



SISTER EMILY MARIE RETIRES

In August 2009, Sister Emily Marie McKernan was honored for 65 years of ministry in financial stewardship and development within the California Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names, the SNJM Congregation, and among religious congregations of women.



Sr. Jo'Ann and Sr. Joan honor Sr. Emily Marie

In 1944, newly professed Sister Emily Marie was sent to assist in the California Provincial Treasurer's Office in Oakland. Though her greatest desire was to teach, she was on a path to a lifetime of service in the areas of finance and development. Sr. Emily Marie has served as *Treasurer at Ramona Convent School in Alhambra, Treasurer for the former California Province, the Province's first Director of Development (1981) and its first Director of Planned Giving (1996).*

Sr. Emily Marie retired in September, shortly after celebrating 70 years as a vowed Sister of the Holy Names. She was recognized and honored by Sisters, Associates, and the U.S.-Ontario Province Leadership Team with a surprise tribute by Sr. Jo'Ann DeQuattro, a framed commemorative plaque presented by Sr. Joan Saalfeld, flowers, and much applause. The Sisters expressed gratitude for the solid financial foundation Sr. Emily Marie laid through the years not only for the Sisters of the Holy Names but for religious congregations of women throughout the country.

Her accomplishments are extensive and we want to highlight a few of them.

- * Coordinating the building of the new Holy Names College campus
- * Creating an investment portfolio for the California Province
- * Cofounding the Conference of Religious Treasurers and chairing it for six years
- * Initiating the acquisition of Villa Maria del Mar in Santa Cruz
- * Being a founding member of the California Congregational Development Directors of Religious Communities of Women and Men
- * Working with treasurers of other religious congregations to increase compensation for Religious and to provide health insurance and housing
- * Serving as resource person for finances to the Sisters in Lesotho and the General Administration
- * Creating *Perspectives*, the In Memoriam Program, Futures Society, the Christmas Appeal, and numerous fundraising events that continue today

We recognize Sr. Emily Marie McKernan for her vision, leadership and dedication. The generous gift of herself has inspired many people to give generously to insure our future.



Sister Emily Marie, you have long been a blessing in your ministry to us. May you enjoy every blessing God showers on you.

PROFILES IN MINISTRY



Sister Susan Schaad - Values in Action Justice Award

Sister Susan, a Holy Names Sister from Southern California, was honored with the Values in Action Justice Award by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

"Her work on environmental justice issues has resulted in many positive changes to programs and processes at St. Joseph Center."

Sr. Susan *"recognizes every interaction is a unique opportunity to serve one another, the community, and society...She is the model of ethics, integrity, and confidentiality in her work."*

Sr. Susan is a member of Orange County's Water Advisory Committee. She attends monthly meetings to keep abreast of state, national, and international water issues.



Sister Anne Dinneen Volunteer at St. Mary's Center Preschool

Sister Anne enjoys helping the ethnically and culturally diverse children at St. Mary's Center Preschool in Oakland. Most of the children are African-American, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino or Hispanic; many do not speak or understand English. Some of them come from the nearby housing projects where drugs and violence are commonplace; all live in poverty.

The program's goal is to prepare these three to five year-old children so that they have a chance to succeed in school. Sr. Anne assists the Director and teachers, often sharing resource materials with them. She works with the children one-on-one, or in small groups, doing playful activities that develop motor skills, encourage learning or foster creativity. To further parent and child interaction at home, Sr. Anne made booklets of nursery rhymes for the parents. It was a *labor of love*.



Sister Ana María Vilca Mamani Working to End Violence and Abuse

Sister Ana María Vilca is in pastoral social ministry in Lima, Peru. She is on a mission to prevent child abuse and youth delinquency, with an emphasis on ending discrimination and violence against females, including human-trafficking. As part of her quest, she regularly visits the largest prison in Peru to foster non-violence among prisoners and their families.

Sister Ana María also regularly travels to Pisco to coordinate a project that helps to rebuild homes and otherwise assist the thousands of families left homeless after the major earthquake in 2007.

Sister Ana María (right) was a presenter at the United Nations on the topic *Nonviolent Resolutions of Conflict Within The Family: Special Focus on The Girl Child* (2007).

SNJM TAKES A CORPORATE STAND

Water is a Human Right and a Public Good

Sisters of the Holy Names Justice and Peace Network is increasingly concerned about the precarious situation of the world's supply of fresh water. An eleven member committee found the problem serious enough to recommend a call for personal action and proposed that the Sisters take a corporate stand, summarized by the statement, "Water is a Human Right and a Public Good".



In poor countries, many young girls are deprived of an education because they often spend 8 hours a day finding water and carrying it to their homes.

As a first step toward ratifying the proposal, they created a booklet of educational and resource material and sent it throughout the congregation. It lays out many of the dangers to the world's water supply and gives case-study examples of the problems faced by people as a result. Some dangers, such as increased demand, pollution and waste, are universal and their resulting problems are obvious. Other dangers, such as drought, poor land management and water diversion, may be regional but the negative effects can be far reaching and impact the environment in ways that may not be reversible for generations. A relatively new danger is the "Water Industry". Multinational companies and their investors see water as "blue gold"; a commodity with a huge profit potential. They seek to privatize water resources and to take control and decision-making away from communities and public utility companies. SNJMs believe, "Water is a public good and all sectors of society should be involved in decision making regarding its protection, management and distribution."

This is the second corporate stand and call for action taken by the SNJM congregation. In 2001, Sisters of the Holy Names took a stand to fight human trafficking. Visit www.snjmusontario.org/Resources.html for more.

SNJM GENESIS PROJECT

"I knew little about corporate stands until we prepped for this trip...I feel much more connected to something larger than just my school."

"All of it was in some way inspirational, thought provoking, spiritual and life changing. It challenged me and my students and will keep challenging me."

A grant from the Sisters of the Holy Names provided partial funding for the inaugural Youth Justice Genesis Project that took place from July 19-24, 2009 at St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg, Manitoba. SNJM Justice and Peace Network has wanted to reach out to youth and draw them into the justice focus areas of the SNJM congregation. This project provided students with more information issues related to Anti-trafficking, Environment, Water, and HIV/AIDS. It also focused on community-building and leadership formation and involved participants in hands-on service projects in the Winnipeg community.



A teacher and four students from five secondary schools participated in this event: Holy Names High School, Oakland, CA; College Durocher, Quebec, Canada; Holy Names Academy, Seattle, WA; St. Mary's Academy, Portland, OR; St Mary's Academy, Winnipeg, Manitoba. In addition, two sisters from Holy Names High School in Lesotho, Africa were also able to participate because of the grant. HNHS sent students Reina Maravilla, Lilianna Romero, Adriana Gonzalez, Sarah Fourby and Ms. Molleen Dupree-Dominguez, Campus Minister.

Student response to the project was enthusiastic and teachers reported that they, too, gained much from the experience. Groups from each school have planned ways to bring these justice focus areas into the lives of the students in their respective schools. The Justice and Peace Network hopes some of the participants are able to attend part of the 2010 Justice & Peace Network Meeting to share in discussions and help create action plans.

MILESTONES



Ramona Convent Secondary School 120 Years Old, But Always Current

When girls graduate from Ramona, you can rest assured they are spiritually and educationally prepared for their life's journey.

For 120 years, Ramona has provided girls of the San Gabriel Valley with a quality, college preparatory, Catholic education. Its programs are always evolving to keep current with the ever changing world and the greater opportunities becoming available for women.



The **Marie-Rose Science Center** (left) is Ramona's most recent addition. Dedicated on November 14, 2008, it was built to meet the needs of today's students who are interested in pursuing careers in medicine, science, and engineering. The facility allows students to use systems they will encounter in college and to learn techniques they will use in their professional careers. Visit www.ramonaconvent.org

Next Step Learning Center - Transforming Lives Through Literacy For 15 Years

"As a tutor, I have seen these students change and become eager to learn. I have also seen MY perceptions and other middle class tutors' perceptions change as well: seeing these youth full of potential and HOPEFUL that taking this "step" gets them on the ladder for a brighter future"

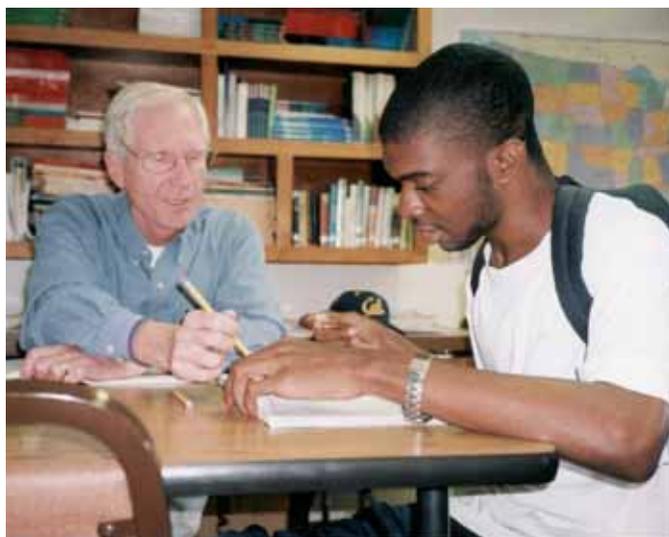
~ Meg Bowerman, Next Step Volunteer

It's really amazing to think that a little over 15 years ago there was no Next Step Learning Center. It was only a dream in the minds of some Holy Names Sisters in conversation with some of the neighborhood people. Next Step is a non-profit adult literacy program in Oakland, CA that was founded in 1994 by the Sisters of the Holy Names. Next Step students come from all parts of the city, but most significantly from West Oakland, the most disadvantaged and underserved area. All of Next Step's services are free.

Program participants come to improve their basic reading skills or to achieve GED certification. Almost 500 Oakland youth and adults have earned full GED certification – no small accomplishment! The new *College Transition Program* is drawing more and more Next Step students and graduates to a college education with all the opportunities that will make possible for them and their families.

"These kind and caring people dedicate their time and energy to help and motivate people to reach self-rewarding goals." ~ Daniel, 20 yr. old GED graduate, in second semester at Laney Community College

Visit www.nextsteplc.org for more information.



VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Rita Lynott - Our “Cookie Queen”

Tuesdays at the Los Gatos Convent are legendary as Cookie Day; but not just any cookie will do. For thirty-five years Rita Lynott has been baking cookies for the Sisters. Every week, she makes three different kinds, about 400-500 cookies, but always includes the Sisters’ favorite - chocolate chip.

It started when her daughter, Stephanie, entered the convent. Rita noticed that the women in the convent kitchen were burning the cookies, so she offered to come in twice a week to bake cookies and make dessert. To date, eighty-five year old Rita still comes every week, but only on Tuesdays. She continues to make three kinds of cookies, but lets Platon, who works in the kitchen, bake them which, according to Rita, is as important as the mixing.



Her memories of the Sisters go way back. “I even remember the houses that were there before they built the novitiate. I lived down the street. Later, when the postulants took their walks, they would walk right by our house. One day a postulant had on red tennis shoes with her habit.” She is also amused to recall a certain Thanksgiving when she forgot to buy potatoes and went over to the Convent to borrow some, “I think I was the only one in town who would ask the Sisters for some potatoes.”

Rita’s children pretty much grew up on the convent property. They played with the cook’s children and would try to help the Sisters with the gardening. Naturally, Rita sent her children to school at St. Mary’s where the Sisters taught. Rita still volunteers at St. Mary’s where she cooks a *Beginning of the Year Lunch* for the teachers. She also volunteers as a food gleaner for Sacred Heart Community Services and makes jam for the Marie Rose Guild.

Dr. Brian Warne - Making “Happy Feet”

Holy Names Sisters live in “The Convent with Happy Feet” because of Doctor Brian Warne. Dr. Warne, a podiatrist, has been coming to the convent once a month for ten years to take care of the Sisters’ feet, at no charge. He usually brings his associate, or interns who are studying under him. They will see from 27 to 32 Sisters in an afternoon.

Sisters, who are able, go to the community room after lunch where Sister Mary Liz hands out numbers. The Sisters take their favorite chairs and await their turn. Dr. Warne spends time visiting with each Sister; often teasing them. He tells stories about his family and his children, who go to St. Mary’s School. He shares his enjoyment of baseball and football with the like-minded Sisters. Then, he pays a visit to the bedridden Sisters in the Care Center to check their feet. When he sees Sr. Francesca, he converses with her in Italian.

If Dr. Warne notices something that should be taken care of in his office, he makes arrangements for the Sister to come in. The Sisters are very grateful for their “happy feet”.



DONOR PROFILES

We were asked to write an article for *Perspectives* to introduce ourselves and share why we chose to become monthly donors and include the retired and infirm Sisters in our Trust.

Jim and I were in religious life for nearly seven years, I in the Sisters of the Holy Names, and Jim in the Brothers of the Holy Cross. We left before our final vows, but still have great fondness and appreciation for our communities and our time in religious life.

The Sisters of the Holy Names gave me love, support, and a solid religious core. I have always been grateful for my time in the community. I wouldn't trade it for anything. I grew in my faith, and met and lived with women who challenged me, helped me grow as a person, and supported me in my vocational quest. To this day, various Sisters from the community will occasionally appear in my dreams. I guess I'm still attached!

We have been blessed in our marriage, work, church ministries, and income and we felt the need to share what we have with the significant people in our lives.

We are directing our gifts to support the now retired and infirm Sisters, and for future retired and infirm Sisters, because I feel it's my turn to help and support those who were such a help and support to me. All of the Sisters, whether by direct contact or by example, challenged me to live a life of faith and service to God's people and taught me how; lessons I still reflect on today.

"Helping to support the Sisters of the Holy Names financially, is one way we can say "Thank You" to all of you for all you've given us." ~ Kirsten and Jim Supancheck



Jim and Kirsten Supancheck



Gail Hehir (center) with her daughter Carole Schmitt and granddaughter Victoria Schmitt

brought joy and music to the classroom while encouraging us to do our best. Their excellence in teaching well prepared us for the transition to high school and college. As an adult, I got to know the Sisters at St. Monica as friends. My mother taught first grade there for fifteen years so I often went back for visits and enjoyed sharing "teacher stories." The example of the Sisters often influenced my own teaching styles during my thirty-five year career as an educator.

"Giving to the Sisters is my way of supporting the work of the Sisters carrying out Mother Rose's vision in today's world. It delights me to support the Sisters." ~ Gail Hehir

IN LOVING MEMORY † ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE JUNE 2009 - OCT. 2009



Sister Martha Bendorf
July 12, 1922 - June 18, 2009



God has been infinitely good to me
and rich in mercy.
~Blessed Marie Rose Durocher

Sister Marian Ruth Christensen (Sr. Maureen Catherine)
March 21, 1927 - July 10, 2009



One thing I ask of Love,
That I shall ever seek:
That I might dwell
In the Heart of Love
All the days of my life.
~ Psalm 27:4

Sister Rita Caulfield (Sister John Marie)
September 23, 1919 - August 22, 2009



You have changed my sadness
into a *joyful dance*;
you have taken my clothes of mourning,
and given me clothes of joy.
~ Psalm 30:11-12

Sister Marygene Heller (Sister Stephen Mary)
October 28, 1917 - October 28, 2009

For information about a deceased Sister visit www.holynames.net and click on Obituaries

Give the GIFT OF PRAYER

A Gift of Prayer is a meaningful way to remember the deceased, honor a friend or relative, celebrate a holiday or special occasion, or give thanks for God's many blessings. Prayers may be requested for any special intention. Recipients have their names entered in either the **GIFT OF PRAYER** or **IN MEMORIAM** book in the Convent Chapel in Los Gatos. They are remembered during Mass and in the prayers of the Sisters.

Send completed form to: Sisters of the Holy Names ▪ PO Box 907 ▪ Los Gatos, CA 95031

GIFT OF PRAYER

FOR: _____

IN MEMORIAM RECENTLY DECEASED

SPECIAL INTENTION _____

Healing, comfort, strength, peace, speedy recovery, safe trip etc.

TO HONOR/CELEBRATE: _____

Birthdays, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, etc.

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City/State/Zip _____

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DATED MATERIAL

Charitable IRA Rollover Deadline is December 31, 2009

If you are **70½ or older**, temporary legislation allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 from your traditional or Roth IRA in 2009 to qualified charities **without incurring income tax on the withdrawal**. This is good news if you want to make a charitable gift during your lifetime from retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so by the income tax penalty. You must act by Dec. 31, 2009 to take full advantage of the current legislation.

Qualified distributions must be made directly to the charity by the plan trustee.

Only outright gifts are eligible. Distributions to charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds and other split-interest arrangements do not qualify.

Please contact SNJM's Development Department if you require further assistance or clarification of the rules relating to gifts of IRA funds.

This summary is not intended as legal or tax advice.

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.

Privacy Policy

Sisters of the Holy Names values 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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