

Soul PURPOSE

Volume I
Spring 2010

*Together let's
be the heart
and hands
of Jesus.*

—Sisters of
St. Joseph

Welcome to the first issue of *Soul Purpose*, a newsletter for students in CSJ Sister High Schools. Here we share

“...the CSJ nuns truly changed the way I look at faith.”

-Molly Stahl, SHA, Class of 2010



experiences of ministering with and to Sisters of St. Joseph. This issue covers the 2009 summer at The Villa in Hampton Bays. Share *your* experiences in the next issue by sending me an article in Word with photos before April 23 to vocationscsj@aol.com. Submit your email address to receive future newsletters online! And check out our new web site www.brentwoodcsj.org!

*S. Kerry Handal, CSJ
Director of Vocation
Development*

When I was asked to go to the Hamptons to help nuns while on vacation, I was very excited. During that week we cleaned, served food, and set tables.

I met a lot of wonderful people...all of the girls were happy to be helping and all seemed more than rewarded with a simple ‘thank you’ (though several nuns did try to pay us, which was politely declined). We all formed friendships within the first day. This resulted in late night conversations which caused many Starbucks runs.

The nuns I met truly portrayed the word “faith”. It was wonderful hearing why they entered religious life.



**All of the girls
seemed more than
rewarded with a
simple ‘thank you’**



*Morning
trips to
Starbucks
with S. Pat*



Girls with
S. Linda
and S. Helen

“I would awaken in the morning knowing I’d be spending my day having fun and helping others.”

-Judwina Chery, SJHS, Class of 2011

To start this off, I really enjoyed my time at Hampton Bays. I loved the experience and the people I met. First I learned to cherish all that I have. Meeting students from a different school and spending time with them was also great. It was as if we already knew each other. The scenery is beautiful...the air is fresh...and the environment is very peaceful and quiet. The sisters who were vacationing at The Villa seemed to have enjoyed their week as well. The girls and I had a day of beauty where we painted the sister’s nails and I was known as ‘the design and massage girl.’

It was sad when it was time to leave. But I want to thank everyone at The Villa for showing me nothing but kindness, love and support.



Kitchen duty...

Second week girls



Entire first week crew

“I love to help people, and this was the perfect opportunity”

*-Lydia Valentin, TMLA,
Class of 2011*

For one fun-filled week, I took a break from the bustle of city life to retreat to a much quieter one among the Sisters of Saint Joseph. From the instant my Mom and I drove onto the property, I could sense the grounds had such a quiet and peaceful ambiance. The complete opposite of what I was used to. Still, I was apprehensive about living for a week with girls who I thought were complete strangers. After only minutes of conversation, it seemed like we were old friends. I had such a good time helping the Sisters, and they always showed their appreciation. I met a Sister who was 96 who still managed



Lydia, Kristen, Kryshel with S. Anne and S. Doris

to be up and about in rather high heels, which really impressed me since I, at 17, can barely walk in them! The most challenging thing we would all agree on was ‘leaving.’ In such a short time, we became accustomed to our regimen of helping the Sisters, watching TV, making smores, talking to Sister Helen and Sister Marie, and solving puzzles in between.

On the last day, we didn’t say goodbye because we knew we would be back next year.



"There was quiet time to reflect and examine my life."

*-Jessie Alberici,
TMLA, Class of 2011*

It was a great time to get close to my sister Kellie especially as it was right before she went off to college.

Not only did she and I build our friendship but I also built friendships with fellow classmates and of course with the Sisters who were always willing to go out of their way to make me feel comfortable.



Justina gives S. Maureen a manicure

The atmosphere that surrounds the area is breathtaking. I loved the peacefulness — I thought I would especially have difficulty sleeping without noise around me!

I believe the rewarding part of this whole experience was the opportunity to get to know myself better. There was quiet time to reflect instead of rushing around or feeling exhausted because of pressure.

Getting to know myself may have been the most rewarding part of this experience but it was not the most enjoyable. Getting close with all the Sisters and establishing

bonds with them. What's more, they were willing to take part in a "makeover night". We dressed up the two Sisters in our home and took pictures — it was so much fun.

"It was the first time I had ever been away from my parents for an entire week..."

*-Jennifer D'Alessio
BKHS, Class of 2010*

...and that thought alone scared me. But once I arrived at The Villa, I realized I would have no problem adjusting. Immediately we were greeted by enthusiastic and friendly people, specifically Sister Kerry who would be in charge for the week. We were shown to our rooms and had a chance to settle in before touring the grounds.

From the first day, we split into groups and were assigned three tasks: kitchen/dining duty, sacristy duty, and 'Hilton' duty.

Tasks were rotated throughout the week, but my favorite was kitchen/dining duty where we set the tables for each meal, cleaned the pots and pans, but we also got to help prepare the food.

I grew closer to God by attending mass every day. Volunteering my time to help the Sisters enjoy their vacations as well as sharing with new and old friends was a terrific experience for me.

"I was able to share my aunt's peach cobbler recipe with the Sisters."

"I really didn't know what to expect."

*-Kiera Cavalleri
BKHS, Class of 2011*

But my week turned out to be a lot more than a nice opportunity.

The Villa is absolutely adorable, especially the waves coming in from the bay as well as the little chapel that houses stained glass. In the kitchen, I was able to offer assistance by peeling potatoes, shucking corn, and baking a cake.

There was also a 'make-over' night which was lots of fun. The girls used make-up on a few of the Sisters and all had a fantastic time. I only hope the Sisters enjoyed my company as much as I enjoyed theirs.

"We knew we were going to enjoy spending time there."

*-Elizabeth Wagner
BKHS, Class of 2010*

This summer I had the chance to spend a week at St. Joseph Villa to help the Sisters who were spending the summer there. When my three friends and I arrived, we knew we were going to enjoy spending time there.

When we weren't working, we spent time making friends with the girls from other schools.

I would definitely recommend helping the Sisters at such a beautiful place!

"We swam, shopped and made trips to the ocean."

*-Gabriella Kennedy
BKHS, Class of 2010*

Choosing to volunteer a week at St. Joseph Villa proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The atmosphere seem to fill everyone with a gratefulness for what we have all been blessed with.

Once our chores were completed, we had the rest of the day free to experience Hampton Bays. We all had so much fun and were overwhelmed by the appreciation shown by the Sisters.

Girls preparing for dinner with S. Bernadette



"I truly had a wonderful time!"

This past summer, I spent one week volunteering my time at Saint Joseph's Villa in Hampton Bays. I aided Sisters in simple tasks such as cooking/bak-

ing, etc. I was also able to enjoy the beautiful and serene landscape, as well as make new friends with girls from other schools.



Shucking corn...

*-Kristen Casano
BKHS, Class of 2011*

2009 Summer at The Villa

WEEK 1

Kiera Cavalleri
BKHS, Class of 2011

Kristen Casano
BKHS, Class of 2011

Lydia Valentin
TMLA, Class of 2010

Kryshel Charles
TMLA, Class of 2011

Jessie Alberici
TMLA, Class of 2011

Kellie Alberici
TMLA, Class of 2009

WEEK 2

Molly Stahl
SHA, Class of 2010

Hanan Cherqaoui
SHA, Class of 2010

Michelle D'Souza
SHA, Class of 2010

Judwina Chery
SJHS, Class of 2011

Elizabeth Wagner
BKHS, Class of 2010

Camille Raimondi
BKHS, Class of 2010

Gabriella Kennedy
BKHS, Class of 2010

Jennifer D'Alessio
BKHS, Class of 2010

Monet Brathwaite ASJ

Justina Rosado ASJ

Roxanne Leon ASJ

"When I was first asked to go to St. Joseph's Villa, I thought, this could be fun. Little did I know..."

...I would have one of the greatest experiences of my life. I went to the Hampton Bays with three of my best friends, and together we cooked, cleaned, and did laundry for the vacationing nuns. Not only did I learn more about my friends, but I made new friends as well. All of the girls from our sister schools were very nice and outgoing. Also, I got to know many of the vacationing nuns on a personal level. Who knew my friends and I would be taking daily trips to Starbucks with Sr. Pat or shopping at the outlets with Sr. Roe? During our spare time my friends and I sat by the pool, walked along the bay, and visited mansions! I will never forget the memories I created at Hampton Bays."

-Camille Raimondi, BKHS, Class of 2010

Gabriella, Camille, Jennifer and Elizabeth with S. Lucy

