

THE RULE AND CONSTITUTIONS for St. Joseph's Sisters of Peace of the Immaculate Conception

January, 1884

The object of this Institute is, as its name implies, to promote the peace of the Church, both by word and work. The very name Sisters of Peace will, it is hoped, even of itself, inspire the desire of peace and a love for it... The Sisters shall carry out the great end for which this Religious Order is instituted by combining a life of interior recollection and prayer with such active works of charity as shall be deemed most necessary and advisable by the Ordinary of the Diocese. One of the special objects, if thus approved, shall be the circulation of good books; since, at the present time, family peace is often disturbed by the conduct of the young, who learn from vicious reading practices and maxims altogether contrary to Christian duty. Another and most special object shall be devotion to ameliorating the condition of the homes of the poor, since so many dangers arise to threaten the peace of the Church, in consequence of the misery and discontent of those whose homes are, either from unavoidable circumstances or from their own fault, so entirely unfitted for holy domestic life. ...it is most important that the Religious of this institute should devote themselves also to the education of youth, and especially to inspiring the young with a great love of peace.

Of the Active Work

The active work undertaken by the St. Joseph's Sisters of Peace... shall be offered for the peace of the Church, for the sanctification of all Christian families throughout the world.Each should be shown how she can be the promoter of peace in her own family, and how she can be in her own sphere, no matter how humble, on of those whom God will especially bless as a peacemaker....

As the great object of this Institute is to promote the peace of the Church, St. Joseph, the divinely appointed Protector of the universal Church, has been chosen as its Patron. Devotion to this Saint will be a special object... No doubt, we may point to St. Joseph as the great model of every virtue; but it would seem as if peace was his peculiar grace....

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF NEWARK

June 24, 1929

The general purpose of the Congregation is the glory of God and the sanctification of its members by means of the practice of the simple vows of Obedience, Chastity and Poverty, and the observance of the Constitution.

The special purpose of the Congregation is to promote the welfare of our neighbor by educating and housing working girls, through schools, orphanages, hospitals, homes for the blind; by visiting, nursing and helping the sick and poor.....

The spirit which should animate the Sisters of St. Joseph is the spirit of humility, whereby they refer to God all honor and glory. The spirit of humility should manifest itself by obedience to the Superior, by an unbounded confidence in the infinite goodness, power and mercy of God, and by the exercise of fraternal charity, making each one more eager to serve the other and making all members of the Congregation one true namely.

The name they have the honor to bear, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark, shall ever remind them to follow faithfully the example of their admirable model and Patron, St. Joseph; learning from him the virtues to be especially practiced in the Congregation, viz., humility, simplicity and perfect obedience to the will of God manifested through the Constitutions and the Superior.

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF PEACE

March 19, 1994

Peace is God's gift to us, given in Christ, a gift we experience and enjoy now, though not in its completeness. We believe that peace points beyond itself in hope to the fullness of time.

Christ is our peace, the source of our power. United with him we engage in the struggle against the reality of evil and continue the work of establishing God's reign of justice and peace. (Constitutions 1-2)

Today, as Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, we build upon a rich heritage. Our founding spirit calls us to further the work of peace. Responding to this call we experience our own need for continuing conversion to gospel values which engender peace.

In accord with our tradition we commit ourselves to promote peace in family life, in the church, and in society. We strive to respect the dignity of all persons, to value the gifts of creation, and to confront oppressive situations. We respond to God's people in need and promote social justice as a way to peace. . (Constitutions 10-11)

The call to live community for mission comes to us from Jesus whose Spirit is the source of our unity. Our sensitivity to this call is heightened by the needs of poor and oppressed people, by the joys and sorrow of our sisters and brothers, and by our confidence that the saving action of Jesus continues in and through humankind.

As the biblical tradition has linked the pursuit of justice with the gift of peace, so we believe that the promotion of justice is integral to our mission and spirituality. (Constitutions 13-14)

From the beginning of the congregation Joseph was chosen as our patron because he is a model of peace. His courage to live a life of faith inspires us to trust in God's abiding love, especially in times of struggle and uncertainty. (Constitutions 36)

PURSUIING PEACE

The closing statement of our Constitutions

The Gospel of peace in its mission of justice guides our lives as Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace. These Constitutions and Directives are means to assist us to grow together toward the fullness of life that Jesus offers as his special gift. We rejoice in God's daily invitation to seek justice, to love tenderly, and to make the good news visible with our lives.

Trusting that God who began this work in us will also bring it to fruition, we accept these Constitutions and promise to live them.