

perspectives

SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

CALIFORNIA PARTNERS IN MISSION

• SPRING 2014

Committed to mission,
and with unwarranted courage,
the Sisters stand at the edge
of new beginnings.



Oakland
1868



Los Gatos
1952



Campbell
2013



Saratoga
2013

Our ministry begins with the dawn of each day, no matter where our feet are.

The Sisters take their latest transitions in stride as they settle into their new homes, meet new people and continue to embrace as guide, inspiration, and strength the persons of Jesus and Mary.



Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey, hostess at the Los Gatos Convent

Spring has sprung in Los Gatos, and all the blossoms make it even sweeter to host groups in the Casa Room at the Convent in Los Gatos. To date, in 2014, seven groups have enjoyed SNJM hospitality.

For the Sisters continuing to reside at the Convent, Tuesday is still 'fresh baked cookie day' and business is being conducted as usual.

In addition, **Sister Joan Katheryn Giubergia** and the Marie Rose Guild are busy creating items for the final Guild Boutique.

“Exercising” with Sister Barbara at Merrill Gardens

“It’s not a Class, it’s an Experience,” explains **Sister Barbara Williams** (Sister Roberta Marie). She is talking about the Spiritual Exercises group she is facilitating at her new home at Merrill Gardens, Campbell. Based on meditation, prayer and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises help people deepen their relationship with God. Sister Barbara, for almost 40 years, has given Spiritual Exercises retreats. These are 30 week long programs of daily prayer and meetings with a spiritual director. Sister Barbara has adapted the program to meet the needs of retired senior citizens. She says it is a perfect time in one’s life for reflection and deepening your relationship with God. One participant remarked:

“If I’m going to spend all eternity with God, I better get to know him better!”

Merrill Gardens is dedicated to spiritual development along with offering physical, social, intellectual, and emotional interests. They were thrilled to have Sister Barbara offer her time and experience. The residents who are participating say they didn’t expect to find an opportunity such as this when they moved into Merrill Gardens, and they say it is just what they needed. Sister Barbara didn’t know she would have another opportunity to continue the ministry work she loved. This transition is a blessing; this transition is... an experience!



Sister Barbara Williams at Merrill Gardens with flier for the Spiritual Exercises

The tie that binds is made of yarn at Our Lady of Fatima Villa

“Make new friends but keep the old.” This line from a Girl Scout campfire song comes to mind when thinking of the Sisters that moved to Our Lady of Fatima Villa in Saratoga, California. There is no truer ‘Girl Scout’ than **Sister Mary Ann Stark** (Sister Clara Mary). While visiting the other Sisters, she met one of Sister Gabriel’s neighbors—Trudy, and a new friendship blossomed over their mutual interest in knitting. Sister Mary Ann did not get the chance to knit as much as she’d like while at the Los Gatos Convent, but now in her new home she has renewed her talent.

Sister Mary Ann shares her wonderful wit and compassion with everyone she meets—residents, staff and guests. She is also the president of the Resident Council of Assisted Living.



Happy Birthday!
Sister Mary Louise Guenther
(Sister Regina Rose)
100 years old on March 18th

Sister Mary Louise taught elementary school before her retirement. She enjoys visits from Sisters and friends, and attending celebrations. Happy 100th Birthday Sister Mary Louise!



Your Prayer Ornaments graced our Christmas trees in the Convent, and now the Sisters and Associates are praying especially for you and your intentions all year. We are so grateful for each and every one of our donors. Thank you for your gifts and your friendship.

My years at Ramona Convent and several additional ones, I count as some of the greatest blessings in my life. You have had a strong influence in shaping me into the woman I am today. The SNJM’s have a unique ability to move ahead with the times, recognizing the current needs of our Church and our world.

CATHY HARRIGAN, West Virginia

I am most grateful for the excellent teaching and nurturing from SNJM during my years at St. Theresa School and HNHS. They prepared me so well for college and life beyond.

DR. JUDITH LAMBERTI, California

All 19 of my siblings were taught by the Sisters in Venice, California at St. Mark’s School—we were very blessed to have been taught by them.

DIANE LENNON GASS, Missouri

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” but ...*Who is your neighbor?*

The Sisters of the Holy Names bring the parable of the Good Samaritan to life in their ministry work. Neighbors come in all shapes, sizes, and needs, and the Sisters never cross to the other side of the road.

The SNJM Ministry Fund Grants were established to help U.S.-Ontario Province Sisters answer the calls of their neighborhood ministry needs when local funds are not sufficient. The Sisters must show that their projects are in line with at least one of the core ministry values of the Sisters of the Holy Names. (You can find the list of core ministry values on the last page.)

On the next few pages, we are highlighting three 2014 Ministry Fund Mini-Grant recipients. As you will read, the organizations the Sisters are working with are making a vital impact in their neighborhoods. The Sisters of the Holy Names are so grateful to have these opportunities to contribute.

“Cultivating and respecting the talents, abilities, and potential of each person...” in other words, loving your neighbor as yourself.

St. Mary's Center: Transforming Lives, Building Community, Creating Change

Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Names in 1973, St. Mary's Center has become a cornerstone of the community. In addition to the thriving Preschool program, it offers comprehensive services for homeless seniors. Advocates for shelter and housing, medical and mental health, legal, financial, food, and recovery, can all be found here.

St. Mary's Center also boasts a flourishing creative arts program. Staff and volunteers use creative arts as therapy to “build self-awareness and an inter-connection among participants and the community-at-large.” Art is incorporated into the Recovery 55 program—a daily outpatient program for seniors with mental illness and addiction issues, and in the Women's Support Group. An Open Art Studio gives homeless artists materials to use and a place to work. There are also creative arts and writing classes for the Winter Shelter Residents at the Center.

In addition, St. Mary's Center holds annual cultural events and celebrations that combine dance, music, drama, storytelling, poems, and ritual.

Sister Sally Slyngstad, a member of the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Center, says the Center continues to reflect our SNJM values to work for the full development of all persons, especially those most vulnerable. This year, an SNJM mini-grant will be used to help support the Arts and Cultural programs at St. Mary's Center.



“Coming to St. Mary's Center is a celebration of life. What's important is the people. Each of us has a story; our different stories touch us all. We connect and belong in circle, in story, and to one another.”

Leon Kennedy, a senior artist at St. Mary's Center



2035 Ashby Ave.,
Berkeley, CA
510-644-4930

expressionsgallery.org

St. Mary's Center seniors will be exhibiting at the *Homelessness* exhibit at Expressions Art Gallery in Berkeley, California from January 25 to April 18.

Funds and materials were donated to assist the homeless artists create and frame their work for presentation, and a portion of all sales and tax deductible donations will go back to support the non-profit organizations. For more information, visit St. Mary's website: www.stmaryscenter.org

Rose Haven: a safe haven for women and their children

Rose Haven is a safe daytime community shelter in Portland, Oregon, assisting homeless and abused women and their children. It offers compassion, community and practical assistance without question or judgment. **Sister Judy Bertoli** has been a volunteer at Rose Haven for nine years and the SNJM charism is alive and in action at Rose Haven.

It all starts with deep respect for each and every individual: guests can come by and rest or socialize, have a hot meal, 'shop' for clothing and hygiene items, use a phone, get set up with an email account, and/or participate in activities such as career assistance, life skills and creative arts. They can also meet with an advocate to help with a whole array of services. Partnering with more than 90 agencies, it offers a unique one stop shop to assist women with any social services, medical and housing issues.

“When I come here, I’m welcomed and no one judges me.”

Rose Haven Guest

The Sisters of the Holy Names mini-grant will fund the Identification Program, which SNJM started in 2008. ID papers such as birth certificates, driver’s licenses, State Identification cards are necessary to secure housing, school enrollment and social services. Guests that come to Rose Haven sometimes need to have them replaced and the cost can add up. The ID program has helped thousands over the past six years. Rose Haven is indebted to all its faithful volunteers and community donations that have made such a difference to so many women and children.

For more information, visit Rose Haven’s website: www.rosehaven.org



The painting in the entry way of Rose Haven is a lovely welcome.

Sister honored for her 40 years of prison ministry



Saturday night is usually a night for oneself, for fun or relaxation. But for 78 year old, **Sister Rose Christina Momm**, Saturday night is the time to visit the inmates at the Polk Correctional Institution located outside Polk City, Florida.

Last November, inmates, staff, and ministry personnel all gathered, as Deacon David Gray, Director of the Ministry to the Incarcerated for

the Diocese of Orlando, honored Sister Rose Christina for her 40 years of ministry.

Sister Rose Christina professed her final vows in 1955, and began her ministry as a teacher. In 1969, while teaching at Santa Fe Catholic High School in Lakeland, Florida, five young inmates from Raiford Prison came to speak to the students. The inmates group was called “Operation Teenager” and their purpose was to share their stories and the choices that led them to prison, in hopes that their stories might deter other youth from going down the wrong path. It was then that Sister

Rose Christina heard the statistic that 5,000 people were incarcerated in Florida. She was upset to think of so many people in prison (today, there are 20 times as many!), and God tapped her to bring the message of hope, peace, and love to the inmates... much to her trepidation.

“That’s when I felt I was struck by a bolt of lightning. God must have said, ‘How about you grit your teeth and bear it and get out there and do something.’ So that’s when I went out.”

Over the years, she has visited and corresponded with many inmates, offering hope and prayers and helping them to realize God has not abandoned them. Helping those most in need and loving everyone unconditionally brings much joy to Sister Rose Christina.

“These people seem to be so grateful for anybody who helps them. I find when I treat them kindly and I respect them, they feel comfortable around me as well.”

Sister Rose Christina Momm

Teenagers feed those in need on Capitol Hill

Twice a week students from Gonzaga College High School, in Washington D.C., prepare and deliver meals to over 60 low income senior citizens in the housing projects near the school. This is the Campus Kitchen Project, one of several service learning opportunities at the school.

The Campus Kitchen Project is focused on hunger relief and student leadership development. Its goal is to use under-used resources: food that would normally be discarded by the cafeteria, on-campus kitchen facilities, and student volunteers to make healthy meals to feed the hungry in the community. The students learn about food nutrition, budgeting, and meal planning as well as hone their food preparation and cooking skills. Gonzaga College High School is one of 34 participating education institutions and was the first high school to join.

Sister Barbara Spears along with **Sister Carroll Ann Kemp**, the Pastoral Associate in the Campus Ministry Office, supervise the students' planning, preparing, cooking, packaging and delivering the meals. The Campus Kitchen Project uses the McKenna Center's kitchen facilities in the basement of St. Aloysius Church located on the school campus. The McKenna Center, open every day, is a very active social outreach center, and the Campus Kitchen Project is blessed to have the use of this facility and the cooperation and support of the McKenna Center's staff. As a recipient of an SNJM mini-grant in 2014, the grant money will be used to purchase additional food items to help round out the meals when needed.



Gonzaga students and Ms. Patty Tobin bundle up to deliver the Campus Kitchen Project meals.

“The project provides a much needed service to these elderly members of a very poor community while affording the students an opportunity to serve those less fortunate.” Sister Barbara Spears

The Gonzaga College High School Campus Kitchen Project was featured in a November 2012 AARP article, called “Serving Up Food and Life 101.” To read it, go to: www.aarp.org and search for ‘Gonzaga College High School.’



Sliced ham, macaroni and cheese, spinach, and pound cake.



All in the Family

Three generations of beautiful ladies came to the 2013 Los Gatos Marie Rose Guild Harvest Tea.

St. Mary's School fifth grader Megan Milligan served tea to her grandmother Maureen O'Connell, while her mom, Anne Milligan, helped out behind the scenes.

A Gift of Prayer is a thoughtful and special way to 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. To have the Sisters pray for you or someone you know, please fill out the form below and mail to us.

PRAYERS FOR _____
NAME OF PERSON/PERSONS

IN MEMORIAM (RECENTLY DECEASED? Yes No)

SPECIAL INTENTION _____

_____ healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.

TO HONOR/CELEBRATE _____

_____ birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

SEND CARD TO _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

SIGN CARD FROM _____

personal note (optional) _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

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

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

Sister Catherine Irene Thoeni

Catherine Jeanne Thoeni

May 13, 1922 – November 13, 2013

"Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to our God with songs of praise!" PSALM 95:2



Sister Alma Rose Gaffney

Mary Ellen Gaffney

April 24, 1923 – December 23, 2013

"Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." PSALM 23:6



Sister Bernice Breen

Sr. Matthew of Mary

June 7, 1930 – January 11, 2014

"Hands gentled to a frail humanity which would cry out its gratitude today; yet wordless stands before a God who reads our hearts."



SR. CLAIRE MADELEINE CARLIN, SNJM

Sister Thomasine McMahan

Mary Veronica McMahan

November 20, 1922 – February 20, 2014

"I have lived a rich, grace-filled life. I have experienced things I never dreamt of."



SR. THOMASINE MCMAHON, SNJM

Sister Nancy Teskey

Sr. Mary Julianne

October 29, 1942 – July 12, 2013

"A sister can be seen as someone who is both ourselves and very much not ourselves—a special kind of double."

TONI MORRISON



Sister Helen Walsh

Sr. Mary Concilia

October 22, 1919 – July 27, 2013

"The more I speak of Christ to others, the more my faith and my love in Christ grows." SR. HELEN WALSH, 1998



Sister Francis Paul Peterson

Gloria Anne Peterson

December 3, 1930 – August 29, 2013

"There is no greater consolation to the human spirit than the compassionate presence of another." STEPHEN SIMS



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

Please make check payable to: Sisters of the Holy Names. Check # _____

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

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3 Digit Security Code _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

I would like to get information about Estate Planning.

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

Please mail to:

Sisters of the Holy Names
P.O. Box 907
Los Gatos, CA 95031-0907

Upcoming Events

- April 26 Golden Jubilee
- May 23 Annual Strawberry Drawing
- May 1 Strawberry Lunch & Boutique
- May 18 Los Gatos Convent Open House
- June 1 Senior Jubilee

SNJM Core Ministry Values

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 that 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, and 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.

PRIVACY POLICY: The Sisters of the Holy Names value the relationships we have built with our many friends and benefactors. We respect your right to privacy and honor any requests for anonymity. All information in our database is kept strictly confidential. We do not share, loan, or sell any names or addresses, nor will we release any information about you without your prior consent.

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408-395-2868 • kondreyco@snjmson.org • www.snjmca.org