perspectives

“I invite you to meet me in the Heart of Jesus, for it is there that I wish to make my dwelling and where, if you so choose, we shall never be parted.”

– Mother Marie Rose
The Blessing of a New Home

What others might call “coincidence,” we have experienced as miracles! One of the most surprising acts of God’s Providence took place this winter over the period of a few months. As preparations were being made for the Sisters’ move to Merrill Gardens, Campbell, we found ourselves next door to a small church. Father Michael Ferrito, rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, warmly welcomed us to the neighborhood and extended an invitation to the Sisters to use the Church for prayer.

As the weeks passed Fr. Mike let us know that the Episcopal Diocese had approved the merger of this Church with another in the area; their parish would be closed. Our province leadership saw an opportunity for a chapel, offices for support services and a residence! They negotiated the purchase of the property which will now be known as Marie Rose Center.

A Blessing of the New Home

On February 27, Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of San Jose and Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real joined Sisters in a small ceremony at the Chapel, blessing the transfer from one community to another. The Sisters have been using the Holy Spirit Chapel for weekday Mass and/or communion service. Some Sisters from the area, visiting friends, and a few Merrill Gardens residents sometimes join them. All of us are grateful for our Jesuit celebrants from Los Gatos as well as the priests from our nearby parish of St. Lucy’s in Campbell.

Photos from top, clockwise: Holy Spirit Episcopal Church now known as Marie Rose Center; Handing over the keys: Jo Ann McClain, Father Mike Ferrito, Sr. Kathryn Ondreyco, Sr. Margaret Kennedy, Sr. Mary Pat LeRoy, The Rev. Canon Brian Nordwick, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, Eric Morley; gathering for the blessing; Sisters and Holy Spirit parishioners enjoying the reception afterwards; Bishop Mary and Father Mike holding rose bushes—gifts from the Sisters of the Holy Names; Bishop Patrick J. McGrath giving his blessing.
Communion with Our Sisters

Merrill Gardens offers a full and varied array of activities for its residents. Our Sisters can be found participating in a number of these activities—Sister Joan Bourdon has joined the knitting group, Sister Kathleen McDonough works on puzzles, Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey is on the Resident Council and Sister Mary Elizabeth Doherty is the unofficial ‘greeter,’ as she likes to sit in the foyer, and watch the ‘comings and goings.’

It is particularly nice to see “Communion with Our Sisters” on the weekly calendar every Monday at 11:15 am. Some of the Sisters preside at the communion service in the Merrill Gardens Theater for anyone to attend. Residents are also invited to attend Mass and/or communion services at Holy Spirit Chapel, Tuesday through Friday. Merrill Gardens has not only been accommodating to our Sisters but has embraced our Sisters and claimed them for their own.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Q: What happens to my prayer requests now?

A: Nothing has changed when it comes to your prayer requests. The Sisters have been and will continue to remember you and your intentions at Mass and in their prayers.

The Sisters of the Holy Names are not known to shy away from an opportunity or a challenge, not even a rap music video. Many of our Sisters at Merrill Gardens can be seen participating in this video produced by their active living director. To watch for yourself, go to www.youtube.com and type “Merrill Gardens at Campbell Move In Rap” in the search window.

A peek inside Holy Spirit Chapel

Renovations will make the chapel accessible for our Sisters with walkers and wheelchairs. Gifts, given in the enclosed envelope or on our website, will be used for that purpose.

Community at Our Lady of Fatima Villa

The Sisters at Fatima Villa are also keeping busy and sharing their lives with the other residents. Unsolicited compliments are heard all the time from visitors, residents and staff.

Our Sisters are keeping the SNJM ministry of hospitality alive and well and touching the hearts of those they meet.
Celebrating our heritage around the state with strawberries

May 10, 1868, the first Sisters of the Holy Names arrived in California and were treated to strawberries and cream. Each May, across the state, we remember our young, courageous founders by celebrating with strawberries.

On Thursday, May 1st, the Los Gatos Marie Rose Guild hosted its annual Strawberry Luncheon and Boutique. Both the Casa and Garden rooms were filled with guests who enjoyed a lovely luncheon. Sister Kathryn Ondreyco thanked the Marie Rose Guild for their many years of support.

More pictures from the day 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 $57,293, to assist with the living expenses of our retired and infirm Sisters.

Drawing Winners

1st prize $1,000 Loreene A. Giansiracusa, Los Gatos, CA
2nd prize $500 DeWitt Mayhew, Chatsworth, CA
3rd prize $250 Leslie and Jeri Hench, Los Gatos, CA

Portions of the prize money have been donated back to the Sisters.

Winning tickets were drawn by Jubilarians Sr. Rita Josephine McKernan, Sr. Mary Alice Hein and Sr. Joan Bourdon
Ramona turns 125

In 1889, eight Sisters of the Holy Names traveled three days by boat from Northern California to establish a school for young women in the San Gabriel Valley. On the 15th of November, they entered their new home to begin their new endeavor, Ramona Convent.

Ramona will be 125-years old this year. We will share some of the celebration in an upcoming issue of Perspectives.
Jubilee 2014

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 California Jubilarians celebrating their anniversaries of ministry.

**60**

**70 and 80**

**Back row:** Sr. Barbara Bray (Sr. Alice Anne), Sr. Betty Shields (Sr. Michele Theresa), Sr. Cynthia Canning (Sr. Maureen Lawrence), Sr. Maureen Delaney (Sr. Maureen James), Sr. Lolita Krebsbach (Sr. Thomas Michael).

**In front:** Sr. Mary Margaret Mulgrew (Sr. Miriam Anita).

**Left to right:** 80 year—Sr. Mary Louise Guenther (Sr. Regina Rose), 70 year—Sr. Therese Ottman (Sr. Mary Gertrudis), Sr. Mary Anselm Grover. **Not Pictured:** Sr. Helena Gleeson (Sr. Mary Christopher).

**Back row:** Dorothy Nolan (Sr. James Timothy), Sr. Dianne Fagan (Sr. Regina Katherine), Sr. Rita Josephine McKernan, Sr. Elizabeth Davis (Sr. Marian Agnes), Sr. Jacqueline Quinn (Sr. Mary Roberta), Sr. Joan Bourdon (Sr. Joseph Anthony).

**Front row:** Sr. Miriam Mark Eddy, Sr. Rosemary Everett (Sr. Charles Kevin), Sr. Patricia Bussman (Sr. Mary Annunciata), Sr. Inez Sherwood.
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.

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

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**Sister Marilyn Murphy**
Sr. Andrew Marie
January 21, 1930 - April 18, 2014

“Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.”
SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

**Sister Josepha Rose Thompson**
Patricia Ann Thompson
May 13, 1927 - April 29, 2014

“May I say with St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, ‘I will spend my heaven doing good upon the earth.’ I shall look down upon the Community which has given me life more abundantly and pray for its members with the angels and saints of God.”
SISTER JOSEPHA ROSE, 1957

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**Sister Rose Eleanor Ehret**
Margaret Jean Ehret
February 1, 1927 - May 21, 2014

“The true spirit of delight, the exaltation, the sense of being more than human, which is the touchstone of the highest excellence, is to be found in mathematics as surely as poetry.”
BERTRAND RUSSELL

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**Sister Sally Thompson**
Sr. Mary Anselma
March 24, 1926 - June 2, 2014

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”
JOHN 15:11

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**We are keeping our Los Gatos P.O. Box 907 and will check it every day (except Sunday)!”**
Please help us make a difference.
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 #___________
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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.

Farewell Open House
On May 18th, the Convent in Los Gatos hosted an open house for our benefactors, friends, and neighbors. Thirty Sisters and Associates volunteered their Sunday afternoon to meet, greet, and share stories and hospitality. It was a great opportunity for all to reminisce. More pictures from the day are on our website www.snjmca.org; select Event Photo Albums under News and Events.

“I really enjoyed the opportunity to visit one last time and lock in the memories.”
Tom Albanese

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