regardless of the consequences, regardless of the risks. Attentive to the spirit, rather than the letter of the law, Joseph can be patient, moving cautiously according to his lights, trusting that should he be in error, God will make it clear to him. And so God does through his dreams.

What kind of person would we have to be to have that kind of openness to God's voice? Joseph was a humble man. Teresa of Avila defines humility as truth. To walk humbly before our God as Joseph did means to walk in truth. The truth is, as Jesus told Pilate, that we have no power that does not come from God.

To walk in truth is to walk in the awareness that we are powerless and totally dependent on God for wisdom, clarity, and understanding. It was this humble stance, this conviction, that enabled Joseph to immediately revise his decision to put Mary away quietly, and to choose the way of love and

compassion. Accepting her into his own home went against everything the authorities in his life would indicate. Truth was more important to Joseph than human respect. So, when God spoke to him, even in a dream, he was so finally attuned to that voice that he could change the course midstream without a care.

I wonder—could Saint Joseph, the obedient Dreamer, teach our leaders and us how to listen to

God's voice in the unusual voices being raised around us? These are the voices of people; the voices of other nations; the voice of our collective conscience that is crying out, "Stop this insanity?"

We could learn from Saint Joseph to let the path of humility and compassion lead us to authentic peace rooted in love rather than to put trust in the might of arms. Joseph could teach us as a nation the way of non-violence that Jesus taught. The scriptures say, "Without a dream the people perish."

We dream of peace. Perhaps

in these desperate times we can listen for God speaking to us now through our dreams!

In one of her wonderful posters, Sister Madeleva, CSJ, wrote: "Joseph had dreams. They weren't always clear nor easy but they were his. Eventually they changed his mind and heart."

When Joseph followed his dreams, God put something new into motion that eventually changed not only his mind and heart, but the whole world order. As we continue to nurture our dream for peace, may it change our minds and hearts, leading us to the discovery that our dream for peace, like Joseph's dream for Israel, is one and the same as God's dream for us!

Joseph, Dreamer of Dreams, lead and teach us!



Anniversary Celebrations for Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey

This year, celebrations were held around the world as Cluny Sisters marked important anniversaries in the life of Blessed Anne Marie:

200 years ago the site for the city of Mana, French Guiana, where Anne Marie led the project for the liberation of African slaves, was identified.

170 years ago, Anne Marie entered into eternal life.

70 years ago, Anne Marie Javouhey was declared Blessed.

San Pedro, California

The Community of Mary Star of the Sea gathered with Associates to celebrate Blessed Anne Marie's Anniversaries. Many found the Novena on our blog an enriching experience, uniting the Cluny Family around the world. They also commented on how Anne Marie Javouhey communicated through her many letters with the Sisters, her family, clergy, and civic leaders for the good of the mission. We are grateful to all who share the Cluny charism. Celebrating Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, the Year of Prayer for her Canonization, and the 170th Anniversary Novena, have graced our lives and abundantly blessed us.

Newport, Rhode Island

On July 17, 2021, Cluny Sisters, Affiliates, Associates and friends gathered to celebrate Blessed Anne Marie's life and spirit in Newport, RI. After the welcome and prayer offered by Sister Genevieve-Marie, Province Leader, we enjoyed a light lunch and time to visit. We then all proceeded to our parish church, St. Augustin, for the celebration of Eucharist offered for Cluny Sisters, Affiliates, Associates, and friends, living and dead. After the long months of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the possibility to gather with so many of our friends brought us great joy.

France

Celebrations were held at Blessed Anne Marie's birthplace, Jallanges, the church of her baptism, Seurre, and her childhood home, Chamblanc,



to honor her. Celebrations focused on her work of liberation of slaves in defiance not only of the colonial practices, but also the prevailing views of the French society of the time. Many Sisters, members of the Javouhey family, friends, and local dignitaries attended.



L-R Front Row: Sister Mary Patrice Watson, Cecilia Bremeer, Maureen Brady, Colleen Kaveny; L-R Back Row: Theresa Rodriguez, Sister Mary Josephine Glynn.



Center: Sister Genevieve Marie Vigil. Row 1 L-R: Linda Sagamang, Mary Durgin, Jack Grant, Sister Anne Marie Liston, Row 2: Anne Clarke and Louise Costley, Sister Josephine St. Leger, Molly McGregor.

Photos: Sister Marie Cooper

In Memoriam



Sister Rachel Philippe
of our Lady of Dolors Racine

Born into this life July 29, 1930
Religious Profession July 15, 1958
Born into eternity August 26, 2021

Sister Rachel knew how to speak to the hearts of the little ones. She knew how to dry their tears on their first day of school, and introduce them to the exciting adventures of learning. Her artistic talents, her love of music, and her delight in nature were all gifts that blossomed and helped her grow into a gifted and loving mentor to the young. She passed on to them her love of nature, taught them about a loving God, and grounded them in the essentials of the academic curricula.

After leaving full-time teaching, she served the little ones at Cluny School as a gifted tutor, while also assisting the teachers with enthusiasm amid the endless preparation of lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic. Later Sister cut back on her hours, volunteering at the school as a reading resource teacher. It was only in her late 80s that Sister Rachel fully retired from teaching.

In her retirement, Sister enjoyed her daily walk around the block “praying my rosary for my neighbors,” she said. She would often be seen praying in the chapel, eyes closed, a peaceful expression on her face.

Statues and monuments to poets and professors abound, and we honor them, but they cannot replace the loving hands and heart of the primary teacher whose words and actions speak to us of God.

Obituary: <https://oneillhayes.com/tribute/details/1558/Sr-Rachel-Philippe-Racine/obituary.html#content-start>



Sister Josephine of Jesus St. Leger

Born into this life December 3, 1931
Religious Profession January 4, 1954
Born into eternity August 16, 2021

Sister Josephine was a true Cluny missionary in the spirit of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, announcing the Good News of God’s all-embracing love. Sharing the mission and relationships with the sisters was central to her life. She had a gentle way of letting others know that they were loved and valued. Sister Josephine devoted her gifts for leadership not only to her various ministries but also to her Cluny community, serving as Principal of Cluny School; Provincial Councilor; community leader at St. Joseph Convent on Brenton Road in Newport, RI; and, with three other sisters founding the community at Javouhey House, also in Newport.

As principal, she encouraged the teachers to be creative and develop their own style rather than fit into a mold. She mentored and supported, leading, and commanding respect by her example.

Down through the years, even in the midst of busy days of ministry and community responsibilities, Sister Josephine remained close to her family, celebrating the joys and supporting them through difficulties and loss.

Although she will be remembered for her many accomplishments, she was more importantly a woman true to herself, her God, her family, her sisters in community, and the numerous friendships forged wherever she lived. There was always a twinkle in her eye, and a ready smile on her face. And when the music started, you’d hear a tapping toe. We will always be grateful for the gift of Sister Josephine among us. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.*

Obituary: <https://oneillhayes.com/tribute/details/1556/Sr-Josephine-St-Leger/obituary.html#tribute-start>

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

The Province of the West Indies



Sister Alicson Hudlin loves nursing. Her enthusiasm for helping people has not dimmed through the many decades of service nor the COVID-19 pandemic. She considers herself to be walking in the footsteps of Jesus with His healing ministry.

At 18 she began training as a nursing assistant at the Port of Spain General Hospital (PoSGH). Days before graduating she entered the St. Joseph Novitiate in Arouca. She was 20 years old. “This was what I felt God was calling me to. I just felt this was what I wanted to do with my life. I had great support from my family, my parents,” she said. Her foundation in the Catholic faith was planted by her family.

After her First Profession of Vows in 1988, she went to St. Lucia and furthered her training at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. In 1996 she made her Final Profession of Vows in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. Sister Alicson told the Catholic News she has celebrated and passed her silver jubilee. “I forget the years, I stopped counting,” she said before an exuberant chuckle.

After returning to Trinidad, Sister Alicson first worked in midwifery at the San Fernando General Hospital. She went to PoSGH in 2006 and began working in communities. “I enjoy it. I love being able to teach younger people. When I came to work in PoSGH, I was responsible for helping, doing the practical aspects of midwifery with student midwives,” Sister Alicson said. “For two to three years, I supervised home births. I think that is one of the most beautiful things about midwifery; that home birth where the family is involved.”

Sister Alicson has encountered former clients who still remember her. She reflects that one of the beautiful things about her job was people who see



Photo: Catholic News, Archdiocese of Trinidad & Tobago

Sister Alicson Hudlin

her as “my midwife.” They are proud to introduce her to the now grown baby she delivered.

As a nurse in the Maracas/St. Joseph Health Centre for the past four years, she meets people in varied circumstances. They share their struggles and she tries to assist whenever she can.

With the beginning of the pandemic, she said, “At work we discussed what were the best options; and we followed the guidelines of the Ministry of Health. It has become much, much more difficult.” Sister Alicson has been in the field assisting with administering vaccines. She offered to serve in the vaccine program to experience what it was like working during a pandemic.

Sister Alicson does not deny that taking care of people during a pandemic can be tough, but it has made her even happier to have the support of her religious community. Keeping routines of morning and evening prayer, Holy Hour during the week, and novenas has helped her. “Sometimes I come home, I am so tired, and I want to go in bed and sleep but no, I have my community, my community has prayers at this time, we have meals together at a certain time, be there for supper with them, that makes a difference; to have people and the community at home with me in order to help stabilize my life as a religious sister as well.” There is not even a slight hesitation when she is asked about what she loves about nursing. “Every aspect” is the confident response. “I love what I am doing; I love nursing, so I give my all to the clients”.

With thanks to *Catholic News*, Archdiocese of Trinidad and Tobago for source information and photo for this article.

2021 Jubilarians

Seventieth Anniversary



**Sisters Ena Maguire and Loretto Moynihan
professed on March 8, 1951, with Branimir Bubalo**

We rejoice with our Sisters who have celebrated jubilees this year.

Their long years as Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny give witness of dedication and fidelity to their missionary vocation, announcing the Good News in their many ministries, in the spirit of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, our Founder.

Sixty-fifth Anniversary



**Sister Bernadette Lapre,
professed on February 2, 1956**

Sixtieth Anniversary



**Sister Mary Josephine Glynn, professed on August 10, 1961,
with Sister Genevieve Marie Vigil, Province Leader.**



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TO KEEP TOUCHING ONE HEART AT A TIME, BRINGING HOPE
AND COMPASSION!**

AND THIS YEAR IT'S BEEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

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Bringing Hope & Compassion

Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey: New Book Presented



To learn more about Blessed Anne Marie and about how her spirit is alive today in Cluny Sisters, see:

<https://mailchi.mp/46caf1810060/sagqnolv23>

and

<https://sj-cluny.org/Anne-Marie-Javouhey-Today?lang=fr>

During the anniversary celebrations for Blessed Anne Marie in France, Pascale Cornuel introduced her recent publication: *The Holy Enterprise: The Life and Travels of Anne Marie Javouhey*. Ms. Cornuel, a historian, says she was immediately attracted to Anne Marie Javouhey when she discovered her 25 years ago in a travel guide. It was not only because of Anne Marie’s accomplishments, the author tells us, but because she sought the unfolding Will of God in the events of her time. It was her ability to combine a pragmatic approach with deep faith nurtured in prayer and contemplation. When she had perceived God’s Will for her, she launched out and no one could stop her. What was so striking for this author is the fact that for Anne Marie, everyone was capable and valuable.

Coming as it does during this anniversary year, her book is a welcome, valuable addition to publications about Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey.

At present, the book is available only in French. An English language translation would be most welcome!