

# **St. Joseph Educational Ministries**

## **St. Louis, Missouri**

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz

Prefect, Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated  
Life And Societies of Apostolic Life

Piazza Pio XII 3  
00193 Rome, Italy  
June 27, 2022

Your Eminence:

This year St. Joseph Educational Ministries (SJEM) has continued to develop internally, and we have begun to build relationships with our individual schools as they carry out their ministry of Catholic Education in the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It continues to be a challenge to develop this ministry in the context of an ongoing global health crisis.

While continuing our formation journey and continuing to develop our understanding of this ministry, we are happy to report two key developments from this past year. SJEM has become the formal sponsor of five of our educational ministries formally sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. We have also hired and oriented an executive director for SJEM. We look forward to continuing to deepen our commitment to our mission for many years to come.

On behalf of St. Joseph Educational Ministries, I am grateful for this opportunity to share our mission as we continue to serve as part of the educational mission of the Church.

Sister Amy Hereford, CSJ  
Chair, St. Joseph Educational Ministries



## ANNUAL REPORT

St. Joseph Educational Ministries

6400 Minnesota Ave.  
Saint Louis, MO 63111 USA

Annual Report to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life  
and Societies of Apostolic Life  
June 2022

**Decree:** Saint Joseph Educational Ministries (SJEM), established by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) to succeed and carry on the educational ministry conducted by Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province, (Province) upon the petition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, has been granted pontifical public juridic personality by decree of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life dated January 20, 2020 (prot. no. S. 158-1/2018).



**Mission:** To provide quality Catholic education in an environment that challenges the students to grow in faith, knowledge, and respect for self and others in service of the dear neighbor without distinction.

**Purpose:** Members are charged with applying Catholic theological tradition, the CSJ heritage, and Catholic social teaching; identifying and implementing organizational activities at the schools; and taking a leading role in discourse with church leaders.

**Objective:** *The Ministries* has the objective of providing a thorough and common foundation on which future generations of leadership, faculty, staff and volunteers can further develop the educational ministry of the Institutions and the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of which they are a part and for which they have responsibility.

**Members:**



Day of Commissioning 2021

SJEM members were installed at a prayer service and commissioning on March 25, 2021 in the presence of The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, Missouri. The current and outgoing members are as follows:

- David Armstrong: Term 2, Renewable 2023
- Nan Bone: Term 2, Renewable 2025
- Cheryl Broekelmann: Term 3, Renewable 2024
- Santa Marie Cuddihee, Secretary: Term 2, Renewable 2023
- Marie Joan Harris, CSJ: Term 3, Renewable 2024
- Amy Hereford, CSJ – Province Leadership and Chair: Term 2, Renewable 2023
- David Kerr, Treasurer: Term 1, Renewable 2022. Not returning.
- Susan Lenihan: Term 2, Renewable 2025
- Barbara J. McCormick: Term 3, Renewable 2024
- Barbara Moore, CSJ: Term 2, Renewable 2023

- Marcia Niedringhaus, Vice Chair: Term 3, Renewable 2024
- Rita Schmitz, CSJ: Term 2, Renewable 2025

SJEM members created working subcommittees for the purpose of advancing SJEM’s ministry and relationships as a group and with the sponsored institutions. SJEM organized subcommittees around the following areas of need; Governance, Formation, and Communications.

Subcommittees have proven to be effective in the progress of those areas in a variety of ways, such as:

- Governance committee successfully approved processes for the sponsored institutions to nominate new board members for acceptance by SJEM, as well as processes for the renewal of board officers. This committee approved its first board members through a resume and mission commitment submission and the renewal of officers in the Spring of 2022 through renewal form submission.
- Formation committee in collaboration with the Director of Formation and continued member formation opportunities, as well as empowered the Director of Formation to pilot the New Leaders Formation Program beginning with two new sponsored institution presidents.
- Communications committee has supported the Executive Director with the compilation of SJEM’s first newsletter and have supported the beginning of a design process for a website to provide better communication with the institutions for which SJEM serves and the greater community.

Subcommittees will be reviewed annually to ensure that the needs of SJEM are continuously met with the most effective working groups.

### **Member Formation:**

The 2021-22 Member Formation Program looked at the four pillars of the Catholic faith, as developed in the book, “A Well-Built Faith: A Catholic’s Guide to Knowing and Sharing What We Believe,” by Joe Paprocki, (Loyola Press).



Members discussed the reading materials and case studies stemming from real-life school situations. They discussed how the pillars of our faith could assist them as SJEM members in forming a response to the situation presented. Each session concluded with a presentation on some related aspect of the CSJ heritage, presented by a vowed member of the province.

Sessions and topics were:

November 11, 2021: The Creed: Holding on to Faith

January 20, 2022: The Sacraments: Expressing Faith

March 30, 2022: The Moral Life: Living Faith

June 17-18, 2022: Prayer: Praying Faith, concluding with a Saturday retreat

## **Transition of Sponsorship and Sponsored Institution Missions:**

SJEM has fully transitioned as the sponsoring organization of the 5 institutions previously sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province with the adoption of revised governing documents in accord with the Statutes of SJEM. The SJEM sponsored institutions, and their missions, are as follows:

### **St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf**

*Mission: St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf delivers exceptional listening and spoken language solutions for children with hearing loss, reflecting the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet.*

### **Fontbonne University**

*Mission: Fontbonne University, a Catholic institution founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, provides transformative education committed to the common good, inspiring students to become global citizens who think critically and act ethically to create a more just world.*

### **Avila University**

*Mission: Avila University, a Catholic University founded and inspired by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, provides undergraduate and graduate education in the liberal arts and professional studies, preparing lifelong learners who make meaningful contributions to the global community.*

### **St. Joseph's Academy**

*Mission: St. Joseph's Academy, sponsored by St. Joseph Educational Ministries, is a Catholic, private college preparatory high school founded and inspired by the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.*

*Our mission is to provide quality Catholic education for young women in an environment that challenges them to grow in faith, knowledge, and respect for self and others.*

*Our community expects these young women to make a profound impact in the world.*

### **St. Teresa's Academy**

*Mission: St. Teresa's Academy educates young women to think critically, encourages them through Catholic values to love the dear neighbor without distinction, and empowers them to change the world.*

SJEM established a separate civil corporation in keeping with the Statutes of SJEM.

## **Sponsored Institutions Formation:**

In Spring of 2022, SJEM piloted its first New Leaders Formation program. Director of Formation, Mary Flick, CSJ, designed an excellent four-part formation series. SJEM has two

new presidents of institutions: Dr. James Burkee at Avila University, and Jeffrey Chapman at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf.

The upcoming academic year of 2022-2023 will see SJEM host a Sponsorship Day for Sisters of St. Joseph and members the educational ministries to provide input and discussion on Catholic Education and CSJ Values.

Mission Representatives have been identified at each of the institutions who will meet with SJEM's executive director as a Mission Committee, to work on identifying ways that SJEM can serve their ministry, support their mission, and offer formation opportunities for all constituents. They will assist SJEM in the development of Sponsorship Day. SJEM executive director will work as mentor and support for new employees in Mission and Ministry at the sponsored institutions, assisting leaders to ensure the formation of new staff in Catholic identity, the spirituality of the CSJ's, and in imaginative and creative ways that meet the needs of diverse student populations in Catholic education.

New Leaders Formation for Presidents of Avila University and St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf is being piloted, beginning in May 2022. Under the direction of Mary Flick, CSJ, presidents who are new to SJEM sponsored institutions began a four-part summer formation program to provide a foundation to grow on and deepen related to sponsorship, CSJ spirituality, Church Teachings, and Catholic Identity. Future formation programming will build upon this foundation and offer additional pathways toward inspired mission aligned leadership.

Topics for New Leader Formation program include:

I: Orientation: *Ministerial Public Juridic Person, Defining Sponsorship*

II. Mission and Charism

III. The Catholic Church and Vatican II

IV. Catholic Social Teaching

**Financial:** The CSJ St. Louis Province continues to provide for the financial needs of SJEM.

### **Other News and Updates:**

SJEM successfully hired a new Executive Director, Cara McMahon, who began on March 1, 2022. Cara has worked in both Catholic secondary and higher education for more than 20 years. She has specifically worked serving CSJ schools for eight years and was educated and formed in the CSJ charism as a high school student in San Diego, CA. Her addition to SJEM is helping to advance the work of SJEM and building of relationships with the sponsored institutions.



Currently, SJEM looks ahead at its continued growth and flourishing by identifying candidates for consideration as future members. SJEM is accepting nominations of candidates who meet the criteria for membership and will pursue those who are willing to make a commitment to the ministries as well as to begin the formation process in advance.

## Looking Forward:

SJEM is excited to grow in its relationships throughout Catholic education and to remain a staunch supporter of the gifts that Catholic education offers at every stage of life. The CSJ charism of unifying love guides SJEM's work toward an ongoing greater understanding and image of the Body of Christ through the communities of the sponsored institutions. SJEM seeks to share and encourage in sponsorship through ongoing formation programs, various mission aligned programs, and inspiring programming toward continued strengthening of Catholic identity. Currently, SJEM is investing great energy into the planning phase of its first visit to Rome, slated for some time in 2022-2023. SJEM hopes to build and strengthen its relationship with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and all other supporting constituencies to whom SJEM is grateful. SJEM takes its responsibility to Catholic identity very seriously and with abundant joy, the trip to Rome is an aspect of that ongoing endeavor through its ministries. Also, as previously mentioned, SJEM is working on its Sponsorship Day. This opportunity will be the first in its programming to ensure that the sponsored institutions can be in relationship with one another and focused on their shared legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph in mission and charism. The Holy Spirit is moving within SJEM as a Ministerial Public Juridic Person and alive at Avila University, Fontbonne University, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Teresa's Academy, and St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf.

