***St. Joseph Worker Program • Application Packet***

**Thanks for your interest in the**

**St. Joseph Worker Program!**

*Adventures in intentional community, social justice, spirituality and leadership begin with this application!*

St. Joseph Workers are women committed to social change who live according to the values of community, social justice, spirituality and leadership. Our program is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California —an amazing group of religious women who are blessed with the gift of God’s profound love for the dear neighbor without distinction, hospitality in community, zeal for ministry, commitment to justice, reverence for the earth and discernment in prayer.

Each year, the SJW Program begins in August and lasts through the end of June. Our priority application deadline is January 15th and our second priority date is March 15th. St. Joseph Worker Program in Orange is also open to international candidates. International applications that are seeking support with visas are due January 1st. Applications received after these dates will be processed in the order they are received until all positions are filled.

Benefits include an amazing year of service and justice, monthly stipend, housing, community food budget, transportation to and from work, health insurance, spiritual mentoring, possible loan deferment or forbearance, and much more. Excellent training and development opportunities such as domestic violence certification and spiritual direction are also available.

Each year we accept mature, motivated young women (21-35) into the program who want to work to end poverty, violence, human trafficking and other forms of oppression. They live together and form intentional community. Each week, the women participate in “Sharing of the Heart”, a spiritual practice taken from the Sisters of St. Joseph that involves sharing a meal, deep conversation, and reflection. St. Joseph Workers also participate in SJW Program evenings once a week where we come together to explore issues related to the four values of the program. Two other nights are dedicated to community for community fun nights and house meetings.

Each St. Joseph Worker spends 36 hours a week at a service placement site. Placement possibilities are decided on at the beginning of the year according to the mutual interest of the applicant, the placement site supervisor, and SJW team/staff. Placement options address an important justice issue such as homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, hunger, access to health care, immigration, English literacy, social justice, education, advocacy, and more.

All of the information you’ll need to apply is enclosed in this packet. When you’ve completed the application, please send it back to us to be reviewed. You may send it in an email or send the hard copy. Applications will be processed in the order they are received until all positions are filled. We will review each application as it comes in and schedule interviews in as timely a fashion as is possible. We will not officially close the application season until all positions have been filled.

**Thank you for your interest in the St. Joseph Worker Program!**

Once we receive your completed application in our office, the following must happen before acceptance into the program can be finalized:

1. Your application is reviewed by the St. Joseph Worker interview team. At the team’s recommendation you will be invited in for a personal or Skype interview. We will contact you either way.
2. Your initial interview before the St. Joseph Workers interview team will determine provisional acceptance into the program. If you are recommended for acceptance, then on-site/Skype interviews are arranged at the work placement sites where there may be a good match with your interest and skills. These interviews will take place with the work supervisor and, on occasion, SJW team. If an applicant is travelling from out of the area to interview, then placement site/Skype interviews may be arranged before provisional acceptance is offered, in order to ease the scheduling and logistics involved with travelling to interview.
3. Once everyone (you, SJW team, and work placement supervisor) agrees that a suitable match has been made—then acceptance can be finalized.
4. **If an emergency or other special circumstance arises that causes you to withdraw your application at any stage (especially after final acceptance), please let us know as soon as possible.**

If you have any questions about the interview process, the application, or the program in general, please don’t hesitate to call. We look forward to talking with you!

God’s blessings and his Peace to you, as you discern the next steps in your life.

Sincerely,

***Sr. Joanna Rosciszewska, CSJ***

Sr. Joanna Rosciszewska, CSJ, Director

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