

# *perspectives*

SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY • CALIFORNIA PARTNERS IN MISSION • WINTER 2015



SNJM ministries provide strong academic, spiritual and moral foundations—now, the sky is the limit!

Today Sisters of the Holy Names endeavor to embody and exemplify the spirit and charism of Blessed Marie Rose through ministries that focus on educating and empowering people, with special concern for the poor and disadvantaged. We feature five recent mini-grant recipients with that exact purpose at heart.

## SNJM Ministry Grants help by...



### Enriching Lives of Teens

**Sister Barbara Nixon** is responsible for Family Faith Formation at St. Anne Church in Byron, California. Byron is a small culturally-diverse agriculture community 'off the beaten path' in Contra Costa County. Sister Barbara asked for an SNJM Ministry Grant to fund a Teen/Youth Outreach program. The grant funds will allow Sister Barbara to take middle and high school students on Cultural Enrichment field trips. These field trips will include music, art, drama, athletics, interfacing with people with physical limitations, religious youth conferences as well as local after-school educational classes. A recent Teen Leadership Training workshop made quite an impression. Afterward, when asked what she thought Monica, a participant, reflected "This helped me speak the truth and feel respected," and another teen commented:

*"This day, away from all the everyday noise, helped me know God is near and here for me."*

—Francisco



The grant funds will also be used to help expose the youth to three defined social justice concerns—California's water situation, human trafficking, and immigration. It will allow students to participate in Walk/Runs and other events addressing these issues.

Their next field trip will be to a neighboring high school's performance of *Les Miserables*.

### Offering Early Education



Holy Cross Catholic School in North Portland, Oregon, has been committed to educating not just the minds but also the hearts of its students, for over 100 years. Holy Cross offers a rigorous, faith-centered education to an ethnically and socially diverse K–8th Grade student body.

Times are changing and it has become apparent that it is a necessity for all children

to have access to a high-quality Pre-Kindergarten education. According to a study by The PEW Charitable Trusts, "High-quality Pre-K can no longer be considered a luxury for upper-income families or a special program for the disadvantaged. Children who enter school behind

their peers often stay behind."\* **Sister Mary Ryan**, the Development Director at Holy Cross, asked for an SNJM Ministry Grant to start the new Pre-K program.

*"These youngest students will be welcomed into a nurturing Christian community where wonder and exploration are encouraged through active learning, play and the creative arts."*

Jessica Hedges hired to be the Pre-K teacher remarked "It is truly a blessing to work with young children and help prepare them socially, emotionally, and academically for Kindergarten. I love being a part of each child's growth and development throughout the year."

\*<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/factsheets/2005/06/15/why-all-children-benefit-from-prek>



## Upgrading the Internet

The motto of Seattle's St. Edward School is "A Beacon of Global Awareness." This Pre-K to 8th Grade school serves a diverse global population with many students coming from newly arrived and immigrant families. The school has made a commitment to use and teach technology in every grade. Upgrading the internet infrastructure is essential to being able to provide this teaching tool, and the SNJM Ministry Grant will help with that. **Sister Makiko Fujiwara** is a regular volunteer at the school and observes

*"Technology is crucial these days for a well-rounded education. Being able to access the internet will allow students to become more aware of our global community and its needs."*

With the help of the Sisters of the Holy Names, St. Edward School can ensure students have the ability to zoom along the information super highway.

## Providing New Opportunities

For over 90 years, the Sisters of the Holy Names have been a part of the lives of the youth in the Petworth area of Washington, DC. While St. Gabriel's Church and many of the brick row houses that line the streets look much as they did when they were built, this neighborhood has seen its share of hardships. The streets are now difficult for youth to navigate with many undesirable influences available around the corner.

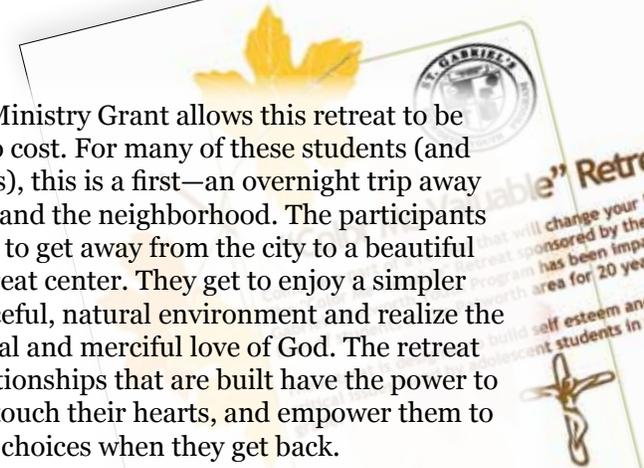
St. Gabriel's Petworth Youth Program fulfills a particularly necessary need by providing a safe and spiritually nurturing refuge for the neighborhood's youth. Along with year-round after-school sports teams, remedial tutoring and summer programs, there is the very special "Color Me Valuable" retreat for 6th Grade students. **Sister Eileen Dunn**, the Director of St. Gabriel's School of Religion, has always been invaluable in guiding the scope of the retreat and helping recruit participants. Over the years, Sister Eileen has earned the trust and respect of parents and guardians whose cooperation is essential to the success.

## Giving that Little Extra

The mission of Saint Patrick School (Transitional Kindergarten–8th Grade), sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, in Downtown San Jose, California is to provide a quality, Catholic education to students whose families struggle economically to afford the tuition. The SNJM Mini-Grant written by **Sister Mary Haupt**, Vice-Principal and Development Director, supports the after-school tutoring program where **Sister Lolita Krebsbach** (pictured in the photo above) tutors students in the 5th and 6th grade who need a bit of help with their academics, homework or class projects. Working in a small group setting, students benefit academically from the extra attention and support. [www.stpatrickschool.org](http://www.stpatrickschool.org)

The SNJM Ministry Grant allows this retreat to be offered at no cost. For many of these students (and their parents), this is a first—an overnight trip away from family and the neighborhood. The participants get a chance to get away from the city to a beautiful pastoral retreat center. They get to enjoy a simpler life in a peaceful, natural environment and realize the unconditional and merciful love of God. The retreat and the relationships that are built have the power to profoundly touch their hearts, and empower them to make better choices when they get back.

The "Color Me Valuable" retreat gets its best recommendation from its former participants. Each year, 7th and 8th graders return to share their stories with prospective participants and their families. This provides the 'alumni' with a great leadership opportunity and reinforces the confidence and self-worth they gained from the retreat. Sister Eileen is in the process of forming a group called the Ambassadors Club for all the "Color Me Valuable" alumni so that they can continue to meet on a regular basis to deepen their retreat friendships and become a support system for one another.



# Holy Spirit Chapel Makes its Official Debut

Holy Spirit Chapel in Campbell, California had a full house on December 7th, as Sisters and Associates came together for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was the first community celebration in the new chapel and had many special moments including hanging the Community Seal. It “took a village” to make Marie Rose Center and Holy Spirit Chapel a reality, with so many people collaborating on the vision.

Special thanks to Robb Haupt who made the beautiful new cross using the same wood that he used for the altar and ambo. Its curving arms welcome and embrace all who enter the new chapel.

The flexibility of the furnishings will enable the Sisters to adapt to large and small groups. This will be the first of many celebrations together in the new space as we explore our new community.



**Sisters  
Marcia  
Frideger  
and  
Christine  
Patrinos**  
carry the  
Community  
Seal.



## Happy 100th Birthday Sister Mary Gabriel Kennedy

Sisters, Associates, family, and friends gathered at Our Lady of Fatima Villa to celebrate the 100th birthday of **Sister Mary Gabriel Kennedy**. A fun fact: Sister Mary Gabriel is Ramona Convent Secondary School's oldest living alumna.



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

## Renewing Vows at St. Mary's School



On December 8th, St. Mary's School in Los Gatos celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with a special Mass led by the 6th grade. Twenty-six Sisters attended the Mass as special guests and renewed their vows. Earlier this year, the 6th graders interviewed the Sisters at Merrill Gardens in Campbell. During the Mass, two students shared heartfelt reflections on their visit and they came away with the knowledge that Sisters are open and gracious, Sisters embody the "Attitude of Gratitude," and Sisters can tell very funny stories!

St. Mary's School's first principal, when it opened in 1954, was **Sister Gemma Fisher (Sr. Arthur Mary)**; and SNJM Sisters have been a part of the school—both on the faculty and in the administration, ever since.

## Renewing Vows in Southern California at Ramona

Forty-three Sisters and Associates in Southern California gathered on Saturday, December 6th in their new space in Ramona Convent's former community room. While they have used the room for meetings, this was the first time they used it to celebrate liturgy and renew their vows. The special day ended with a catered dinner. The group was especially delighted to have long-time friend of the SNJM community, Rev. Nick Reina,

SDB as presider for the event. The liturgy and ambiance were very festive thanks to the combined efforts and creativity of so many in the Mission Centre.

In the spirit of recycle, reuse, and repurpose, chairs from Los Gatos' Casa Room, as well as convent dining room tables, graced the space thanks to **Sister Kathleen Callaway** and Dr. Harry Purpur who brought them 'south' this past summer.

## Next Step Learning Center's 20th Anniversary

A capacity crowd filled the Public Pavilion of Scott's Seafood in Jack London Square on the evening of November 6th. Close to 400 of Next Step's many generous partners—members of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, students, Sisters of the Holy Names, and financial supporters—gathered to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Next Step's mission of education and opportunity for Oakland families. The evening was filled with a spirit of celebration, community, and pride in the 5,000 Oakland youth who have been served; the more than 700 former high school dropouts who have earned their GED, and the 80-plus Next Step graduates who have gone on to community college!

Arriving guests were greeted and welcomed by Next Step students. All were inspired by the words of student speakers and a powerful new video—both telling stories of courage and transformation in the lives of Next Step students. In the video, one GED graduate who has since earned both her B.A. and M.A. at Holy Names University, described the important role Next Step



played in her life: "Obtaining an education, even at the very basic level, creates opportunity; and I believed what the folks here said, which was that I could go further and I could do more. Coming to Next Step was the beginning of creating hope for myself; the beginning of thinking that I could be more than the circumstances that I came from; the beginning of an idea that I could do more than what I thought and what other people thought of me." The video is now online and can be viewed at: [www.nextsteple.org](http://www.nextsteple.org)

# Holy Names University Students Visit the Sisters at Merrill Gardens in Campbell



Nineteen students from Holy Names University recently stopped by Merrill Gardens in Campbell on their way to attend a student retreat at Presentation Center in Los Gatos. **Sisters Maureen Hester, Sophia Park, and Carol Sellman** accompanied the group.

Ten Sisters from Merrill Gardens, many former educators at the University, thoroughly enjoyed the energy and conversations of the young undergraduates.

# Kindergartners Visit the Sisters at Our Lady of Fatima Villa

The kindergarten class from St. Mary's School in Los Gatos recently went to Our Lady of Fatima Villa to sing to the Sisters and guests. Their teachers **Sister Betty Shields**, Mafalda Soares, and Terry Deane, helped them decorate and lace together Christmas stockings which they filled with chocolate. They also brought poinsettias and homemade cards. After singing to the Sisters and giving their gifts, they visited individually and the Sisters sang back to them. The event ended with everyone singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas."



*"I support the Sisters because of the kindness and spiritual support I have received from the Sisters I have met and for their prayers over the years for my special intentions. Their prayers have made a difference."*

—Annick Negrini, Los Gatos, CA



## Thank YOU!

Your prayer ornaments adorned the Christmas trees at the Marie Rose Center. The Sisters and Associates are now praying for you, your families, and your intentions, and will continue to do so all year long.

Thank you for your gifts and especially your friendship.



**Sisters Marion Mills (Sr. Kenneth Marie)** and **Carol Hallmeyer (Sr. Irene Katheryn)** are just two of the Sisters that are praying for you.

**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](http://www.snjmca.org)



## A Gift of Prayer does make a difference!

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

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 and we'll send you a thank-you card as well. Donation amounts are always kept confidential and we do not put the recipient on any solicitation list. Contributions help support the Sisters and their ministries.

## Become a Sustaining Donor

Sustaining Donors provide an invaluable resource—a regular, stable source of revenue. By giving ongoing monthly or quarterly gifts, you become an important partner in providing for Sisters of the Holy Names' retirement needs and maintaining our Sisters in ministry through our general operating fund.

Sustaining gifts can be set up to be deducted directly from your credit card or bank account, or you can choose to send checks in the monthly envelopes we provide you. At the end of the year, we send you a record of your giving history for tax purposes.

As a Sustaining Donor, you become a friend we can rely on and are especially remembered by the Sisters with:

- Remembrance in prayer at Mass in the chapel
- Special cards throughout the year
- Limited edition Christmas remembrances

To sign up as a Sustaining Donor or to learn more, contact Sister Kathryn Ondreyco at 408-395-0259 or email [kondreyco@snjmuson.org](mailto:kondreyco@snjmuson.org)

*"We feel regular contributions help the Sisters establish a budget that they can plan on as they continue individual and group ministries sharing the 'Good News.' With the recent relocation of their senior Sisters, we feel our role is even more important."*

—Ken and Lynn (Grasso) Gallagher (HNHS '59)

# 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  Mastercard  Visa  Discover  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like 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

## Ramona Convent Secondary School celebrates its 125th Anniversary

On October 4, 2014, Archbishop José Gomez celebrated Ramona's 125th Anniversary Mass. Approximately 500 alumnae, parents, faculty, students and staff gathered for the Mass and reception afterwards. Particular highlights of the reception were the displays of pictures, uniforms of various eras, videos, and the opportunity to share memories. Following the Mass, Archbishop Gomez blessed the school's newly installed statue of Blessed Marie Rose Durocher which is the work of SNJM artist **Sister Paula Mary Turnbull**. Ramona Convent Secondary School located in Alhambra, is the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' oldest Catholic all-girls school still operating in its original location and has graduated over 7,300 young women. Countless others have received part of their elementary or high school education at Ramona.



Photo Credit: John Rueda, Archdiocese of Los Angeles



A second anniversary event was a Women's Symposium on January 29, 2015. **Sister Kathleen Callaway**, Ramona's president, was thrilled to invite the nationally known "Nun on the Bus" Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, as the guest speaker. Open to the public, Sister Simone's topic was "Faith in Action, Caring for the 100%." Participants were both inspired and challenged by Sister's lively talk interspersed with wonderful stories of individuals met along the bus tour. After briefly visiting the students busily engaged in their service projects, Sister Simone spoke to the students and the faculty, reminding them to take the power that is theirs and use it for good, to find their passion and follow it, and to make a difference. Again her stories brought her message to life. The students came away moved and inspired, and with the challenge to be the voice, individually and collectively, for people and issues that "break their hearts."

The anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the year with Alumnae Weekend March 6-8 and an Anniversary Gala on April 25th. [www.ramonaconvent.org](http://www.ramonaconvent.org)

**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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