

We Walk in Communion

God of Love:

We walk in the company of our forbearers whose generous lives have been given in service of the dear neighbor. You inspired them to respond to the needs of their times, and so we now ask for their prayers and guidance, as we seek to love without distinction.

The women of Le Puy, France: Anna, Clauda, Anna, Marguerite, Anna, and Françoise, the first Sisters of St. Joseph, you heard the gospel and risked everything to respond to its call.

Jean-Pierre Médaille of the Society of Jesus: you placed your education at the service of these women and in doing so empowered them to find their own voices, visions and vocations.

Mother St. John Fontbonne: in the traumatic years following the French Revolution, you regathered the scattered Sisters of St. Joseph and under your leadership, the community began to thrive again beyond all expectations.

You six sisters of Lyon who sailed across the Atlantic to Carondelet, Missouri: Delphine, Febronie, St. Protais, Marguerite Felicite, Febronie and Philomene you responded to the needs of your times in a new land with resilience, humor, and tenacity.

You pioneer sisters who branched out across a young nation: you traveled to New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Louisiana, Illinois, California, Idaho, Washington, Canada, across North America to serve immigrants, freed slaves, the native communities, the poor and the disabled.

All you holy women and men, walk with us! Pray for us!

God eternal and ever-new, you pour out your Spirit upon every generation. Sustained by the gifts we have received from our founders, may we walk in your ways and live in your unifying love, striving always to move toward profound love of you, the dear neighbor, and all creation. Amen.
