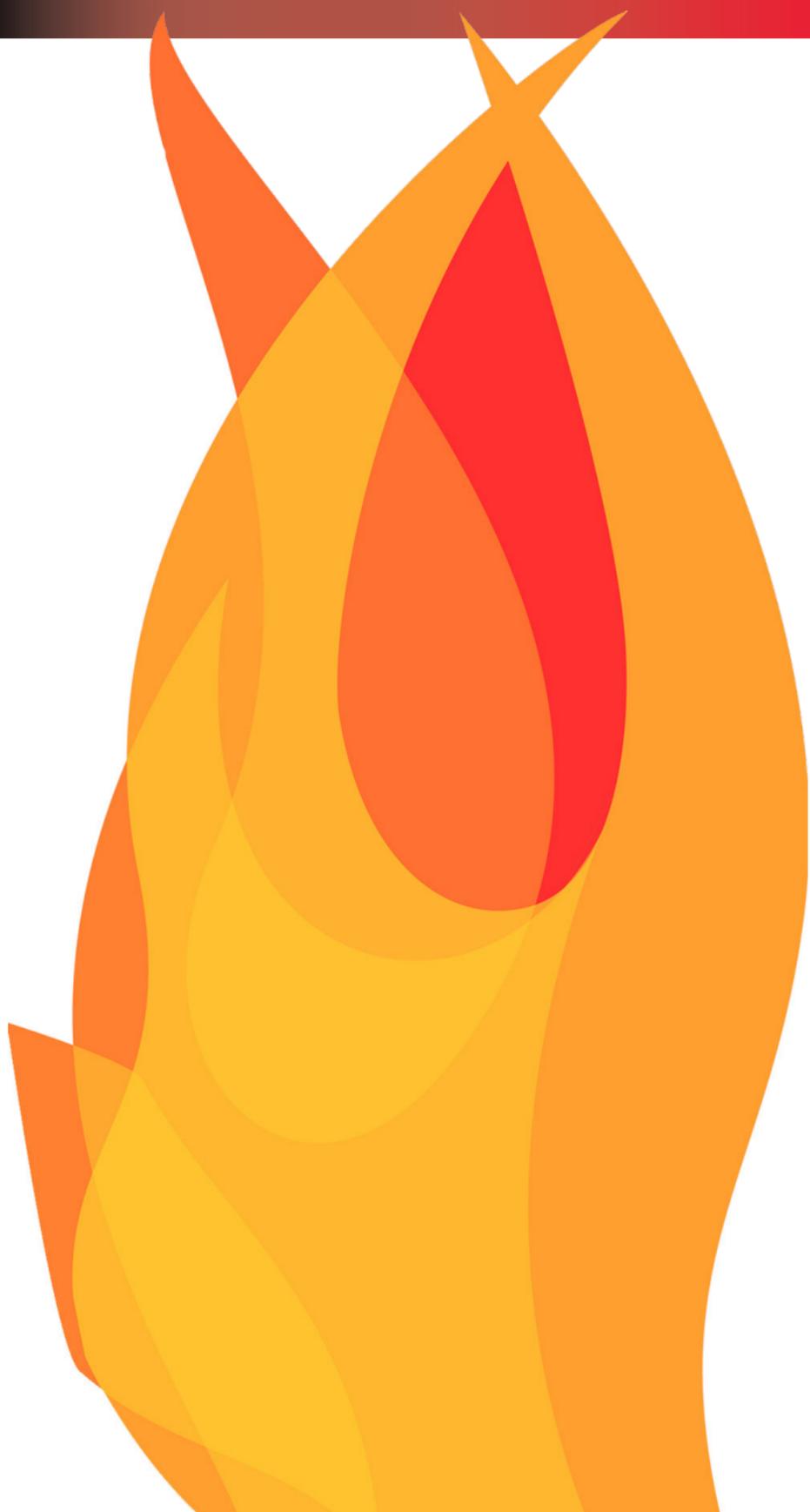
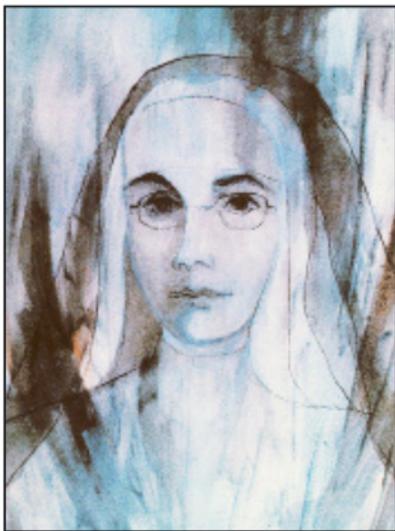


what

is the SNJM charism?





charism

of the Sisters of the Holy
Names of Jesus and Mary

Charism is a distinct spirit that animates a religious congregation and gives it a particular character. It's a call to **manifest the Gospel** in a unique way.

The charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary flows from gifts that God gave to Blessed Marie Rose Durocher and the other early foundresses of the congregation.

That charism is rooted in the **primacy of God's love** and the **power of education** to develop the potential God gave each of us.

Charism provides the **spirit** and **motivation** with which the Sisters, and like-minded women and men such as SNJM Associates, Lay Consecrated and friends, approach life and choose ministries.

Image of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher adapted from a watercolor by Annette Chouinard-Dubois, 1973

how

the SNJM Constitutions define charism

Three sections of the congregation's "Constitutions and Rules" outline a charism that is flexible and can speak to changing times. **Which statement speaks the most strongly to you?**

1 "We are called each day in the saving Name of Jesus to collaborate in the Church's mission of education. This mission aims at the full development of the human person. With those we meet we experience the mystery of Jesus Christ, knowing that He is already among us and that through His Resurrection we are called to a new life."

—Section 11

2 "Education in the faith demands of us active involvement in the promotion of justice. In this spirit and according to the teachings of the Church, our educational endeavors have a special concern for the poor and disadvantaged."

—Section 13

3 "We are challenged by the Gospel and by the needs of our society to unite our efforts with those around us to attain for all people conditions of life more equitable and more worthy of human dignity."

—Section 14



Kathleen Griffin, SNJM
Washington, D.C.
Pastoral associate,
social justice,
outreach

you'll know it when you see it

How do you recognize the presence of the SNJM charism?

“Men and women who live the charism are compassionate. They have a love for the poor. They have a strong commitment to justice. They understand that our ministry, whatever it is, has to be focused on the liberation of the person in some way that is transforming.”

“If I come into an SNJM school or an SNJM clinic or I have a Sister of the Holy Names working in my parish, I should sense an awareness and a focus and a presence that lets me know this man or woman is deeply committed to my growth, my joy, my freedom in God, and to who I am and who I need to become.”

—Kathleen Griffin, SNJM



Lorna Cooney, SNJM
Longueuil, Québec,
leading a retreat

charism: the heartbeat of a community

“What is the heartbeat of a community? What gives it a certain character that attracts when encountered? What lures it and spurs it through changing times and places? It is the gift of a shared sacred story and a common vision of God and the world. It is charism.”

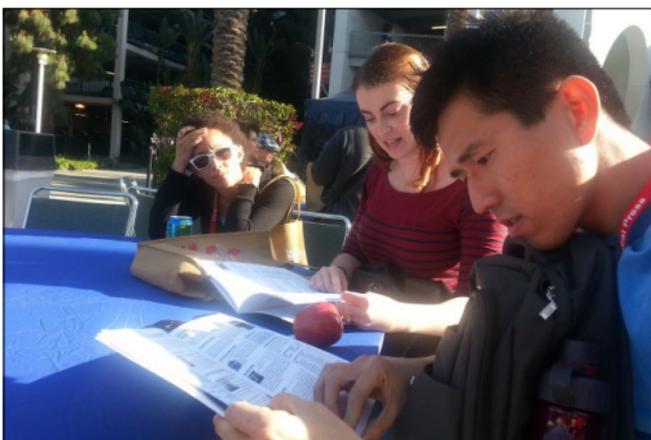
—Lorna Cooney, SNJM

serving in the names of Jesus and Mary

*“We serve as Jesus served, with respect for all of creation and a dedication to the value of each person. We serve as Mary served, with faith and complete trust. We serve as they served, with the spirit in our hearts that **nothing is impossible with God.**”*

—**Celine Steinberger, SNJM**
Spokane, WA
Development Director





charism in action

Charism is a gift that is meant to be shared. It's a way of living the Gospel. For more than 170 years, Holy Names ministries have enabled people to discover, develop and share their gifts as Jesus did — person to person, heart to heart, and with gratitude.



Photos: University students at the Religious Education Congress in Southern California; Student volunteer project in Appalachia; Sister Brigid Baumann at an anti-trafficking rally.