

Family of Friends

NOVEMBER 2004

*To seek out
and
advocate
for the poor
and needy,
especially
families,

for the
Kingdom
of God.*

**Friends & Supporters Flocked
to Motherhouse for**

**Palmdale
Spectacular**



&



**Holiday
Boutique**



President's Message



November 2004

Dear Friends,

This season of gratitude provides all of us with the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in our lives, and be thankful.

Because we have been so blessed, we have a great responsibility to work towards ensuring that others are equally blessed with freedom, dignity, economic justice, and peace. For some, the response is to provide hands-on service to alleviate poverty and suffering, and give support and encouragement. For others, it is to economically support causes and organizations that supply this ministry, and for still others, it is to provide the sustaining prayer power for all God's people. Whichever is the response, they are all needed and each of us is Christ to the other and our world.

It is the prayer of the Sisters for each of you "...that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience... It is our wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11)

Thank you for the gift you are to us and to all those we minister to on your behalf.

Thanksgiving blessings to you,

Sister Sharon Flannigan

Sister Sharon Flannigan

Continuing the Tradition

Holy Family Day Home



beautiful building. Children and staff quickly moved into a nearby building, but they had to say goodbye to one-third of the children because there was simply not enough room.

While another generation of children continues to thrive and our services to their families continue to grow, the Day Home has struggled since 1989 – first to demolish the old building, then to design a new facility, and now to raise the funds to build it. As we begin another century of service, the exciting challenge of funding our new building has begun. There will be a great celebration when the children start up the stairs to their new school for the first time in September of 2006.



It began at 5:04 p.m. on October 17, 1989. Fans were just settling into their seats at Candlestick Park for the third game of the baseball World Series when the first tremor was felt. A section of the Bay Bridge collapsed. Six people were killed when a brick building collapsed. Power was out for nearly three days. At least 27 fires raged; dozens of apartment buildings were lost. San Francisco alone suffered nearly \$3 billion in damages.

It was the worst earthquake to strike the City since 1906. But such destruction was nothing new to Holy Family Day Home. In 1906, all three of the Day Homes then operated by the Sisters of the Holy Family were destroyed. Undaunted, the Sisters went immediately to several city parks to set up tents so their work with children could continue. It would be 1911 before the children could relocate to a beautiful Willis Polk-designed school building on the historic corner of Dolores and 16th Streets, across from the famed Mission Dolores.

For 78 years, that school building was a “home away from home” for more than 14,000 children, many of whom came to the Sisters at a very vulnerable and developmentally significant time in their young lives. Sixteen seconds after the 1989 earthquake began near Mt. Loma Prieta in Santa Cruz County, it shuddered through the Mission District of San Francisco. In its aftermath, we learned that we could no longer use our

After more than 100 years of service, the Sisters of the Holy Family transitioned the Day Home into the hands of a lay board and management during the early 1990s. However, the Sisters’ tradition of service to working families, their spirit of loving care, and their advocacy for the poor remains a living legacy, the deep, steady undercurrent of the desire to re-build the Day Home and to continue their important work.

For more information about the Day Home, or our exciting new building, please visit www.holyfamilydayhome.org or call 415.565.0504, x206.



*Thanks to these Sponsors
of Palmdale Spectacular VII*

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Development Department News

I began working with the Sisters in February, and have had the chance to be a part of the Mother's Day Brunch, Palmdale Spectacular VII, the 34th Annual Holiday Boutique, as well as two publications of Family of Friends, and am helping to develop the Sisters' new Web site. By the way, keep an eye out for our new Web site, www.holyfamilysisters.org. It should be up and running in the next month or so!

Each event has reminded me that the job of the Development Director is impossible to do without the support of many individuals. Also, each has given me an opportunity to meet and work with a new group of people. I have been happily surprised at every turn how dedicated and incredibly generous our volunteers, supporters, sponsors and friends have been. The Sisters' and the staff in the Development Department have been especially welcoming and supportive these past months.

So let me just say, thank you. I am truly blessed to have found a place like the Sisters of the Holy Family in which to work. With each new event and project, I am more at home and happy to be assisting the Sisters toward their mission "...to seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially families, for the Kingdom of God."

Linda Micciche

Linda Micciche
Development Director



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Through a unique nationwide service, wherever you live, you can donate a car, truck, trailer, boat or RV to Sisters of the Holy Family and that asset will be turned into a contribution for our Mission Fund.

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**To make a donation, call our
Development Office at 510-624-4580**

Reunions are Rewarding

Remembering by Dolores Buckholz

Many of you have had relationships with our Sisters for years and may ask yourselves, "I wonder where Sister _____ is now?"

When the Sisters taught in my parish, they prepared me for the sacraments and enriched my faith development and Church affiliation in so many ways. They visited my family during sickness and brought food and clothing when needed.

Perhaps you were cared for in one of the Sisters' Day Homes.

So many remembrances running through all our minds!

During March and April of this year, Sister Mary Helen Jathas and Dolores Buckholz, of our Development Department staff, visited five homes of former SHF Guild members in Marin County. This experience was so successful that we would like to expand on this venture by inviting you to participate in or even organize similar reunions in your hometown.



Let us help you plan a small group reunion and reconnect with those who have been supportive of the Sisters in the past. This is also a great way to develop new relationships; just ask

folks to bring their friends. Reunions can be planned by phone calls or a note in your parish bulletin. If you make the arrangements of guests, time, place, etc., Dolores Buckholz, Reunion Coordinator, will provide you with materials available to help facilitate the gatherings, arrange for a presentation either by her or by a Sister, and assist in any way possible. Contact Dolores Buckholz at (510) 624-4512.

In Memoriam

SISTER HILARIA MARIE DAWAL May 9, 1952 - December 31, 2003

I knew Sister Hilaria from the time she was 17 years old. Sister was from the small town of Decoto, California and was one of Sister Carmen Baca's many helpers. As a Sister of the Holy Family, Sister Hilaria's great ministry was her work with high school Confirmation students.



The last time I saw Sister Hilaria was in July of 2003 at which time I spent a month with her while she was undergoing chemotherapy treatments for Leukemia. During this difficult time of her illness, she was always so gracious with the people who came to see her every 15 minutes, night and day, to check on her. She was always so honest about her illness. When I left, I told Sister Hilaria how proud I was to call her "my sister." Sister told me she felt like the prayers of all the Sisters, and those who loved her, held her up.

by Sister Kathleen Garcia

SISTER M. ROBERTA VAN WOERKOM August 19, 1912 - September 25, 2003

Sister Roberta Van Woerkom loved to sing and take walks, and she loved poetry. She always said, "There is something for everyone in a poem." One day Sister asked for a pencil, and since by this time she was confused and unable to express her feelings, I stayed with her as she wrote in her poetry book, "I'm happy now."



Sister was great for traveling in the days before she came to our Golden Gleaners Community (Care Center). She often spoke of her life in Hawaii, of loving the people, and teaching the children about God.

Sister Roberta's death was very peaceful with all her Sisters present.

by Sister Charleen O'Brien

Palmdale Spectacular was an Amazing Success!

The sun shone, not too hotly, accompanied by a cool breeze. Volunteers ran to and fro and, like clockwork, it all came together as a great time for all.

After months of hard work by the staff, Sisters, and volunteers, the event went off without a hitch. It was a very successful Spectacular! More than \$106,000 was raised for the Mission Fund, which supports the Sisters' ministries. What made this event such a success were our 430 guests, as well as our volunteers. Ninety-three volunteer Ohlone College students served dinner to 430 guests and helped throughout the day. An additional 125 volunteers assisted during the many weeks and months of preparation to bring about this truly memorable day.

The Silent Auction was presented in the Best and Armer Houses. As usual the wine was in the Armer House; this year it was also accompanied by many great works of art. The collectibles, handmade contributions and other items were located in the Best House. Both presentations were

done very nicely. A hearty thank you to each and every donor, without whom these auctions would not have been possible!

Guests were treated to a special presentation by Sister Michaela O'Connor. Sister Michaela gave two talks on the history of the property (see related article) and then spoke at length with many guests. There was also a walking tour offered to all guests.

Another special feature of this year's event was the Earth Charter. It was reflected in all aspects of the celebration of the Sisters' 55 years on the property. Trees made a big impression. Not only were there trees given away as a special treat to a couple of lucky attendees, a seedling from the property was given to one person at each table.

The Honorary Committee this year represented organizations, companies and individuals who have helped maintain or care for the land on which the Sisters' Motherhouse is located. Each and every one of the Honorary Committee has assisted the Sisters in carrying out their mission.



History of Palmdale Estates

by Sister Michaela O'Connor

The property of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Family is a rich wellspring of history and beauty. Many visitors to these beautiful grounds question the landscaped acres or the interesting people and events that have shaped the site known as "Palmdale."

There have been eight major occupants of the land beginning with the original settlers, the Ohlone Indians. Beneath the Callison Day Home (now the neighboring Montessori School), an Ohlone burial site still rests where once an Ohlone village existed.

In June of 1797, the Mission San Jose was founded. By 1836, José de Jean Vallejo had arrived, and was appointed administrator by Pio Pico. He, his wife and all his children lived here until 1850. The Gold Rush brought many more settlers than Vallejo could manage, and they settled around the Mission and contested its right to the lands. In 1867 the United States issued patents to settlers. The first real pioneer of "Palmdale," Elias Lyman Beard, was a part of this settlement.

E. L. Beard established a general store and a nursery. He "purchased" and named Palmdale in 1859 and landscaped the property by bringing in native and imported trees, especially palm trees. In fact, the first fruit exported from California came from this property. Pears grown here were sold for a dollar a piece in Hawaii and on the East Coast, and were even shipped directly to the White House.

Juan Gallegos, coffee plantation owner and successful banker from Costa Rica, purchased the property from Beard's widow in 1881. He brought his large close-knit family to the estate where he cultivated the grounds, the palm trees (especially the date palms) and grapes, as well as the lawns, and the ornamental grounds. The ruins of his winery can still be seen in the area. Gallegos added to the property's lakes and fountains. In 1892, the U.S. Government seized the winery for tax evasion. The property was moved into the family holdings called the Palmdale Company.

Henry Lachman purchased the estate from the Palmdale Company in 1905. During this time trees from Australia and England were planted and a large area of roses was established. The Lachmans lived on the property until 1927, when the property was sold to the Starrs and the Bests.

Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Best were sisters and they quickly made their marks on the property. They built the Tudor style country homes, which continue to grace the land. The Heart Garden was built to surprise Mrs. Starr on Valentine's Day by her husband. The sacred gardens were built by Mrs. Starr. In 1939 the grounds' lawns were used as turf for the San Francisco World's Fair. Since neither couple had children, when they wanted to move back to San Francisco and Oakland, they decided to sell the property.

The Sisters of the Holy Family bought the estate in 1948 for their Motherhouse and training facility for the younger Sisters. It already had some religious shrines built by Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Best. Sisters of the Holy Family used the two houses on the property for 10 years until the Motherhouse was built. At one time the Best House served as a library for the Sisters. Now both Tudor style homes are used for administrative offices and rented out for weddings.

2004 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Even while Sister Dolores Freitas recovered from back surgery, she still guided this, the 34th annual Holiday Boutique, heralding the joyous 2004 Holiday Season.

Volunteer crews worked busily for many days preparing the event. Other volunteers helped shoppers, collected contributions, and sold raffle tickets. A very special thank you goes out to the dozens of volunteers who all year long, created the unique handmade items: crafts, quilts, baby sets, afghans, and cards. Many volunteers also baked cakes, cookies, fudge and breads. None of this event could have happened without all of them.



TRAVEL BECOMES US

by Sister Lucille Hintze

The latest book by our very own Sister Lucille, author of "Lucille's Harvest," is now available!

A joy filled tale of the adventures of two very naïve and inexperienced nuns, Sister Lucille and her Sister companion, as they venture out of the United States for the first time in their lives making a journey to Israel and Europe in 1977. This is a book to make you laugh at their blunders and decide travel is truly the ultimate learning experience!

Large print paperback, \$15.50.
Regular Print, \$13.50.

"TRAVEL BECOMES US" can be purchased by calling the Sisters of the Holy Family at 510-624-4580, or by calling Authorhouse at 1-888-280-7715.

Visit our website: holyfamilysisters.org

Family of Friends

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