

perspectives

SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

• CALIFORNIA PARTNERS IN MISSION

• AUTUMN 2014

“OK God, here I am.
What would you like
of me?”

You may think you're just a drop
in the ocean, but look at the
ripple effect one drop can make!

“How is God calling me?”

Decisions, decisions, decisions... since the beginning, God has asked us to take heed of our decisions. Because our life can be significantly altered by the paths we chose, we worry a lot about decisions, but we do have an ally always with us... God. “We all make decisions constantly, some with careful reflection, many offhandedly and without much thought. What if we understood these decisions, minor as well as major, as a matter of faithful Christian living, ...to come closer to God in all our actions, in all our decisions, and in everything we do?” asks **Sister Elizabeth Liebert** (Sister Beth).



Sister Beth, who teaches spirituality at San Francisco Theological Seminary, has done much research and reflection on the subject. Her book, *The Way of Discernment, Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*,

“Discernment is a way we reflect on our lives before God. ...discernment helps us bring ourselves back to the questions, ‘why are we here?’ and ‘where are we going?’”

is a great guide to the practice of discernment (faithful decision making). It offers exercises such as the use of reason, intuition, emotion, and imagination, that can help you see where God is already at work in your life and allows you the freedom to become increasingly generous with your life in response.

In the fall of 2013, as a resident scholar at the Collegeville Institute, she continued her exploration of the art and practice of Christian discernment. She shares her insights in a video interview. You can view the video on the Collegeville Institute website: collegevilleinstitute.org/blog/art-spiritual-practice-discernment/

The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making by Sister Elizabeth Liebert is available in paperback at bookstores and also as a Kindle eBook at Amazon.

Contemplating a Global Sorority

Sister Sophia Park is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Holy Names University. She is also a contributor to the Global Sisters Report website—a project of the National Catholic Reporter. As well as reporting on the news, the Global Sisters Report is an excellent venue for Sisters to share their thoughts and reflections with other Religious communities around the world. In August, Sister Sophia wrote an article for the “Contemplate This” column reflecting on this new global sorority.

Sister Sophia pointed out that there are challenges that come with cultural differences, that need to be

“One of the most beautiful definitions of contemplation is: ‘a long and loving look at the real.’ Contemplation ...invites us to face reality—as it is, (and when)... we look at others as real, we can see all kinds of goodness, beauty and truth.”

acknowledged. An example of this: American Sisters tend to jump quickly into dialogue, which can be intimidating to those from cultures that do



not encourage expressing opinions. Remembering to slow down, relax our minds and our vision and look with “a long and loving look,” can help lessen the differences.

The one common affinity in global sorority is prayer, “when we pray together, I feel a sisterhood deeper than at any other time...I experience being together and an embracing of the globe.”

A truly global individual herself, Sister Sophia was who the National Catholic Reporter turned to when they wanted a South Korean native’s view on Catholicism in South Korea before Pope Francis’ visit. To read Sister Sophia’s article, as well as hear her interview with Thomas C. Fox: visit www.globalsistersreport.org



Front row, L-R: Sisters Mariellen Blaser, Patti Wasson, Guadalupe Guajardo, Sophia Park and Anna Keim
Middle row: Sisters Mary Sullivan, Carol Higgins, Janyce Bouta, Carol Selak, Mary Pat LeRoy and Linda Haydock
Back row: Sisters Chris Patrinos, Marcee Lyon, Mary Slater, Peggy Hurley, Mary E. Tracy, Susan Wells, Pat Corbey, Nancy Clemmons, Cathy Beckley and Mary Haupt

The “After 70” Sisters discuss the future and keeping their footing on shifting ground

A group of approximately 25 Sisters from the U.S.-Ontario Province, who entered the community after 1970, have been getting together every couple of years since 2004.

The primary focus has been to better know one another in an atmosphere of prayer, relaxation, and fun! They discuss issues that are pertinent to their age group along with the issues of the community.

Sister Carol Selak explained “Everyone knows the precious gift that we are to one another in Religious Life. Getting to know and be inspired by others who share a similar call to both intimacy with God and Service brings us not only inner joy, but a possibility of discerning together how best to bring our unique and special gift as Sisters of the Holy Names to others in this time we are living with its unique realities.”

“One of the best parts is the strengthening connection we made with each other, since our ministries are all over and several are where we are the only Sister present.”

—Sister Peggy Hurley

This year’s retreat was organized by **Sisters Janyce Bouta, Chris Patrinos, and Sophia Park**. They coordinated deep and meaningful times of prayer and invited **Sister Mary Pat LeRoy**, who presented a program titled: “Shifting Ground.” This led to some deep and wonderful discussion around adapting to the times and living into the future.

“The most salient moment for me was when Sister Mary Pat said that we are the midwives for the future of religious life.” —Sister Anna Keim

A favorite activity involved creating a collage mandala together, that was then used as a decorative prayer symbol for the weekend. Relaxation included fun community moments of bocci ball and Scattegories.

Each time this group has gathered, the pleasure and dynamic of being together has “ripened with age.” They are all looking forward to their next gathering at Santa Cruz in 2017!

Opportunities as deep as the ocean at Villa Maria del Mar

In Santa Cruz, the Sisters at Villa Maria del Mar have been praying for new ways to share their wonderful home and enhance its spiritual ministries.

Sister Molly Neville offered to help reach out to see if there was any interest in organized Spiritual Direction opportunities. Sister Molly wrote to pastors, catechists, and other parish and Catholic school leaders, about the possibility; and in her conversations with them, learned that there was strong interest. She organized a group of SNJM and other spiritual directors to offer spiritual accompaniment on Wednesdays and some Saturdays.

When Bishop Garcia from the Diocese of Monterey read Sister Molly's announcement, he asked her to consider helping arrange spiritual direction for the Permanent Deacon Candidates and their wives. Sister Molly will also arrange in-service opportunities at the Villa for spiritual directors (lay, priests and religious) in the diocese. They plan for an Intensive in-service week for May 2015 that will focus on the integration of active listening skills, prayer development, and the art of discernment. The Villa is so pleased to be able to support all the facets of this new transformational effort!

Looking inside the Villa, other opportunities came to light. **Sister Guadalupe Guajardo** will offer a charism and team-building workshop to Villa staff, in both Spanish and English. While she was at the Villa for the "After 70" retreat, Sister Guadalupe spoke with the staff to learn of their interest in knowing more about the SNJM charism. She is planning to offer the charism day in December with the help of **Sister Cecilia Calva**.

The staff, whose primary language is Spanish, also said that they were interested in improving their English-language skills. **Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey** came



over to the Villa in September to visit any Spanish-speaking staff member interested in assessing his/her English-language skills. Most volunteered for this opportunity and Sister Miriam Daniel gave them ways that they could continue to work on their English. The staff is so grateful for her kindness and perceptiveness!

There is nothing better than listening to the sound of the ocean, except perhaps, listening to music by the ocean. A member of the Chapel community offered the Villa a gift to engage musicians for some weekend liturgies. Starting in October, the Chapel will have a cantor with a guitarist or **Sister Elizabeth Adams** (Sister Liz) accompanying for two weekend liturgies a month. Sister Liz said that she was happy to help with the liturgy and the monthly Taize prayer, but she could really use a piano. Prayers were answered when a local parishioner offered a spinet, and another offered to move it to the Chapel! The Sisters and volunteers are excited that their liturgies are becoming livelier, and are so grateful to the donors and to Sister Liz for making this possible. Please pray that these opportunities for spiritual growth will flow out to the faith community of our rural mission diocese.



Sister Barbara Carroll

Sr. Cecile Collette

January 21, 1930 - September 18, 2014

"In the names of Jesus and Mary, we desire to proclaim by our lives the primacy of the love of God. Moved by an active love, we collaborate in the church's mission of education, with emphasis on education in the faith, and with special concern for the poor and disadvantaged."

SNJM CONSTITUTIONS



In Memoriam

Sister Felice Marie Kolda

Florence Irene Kolda

January 5, 1929 - September 27, 2014

"Looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately the deaf person's ears were opened, tongue released, and the person spoke plainly."

MARK 7:34

Prayer, discernment, and dialogue finalize completion of Los Gatos long range plan

We are pleased to share with you that we have successfully completed our Los Gatos long range planning and transition from the Convent of the Holy Names. Our aging Sisters have successfully transitioned to two quality housing and care communities: Our Lady of Fatima Villa, in Saratoga, California, sponsored by the Kenosha Dominican Sisters, and Merrill Gardens Retirement Community in Campbell, California. We also have purchased a small church property situated right next to Merrill Gardens, which consists of a chapel, offices for support services and a residence.

Over the past year and a half, we have collaborated with the Town of Los Gatos and our neighbors to return the Los Gatos property to its residential roots. The Town of Los Gatos unanimously approved our 17 home subdivision plan in March of this year. We are pleased to announce the sale of the property to Palo Alto-based SummerHill Homes on August 26, 2014.

The proceeds from the sale of the Los Gatos property represent critical funds necessary for future health care and housing needs of our aging members. Many of you have supported your own family members as they aged and know the costs and challenges entailed in doing this well.

Thank *you* for the many ways you have been and continue to be supportive of our community mission. We have appreciated the concern, support and prayers that we have experienced from so many of you throughout

“As Sisters of the Holy Names, we are solely responsible for our financial administration and planning: pooling our earned resources and using gifts to support our ministries and our Sisters, especially for the care of our frail members.”

—Sister Mary Pat LeRoy

the entire long range planning process and as our Sisters have transitioned to new locations and new ways of living. Know that you are in our prayers and thoughts as we look to our future in new community locations in the Santa Clara Valley.

Why I support the Sisters:

“Because they put into action love, compassion, and dedication through their many ministries. They do this with happy hearts just as Christ would do.”

MARIANNE POPPAS



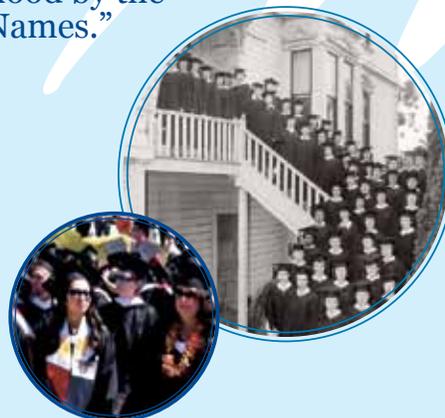
“Not only did I receive a fine education at Ramona Convent Secondary School, but I was given the ideal examples of Christian womanhood by the dedicated Sisters of the Holy Names.”

KATHLEEN RAGLAND



“My mother, Agnes Ariei, attended Holy Names College over 70 years ago. She always spoke of her time there with great fondness. We continue to support the Sisters in her name. We appreciate your prayers for her.”

PATRICIA ARIEI BARTON



Planned Giving: planning gifts today for the future

Many say they wish they could do more to secure the future of the Sisters, but they are on a fixed income and cannot afford to give more than they are giving. In this circumstance, we invite you to consider making a gift for the future. If you are in the process of updating or beginning to prepare your will, or reviewing your financial portfolio, it may be beneficial for you to consider the following ways of making a charitable gift to the Sisters of the Holy Names.

Bequests

Remembering the Sisters in your will is one of the easiest planned gifts you can make. You can first specifically provide for family and friends, and then leave a percentage or specific amount to the Sisters of the Holy Names. In so doing, it is important to use the legal title of the Congregation: Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Please notify us when you chose to include the Sisters in your will so we may recognize you as a member of the Marie Rose Legacy Society. Your membership in the Marie Rose Legacy Society allows us to thank you and recognize you for the plans you have made. Our legacy Society members and their intentions are remembered in the daily prayers of the Sisters and at a Mass offered specially for them. Another important benefit you will receive from joining the legacy Society is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to the Sisters of the Holy Names and their long-term strength.

Name a Beneficiary

Naming the Sisters as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, insurance policy or financial account is simple and has lasting effects.

Life Income Gifts

Make a gift to assure future support of the Sisters and retain income for your lifetime.

Retirement Plan Gifts

Assets accumulated in a retirement plan, such as an IRA, can be a source of funding for a charitable gift. The current IRA rollover rules allow individuals ages 70 or older to transfer funds of up to \$100,000 tax-free to a charitable organization.* The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary may also be named as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of such plans.



“Leaving a gift, such as a bequest in your estate plans, means you believe in the work of the Sisters of the Holy Names, their profound effect on your life and their impact on generations to come. You partner with the SNJMs to serve the people of God most in need. Your legacy and the legacy of Mother Marie Rose and the Sisters will be preserved in the future.”

—Cecelia Tutt

One of the primary benefits of designating a charity as your IRA beneficiary is that your assets are not taxed as they pass to your beneficiary upon death. If you designate an individual, that person is subject to ordinary income tax on withdrawals from the IRA, which begin immediately upon transfer. Passing those assets to a charity rather than to an individual could save thousands of dollars in assets. Tax benefits are based on IRS regulations at the time of the designation.

If you are considering a deferred gift, please let us know so that we can assist you and your advisors in creating your individualized giving opportunity.

** To date, the IRA Charitable Rollover extension has not been approved for 2014, but there is optimism that it will pass in late November or early December. Contact your financial advisor before year end to find out.*

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

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, either fill out the form online or print and mail. www.snjmca.org

A Gift of Prayer does make a difference!

A Gift of Prayer is a thoughtful and special way to remember the deceased, honor a friend or relative, give thanks for God's many blessings, or celebrate a special occasion: birthday, wedding, anniversary, retirement, birth of a child, etc.

A Gift of Prayer can be particularly consoling for a friend or loved one who is coping with a death or other life challenge. Prayers may be requested for special intentions, such as: improved health, successful surgery, comfort, strength, peace or whatever is needed.

A card acknowledging your gift is sent to the person or family indicated—donation amounts are kept confidential and we do not put the recipient on any solicitation list. We will send you a thank you card. Contributions help support the Sisters and their ministries.

Dear Sister Kathryn Ondreyse,
On behalf of our daughter,
I wish to express our
appreciation that Gene has been
enrolled in the Sisters of the
Holy Names In Memoriam &
The Sisters have always
had a special place in
heart from his early edu-
cational experience and through
associations with friends
education of his own da-

Sincerely,

Dear Sister Kathryn and
Ed in the Sisters of the Holy
Names Memoriam Gift of Prayer
Ed graduated from St. Basil's
for me also. Their has
and comfort.

Dear Sister Kathryn
There's always a
birthday greeting and
prayer - and many
prayers on other
occasions - that I'm
most grateful for.
This is a simple but
hard-felt thank you to
all the sisters for such
a blessing. You all, of
course, in my prayers.
May you have

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

Card # _____ Exp. ____ / ____

SecurityCode _____ 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

Beauty

*A maple tree
Moss, a wren I had not
Met before,
Six uprooted ferns
Waiting at the cabin door;
One need not be blind
To fail to see.*

From the new book *Heart and Soul: Selections of Poetry* by **Sister John Maureen Backenstos** (Lake Oswego, Oregon), edited by **Sister Marilyn Nunemaker** (Portland, Oregon).
Bridgetown Printing, 2013

Upcoming Events

Annual Stuffing of the
Christmas Mailing. *Many
hands make light work!*
Second week of November
at the new Marie Rose Center.
Look for the postcard.

Next Step Learning Center's
20 year anniversary dinner,
November 6.

***We are keeping our Los Gatos
P.O. Box 907 and will check it
every day (except Sunday)!***

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.

PUBLISHED BY: Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, California Development Office, P.O. Box 907, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0907

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