

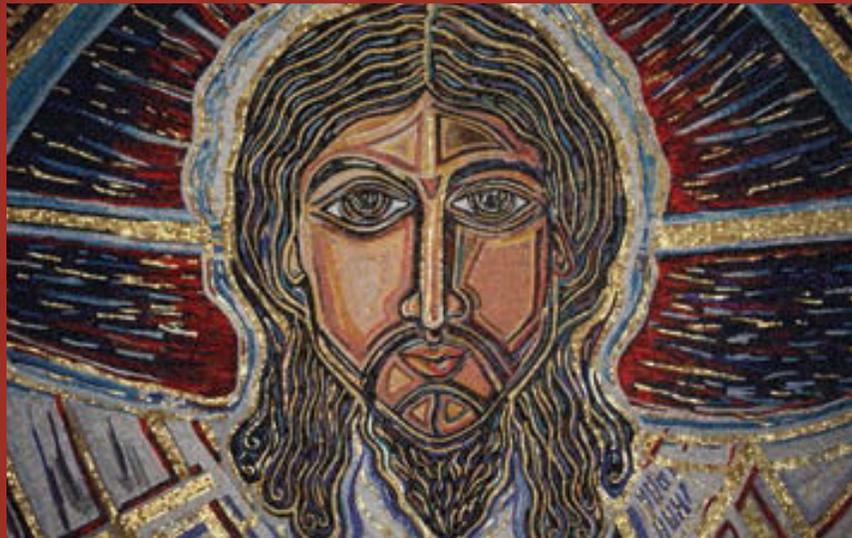


THE CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

The Community of Jesus is a fellowship of Christian disciples called by our Lord Jesus Christ and dedicated to the honor of his name. God's call is pure gift, and our grateful response, made possible by his grace, is the complete offering of our lives to him and to his service. (Rule of Life, Chapter 1)

Through the centuries, Christians have gathered to form communities in which they have supported one another in prayer, work, and fellowship. In that enduring tradition, members of the Community of Jesus are joined in a common commitment of love and service to God, to each other and to the world.

On a small plot of land overlooking Rock Harbor, Massachusetts, that commitment has taken the form of an ecumenical community in the Benedictine tradition. Members of the Community of Jesus, who come from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds and occupations, make professions of commitment according to their Rule of Life, including vows of obedience, stability, and conversion of life. Founded upon Scripture and the heritage of monastic tradition, the Community of Jesus gives definition to its purpose as a living witness to the values and principles inherent to Christian life and faith.



© Robert Benson Photography



Community of Jesus
5 Bay View Drive, Orleans, MA 02653
508-255-1094
www.communityofjesus.org
www.churchofthetransfiguration.org



THE CALL TO COMMUNITY LIFE

Our common life is the essential expression of our vocation. Because we have been united to God in the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are also united with one another. We dedicate ourselves to this calling as another aspect of our obedience to the great commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves.

(Rule of Life, Chapter 4)

Christians living in community is an idea as old as the New Testament itself. The Acts of the Apostles describes the common life shared by the early Christians of Jerusalem. Following that tradition, each generation has brought forth its own fresh expression of a "common life" in which people join together to live out their discipleship in support of one another.

The beginnings of the Community of Jesus can be traced to the meeting in 1958 of two Episcopal laywomen, Cay Andersen and Judy Sorensen. Their evolving ministry of teaching and prayer, associated with the charismatic renewal of that time, attracted the attention and enthusiastic support of a small group of people who moved to these grounds on the shores of Cape Cod Bay. Other individuals and families soon followed, compelled by a sense of vocation to share in this common life of prayer and work. Not long after, in 1970, the Community of Jesus was formally constituted.

Today, the Community numbers approximately 140 professed members, together with another 50 children and young people, who live in privately owned homes that surround the church and guesthouse. In addition, some 25 celibate Brothers and 60 celibate Sisters live in their respective houses—Zion Friary and Bethany Convent. Altogether, almost 275 people.



THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

The Community of Jesus finds the essential purpose of its existence in the worship of God who, by his very being, is worthy of all adoration and praise. Worship is an encounter with the Word of God, by which we are drawn into the mystery of communion with the Holy Trinity and with one another. (Rule of Life, Chapter 3)

The Church of the Transfiguration, dedicated in 2000, stands at the spiritual center of this monastic community, serving both as its principal place of worship and as a visible sign of God's presence in the midst of a living fellowship. The name of the church also reflects an essential part of the hopeful message of the Gospel, that in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, it is possible for our lives to be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

The worship of God has developed over the years into a full daily cycle of prayer in word and sacrament. Prayer is the rhythmic and unceasing heartbeat that both expresses and sustains the corporate life of this community and the individual lives of its members.

The Eucharist is the Community's principal act of worship. Presided over by one of the resident ordained clergy, the Eucharistic liturgy incorporates forms and prayers shared by most branches of the church, drawing from both early Christian sources and contemporary expressions.

The Liturgy of the Hours is the most frequent form of daily prayer. The Community gathers at designated hours—morning, noon, evening, and night—to worship with psalms, hymns, readings and prayers according to the ancient practice of Gregorian chant.





THE CALL TO UNITY

Jesus prayed for his followers "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). The Community of Jesus is committed to praying and working for a fuller expression of the unity of the Body of Christ through fellowship and reconciliation. (Rule of Life, Chapter 5)

That reconciliation begins with our relationship with God, and then with one another – in repentance for sin and in love for others – and in the witness of our common worship. Members of the Community come from many walks of life and various church backgrounds including Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Congregational, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Roman Catholic. Community members pray for a realization of a unity that is greater than the differences that have historically divided the church. Together with the challenges presented by such variety, comes a certain enrichment and strength. Drawing upon these diverse backgrounds, the Community seeks to build upon what is most commonly treasured by all.



THE CALL TO MINISTRY

As persons who have been consecrated to God and his service, we believe that every aspect of our life is to be brought into harmony with God's purposes, so that in all things God may be glorified. Through the arts, which are so closely associated with the Incarnation, the Community works diligently to proclaim the Word of God in tangible forms. Goodness, truth, and beauty are given expression through sanctified human labor. (Rule of Life, Chapter 2)

When Jesus called men and women to follow him, he also sent them forth to be his witnesses, to proclaim the good news of God's grace in word and deed. At the heart of the Community's ministry is the witness of its common life, the worship of God offered in its liturgy, and the work of creativity expressed through the arts. The Word of God is tangibly proclaimed in the publishing of books and music (Paraclete Press), and through both the visual and performing arts (Gloriæ Dei Cantores choir, Spirit of America band, Elements Theatre Company, and various Art Guilds).





THE COMMUNITY OF JESUS

ORLEANS, MASSACHUSETTS USA



THE MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY OF JESUS

is to be a faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to glorify God through worship, the common life, and the creative arts. The name of the Church of the Transfiguration reflects an essential part of the gospel message, that in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, it is possible for lives to be transformed, and for our life together to be an instrument of the healing love of God.

