I have come to cast fire on the earth, and I wish it were already kindled.
Celebrating our Fire Works

I HAVE COME TO CAST FIRE...
CAST FIRE... Each one of us... Sisters, Partners in Mission, Associates, Lay Consecrated, and Friends have been attracted by the charism of Blessed Marie Rose to spread the fire of God’s love in the world. And it has been blazing in our hearts ever since that first encounter.

We welcome you to this issue of Partners in Mission. Nine years ago the Provinces of California, Ontario, Oregon, New York, and Washington chose to come together and become the U.S.-Ontario Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. We located our new Province offices near Portland, Oregon. Since 1859 when our young community responded to the call to open schools in the Pacific Northwest our mission has expanded rapidly to all the schools and ministries that are under the influence of Blessed Marie Rose.

Today, we continue our educational mission in schools and other settings, working for the full development of persons in all contexts in which we minister. We are ever more alert to global calls to cast fire to heal our planet, address the modern day slavery of women and children who are being trafficked, and assure that access to clean water is available to every human being. These concerns, and others, are soul sized. We need large hearts and strong voices and everyone engaged in prayerful pleading as we represent those whose voices are not heard.

Come, Cast Fire. Let us join together in the pursuit of justice and love in the names of Jesus and Mary.

Look to the Past with Gratitude

We as Holy Names Sisters are deeply blessed with a rich and joyous past. Inspired by Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, and her founding companions, Mother Marie-Madeleine Céré and Mother Marie-Agnes Dufresne, we follow a path to make present today the charism of our Congregation.

At the heart of the Holy Names charism is the “full development of the human person.” Living in the milieu of their times, our founding women saw the need of education for women and poor children. With brave hearts and deep faith, they quickly opened schools in Canada and the United States.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like the mustard seed that a person sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches” (Mt 13:31-32).

Like the proverbial mustard seed, a multi-faceted organism grew out of our founders’ humble 1843 beginnings. In 1859, they made the first journey into the United States sending twelve Sisters to Portland, Oregon. In 1864, they ventured beyond Quebec borders into another Canadian province starting a school in Windsor, Ontario. In 1931 for the first time Sisters were missioned beyond North America to Lesotho, in Africa, and Kagoshima, Japan. Each succeeding foundation rooted firmly in our Holy Names Heritage.

Last November, Pope Francis declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life. He urged consecrated religious along with all members of the body of Christ to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

Look to the Past with Gratitude

Province Leadership Team: Sister Jane Hibbard, Sister Marcia Frideger, Sister Mary Ellen Holohan, Sister Kathleen Hilton, Sister Mariellen Blaser
Live the Present with Passion

In the 1960s, the extraordinary light of the Second Vatican Council was cast on the life and meaning of the Catholic Church. With the impetus of the Holy Spirit, Pope John XXIII, now St. John XXIII, ignited a blessed energy that rejuvenated Church thinking, drawing it more in tune with the revolutionizing Gospel good news of Jesus.

Religious congregations embraced John XXIII’s “aggiornamento,” the “opening of the windows.” Many launched a re-examination of the essential meaning of their particular charism and their consecrated life. With Vatican II documents such as Perfectae Caritatis and The Church in the Modern World, religious communities returned to the message of their founders to rediscover and “refound” themselves, evoking the original motivating force, responsiveness to the needs of the times.

Over the 50 years since Vatican II, enormous change has occurred for all in the Church. The laity, encouraged to recognize their call to holiness, have taken up their rightful and responsible place within the Church as a priestly people. Many religious communities, in “reading the signs of the times,” have gradually transferred their traditional ministries to lay colleagues, many of whom they had worked with for years.

New ministries emerged for our Sisters calling them to pastoral work in parishes, hospitals, and outreach ministries with poor and homeless persons, migrants and refugees, and the abandoned. A widening interpretation of “education in the faith,” always within the context of “full development of the human person,” stimulated a broader call to ministry.

We have taken an active corporate voice in the advancement of social justice. In 2004, we joined with others across the globe, proclaiming our “support of human rights by opposing the trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.”

In 2008, a second corporate stand was taken on water as a human right. “We oppose actions and policies that: endanger the world’s supply of freshwater, deprive humans and other species access to adequate, safe water essential for life, and favor the privatization of water as a commodity to be bought and sold for profit…”

Embrace the Future with Hope

Looking to the future, we believe the consecrated life will not be lost to the community of the Church. We as women religious and daughters of Marie Rose are being called to new understandings of our consecrated life within the context of our times.

With Mother Theresa of Jesus, who in the 1850s sent the first Sisters beyond Quebec, we say “if they ask for religious to be sent to far-off missions…we shall fly there!” Our future ministries may not be so much “far-off” as “far different,” but in the spirit of Mother Theresa, we greet them with enthusiasm.

Concluding his reflection, Pope Francis said, “You will find life by giving life, hope by giving hope, love by giving love.” We as Holy Names Sisters with our SNJM Associates, friends and partners in mission embrace the words of Francis in living hope, love and life.

Blessed Marie Rose found inspiration in the Gospel passage: “I have come to cast fire on the earth would that it were already kindled” (Lk 12:49). In these words are harbored both hope and passion for the future. In solidarity with others, we unite in efforts to secure equal rights, justice, and a caring environment for all God’s people.

Article written by Sister Carole Strawn, Oregon
Portraits of Today’s Sisters

What does it look like to live the present with passion?...to embrace the future with hope?...to live the charism of Blessed Marie Rose in the world today? Along the bottom of this newsletter are snapshots of SNJM Sisters and Associates from across the Province. Along with each photo, there is a story: a story filled with many chapters as times have changed.

We share a few examples of Holy Names Sisters responding to the needs of today’s world, creating new opportunities and collaborating with other religious and lay persons to accomplish great fire works.

Angela Rose House: a Joint (Ad)venture in Windsor

Imagine you have just arrived in a new country in search of peace and stability. With no family or friends in the area, where do you sleep? Where do you go to get help? In Windsor, Ontario, you can find a warm bed and a helping hand at Angela Rose House, a transition residence for newly-arrived refugees.

When Sister Helen Petrimoulx was Director of the Windsor Refugee Office, she saw that there was a great need in Windsor for a shelter for newly-arrived refugees. The Ursuline Sisters of the Chatham Union donated one of their houses to make this shelter possible. Named after the Ursuline’s founder, St. Angela Merici and our founder Blessed Marie Rose, the doors of Angela Rose House opened in February 2008. Angela Rose House works closely with the Diocese of London Refugee Ministry Office and has support from the Sisters and Associates of the Holy Names, the Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph of London.

Sister Diane Latremouille has been working at Angela Rose House for eight years, and her role focuses on settlement issues. She listens to each person’s story and responds to their needs—the necessities for food, clothing, and healthcare; helps with the process of obtaining financial support from Social Services; registers children at school and adults for ESL classes; teaches residents how to get around the city; and accompanies residents to appointments.

Angela Rose House is one stop on a long journey for refugees relocating in Canada, but the spirit and hospitality residents experience stays with them. It is a house where newcomers find hope for tomorrow, a haven after their travels and peace after turmoil. This ministry makes real the lives of St. Angela Merici and Blessed Marie Rose, bringing together their dreams and visions to help people in today’s world.

“Communion and the encounter between different charisms and vocations can open up a path of hope. No one contributes to the future in isolation, by his or her efforts alone, but by seeing himself or herself as part of a true communion which is constantly open to encounter, dialogue, attentive listening and mutual assistance.” ~ Pope Francis

Sisters as Abolitionists

This year, Bellarmine College Preparatory, a Jesuit High School in San Jose, choose human trafficking as their justice theme to integrate into their curriculum and activities, culminating in a two-day Justice Summit.

Sister Rosemary Everett and Sister of the Holy Family Caritas Foster were asked to do three sessions sharing their personal involvement and the commitment of their congregations. Sister Rosemary is a member of the San Jose Catholic Diocese Network to End Human Trafficking, and the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking. With Sister Yvonne Massicotte’s “Ten Year Summary” of our SNJM actions against trafficking, Sister Rosemary had plenty of information to share.
**Sister Roberta Carson Leading by Example**

Sister Roberta Carson has taken to heart the words of Pope Francis to respond creatively to the needs of the people and ministries she encounters. Like the swirls of color in many of her artistic creations, the ripples of her generosity and her sensitivity have spread far and wide to touch people’s hearts and lives.

Sister Roberta is retired from her years of working with youth at St. Bonaventure Church in Concord. She now shares her talents and skills with many around her home in San Leandro, around the greater Bay area, and around the U.S.-Ontario Province.

On any given day, you might find Sister Roberta at St. Leander Church, her home parish, working with the youth on art projects in Bible Camp, or offering resources to the school, or helping the pastor re-organize his office. You might find her out in the community connecting with the homebound and the elderly, bringing them Communion and praying with them (and a bit of dusting and sweeping as well). She works with the homeless and those needing an advocate by volunteering at such places at George Marks Home, Foster Care, at the Homeless Shelter for women and children, and cooking for and delivering food to those in need.

“Whenever and where ever I have ministered, I have reached out to those in need. And when I could, I have invited others and have challenged them to walk the walk for justice and join me as a voice for the voiceless.”

~ Sister Roberta Carson

Her talents and generosity are much appreciated by the SNJM community as well. You see her artwork at many gatherings and events. She gets together with a group of Associates on a monthly basis, keeping them updated with Church and SNJM happenings, and holding a book study session. Wherever she works, she inspires and empowers people to experience God’s strength in themselves. The world is a more colorful place with Sister Roberta.

**Pastoral Ministry at the Beach**

Since then, with the help of some SNJM Sisters trained in spiritual companionship as well as friends in the diocese, Villa Maria’s dreams soon became reality. Weekly Spiritual Direction meetings were held every Wednesday and some Saturdays. Three free “Introduction to Spiritual Direction” evenings were held and involved prayer, presentations, role-modeling and discussion. They also offered evenings of in-service/formation for parishioners and spiritual directors; and meetings of spiritual directors for peer support/supervision. Bishop Garcia also requested Spiritual Directors for Deacon Aspirants for the Diocese.

In May 2015, as a culmination, Villa Maria del Mar offered and facilitated the “The Joy of Pastoral Ministry: A Skills Intensive Workshop. This was a wonderful opportunity for busy pastoral ministers, lay leaders, and spiritual directors to integrate theology, spirituality, psychology and discernment skills for personal and professional growth. Twenty-three participants were welcomed from the local Monterey area, and other parts of California, as well as Oregon and Washington. The skills of listening, discernment and prayer are transformational in guiding seekers to the joy of the Gospel. Plans for next year are already in the works.
Golden Jubilee

Jubilee is a time of reflecting, remembering, and giving thanks to God for life, love, people, service, and faithfulness.

This year the Golden Jubilee celebration was held on April 11th, at Holy Names University. The celebration for the 60, 70 and 75 year Jubilarians was held June 7th. We will feature them in our next newsletter.

Spring Luncheons

“Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.”

~ Mother Teresa

Smiles abound this spring with our annual social gatherings for Sisters, Associates, benefactors and friends old and new. Southern California held their Spring luncheon on April 11th. On May 19th, the Northern California Strawberry Luncheon was held at a new location just one block from Marie Rose Center. The 5th Grade girls from St. Mary’s School, Los Gatos, joined us and were a big help escorting our guests to their tables and filling the water glasses. A big thank you to Dana Carollo and the St. Mary’s mothers who served the lunch.

Thank you to all who participated in our Strawberry Day Drawing on May 8th. With your help, we raised $62,430 to assist with the living expenses of our retired and infirm Sisters.

Drawing Winners

1st prize $1,000 Irene Kock David: Ramona, 1956
2nd prize $500 John Gill: Holy Spirit School in Fremont, CA
3rd prize $250 Mary McDonald Coykendall: Holy Names College, 1948

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

**Sister Della Stanton**  
Sister M. Frances Paula  
August 7, 1936 – March 6, 2015  
“You shall indeed go out with joy and be led forth in peace.”  
~ Isaiah 55:12

**Sister Mary Mackessy**  
Sister Margaret Therese  
February 5, 1938 – May 4, 2015  
“My mission is to share, minister to others, the fruit of my experiences and life lived with Jesus.”  
~ Sister Mary Mackessy

**Sister Mary Anselm Grover**  
Edwina Josephine Grover  
November 1, 1921 – May 15, 2015  
“She wanted to live, and live fully, and to give life, she who loved life!”  
~ Émile Zola

**Sister M. Gabriel Kennedy**  
Jessie Catherine Kennedy  
November 10, 1914 – March 8, 2015  
“I have loved every minute of my religious life and have never had a ministry that I could not make enjoyable.”  
~ Sister Gabriel Kennedy

**Sister Mary Elizabeth Doherty**  
Sister Miriam Edward  
February 24, 1922 – April 6, 2015  
“My music is the spiritual expression of what I am—my faith, my knowledge, my being. When you begin to see the possibilities of music, you desire to do something really good for people. I want to speak to their souls.”  
~ John Coltrane

**Sister Shirley Sexton**  
Sister Maureen Theresa  
February 21, 1931 – May 16, 2015  
“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”  
~ 2 Timothy 4:7

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**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, either fill out the form online or print and mail it. www.snjmca.org
Please help us make a difference.

I/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

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SNJM PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

The Province Leadership Team and our development directors in California, Oregon, and Washington worked together on this issue of Partners in Mission. In this joint publication, we share some information about our religious community as well as news from your local region. We hope that you will resonate with the regional articles and pictures in this issue. We invite you also to expand your vision of our charism beyond the U.S.-Ontario Province to encompass the world.

This mailing reaches over 40,000 people who are our partners in mission and a vital part of our community. It is our privilege and joy to share this life—this call to holiness—with all of you, our benefactors, friends and ministry partners. We are grateful for your prayers, support, and friendship and count on your continued collaboration in SNJM mission and ministry!

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Development Directors: Adrianna Carr, Oregon; Sister Kathryn Ondreyco (Sister Miriam Dominic), California; and Sister Celine Steinberger (Sister Lorene Therese), Washington.

The U.S.-Ontario Province is comprised of 461 Sisters, 380 Associates and 7 Lay Consecrated persons who live and minister in California, Oregon, Washington, Florida, New York, Mississippi, the Washington D.C. area and Ontario. Sisters from throughout the Congregation also minister in Peru, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Brazil, Quebec and Manitoba. Many are engaged in education: from primary school to university level, parish ministry, spiritual accompaniment and in projects fostering justice and human rights.

www.snjmusontario.org