



Sisters of Saint Joseph *Living History Project*

November 2018

Dear Sisters,

Our Living History Project began in 1996 with the goal of recording “150 Stories for 150 Years” to celebrate our sesquicentennial in Philadelphia. Currently, there are 180 sisters who have written their story.

As we contemplate the Chapter call to a radical sense of mission, please consider adding your very own “chapter” to our Congregational history. The story of your own personal journey as a Sister of Saint Joseph would become part of the legacy that each of us leaves to those who come after us.

The attached set of questions is included to be used as a guide to gather your reflections and memories. Please use the questions if helpful to you but don’t feel limited by them. Be as creative as you’d like to be. This is *your* story.

Please send your completed document to Kate Shelly via:
kshelly@ssjphila.org or **Mount Saint Joseph Convent**
9701 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance submitting your completed history.

Gratefully,

Kate Shelly, SSJ
kshelly@ssjphila.org

Jean Laurich, SSJ
rlaurich@ssjphila.org



Piecing Together Our Stories

- 1. What would you like to share about your family?**
- 2. Who/What influenced you most in your decision to become a Sister of Saint Joseph? Why?**
- 3. In which areas of ministry have you been involved?**
- 4. Which ministry did you find most exciting, challenging or fulfilling?**
- 5. Looking back on your life, do you recollect a favorite story that you would like to share regarding your vocation or ministry?**
- 6. How has God been with you on your life's journey?**
- 7. What is your favorite scripture passage?**
- 8. Do you have a favorite spiritual writer?**
- 9. Has there been a quote—from Scripture, literature, Maxims—which has held special meaning in your life?**
- 10. What advice would you offer to our prospective and new members?**
- 11. What makes you happy? What makes you not-so-happy?**
- 12. Which song — religious or popular — “has kept on singing” in your life?**
- 13. What would you like to share that hasn't been asked?**

Sisters who have written their stories say. . . .

As I wrote my responses to the questions, many good memories came flooding back, and I realized once again how faithful and generous God has been to me.

- Kathy Pales, SSJ

This year I made the living history an integral part of my retreat. Reflecting on the questions put me in touch once again with my own salvation history. I was reminded of God's loving and healing presence throughout my life and of how many blessings have come my way in my life as a Sister of Saint Joseph.

- Ron Roche, SSJ

It came to me as I thought about writing my story that the history of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia is incomplete without the history of each member. The reflection as well as the writing brought me to a deeper awareness of God's loving Providence and to a greater gratitude to God and to the persons who have been with me on my journey of life.

- Anna Louise Schuck, SSJ