



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21 May 2010

CONTACT: Kristina Huber
Director of Development

Stephanie Hall
Director of Public Relations
814-836-4100

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR SSJ SPIRIT OF COURAGE AWARDS

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania are accepting nominations for the 14th annual *SSJ Spirit of Courage Awards*. **The awards will be presented at the SSJ Spirit of Courage dinner which will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center.**

The Sisters are seeking nominees who exemplify extraordinary courage while dealing with personal struggles or in helping others cope with illness, injury, chemical dependency and/or economic adversity. Nominees must reside within the boundaries of the thirteen counties of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

"We're looking for those individuals in our own community who have faced incredible obstacles and persevered," said Margaret Ann Hardner, SSJ. "It's the ordinary people who refused to give up in the face of illness, injury or other adversity who represent *courage* in its truest form. They are the heart of the *SSJ Spirit of Courage*. Each of their stories is a gift to us as well as to their families and to those whose lives they have inspired."

The *SSJ Spirit of Courage* has a two-fold purpose: to honor individuals who have shown remarkable courage in their lives and to create an awareness of the various ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters of St. Joseph recognize individuals who portray the *Spirit of Courage* because it is a natural fit with their many ministries: *education, health care, care for the elderly, social outreach, shelter for the homeless and affordable housing for mothers and children.*

With more than 350 Sisters and Associates, the congregation continues to affirm its mission of unity of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God by undertaking whatever ministry might bring about unity and by continuously responding to the changing needs of the world.

For more information on the *SSJ Spirit of Courage* nominations and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kristina Huber at 814-836-4202 or kristina.huber@ssjerie.org. Nominations will be accepted through May 31, 2010.