Celebrating 145 years of ministry and service in California!
Celebrating... Ministry

The Sisters of the Holy Names strive to embody and exemplify the spirit and charism of their foundress, Blessed Marie Rose, through ministries that focus on:

**educating and empowering people, with special concern for the poor and disadvantaged.**

SNJM Sisters still fulfill the traditional role of educator (teaching and administering in elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities) but we have expanded the definition of “educator” to meet the evolving needs of the Church and the world.

Today’s SNJM Sisters can be found ministering in community centers as well as in parishes. We provide adult education and leadership training. We work to heal and nurture the human spirit by providing spiritual direction, leading retreats, and offering counseling and pastoral care in prisons, hospitals, clinics, and other care facilities.

In this issue of Perspectives, we celebrate some of the ministries and accomplishments of today’s California Sisters.

Sister Elizabeth Davis wins 2013 Compassionate Care Leadership Award

On April 10, the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (CCCC) honored Sister Liz, as she is called, at their Annual Conference in Burlingame, California, for her work to promote and expand palliative care in the nursing home setting as well as her deep commitment to ensuring that all patients receive quality, compassionate care.

Residents and staff at Mercy Retirement and Care Center have known Sister Liz for more than 19 years. She provides a caring presence for the residents, who are seriously ill or approaching the end of life, and for their families.

*Her warmth and wisdom have benefited countless patients, family members and fellow care providers.*

Sister Liz has been instrumental in developing the Palliative Care Program at the Mercy Center and the Palliative Care Certificate Program for staff. She passionately believes that educating staff is key and is committed to informing patients and families about options in end-of-life care. Many of her materials and resources are now available to nursing homes throughout the country. Congratulations Sister Liz!

Sister Marcee Lyon reflects on creating home sweet homes

For the past 11 years, Sister Marcee Lyon has been working in the South Bay area securing housing for populations that have had a hard time doing so on their own. For five years she worked at the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center that created housing for people with psychiatric disabilities; and for the past seven years, she has been creating and developing safe and affordable housing for those with developmental disabilities at Housing Choices Coalition.

Sister Marcee remarked, “Having individuals with developmental disabilities live independently in the mainstream, helps everyone to understand just what it is to have a developmental disability and to see the ‘ABILITIES’ of these individuals instead of focusing on the ‘DIS-.’”

“I have heard parents say that they never thought their child would be able to live independently and are pleasantly amazed with the self-confidence that comes with this independence. It totally transforms their lives.”

It is part of the SNJM charism to attain for all people conditions of life more equitable and more worthy of human dignity.
Sister Alanna Lechner has had many job titles in her tenure at Casa Asis, Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos, Nicaragua, and now has added Fish Farmer to the list. This year, the children at Casa Asis were treated to a very special meal of home-grown fish for Good Friday.

Farming fish is an ideal venture for Casa Asis because the two major requirements are already met—that of water and large containers. The location on the shore of Lake Nicaragua provided them with a ready supply of fresh water, and two large abandoned drinking pools, once used by the cows, provide the vessels for the cultivation of the organic fish known as tilapia. Once the pools were refurbished, they were stocked with 2,000 fingerling tilapia, which survive by munching on algae produced by the ever-present sun, and on concentrated fish food. Aeration is provided by means of perforated PVC pipes through which water passes and drips gently into the pools. Apart from supplying the children with a virtually organic food source, the pool water is recycled to irrigate the plantain fields. Although a few of the tilapia were removed early for the Good Friday meal, the plan is to let the fish reach 1-½ pounds before being eaten by the children or sold at market. If this project continues to be successful, they hope to expand with four more pools in order to have fresh fish year round.

This Spring, undergraduate students, from the Spirituality and Social Justice class taught by Sister Sophia Park at Holy Names University in Oakland, California, traveled to the Mississippi Delta with ‘hammers in hand’ to help Sister Maureen Delaney and the West Tallahatchie Habitat for Humanity. Sister Maureen is Chairperson of the Board of WTHFH. The students worked side by side with the home’s owner-to-be installing wooden frames, sheetrock and insulation. The family has been waiting for a home for several years, and student Vinson Johnson said, “It was a great honor and privilege for us to help them obtain this dream.” The West Tallahatchie Habitat for Humanity project will enable the “working poor” to own their own homes. These families are chosen from those who are now living in sub-standard housing, are willing to put in 500 hours of ‘sweat equity’ to help build the house, and will be able to make the mortgage payments.

The Habitat house that Holy Names University worked on will be owned by LaShondra Harris, a single mom with three girls ages 13, 10 and 9. She works as a receptionist in the police department in Tutwiler. She presently lives in a small trailer with bad wiring. The girls sleep in the living room because the hot water heater and refrigerator are in the “bedroom.” She first applied for a Habitat house about four years ago. She was not chosen on that round, but kept applying. Finally, a year and a half ago, she was selected. LaShondra, her friends and family have been working with the volunteer Habitat groups to complete her 500 hours of sweat equity. She and her family are looking forward to moving into their new 3 bedroom Habitat home. “It’s a blessing. We are most grateful for all the volunteers who have helped us.”

SNJM and Habitat for Humanity: opening hearts and opening doors

I will make you a fisher of ... fish!

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Villa Maria del Mar turns 50

On June 1st, the Sisters of the Holy Names celebrated 50 years at Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center in Santa Cruz with a dinner for friends and benefactors and a silent auction.

Since its beginning, Villa Maria del Mar has been dedicated to hospitality. In 1891 the Catholic Ladies Aid Society in San Francisco was given the land and the Santa Maria del Mar Hotel was built and used as a resort and retreat center.

In 1963, the Sisters of the Holy Names purchased the property and the hotel was renamed Villa Maria del Mar, thus beginning the 50-year retreat ministry of the Sisters. The Villa has hosted retreats, seminars and conferences for thousands of groups and individuals: religious, educators, and non-profits of all kinds. It can accommodate as many as 41 single occupancy or 71 double occupancy guests, serves home cooked meals and has a quaint chapel. Currently there are four Sisters of the Holy Names serving at the Villa: Helen O'Sullivan, Lois MacGillivray, Mimi Maloney and Patti Doyle, Director, supported by 17 lay employees.

For more information, visit their website: www.villamariadelmar.org

“People have found that time spent by the sea not only enriches and enhances their own spiritual growth; it helps to transform the world with the blessings and graces they received during their time spent with God on this rugged coast overlooking Monterey Bay.”

Sister Mimi Maloney

Sisters and Associates working for the common good

Susie Hitchcock, Associate (Southern California), was honored by Catholic Charities of Los Angeles during their 29th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner for her 35 years of volunteer service as sacramental catechist at Holy Family Parish, South Pasadena. Susie is inspired by the charism of Blessed Marie Rose, and continues to welcome and catechize new generations of children whose parents were once her students.

Serving in the Names of Jesus and Mary

What does it mean to serve in the names of Jesus and Mary?

“The SNJM Sisters live each day in the service of others, nationally and internationally. We serve as Jesus served, with respect for all of creation and a dedication to the value of each person. We serve as Mary served, with faith and complete trust. We serve as they served, with the spirit in our hearts that nothing is impossible with God.”

Sister Celine Steinberger, Washington Development Director
May 10, 1868, the first Sisters of the Holy Names arrived in California and were treated to strawberries and cream. Each May, we remember our young, courageous founders by celebrating with strawberries.

On Thursday, May 16, with raindrops falling, the Los Gatos Marie Rose Guild hosted its annual Strawberry Luncheon and Boutique. The weather outside did not hamper the warm festivities inside.

It was an afternoon of great conversations and smiles. More pictures from the luncheon are on our website www.snjmca.org; select **Event Photo Albums** under **News and Events**

Thank you to all who participated in our Strawberry Day Drawing on May 23rd. To date, with your help, we have raised **$80,026**, to assist with the moving and living expenses of our retired and infirmed Sisters. Some of the Sisters have moved to Our Lady of Fatima Villa in Saratoga, California and have adjusted wonderfully to their new home.

**Drawing Winners**

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<th>Prize Level</th>
<th>Prize Amount</th>
<th>Winner Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st prize</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Maureen Sturla</td>
<td>Los Gatos, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd prize</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>John and Janice Burke</td>
<td>Richmond, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd prize</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Sheila and Wallace Brown</td>
<td>Palm Springs, CA</td>
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Winning tickets were drawn by Jubilarians Sr. Margaret Kennedy, Sr. Dorothy Clare Klingler and Sr. Mary Grace Dykzeul.
Jubilee is a time of reflecting, remembering, and giving thanks to God for life, love, people, service, and faithfulness.

We rejoice with this year’s Jubilarians celebrating their anniversaries of ministry.

Sr. Margaret Kennedy (Sr. Margaret Eleanor); Sr. Sally Gunn (Sr. Susan Roberta); Sr. Barbara Boudreau (Sr. Augustine Mary); Sr. Carol Hallmeyer (Sr. Irene Kathryn); Sr. Mary Pat LeRoy (Sr. Maureen John).

Back row: Sr. Permelia Weaver (Sr. Alice Margaret); Sr. Marie Kronheimer (Sr. Joseph Louis); Sr. Aileen Carissimi (Sr. Louise Christine); Sr. Geraldine Will (Sr. Michael Joseph). Front row: Sr. Noël Girard (Sr. James Paul); Sr. Dorothy Clare Klingler; Sr. Margaret Campbell (Sr. Lawrence Mary); Sr. Marion Patrick Connors.

Sr. Mary Grace Dykzeul; Sr. Gemma Fisher (Sr. Arthur Mary).
In Memoriam

Sister Anne Dinneen
Sr. Michele Denise
July 13, 1939 – August 29, 2012
“What does GOD require of you?
To act justly and to love tenderly and
to walk humbly with your God.”
MICAH 6:8

Sister Emily Marie McKernan
July 17, 1919 – March 23, 2013
“Lord, you know all things; You know
that I love you.” JOHN 21:17

Sister Miriam Irene Furrer
May 17, 1925 – May 16, 2013
“A woman wrapped in silence, and
the seed of silence was her heart that
tried to give all that it held to give,
and ever more.” JOHN LYNCH

Sister Barbara Stark
Sr. Joseph William
January 16, 1932 – June 1, 2013
“Ground me, grace me, embrace me
for the waltz of my life. Fulfill the
promise seeded in me, that even the
lame shall leap.” PHYLLIS LEE STANDEFER

Sister Maureen Patricia McCall
Sr. Mary Alice
June 13, 1919 – June 2, 2013
“How great are God’s riches! How deep
is God’s wisdom and knowledge! For all
things were created by God, and all things
exist through God and for God. To God be
the glory forever! Amen.” ROMANS 11:33, 36

A Gift of Prayer is a thoughtful and special way to honor someone, remember the deceased, give thanks for God’s many blessings, or celebrate a special occasion. A Gift of Prayer can be particularly consoling for a friend or loved one who is coping with a death or other life challenge.

A Gift of Prayer

To learn more about the life and ministry of these Sisters, visit www.snjmca.org: select Sisters Obituaries under News and Events

SEND CARD TO ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________
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SIGN CARD FROM ________________________________________
personal note (optional) __________________________________

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City, State Zip ____________________________________________

Enclosed is a donation of $_______ check #________
MAIL TO: Sisters of the Holy Names, P.O. Box 907, Los Gatos, CA 95031. A Gift of Prayer can always be made through our website: www.snjmca.org

Any additional information or instruction?
________________________________________________________
Please help us make a difference.
A donation can be made online anytime at www.snjmca.org or print and mail this form.

I/we want to support the Sisters with a tax deductible gift of $__________________

To be used for  □ Greatest Need  □ Retired Sisters  □ Ministry

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□ I would like to be a monthly donor. Please send envelopes.

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We are grateful for your gifts, and keep all our benefactors in our prayers.

Prayer to Blessed Marie Rose Durocher

Blessed Marie Rose,
Obtain for us today
the audacity of Faith
the simplicity of Hope
the power of Love.

That we may actualize the words of Jesus:
I have come to cast fire upon the earth,
and would that it were already kindled.

We ask this in your name and
in the names of Jesus and Mary.

Amen.