

With Heartfelt Gratitude

February 2010

Dear Friends,

Since the days of our foundress, Mother Marie Rose, we have been blessed to have dedicated friends who share her spirit and vision. You have blessed us with your friendship, your prayers, your financial gifts, donations of goods and services, and contributions of volunteer time and talent.

Support from our benefactors is as important today as it has been for the past 167 years. You are at the heart of every SNJM ministry; helping us to accomplish what we could never do alone. Your gifts make a difference - supporting our ministries here and around the world wherever the need is greatest, and helping to care for our senior and retired Sisters.

We thank you for your generosity, especially during these difficult times. Rather than listing names, we thought you might appreciate hearing from a few of the many people for whom your gifts made a difference.

You are remembered in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and your loved ones.

With gratitude,

Sister Kathryn Ondreyco

Sister Kathryn Ondreyco, Development Director



Your gifts to the Sisters of the Holy Names



"Senior citizens from four parishes in North and West Oakland have been coming to Villa Maria del Mar for 15 years. None of us who attend these retreats could afford to come if we had to pay the regular fees. We are so very grateful to you for sponsoring and supporting special scholarships like the ones we receive. You cannot imagine how we anticipate our retreat time where we have Liturgy, listen to wonderful presenters, pray, socialize and take in the beauty of nature. We have many years of gratitude in our memories. Thank you." - Esther Adams

Villa Maria del Mar retreat center in Santa Cruz is available for Catholic and ecumenical groups, 12-step programs, parish councils, educators, and community-benefit groups.



"The San Andreas Tutoring Program has helped me get good grades. The sisters and tutors help us with our homework and with projects. In the future I want to become a doctor."
- Anaberta Melgoza, 7th grade student

"The San Andreas Tutoring Program is very helpful to us. The sisters and tutors here are very nice. They help us do our homework and school projects. They help us so we can have a better education." - Uriel Cervantes, 6th grade student

The Tutoring Program helps children of families from San Andreas and Golden Torch low-income housing in Watsonville.



"For me, the choir is like a circle of friends sharing the same goal: to help make our Mass celebration more beautiful with our voices. Under the direction of Sister Guadalupe with her great patience, we hope to achieve our goal because when we sing we are praising God twice."

- Veronica Duarte, Choir member, Santee Mission Center's 10:00 Spanish Mass

Santee Mission Center ministers to the poorest area of San Jose - providing a library, religious education classes, Liturgy, and activities, clothing and toys for needy children.

"Holy Names Convent in Los Gatos is such a blessing for us; it is the only SNJM retirement and care center we have in California. Having a place where we can live our retirement years in community and prayer with one another makes a positive impact in our lives. I recently moved from Daly City into the Care Center because of my health. It was truly a 'coming home'. Daily, I experience the SNJM traditions of hospitality and compassion. We are all deeply grateful for your financial support."
- Sister Marilyn Murphy, SNJM

Holy Names Convent and Care Center is currently home to 58 retired and/or infirm Sisters who taught, ministered, or lived in California.



make a positive impact in so many lives...



"Teresita arrived at the children's home when she was eight days old. Her mother, a glue sniffer, still lives on the streets and has never come to see her child. Thanks to the Sisters and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, Teresita now receives the care and love she deserves, and faces a promising future."

- Sister Alanna Lechner, SNJM, Director of Casa Asis, NPH Nicaragua

Casa Asis in Nicaragua, provides a home, loving care, and early education skills for children, from 1 to 7, who are abandoned, orphaned or at-risk. The orphanage is "home" to 26 children.

"Seven years ago, Sister Helen Garvey invited me to help begin a library for Maura Clarke School. I've learned a lot about organizing the resources, helping students become readers, selecting materials to broaden their horizons and helping them with computers. I am grateful for these opportunities and for the scholarship that enabled me to get my college degree." - Lesbia Gutierrez, Volunteer

Maura Clarke School educates the poor in Ciudad Sandino, Managua, Nicaragua



"One hundred and fifty (HIV/AIDS) orphans received shoes, clothes, and sweets on the 24th December as their Christmas gifts. They were overjoyed. Most of them depend on their grandmothers who are not even working. I believe and hope that God blesses what you did for these vulnerable people." - Sr. Eugenia Masheane, SNJM, Lesotho HIV/AIDS Project Manager

"It was good to know that Somebody out there still cares for us. We thank (you) again for the good food provided and clothes too."

- Orphaned Twins, Sekamaneng Project

SNJM Ministries provide food, clothing, a Catholic education and health care for HIV/AIDS orphans and those most in need in Lesotho, Africa.



"I thank you because I would be sitting at home doing nothing and even engaging in perilous activities. But now you saved me and have a helping hand in the success of my bright future."

- Mpho Mary Mojoka

"I had lost hope, life was meaningless and purposeless but your assistance has undoubtedly been beneficial to my life. I am now ready for any attack, no matter how tough the world might seem. Your generosity has taught me that in every difficult situation there is always a breakthrough." - Sebolelo 'Mamokete Mokhali

"...thank you for the bursary. If it wasn't for you, I would have been uneducated. The education you brought me is a gift that will not wither or

die and really, you are holding my future in your hands with this great help."
- Manthama Venessah Mokoailane, Maryland High School Student





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DATED MATERIAL

Thank you for your generous gifts at Christmas

Our Sisters and Associates pray for the intentions of all of our donors and for the special intentions written on the Christmas ornaments they receive.



"I can always sense your prayers regarding my very special intentions"
- Annick Negrini

"I think it is nice to know that we are praying for each other - a way to be together across the miles and share our Holy Names values."
- Barbara A. Smith

"We appreciate all the love, prayers and support that you provide. You are our strength."
- Frank and Frances Filice

HER VISION - OUR MISSION

The Sisters of the Holy Names live in the faith, spirit and charism of foundress, Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, working to fulfill her compelling desire to educate the poor, to empower women intellectually and spiritually, and to enable the development of others to their full potential.

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