



“I have come to cast fire upon the earth...”

“In the heart of this marvelous woman, Marie Rose Durocher, burned a fire of love which spread, and has not ceased to give light and warmth to many corners of the universe.”

—Hermance Baril, snjm

The **charism and spirit of Blessed Marie Rose** has spread beyond the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Her spirit is found in countless people who have been inspired by her life and who desire to follow her example.

Today, the Sisters of the Holy Names and their partners in ministry are invited to take the charism and spirit of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher and share it with the people and in the places in which they find themselves. The invitation to us is the same one Blessed Marie Rose found in scripture: “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49)



*Her vision, our mission*



Front cover photos, clockwise from top: Academy of the Holy Names, Albany, NY • Brigid Baumann, snjm, at an anti-trafficking event organized by Sisters of the Holy Names in Portland, OR • Holy Names Music Center, Spokane, WA • Inside: Student from the Academy of the Holy Names, Tampa, FL, on a mission trip in Appalachia • Back cover: Holy Names High School, Oakland, CA

## A desire to share God's justice, tenderness and communion



Since their foundation the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary have lived the spirit and charism of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher. Her compelling desire to educate the poor, to empower struggling women spiritually and intellectually, to enable those within her influence to develop their full potential are distinctive characteristics of the Sisters of the Holy Names. This is the Sisters' charism – their reason for being.

For many years this charism was carried to elementary, secondary and college levels. The Sisters educated many thousands of children, women and men through the years. As the cultures, needs and times evolved and changed, so did the Sisters of the Holy Names. In response to the evolving needs, some sisters moved from traditional educational institutions to service in parishes, spirituality and outreach centers and work directly with and for people who are poor.

Though the sisters' ministries are often in different settings, they all embody the [key] values of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. These values reflect Blessed Marie Rose's guiding vision for her work.

*From 1843 to today, the SNJM charism challenges, ignites spirits, calls to prayer. It is and has been a desire to do what God desires. It is a desire to share God's justice, tenderness and communion. It is a gift of the Spirit that continues to enliven and empower. It is a gift for the common good – a gift for yesterday, today and tomorrow.*

– Betty McLellan, snjm

Image: Blessed Marie Rose Durocher  
From a watercolor by Annette Chouinard-Dubois, 1973



**Key values are enduring beliefs which an institution and the people who inhabit it hold in common and endeavor to put into action. The Sisters of the Holy Names promote these key values, which are at the heart of their charism:**

**Full Development of the Human Person:** cultivating and respecting the talents, abilities and potential of each person, contributing to the development of all aspects of a person's life

**Education in the Faith:** creating an atmosphere which invites people to live, develop and express their faith

**Hospitality:** being a gracious, accepting and welcoming presence for each person

**Dedication to Women and Children:** seeing, understanding and responding to the needs of women and children

**Dedication to Justice:** committing time, energy, resources to the pursuit of right relationships of equality, justice and solidarity

**Service to People who are Poor or Marginalized:** reaching out and responding to people who are impoverished, abandoned or living at the fringes of society

**Commitment to Liberating Action:** seeking with others the freedom needed to live life fully without oppression

**Love for the Names of Jesus and Mary:** embracing as guide, inspiration and strength the persons and names of Jesus and Mary

## Key Terms

**Mission**  
Main purpose  
for which an  
organization exists

**Ministry**  
Gospel-inspired activity

**Charism**  
Distinctive spirit which  
characterizes the lives  
and ministry of a religious  
congregation

**SNJM**  
Sisters of the Holy Names  
of Jesus and Mary