

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

Connections

The Wider Cluny Community Connects Around Planet Earth



Our Founder, Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, called the Cluny Sisters of her day, and calls us today, to “have one mind and one heart”. In this issue, we illustrate the expanse of our connectedness through the faces of Cluny children around the world, and the testimonies of the Cluny Affiliates and Associates who share our spirit.

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to our Donors

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With each issue, *Cluny Connections* brings you news from near and far. As we begin the New Year 2023, we celebrate all the many connections between and among our sisters, the children in our programs and schools, and the laypersons who support and collaborate with us on this beautiful Planet Earth that we call Home.

Blessed Anne Marie began as a lay woman and gathered other women in forming collaborative ministries. With the founding of the congregation, she continued to invite lay people to join her and her sisters in her many endeavors. This desire for connectedness, to be “of one mind and one heart” engaged in the Mission of Christ is a part of her legacy that we treasure.

We know well that we cannot and do not work alone: you, our readers, our donors, all who work with us bring an essential gift to our ongoing mission. Your encouragement and support make it possible for us to respond to Christ’s call to announce the Good News, healing the sick, helping the blind to see, the lame walk, setting those held captive free, welcoming the little children . . .

Thank you for the many ways you collaborate with Cluny Sisters around the world with “one mind and one heart” to do, as Blessed Anne Marie desired, “a little bit of good.”

Sister Marie

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Connecting with Cluny Affiliates Around the World

Cluny Affiliates are lay persons honored by our Congregation as benefactors who have brought a wide range of presence and support to our communities and our mission, including their talent, time, and treasure. They have become a part of our lives and furthered our mission, and so they benefit through the spiritual affiliation from the merits of the prayers and good works of the sisters in life and in death.

Affiliates are connected with the province that recommends them, but they may live in other parts of the world. Three couples from North America have been affiliates of a province in India, and another couple have been affiliates of the Province of the West Indies.

Some of our Affiliates first became involved as Cluny Associates and now belong to both of these important groups of co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord.



The story of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, her life's work and her mission with the poor quickly became an integral part of my life. I learned of the Sister's work in numerous areas of the world.

I grew to understand their mission to challenge poverty, disease, and lack of education.

The lessons that the sisters have taught me through their charism is that sometimes an ordinary person can do extraordinary things with just a smile, a handshake, a hug or a simple prayer.

Over the years I have prayed with my sisters many times in sorrow, in joy, in laughter and in hope.

When my eyes close for the last time I hope that my God will know

I tried my best and my sisters will be praying me home!

Louise in Rhode Island



It was a great honor in 1982 to be accepted as an Affiliate of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny. Growing up, I corresponded with two of my aunts who were Clunys in Sierra Leone and in Trinidad. Another Aunt had died in Sierra Leone just before I was born. In a small way, I feel I can continue their service to those in need.

Kathy in New York



I learned of the sisters through my wife Kathleen. We were married in February 1960 and affiliated with the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in 1982 – two important dates in my life. I marvel daily at the work and accomplishments of these sisters. We have visited them and their work in Africa, the Caribbean, the United States, and once had the privilege of visiting the Mother House in Paris.

Joe in New York

(Kathy and Joe, long-time Affiliates of the Province of the West Indies, were called home to God. Joe in 2019 and Kathy in 2021. They are dearly missed both in the West Indies and among us here. Ed.)

Connecting with Cluny

England
Ireland
Scotland
France
Italy
Spain
Portugal
Switzerland
Tahiti
Grenada
Marquesas
Domenica
New Caledonia
St. Lucia
St. Vincent
Dominica
Peru
Trinidad & Tobago
Brazil
Paraguay
Argentina
Fiji
Raiatea
Cook Islands
Papua New Guinea
Australia



Guadelupe
Martinique
French
Guiana



Children Around the World



St. Pierre & Miquelon



Canada
United States



The Gambia
Sierra Leone
Ghana
Congo



Nepal
India

Cuba
Haïti



Senegal
Niger
Guinea
Burkina Faso

Namibia
Dem. Rep of Congo
Angola
Mozambique



Reunion
Seychelles
Madagascar

Gabon

Guinea Bissau
Cameroon

Tanzania

Philippines



Student Success

Cluny Sisters in Sierra Leone



Cluny Free the Children School: Sister Smitha, the principal, with the graduating class of 2022.



Moses James and Sister Smitha

Cluny Free the Children Secondary School ranks first in the district, and all the students of the graduating class have qualified for entrance into the university. The sisters, staff and students have good reason to be proud as this school was founded with the assistance of the Free the Children Foundation after 10 years of war and destruction in the Kono region of Sierra Leone

The Student Representative, Yao Aiahson BOTTON, wrote: “It is unarguably the fact that Cluny Free the Children is the hub for academic excellence. Special appreciation goes to the CFTC Cluny Sisters and to all administrators, teachers and pupils for their unflinching support.”

Moses K. James, the valedictorian, also came in first in the district. Moses has been accepted at the University of Freetown to study medicine, and has received tuition assistance for his first year.

Connecting with Cluny Associates Around the World

Associates, laypersons who wish to share our spirituality and sometimes also collaborate with us in ministry, are accompanied by a Cluny Sister. In the initial stages, an associates' group engages in becoming more familiar with the spirit and spirituality of the congregation. Meetings involve a time of prayer, reflection, sharing and a decision – whether personal or communal – to live out what has been discussed.

The West Virginia Associates' founding members gathered with Sister Marie Cooper in 1993, and then with Sister Regina Brunelle. As our first Associates, the West Virginia Associates collaborated in forming the identity of Cluny Associates in our province.

In our past issues we have highlighted Associates in France, New Zealand, and the Antilles. In our Spring Issue, we will introduce you to other Associates.



My participation as a Cluny Associate has been a genuine gift, giving new meaning to my personal experience of belonging within the Body of Christ, nurturing my spiritual life and providing me spiritual refreshment for the journey.

Terry in Canada



From the beginning, I have been very much interested in the life and achievements of Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey. At the time, I believed I was a good Catholic but learning about her showed me that I was a bit too comfortable with what I was doing for the Portuguese parish community. Anne Marie's spirituality and enthusiasm awakened in me a desire to 'do a little good' and live the gospel values with more enthusiasm.

Bill in Canada



My spiritual life has been enriched by an ever-deepening connection with the community. It is impossible to describe all the ways in which the Cluny charism has enriched my life.. The Spirit of Blessed Anne Marie lives on, not only through the Sisters but also through the Associates and Affiliates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny.

Jane in Massachusetts



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Thank You

To all our donors, who continue to make it possible for us to respond to those who knock on our doors. We keep you in our prayers. May God bless you with every good gift!

If you have not already done so, please consider making a contribution today, to help us respond to those in need throughout the New Year, 2023. Please refer to the details for sending gifts on Page 2. **No gift is too small.**

Please remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in your will. Thank you.