



### ***What it Means to be a Committed Associate***

Associates are men and women who desire to share in the spirituality of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie and in the challenges of responding to the changing needs of the Church. They wish to provide mutual support in living the Gospel values of love and service.

To make commitment is to make a decision through discernment that you wish to live out and abide by the charism of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie which draws us to a lifetime of growth and ongoing conversion.

We live this out by:

- Prayer
- Discernment - Is this God's will?
- Attending meetings
- Attending special gatherings
- Participate in the care and respect to the dear neighbor and all of God's creation
- Look for needs in the community in which you live and try to meet those needs
- Live with humility
- Serve God in truth and spirit as Joseph did

### ***Examples of Living out Commitment:***

- Attending meetings on a regular basis
- Advising the regional co-ordinator if you cannot attend a meeting
- Participate in presentations
- Participate in special activities
- Participate in retreats



If you wish to withdraw from the Associate program, please arrange a meeting with the Regional Coordinator, who will require a letter regarding your withdrawal and the return of your pin and other materials.



### ***Focus Statement***

We, The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, moved by the Spirit, commit ourselves to ..

- act with courage for the sake of Jesus' mission
- embrace the future with new energy and zeal
- come together to share our faith journey
- be a healing presence with all creation
- express in creative diversity our charism of unity and reconciliation as the Congregation of the Great Love of God

We are women of prayer and contemplation, strengthened by sharing of the heart, for personal and communal growth.

As women of inclusive love, we reverence God, the dear neighbour, and all of creation, through our relationships which are authentic, relevant, and creative.

We continue to identify and respond to unmet needs locally, regionally, and globally, using our giftedness and resources with vitality and passion, in serving others, for the sake of Jesus' mission.

We celebrate life in its fullness, maintaining courage in systemic change, and confidence in simple moments of life.





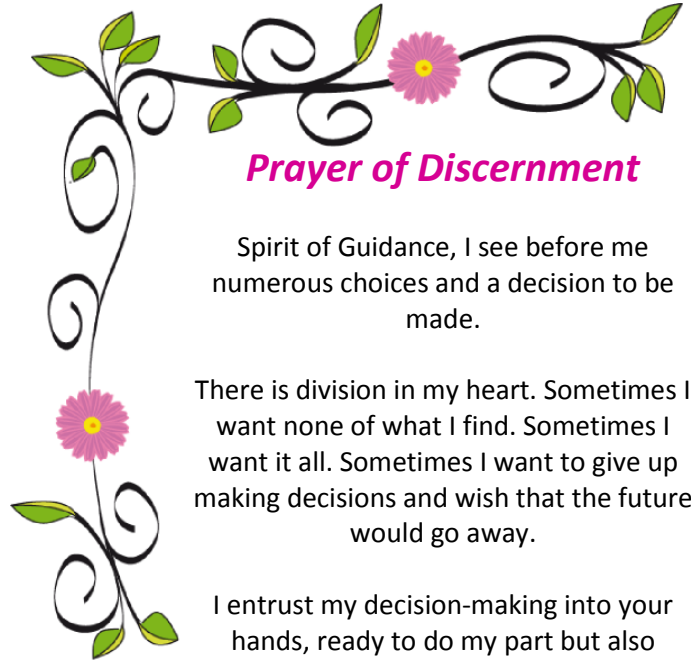
## Associates' Prayer

O God of unity and strength,  
unite us, the family of St. Joseph,  
Sisters and Associates,  
in heart and in purpose.

So that we all may be one  
in the living Christ.  
Strengthen us to serve  
the people of our world,  
and enable us to be a healing  
presence for those in great need.

May your blessing be upon us,  
for in you is our power  
and our fulfillment,  
both now and forever.

Amen



## Prayer of Discernment

Spirit of Guidance, I see before me  
numerous choices and a decision to be  
made.

There is division in my heart. Sometimes I  
want none of what I find. Sometimes I  
want it all. Sometimes I want to give up  
making decisions and wish that the future  
would go away.

I entrust my decision-making into your  
hands, ready to do my part but also  
knowing that I cannot do this without your  
help.

Lead me through all the unsure, unclear,  
doubtful, hesitant, and questioning  
moments that are mine as I search to find  
the right way in which to go.

Grant me the grace to choose freely,  
without being attached to the outcome. I  
trust that you will be with me as I make  
my decision prayerfully and with faith.

Assure me that your peace will rest deep  
within me as I make the decision that  
seems best for me at this time. I may  
continue to experience feelings of turmoil  
and confusion, but deep within I know  
that I can return to that settled place in  
me where you always dwell.

Guide and Director of my life, I place my  
life in your hands. Lead me to the path  
that will best deepen and strengthen my  
relationship with you.

Joyce Rupp

