

Stepping out



in faith

A Narrative Budget for The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, 2009

The Sisterhood

Quietly. Compassionately. Faithfully.

The Sisters of St. John the Divine have been reaching out to thousands of people — men, women and children — for 125 years. We want to continue that loving service through our sharing of gospel values in everyday life in ways that make a difference. We want to do more.

We reach out to Christians of all denominations as well as to people of all faiths and cultures who are searching for ways to make their lives more fulfilling. We want to continue this loving service. We want to do more.



Your help is deeply appreciated. We need it to touch many more people.
We need it to do even more.

A centre of spirituality

Prayer, Worship, Music

Help us to rejoice



Silence and stillness — music which lifts our souls to God. These are what we want to share with others.

The Chapel is the centre of our life. Everyone is welcome to worship with us in the daily round of chapel services or to meditate in the silence.

We lead in music and liturgy. Our music is eclectic, grounded in Anglican and monastic traditions. We perform many of our own compositions and experiment in liturgy.

We welcome guests to use our space — gardens, grounds, labyrinth — to still their bodies, minds and spirits.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$102,000

Outreach

Preaching and teaching

Help us touch more people's lives

We preach and teach. We talk about the Religious Life and meet with youth in parishes. We lead retreats, missions, and quiet days.

We seek to promote unity where there is division and work for peace and justice. We try to bring healing to parishes in need through our presence and prayer. We tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ.



Photo by Michael Hudson



More than 900 Associates and Oblates throughout Canada and overseas live out their baptismal covenant by following a rhythm of life in partnership with us and by contributing to our mission.

We are a praying presence in your community.

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$156,000

Guest House

All guests are welcomed!
Help us heal and renew



We love having guests!

All through the year, hundreds of people join our retreats and quiet days.



Parishes and other groups say our Guest House is the perfect place for their own programs.

The convent and Guest House are universally accessible for those with physical challenges, and are easy to get to by public transportation.



We welcome you to our quiet urban setting, an oasis for prayer, meditation, and renewal.

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$301,000

Pastoral & Spiritual *Community of compassion*

Help us to care and guide

In a world beset by pain and disillusionment, there are times when all of us feel overwhelmed.



Are you trying to discern a new direction? Or just needing a listening ear? Are you seeking prayers or healing for yourself or others?

We offer pastoral companionship and a safe place in which to deepen your relationship with God.

We hold regular services of healing in all our chapels and provide pastoral visiting at St. John's Rehab Hospital. Patients often tell us that we make a difference to their rehabilitation. We also provide support to spiritual directors, pastors, and healers.



We listen compassionately.

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$98,000

Education

Understanding, discerning

Help us to enhance

We believe in education and provide it in many ways. Our Education for Ministry (EFM) program is part of our lifelong learning with studies in scripture, church history, spirituality and theological reflection.

Women often seek God's guidance for the path they might take in order to live out their baptismal call. We have a summer program to address this need called "Women at a Crossroads". It helps women to discern where God might be calling them next.



Our library is open to guests. Sisters are nearby to suggest books and other resources for growth in Christian life.

Keeping our minds active is not only important but also enables us to share what we have learned with others.

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$104,000

Community Life

Past, Present, and Future

Help us with our journey

Prayers, mutual love and concern, respect and forgiveness are at the heart of our community life. We try to live our lives quietly, peacefully, and in union with God's desire for us.

Our Community life helps us to give more of ourselves to others.

We are committed to caring for each other for the whole of our lives, from the moment we join the Sisterhood to the time of our deaths.

Our future depends upon more women attending to the call from God and joining the Sisterhood.

We seek your help to spread the word about our Community and to identify prospective members.



Photo by Michael Hudson

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$697,000

Resources

Timeless Gospel values

Help us with our stewardship



The Convent is the Mother House of the community from which we go out to the world.

The Mother House also supports our work throughout the country. It is the place where we make decisions.



We own no private property, but pool our resources.

Most of our work is unpaid. Because of this, we are able to keep costs at a minimum.

Nevertheless, our ministry requires the support of paid staff as well as sisters and volunteers.



And it requires generous donors who can help us meet the needs.

Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$173,000

Investment in ministries

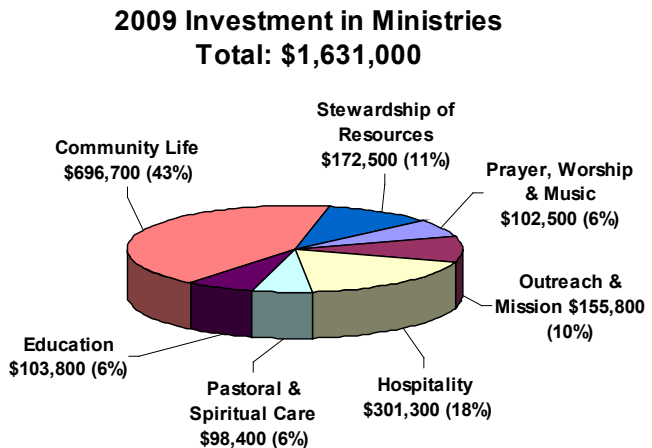
The cost

Our annual expense budget has been allocated to seven ministry areas. It includes all operating expenses as well as salaries for a number of paid employees in our infirmary, kitchen, housekeeping, maintenance, and grounds. We also employ a part-time accountant and administrative support for the Reverend Mother's office, the development office, and the Guest House.

The Sisters receive no salaries. Our work in the Convent and Guest House is unpaid. We do receive some honoraria from mission, teaching and

speaking engagements, and a modest remuneration for the six Sisters who work at St. John's Rehab Hospital. All of this income is pooled in the common fund to support our food, clothing, and other necessities.

We also have more than 30 faithful and very dedicated volunteers who help us in many ways. Without them, we would have to hire additional staff. The total annual hours of our volunteers' work is 2,244.



Investment in ministries

The need

To meet our budget in recent years, we have had to take more from our Endowment Fund than it earns. This is partly the result of increased expenses and unfavourable changes in the stock market. We are therefore in the dangerous position of drawing down a fund that represents faithful bequests and donations of many generations.



Our 2009 revenue budget includes 29% from the Endowment Fund and 18% from gifts made by our very generous donors.



For a sustainable future, we need to increase our donations and reduce the draw on our Endowment fund. With your help, we made good progress in 2008. Our goal in 2009 is to raise \$500,000 in donations. This will help preserve the principal of the fund for the future.



Join us

in love and service



We feel God calling us to do more in our dedication to peace, healing, and wholeness. We're answering the call with all our strength. But we need your continued partnership.

Please fill in the enclosed pledge form and help us to help others in 2009.

Help us

answer the call

Director of Development
The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
233 Cumber Avenue
Toronto, ON M2M 2E8
416-226-2201, ext. 340
Fax: 416-222-4442
email: development@ssjd.ca