You Cared and Lives Changed
Lives Changed in Los Angeles

Teachers and Preachers

“I’m very happy for myself and my congregation because I know that the people appreciate that now they understand me more and more.” - Father German Sanchez (from an article in Tidings)

A year ago, Father German Sanchez, an immigrant priest in Los Angeles who is now pastor of Saint Sebastian Parish, approached Sister Jean Morningstar to ask if he could join the Ripple Language Program for Immigrant Sisters. He wanted to improve his English accent so that he would be better understood by his congregation. Sr. Jean worked with Father German for a year, at first face to face, and then via Skype because of distance.

The Vicar for Clergy was impressed with the results and formed a committee to create a diocesan-wide program based on Sr. Jean’s idea. The result was TAP (Teachers and Preachers). The program, which Sister Jean coordinates, pairs 18 ‘preachers’ with 18 volunteer Sister ‘teachers’ who tutor them in English speaking and writing skills. Each week, the priest writes his homily and sends it via email to his Sister tutor, who corrects it and sends it back. Later in the week, the two meet and the priest practices reading the Gospel and delivering his homily as the Sister listens for correct pronunciation and patterns of speech that need work.

Holy Names Sister Mary Ann Connell is also involved in the program and works with Father Juan Francisco Gonzalez. To learn more, contact Dominican Sister Cecilia Canales, archdiocesan vicar for women religious.

Lives Changed in Oakland

Next Step Learning Center

“You can just see the sense of accomplishment in their faces, and the hope that they have for a better future for themselves and their families.” - Sister Inez, Volunteer Tutor

Sister Inez Sherwood is a volunteer tutor at Next Step Learning Center. One of the women she is helping is a 50 year old woman from Fiji, who has good reading skills but never learned how to write. The woman is determined to learn, and to acquire the skills and knowledge she needs to help her 13 year old son with his school work. Her oldest son is a graduate of Holy Names University and currently serves in the Marines.

Sister Inez is also tutoring a young Hispanic woman, who wants to improve her reading skills so that she can read to her little boy, and a number of young adults who hope to earn their GEDs. Visit www.nextsteplc.org to learn more or to volunteer.
the giving of one's self to others, that we truly live. ~ Ethel Percy Andrus

Lives Changed Across the United States

Nick’s Place (Maryland)

“As a 20 year old in rehab for the third time since I was 18, the task of getting and staying clean was daunting. Nick’s Place gave me a home when my own family wouldn’t, guidance when others had given up, and most of all hope. Something I myself had long given up on.” - Tim D.

Nick’s Place was named in memory of Nick Cristarella, who died 15 years ago as a result of his addiction. It was founded in the year 2000 by Rhea and Barry McVicker, who still participate on a daily basis. Sister Patricia Corbey was one of the founding board members. She is still active in that role and a “valuable resource to Nick’s Place on many levels,” according to Rhea. Since its opening, Nick’s Place has served over 170 young men and their families. It boasts a robust alumni group who continue to return each week to share their experience, hope, and love with new residents. For more information, visit www.nicksplace.org

A ministry grant from the Sisters of the Holy Names is helping to support Nick’s Place, a one of a kind transitional home for young men 20-26 years of age, who are beginning their journey of recovery from addiction. Recovery is not an easy process, but Nick’s Place makes it simpler by creating a family environment that supports growth and accountability. The focus is relapse prevention through mental, physical, and spiritual education; and participation in 12-step and in-house programs. Most of the staff are in recovery themselves.

The Solanus Casey Center (Seattle)

“You are the only person I’ve found who took time to be with me to help me.”
- Homeless woman speaking to Sr. Judy Ryan

The Solanus Casey Center is a place of welcome and hospitality for the homeless; a place to get warm, have a cup of coffee or tea, and experience a “respite” from the streets. The Center is a joint outreach of Catholic Community Services and St. James Cathedral Parish in Seattle. It provides vouchers that enable the homeless to get Washington State I.D.s (needed to apply for a job, housing, transportation, etc.) and gives referrals to places that can help provide food, clothing, legal assistance, medical or dental services, and housing—emergency, transitional or permanent, plus safe houses for victims of domestic violence and their children. The Center also has a number of discounted bus passes for the disabled and seniors.

Volunteer, Sister Judy Ryan, recently spent hours working to help a pregnant, forty year old, homeless woman and her 2½ year old child. The woman had left an abusive husband. She had been on a list for public housing for almost a year but still had not obtained permanent housing. She and her child were moving from shelter to shelter and she was desperate to find permanent housing before her baby was born. The woman was so grateful for Sr. Judy’s concern and assistance. Other agencies and places where she had gone for help had simply told her they had no openings and sent her away. It was a heart-breaking situation.

“This ministry keeps me very grounded in the real world; seeing the effects of this recession on people who have worked all their lives but now cannot land a job; people who would prefer to stay on the streets under the freeways, because “the shelters have bedbugs,” their few possessions are often stolen, and there is no quiet or peace…” - Sister Judy Ryan
I cannot do everything, but I can do something ~ Edward Everett Hale

Lives Changed in Lesotho, Africa

“Until recently, the children had to bring chairs from home to sit on. The chairs had to be carried back and forth each day since few families could afford to leave a chair at school.” - Sister Florence

SNJM preschools in Lesotho are helping to ease the burden on those who are struggling with disease, famine, and the additional responsibility of taking care of a generation of orphaned children. Preschoolers thrive on the motherly love and care shown to them by the Sisters. They receive at least 2 cooked meals a day and the skills they need to enter primary school (first grade). The Sisters also help the families. SNJM ministries provide pastoral care, food, clothing, health services, HIV/AIDS education, and help in preventing abuse, prostitution and human trafficking.

The Lesotho Sisters have made a great impact with little in the way of resources—no blackboards, and few, if any, tables and chairs where the children could write, draw, or do their lessons. Only St. Angela’s Preschool has wash basins where the children can clean up or wash their hands before meals, but the small or disabled children cannot reach them.

This year, with help from the Diocese of San Bernardino’s International Sacrificial Giving Grant for the Poor, SNJM preschools in the villages of Kolonyama, Maseru, and Mazenod, are getting some furnishings that will make a big change in the schools’ abilities to provide comfort, sanitation, nourishment, and lessons—stoves for heat and cooking, chalkboards, and tables and chairs. In the near future, with donations they are receiving from individual donors, the preschools hope to be able to purchase cupboards to store food, dishes, pans, and school supplies; shelves so children have a place to put their coats, artwork, etc.; mats to cover the concrete floors for naptime; and those wash basins.

Lives Changed in Peru

“In 2010, Sister Mary Ondreyco returned to Peru to minister at Marie Rose Centre in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima. Using the skills she acquired during her years as a teacher, a community organizer, and in her educational and pastoral ministries in Watsonville, Sr. Mary assists Sister Brigid Baumann, who founded the Centre, and Sister Lourdes Quintana, one of our Peruvian Sisters, with various educational programs.

They are changing lives by teaching adult women how to read and write, promoting educational programs for children and youth, and providing early education programs for young mothers and their infants. The Centre also has a summer program for youth aptly called “vacaciones utiles” … a useful vacation!

“As a young mother, I feel good about myself because I have learned how to care for my child with love, respect and patience. I’ve also learned how to use what I have in my house—in my kitchen or bedroom --- to help my child learn.” - Mother in the Parent-Infant Program
The charity that is a trifle to us, can be precious to others ~ Homer

**Lives Changed in Nicaragua**

**Sister Maura Clarke School (CECIM)**

Over 750 students (preschool through high school) have a chance at a better life because of Sister Maura Clarke School. Most of the students come from poor homes in neighborhoods that do not even have paved streets; almost half (46%) receive financial help.

Isabel Sanchez, an associate of the Sisters of the Holy Names, is Director of the Sister Maura Clarke Centre for Education and Training, the parent organization of the school. Sister Helen Garvey, though back in the United States, visits regularly to help with the school’s administration and to support the school library.

**The Farm at Casa Asis**

“We are trying to be as self sufficient as possible. We milk our own cows, catch our own fish and raise our own pigs and chickens.” - Sister Alanna Lechner

The farm at Casa Asis continues to operate and is doing quite well. It has a variety of farm animals, poultry, fields and orchards. Casa Asis provides meat, eggs, fruits and vegetables for a number of NPH (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos) homes, lowering their food costs. The Sisters also give food to sustain needy families in the area.

**News from Casa Asis Children’s Home**

This year will be quite different at Casa Asis, the NPH Children’s Home overseen by Sister Alanna Lechner. The government of Nicaragua continues to insist that orphaned or abandoned children are no longer to be placed in homes for children. Because of these regulations, all of the very young children have been moved, the preschool and lower grades are empty, and there will be no more young children coming. Nevertheless, Casa Asis is continuing to do what it can to help the children—following up on their placement, and helping with food and medical needs, when possible.

“It is difficult to see all of this when one realizes how many children are begging in the streets of Managua and in the market places of the major cities. It is also disturbing to follow up on those who have been removed from Casa Asis and see the miserable circumstances in which they are now living. So we leave it in God’s hands and do our best to take care of those who are in our care.” - Sister Alanna

Casa Asis will be now be home to teenagers; they started arriving in January. Their needs are quite different so programs and activities are being modified to nurture and mentor this older group of children. Sr. Alanna has plans to train some of the youth in leadership formation, with the idea that in the future they will be prepared to take over as leaders in the different NPH homes.

**Cover Page Photos:**
Top (L) Sister Josepha Rose Thompson, (R) Sister Mary Ann Connell helping Father Juan Francisco Gonzalez with English
Middle (L) Children at an SNJM preschool in Lesotho, Africa, (R) Sister Mary Ondreyco teaching at the Marie Rose Centre in Peru
Bottom (L) Sister Jean Elizabeth Griffin & Sister Rita Josephine McKernan working on a Brain Booster, (R) Children at Casa Asis
You Cared to Support Our Retired Sisters, and Lives Changed

Life is changing for the senior Sisters at the Holy Names Convent in Los Gatos. Campus Director Dayna Hurst, former CEO of St. Andre Health Care, has made a number of changes in policy and procedures that have cut costs and improved services. There is also a renewed focus on wellness of “mind, body, and spirit”. Dayna is working with Activities Director Ellen Fattal and Director of Nursing Karen Mandair to build a comprehensive Wellness Program for the Sisters that includes nutrition, exercise, and mental health.

Brain Boosters Program is a Big Hit

“Our brains are growing by leaps and bounds! These sessions have been challenging and a lot of fun.” - Sr. Barbara Carroll

Sisters at the convent were recently introduced to the Brain Booster Program, a series of classes, taught by professional facilitator Kristin Einberger, author of several books on the subject. The program promotes lifestyle changes that can boost brain health, and includes activities, mental exercises, and ‘tricks’ that can help improve attention and memory.

Not long ago, it was commonly believed that the brain was fully formed by the age of 25 and couldn’t develop or grow after that. But research by UCSF neuroscientists has shown that even mature human brains can form new neural connections and significantly adapt to counter aging. A recently released UCSF study shows a direct link between ‘brain training’ and improved mental functioning in day-to-day life. The study, which targeted working visual memory, found a nearly 10% improvement in the period following the training.

Mini-Bus Gives Sisters Greater Access to the Community

“It’s good to be able to do my own shopping and to have the opportunity to take in the sights of Los Gatos. We stop for ice cream, too, which is a real treat.” - Sister Margaret Campbell

The convent recently leased a mini-bus that is capable of safely transporting 10 Sisters (including 3 Sisters in wheelchairs). The mini-bus gives the Sisters increased mobility and is especially a blessing for the Sisters in the care center, some of whom were previously unable to participate in off-campus outings. The mini-bus is used for weekly shopping trips, trips to the town library, off-campus classes and special outings.

Care Center in Pilot Study of ‘Sensor Mats’

“We have been meeting with BAM Labs to look at ways we can utilize these devices to care for our Sisters and to prevent bed sores and falls.” - Karen Mandair, Director of Nursing

The care center is participating in a pilot study by BAM Labs. BAM has developed thin mats that go under a mattress and measure heart rate and breathing patterns with no disruption or intrusion on a person’s privacy. Data from the mats can be uploaded to a variety of computer devices, where it can be monitored by care center aides—alerting them to someone who is having difficulty sleeping, may need to be turned, or is getting up and will need assistance.
We touch each other’s hearts


From the time of my First Communion, I felt loved and called by Jesus, and I have simply tried to respond to that call throughout my life. ~ Sr. Mary O’Brien

Sister Mary O’Brien
(Sr. Miriam Charles)
May 7, 1922 - December 16, 2011

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now, remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ~ John 15:9-11

Sister Francesca Cabrini Weber
(Olga Marie Weber)
June 21, 1920 - December 23, 2011

I have seen the Hand of God clearly marking the way for me so that I have never doubted His care and designs for me. Yes, it has been one long, wonderful enterprise in keeping up with Him, as He leads in strange but exciting ways in my regard. ~ Sr. Alice Tobriner

Sister Alice Tobriner
(Sr. Marian Leona)
May 17, 1922 January 31, 2012

To learn more about a deceased Sister visit www.snimca.org and select Remembering Our Sisters from the What’s Happening pull-down menu

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SAVE THE DATES
Strawberry Lunch & Boutique  May 17
Annual Benefit Dinner  September 21
Harvest Tea & Boutique  October 25

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Mother Marie Rose, we entrust our gracious friends and benefactors, their families and their intentions, to your loving care.

Bronze sculpture by Sister Paula Mary Turnbull, SNJM
Co-cathedral Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Longueuil, Quebec