HOLY NAMES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP SISTERS CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

“The concert brought together these young women to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”
Sue Fourby, Parent - Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA

St. Mary’s Academy was the first Holy Names Mission outside of Quebec, Canada. In 1859, twelve Sisters left Montreal to begin ministry in the “wilds” of Portland, Oregon. The newly arrived Sisters established the academy and gave music lessons on their piano - a piano that had sailed from New York to Portland. The Sisters believed music to be an important part of a well-rounded education. Music, and the fine arts, continue to be at the core of SNJM education today.

The 150th Anniversary Choral and Orchestral Concert, held on April 26, 2009 in Portland, was an apt and spectacular tribute to the tradition of music and the fine arts in Holy Names schools. Two specially commissioned pieces beautifully captured the words of Mother Marie Rose. Over 2,300 guests attended the sold-out event that featured 450 student, alumnae and SNJM performers. Choral and instrumental groups from Holy Names schools in Oakland, Seattle, Winnipeg, and Tampa participated, along with those from St. Mary’s Academy and the Marylhurst Symphony Orchestra.

Pictured Above Left: Holy Names High School Orchestra members
Pictured Above Right: Holy Names High School Vocal Ensemble

HER VISION - OUR MISSION

Sisters of the Holy Names live in the 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.
Sister Annamarie Therese Colapietro

“I am privileged and blessed to be a part of God’s compassion and care for the dying, and for those who mourn.”

Sister Annamarie Therese Colapietro has found a very special ministry as a Spiritual Care Counselor for Pathways Hospice, working with patients and families in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. She is a companion, and sometimes guide, along the journey through one’s final phase of life; there for her patients’ needs but allowing them to set the agenda. She visits them regularly, with an empathetic ear to the myriad thoughts and feelings that accompany their life-limiting illnesses. Often, that involves identifying relationships that are important to her dying patients and helping them, and their family members, achieve a peaceful closure. Sr. Annamarie Therese provides comfort through the grieving process and facilitates meetings with pastors, priests or rabbis. Sometimes she is asked to assist with rituals for letting go or help plan funerals.

Sister Margaret Graziano

“I have some very interesting days. I spend most of them with murderers, rapists and burglars.”

Margaret Graziano was born in 1916 to Italian immigrants in Portland, Oregon. Her father delivered fresh produce along the route to St. Mary’s Academy and traded fruits and vegetables in exchange for Margaret’s tuition there. Upon graduation, Margaret knew she wanted to join Sisters of the Holy Names, the order that taught her. Sister Margaret became a teacher, teaching for nearly four decades in communities throughout the Northwest.

One day as she walked by the sprawling concrete Lane County Jail on the north end of Eugene, she found herself wondering, “What goes on in there, what goes on in their heads?” She decided to volunteer and was enthusiastically accepted.

Sr. Margaret toured the jail and asked the inmates what they wanted and what they needed. The answer was anything to relieve the boredom. So, she started a weekly art class, first for the women and then for the men. “I knew I could bring out beauty in the inmates, who had turned ugly inside from hate, bitterness and anger. I can motivate people to change because I can teach them to see the beauty in themselves.”

Sr. Margaret has done a lot of different things since 1976 when her volunteer work ‘behind bars’ started. Whether ministering as chaplain, drug and alcohol counselor, or volunteer coordinator, the essence of her work is the same. “I work with inmates because I believe people can change. I do what I can to make life a little better for the inmates. I believe that will make them better people on the outside.”

SISTERS IN MINISTRY

“Our women of hope who believe in tomorrow, we choose to move forward as Mother Marie-Rose and our founding Sisters did, creating from a common vision a new reality.” - SNJM 28th General Chapter Preparation
San Andreas Education Project (Started in 1991)

“We really appreciate the Sisters and the volunteers who help us to achieve our best so that we can have a better future.”

The San Andreas Education Project in Watsonville, California is a collaborative venture of 25 students, their parents, teachers in the local schools, 15 dedicated volunteer tutors, and Sisters of the Holy Names, who oversee the project. Sisters Mary Ondreyco, Inez Sherwood, and Mary Margaret Mulgrew started this After-School Tutoring Program in 1991, at the request of parents and students in the San Andreas Farm Labor Camp, in a small room in the dilapidated camp.

Through the years, and in several other farm-labor communities, the Sisters have kept the tutoring program going and have also participated in small faith communities, formed women’s groups, and tutored adults in English. Today, almost 18 years later, the project is housed in an attractive community center in the remodeled housing project in San Andreas. Sr. Mary Ondreyco, Sr. Inez, and the dedicated tutors continue to encourage and celebrate the educational progress of the students - all of whom come from Spanish-speaking homes. Some are on the honor roll at their middle school in Aptos; some have gone on to college. All would agree that this one-on-one learning experience is an invaluable educational gift.

Santee Mission Center and Children’s Library (Started in 1995)

“The library is a safe and special place for our children and they love to visit …”

Sisters Martha Bendorf, Miriam Daniel Fahey, Guadalupe Maria Johnston, and Catherine Irene Thoeni moved to the Santee area of San Jose in 1995. The programs at the Santee Mission Center developed in response to the needs expressed by their neighbors for religious education, English as a Second Language classes, and a place for the children to read and study.

Sister Martha Bendorf started lending books to neighborhood children from the living room of the Sisters’ apartment. A year later, she set up a “library” in a small room that adjoined the apartment. In 1995, Sandy Sifferman and Pam Parker, of Sacred Heart Parish in Saratoga, renovated the library with the help of the Girl Scouts. A computer system enables research and books are checked in and out electronically. Volunteers Sandy, Pam, and Lourdes Rivas staff the library five afternoons a week. The library’s services are improving the skills of at-risk children and helping them to succeed at school. In May, the library was awarded the Santa Clara County Reading Council’s Celebrate Literacy Award.

Srs. Guadalupe Maria and Miriam Daniel continue the religious and music programs at Santee Mission Center. Daniela Heredia, a sixth grade student in the religious education program, won first place in Bishop McGrath’s Eighth Annual Christmas Card Contest. Her design will be used for Bishop McGrath’s personal and diocesan Christmas card.
SISTER MARY ALICE HEIN HONORED WITH SPECIAL AWARD

“No education is complete without music. Music education, to be most effective, is based on singing and begins with very young children.”

The Organization of American Kodály Educators presented Sister Mary Alice with a special award at its 35th Anniversary National Conference held in Washington, D.C. this spring. Sister Mary Alice was honored as one of the founders of this organization of music educators.

When Sister Mary Alice Hein was a professor in the Music Department at Holy Names University in Oakland in 1963, she attended a conference on the Kodály Music Education Program. This program is a unique system of classroom music education based on the work of Hungarian composer, Zoltán Kodály. In 1968, Sr. Mary Alice started the Holy Names University Kodály Program with Mary Helen Richards and Hungarian professor, Emma Serényi, as faculty. Holy Names University is the oldest institution of higher learning in North America to offer an advanced degree in Kodály music education.

The idea for a national Kodály organization was conceived in 1973 at the first Kodály International Symposium, held at Holy Names University and co-chaired by Sr. Mary Alice and Elizabeth Szónyi, Dean of Music Education at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Visit www.kodaly.hnu.edu for more about the Kodály philosophy of music education and Holy Names University’s program.
With your generous help, the Sisters were able to implement a number of health and safety improvements to the Los Gatos Convent and Care Center over the past year. The largest project was replacing, or upgrading, parts of the old heating system. Thankfully, it was functioning before winter rolled in and the Sisters are pleased with the results. They now have adequate heat in their bedrooms and common areas as well as the means to regulate it. Several safety and accessibility accommodations, which were requested by the Sisters and staff, were also implemented. An automatic door was installed to give disabled Sisters unassisted access to the chapel and the freedom to worship at any time. A fire door to the Care Center solarium was installed to provide a safe room where staff can quickly take bedridden Sisters to await evacuation, in the event of a fire, until the arrival of additional assistance or emergency services. And the library, which was also a designated evacuation room (it had a fire door and a door to the outside) now has an automatic door and a ramp leading outside. The Sisters with walkers or wheelchairs are grateful to know they can get outside quickly, and independently, in an emergency situation.

The need for a new water pump, however, was a bit of a surprise. A temporary water pump had to be installed until a new one could be delivered. There were many days when not having water was a bit of a challenge for the Sisters, the office staff, and especially the kitchen crew. It was a timely reminder not to take what one has for granted. Thank you for the blessing that you are to the Sisters and for your continuing support.

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**A Better Heating System, New Water Pump, Automatic Doors & Ramps**

*Improve Life for Sisters at the Los Gatos Convent and Care Center*

> “The roof keeps us dry and cool, the heating keeps us warm and cozy. Without the automatic doors and ramps, I would not have access to the grounds, the beautiful gardens and fresh air. Thank you.”

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I have been connected to the Sisters of the Holy Names since birth; one could say - born into the Order! My mother was the sister of Sr. Helen Irene and I have many happy memories of helping Mom can jellies, jams, fruits and veggies and delivering them to the various convents where Sr. Helen Irene happened to be. My family visited “Aunt Dina” at all of her posts, mostly in Southern California, and acquired many close Sister friends along the way.

My husband, Bob, “joined” the Holy Names when we married in 1967. He became an ardent supporter of the Sisters, joining me in naming the Sisters in our wills very early in our marriage. We were, and are, inspired by the many ministries and charism that the Sisters devote to the people of God and we have a special place of devotion for Mother Marie Rose.

When we moved to San Jose in 1979, Sr. Helen Irene was living in Los Gatos. Our three children, now adults, have a happy history of visiting their Sister friends in Los Gatos (usually being gifted with yummy cookies). They especially appreciate the memory of witnessing Sr. Helen Irene received at her death. The Sisters surrounded her with love, peace, the joy of a life well lived, and the joy of stepping across the threshold to meet our Lord. Our entire family would like our last days to be surrounded by such love!

Robert & Barbara (Goldsmith) Aquino

“Our family has always been thankful for the friendship and prayers of the Sisters, feeling that somehow, their prayers have helped to insure happy marriages and family life.”

“I love attending the Strawberry Luncheon and Boutique in May, the September Benefit Dinner, and the Autumn Tea and Boutique. We made seeing ‘Late Nite Catechism 2’ a family event.”

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your contributions
- Support our retired Sisters who are in volunteer ministry
- Support our senior Sisters living at the Los Gatos Convent
- Support our infirm Sisters in the Los Gatos Care Center
- Strengthen our local and international ministries
- Sustain our values and educational endeavors

CONSIDER MAKING A DEFERRED GIFT

Regardless of the size of your estate, a simple provision in your will can leave a lasting legacy. Even a small bequest can make a big difference. Planned (deferred) gifts are made through:
- Wills
- Life Insurance
- Charitable Remainder or Living Trusts
- Gifts of Retirement Fund Assets
- Pooled Income Funds

SAVE THE DATES

Annual Benefit Dinner
September 18

Harvest Tea & Boutique
October 29

To join our invitation mailing list, or for more information call 408-395-2868 or email snjmcadev@yahoo.com

To learn more about remembering the Sisters with a Deferred Gift call
Sister Emily Marie McKernan
408-395-2269 or
Sister Kathryn Ondreyco
480-395-0259
IN LOVING MEMORY ENTERED ETERNAL LIFE JUNE 2008 - MAY 2009

May the Earth continue to live
May the Heavens continue to live
May the Rains continue
to dampen the lands
May the wet Forests grow
Then the Flowers shall bloom
And we People shall live again.
- Hawaiian Prayer

Sister Mary Celestine McCurdy
Jan. 13, 1911 - June 9, 2008

Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name;
you are Mine!
You are precious in my sight,
You are honored and I love you.
- Isaiah 43

Sister Jeannette Marie Bolce

Artists of eminent talent, who have experienced and understood what each of us lives, have given our existence inspired expression. In making us in God’s image, the Creator made us to be creators, and, for me, that creation is music.
- Wishart Bell

Sister Helen Keefe (Sr. Mary Clotildis)

May your days be filled with beauty,
Your heart filled with love,
and your life fulfilled
by the abundant blessings of God.
- Favorite saying of Sr. Roberta Mary

Sister Roberta Mary Furrer
March 27, 1919 - Nov. 24, 2008

Let me be the paint of your brush,
O Lord.
Let the people look at my life
and see that I have become
the wondrous work of your hands.
- Prayer of Sr. Teresina

Sister Mary Teresina Bretz
Sept. 3, 1907 - Dec. 17, 2008

Your name is preserved forever
in the hearts of all whose lives
you touched. The world is a far better place because of your life.
- William Nicholson

Sister Margaret Nicholson
(Sr. M. Theresa of the Holy Child)
June 11, 1915 - Feb. 21, 2009

To see the world in a grain of sand
and heaven in a wild flower
hold infinity in the palm of your hand
and eternity in an hour.
- William Blake

Sister Helen Theresa Markov
(Sr. M. Theresa Helen)
May 23, 1942 - May 2, 2009

An authentic call is revealed in “moments of grace” when through unplanned events we experience our lives as deeply imbedded within the community of life, the dynamics of the seasons, the prompting of the spirit, and those unbidden insights that come to us through openings in the imagination. - James Conlon

Sister Rosario Maria Asturias
May 29, 1914 - May 13, 2009

I am becoming more aware that prayer, the heartbeat of life,
is teaching me to listen with deeper attentiveness and care. It is urging me to continue expressing this in drawing, dance and song, as well.
- Diane Denke, SNJM

Sister Diane Denke (Sr. Marian Virginia)
October 23, 1937 - May 17, 2009

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

GIVE THE GIFT OF PRAYER

FOR: ______________________________

☐ IN MEMORIAM  ☐ RECENTLY DECEASED
☐ SPECIAL INTENTION

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

☐ TO HONOR/CELEBRATE: ______________________________

Birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, etc.

SEND CARD TO: ______________________________

Address __________________________________________

City/State/Zip ______________________________________

SIGN CARD FROM: ________________________________

Enclosed is my/our donation of $ ______ Check # ______

YOUR NAME ________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City/State/Zip ______________________________________

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. They are remembered at Mass and in the prayers of the Sisters.

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