

International Centre remains closed for another year due to pandemic



At its April meeting, the International Centre Board decided to close the Centre for the 2021 season. Concerns and uncertainty about the health and safety of visitors traveling to France from many parts of the world during the coronavirus pandemic made this decision necessary. The Board, however, is already looking to the future and wants to use this year to advance new initiatives at the Centre.

First and foremost, the Board will move the 2021 programs to 2022. Stay tuned for the new dates.

The Board is also interested in trying to provide sisters, associates and friends around the world with more resources on the SSJ spirituality.

We will continue these short monthly newsletters about the Centre but will include more coverage about our sisters and associates' ministries to the Dear Neighbor around the world.

In order to illustrate the extensive global reach of the Sisters of St. Joseph, each month we will feature the Canadian Federation's Global Prayer Calendar which highlights countries where sisters and associates minister.

We are excited about these changes that are designed to communicate with you in a broader, more expansive way—and hope you find them engaging and informative.

Sheep return to the Centre – then move on to greener pastures



Nineteen sheep arrived in small groups starting on April 9 to munch grass in the backyard of the International Centre. By April 24, they had eaten all the grass and moved on to a 15-hectare (37 acres) pasture. This ewe and her two lambs were the first to arrive and the last to leave. Giles, the shepherd calls his sheep his “children”, and he loves them—like the Good Shepherd. Giles is also very generous. He gives us fresh eggs from his farm. [VIDEO](#)



Living History Centre goes online



For several years the Board of the International Centre has wanted to bring the Living History Centre to as many people as possible, especially those who may never be able to visit Le Puy in person. With the new website, the Living History Centre is now posted in Powerpoint. You can find it at the following addresses:

French : <https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/centre-histoire-vivante-le-puy>
English : <https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/livinghistory-lepuy>
Spanish : <https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/centro-de-historia-escenificada-el-puy>
Portuguese : <https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/centro-da-hist%C3%B3ria-viva-le-puy>
Italian : <https://www.centreinternationalssj.org/centro-di-storia-vivente-il-puy>

St. Joseph and the child, Jesus, greet visitors at the entrance of the Living History Centre, which features the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph within the context of Church and French history.

Sisters of St. Joseph in the world: St. Vallier—from France to Quebec



St. Vallier, France on the Rhone River



St. Vallier, Quebec, Canada—St. Jean-Port-Joli

The Sisters of St. Joseph have had a presence in Saint-Vallier, France, since 1683 when two sisters responded to the call of Mgr. Jean-Baptiste de la Croix Chevrière, archbishop of the diocese and count of Saint-Vallier, to help staff a small hospital that he had just founded. The sisters soon afterward opened a small school for young girls without families. In 1829, the Church recognized the sisters as teachers and charity workers.

During the French Revolution (1789-99) the sisters were somewhat protected by the townspeople since they were mostly nurses and their services in the hospital were badly needed.

In 1901 and 1904, France instituted the Combes laws, which secularized the country. Schools operated by the Church could no longer be run by the Church, so the sisters who were teachers lost their ministries. Sister Thérèse de Jésus (Cécile Drolet), of Quebec, Canada, suggested to then-Superior General Mother Saint-Claire, that the sisters come to Canada. On August 17, 1903, twelve Sisters of St. Joseph landed in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli to a welcoming population. They took charge of the

village school there and opened a novitiate in Quebec in 1905. In 1911, they bought a house on Chemin Sainte-Foy, which became their motherhouse. Vocations were flourishing so they enlarged the motherhouse in 1914 and in 1915 built a new chapel. A larger, more imposing chapel was dedicated on March 19, 1927. In 1953, the motherhouse was established in Quebec and in 1958, the sisters responded to the Church's call to found a mission in Haiti.

As Canadians, the sisters devoted themselves to education in the primary and secondary schools until 1948 and then expanded their ministries to the care of the sick. The Quiet Revolution of the 1960s and 70s created a secular, state-run welfare government in Quebec. It took over education, health care, and social services which had been provided by the Catholic Church. The sisters were now integrated into these works. Today, some sisters still live at the 19th century Victorian-style motherhouse, and the sisters have expanded their presence to five continents.

For more photos of St. Vallier in France, see the blog post: <https://internationalcentressj.blogspot.com/2021/>

Global interactive dialogue initiated

One of the benefits the International Centre gives its visitors is the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. In an effort to continue the dialogue, albeit in text and digital platforms, we invite you to share your insights on various world events. Our first interactive dialogue is Pope Francis' declaration of 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph.

QUESTION: How are you living the Year of St. Joseph in your community?

Please send your response (up to 100 words) to the Centre and tell us how you want to be identified (name, congregation, city, country): centre.international@wanadoo.fr We will post the responses in the next newsletter and on the website. Our goal is to hear from sisters and associates in all six continents !

Global prayer calendar for May and June

The Global Joseph Family includes 11,000 sisters, 5,666 associates, 34 agrégées, and 26 charisma passers in 52 countries. Each week of each month, a different country is featured so that we may be united in prayer to listen to the heart of the world and pray for the ministers and their ministries in a given country. Many thanks to the [Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada](#) for the calendar.

May

Sisters of St. Joseph – France

Sisters: 782

Associates: 44

Charisma Passers: 25

Languages: English, French

Congregations: Annecy, Chambéry,
Institut des Souers de Saint Joseph,
Lyon, St Vallier, Champagnole

Sisters of St. Joseph – Gambia

Sisters: 6

Associates: 10

Languages: English, Wolof

Congregations: Annecy

Sisters of St. Joseph – Greece

Sisters: 1

Associates: 0

Languages: French,

Congregations: Lyon

Sisters of St. Joseph – Haiti

Sisters: 21

Associates: 0

Languages: French

Congregations: St. Vallier

Week 1

June

Sisters of St. Joseph - Honduras

Sisters: 3

Associates: 0

Languages: Spanish

Congregations: Lyon

Sisters of St. Joseph - India

Sisters: 1036

Associates: 203

Languages: English, Hindi

Congregations: Annecy, Chambéry, Lyon

Sisters of St. Joseph - Ireland

Sisters: 22

Associates: 0

Languages: English

Congregations: Annecy, Chambéry, Lyon

Sisters of St. Joseph - Italy

Sisters: 400

Associates: 336

Languages: Italian

Congregations: Aosta, Chambéry, Cuneo,
Pinerolo, San Giuseppe

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4