

Press Release
For Immediate Release
January 25, 2012

The Sisters of Service and the Sisters of St. Joseph Enter a Sponsorship Relationship

Toronto – On January 25, 2012, after dialogue and consultation and with the approval of Toronto Archbishop Thomas Collins, the Sisters of Service (SOS) and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto (CSJ) signed a sponsorship agreement at the CSJ Administration Centre in Toronto. According to this agreement, the Sisters of St. Joseph will be responsible for the management and governance of the congregation of the Sisters of Service as long as a Sister of Service lives.

This sponsorship agreement represents a complex, mutually binding set of responsibilities and expectations freely entered into so that the apostolic and community life of the Sisters of Service can carry on. It will ensure that the care of the Sisters of Service and stewardship of their corporations and other resources are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the charism, mission and values of the Sisters of Service.

“The Sisters of St. Joseph provided leadership and formation in the founding stages of the Sisters of Service,” said Marilyn MacDonald, SOS, Community Director of the Sisters of Service, who signed the agreement on behalf of her congregation. “The Sisters of Service are deeply grateful to God, to our sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto who have made this commitment with courage and trust.”

“This agreement reflects many hours of work, of dialogue, of listening to one another and of articulating needs,” said Thérèse Meunier, CSJ, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, who signed on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph. “It also reflects a relationship of trust, of mutual respect and of collaboration.”

The Sisters of Service have appointed one of their sisters as an animator for a period of two years. She will support the Sisters of Service in remaining independent and managing their community life and ministries.

The Sisters of St. Joseph are a Catholic congregation of women religious dedicated to nurturing community with the neighbour, especially with the homeless, the alienated, the economically poor, women at risk and our wounded earth. This mission has led them to found ministries in social, pastoral, educational, health and spiritual fields in their over-160 years in Canada.

The Sisters of Service are a Catholic congregation of women religious founded by Catherine Donnelly in 1922 in Canada in order to respond to the spiritual and educational needs of recent immigrants living in isolated settlements in the Canadian west. Guided by their motto “I have come to serve” the Sisters were teachers, catechists, nurses and social workers among those most in need.

For more information, contact:

Gisela Côté, Director of Communications, Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
101 Thorncliffe Park Dr., Toronto ON M4H 1M2
Tel: 416-467-2630 Fax: 416-429-7921
Email: gcote@csj-to.ca Website: www.csj-to.ca