

Family of Friends

MARCH 2007

To seek out

and

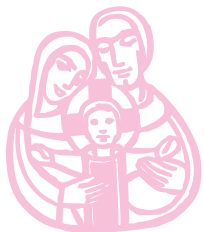
advocate

for the poor

and needy,

especially

families,



for the

Kingdom

of God.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY COMMITMENT CEREMONY



President's Message

March 2007

Dear Friends,

In our last issue of "Family of Friends", we asked for your prayers as the Sisters and Associates gathered in December for our Congregational Chapter.

There were many benefits to our gatherings, a few of which were:

- coming together to pray and celebrate Eucharist*
- exploring our congregational life and mission*
- a wonderful time to catch up with each other on what has been happening in our ministries*
- gathering at meals to continue discussions of the day, as well as reminiscing*
- the inspiring celebration on the Feast of the Holy Family of our renewal of commitment to the mission of the Congregation.*

During all of these days, your presence was with us through our prayers and sharing of our stories, for you are our partners in carrying out the mission.

We hope you will experience some of the flavor of our Chapter days through the pictures and quotes in this issue of Family of Friends.

I personally would like to thank you for your consistent support of the Congregation through your prayer and gifts of time, talent, and treasury. I leave my position in Congregational Leadership in June and take with me wonderful memories of your friendship and generosity.

The new Leadership Team will be elected at our April Chapter session and will take office in June. The Team will be introduced to you in the next issue of Family of Friends.

You will be constantly in my prayers,

Sister Sharon Flannigan

*Sister Sharon Flannigan
Congregational President*

Sister Carol Crater

A New "Chapter" *for Holy Family*



Every four years the Sisters of the Holy Family gather in Chapter, the legislative body that is “the most complete expression of collegial authority within SHF” (Constitutions of the Sisters of the Holy Family, #70).

Religious congregations tend to have a jargon of our own, using familiar words sometimes in unusual ways. “Chapter” is one of those words, though if we look at the everyday meaning of the word, it can cast light on our special usage. We probably most often think of chapters as sections of a book: part of the continuity of the narrative, but a break that marks off different times, scenes or characters. Another common usage of the word “chapter” is in the sense of a change, such as a new “chapter” in one’s life being initiated by a change of employment, a new relationship, retirement.

Like the chapters of a book, our Chapters every four years mark off segments of our history that can be looked at as a unit within the continuous story of the congregation. And like a new “chapter” in a person’s life, our Chapter sets the direction for the following four years, possibly calling for changes in response to the movement of the Spirit.

Chapter gatherings in recent decades have shown the changing face of religious life. Within that change, however, we can also find the unchanging call to follow the Spirit. Photographs of earlier Chapters show Sisters in traditional habits seated formally in neat rows. The work of Chapter was done in secret by a small representative group of elected members, while those who were not elected delegates awaited word of what Chapter decided. Recent Chapter gatherings have been open to all vowed members of the congregation as well as to associates, unless an Executive Session (voting members only) or Internal Session (vowed members only) is called. We most often sit at round tables for small group discussion, and frequently voting and non-voting members are mixed in order to enrich our table talk.

While photos can show the marked changes in Chapter from session to session, it is the Acts of Chapter that reveal the continuity. Whether in rows or at round tables, whether in traditional habits or “the modest dress of the women of our day,” at Chapter “the congregation reviews its life, ministry and the founding charism, and it works to be sensitive to the Spirit’s call in the needs of its time. Through the Chapter the congregation governs itself and makes the major decisions necessary to strengthen it for building toward the kingdom [of God]” (Constitutions #73).

Specifically, at Chapter the Leadership Team (the Congregational President and her Council) give a four-year report on how the team and the congregation have lived out the mandates of the previous Chapter and the congregational mission. The Leadership Team also summarizes the finances and other resources of the congregation, with some projections for the future (this year for the first time it was a PowerPoint presentation on

We come together to evaluate our lives and ministries in relation to the congregational mission, the Gospel mandate, and the changing needs of the people of our times.

the computer!). Through processes both during and outside of formal Chapter sessions the Chapter members determine the direction for the Congregation for the next four years, and a new Leadership Team is elected to implement those directives.

At past Chapters those deliberations concerned such topics as the Sisters' day home ministry, Holy Family College, the Sisters' habit, the creation of a Finance Advisory Board, the changing needs regarding an intermediate level of leadership, and the nature and purpose of sponsored ministries. Feelings can run high and deep during Chapter, and time is devoted to prayer and to social gatherings to help us keep our focus.

Our current Chapter, begun in June 2006, continued in December 2006 and to be completed in April 2007, is considering the configuration of the congregation, specifically in regard to an intermediate level of leadership to address pastoral needs of the Sisters, and broadly in relation to the larger picture of religious life throughout the United States. All our

deliberations are carried out in the context of how we can most effectively fulfill our mission "to seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially families, for the kingdom of God."

In essence, every four years we come together to evaluate our lives and ministries in relation to the congregational mission, the Gospel mandate and the changing needs of the people of our times, and we make whatever changes are necessary to continue our movement toward the kingdom of God. Chapter is a valuable institution in helping us stay on target as a religious congregation. Perhaps a similar periodic review could help families and even individuals to stay focused!



In Celebration of Mother's Day

Sisters of the Holy Family
invite you to a

Eucharistic Liturgy

Saturday, May 12, 2007
Motherhouse Chapel at 4:30 p.m.

to recognize and honor the many beloved women
in our lives, including our mothers,
grandmothers and godmothers,
living or deceased.

and to the

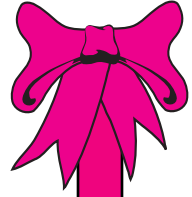
Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Sunday, May 13, 2007
Reserved seatings at
10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Best House and Garden
159 Washington Boulevard
Fremont, California

Adults: \$40 • Children 4-12 years: \$15
Age 3 and under: free
(Fair market value of this event is \$25/\$10)

For more information call: (510) 624-4512
Reservations will be held at the garden entrance





Chapter, December 2006

Throughout this Newsletter, Sisters share their experiences and impressions of Chapter 2006.

Sister Adrienne Andreani

Without a doubt our days together in Chapter preparation were very different from previous Chapters. As someone who has always found group discussion difficult, I found myself comfortable in the various groups and enjoying the exchange. Someone said to me it seems that everyone is really making an effort to listen to one another—quite a change from past years.

The Four Year Report given by the Leadership Team was fantastic. Thanks to the good investments, the Community is in great shape and we can continue in our mission implications for new Leadership. Something Sister Sharon said at the end of her presentation on the financial status of the Sisters of the Holy Family was wonderful and a challenge to all of us. Sister said, "We have the resources in people and finances to do whatever we want to. We have an abundance of options...we can be whatever we want and not be afraid to take risks."

Sister Teresa Marie Stiegler

Every Chapter experience is a time for growth. We have been spending our time together, Vowed and Associates, discovering our next steps as a Community on a new journey. Our Mission Statement and our commitment to the Earth Charter lead us to envision new ways to share what we have with each other and with the world.

Sister Sharon Mello

The best part of Chapter for me was seeing and visiting with the Sisters and Associates and visiting a friend in our Golden Gleaners Community (Care Center). The days were filled with prayer, sharing, and listening. We are getting very good at listening and being open to ideas that are not our own. On the last day when we were in chapel to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, I was filled with gratitude to be a part of such a wonderful group. We think that we are so small, but the chapel was almost full as the Sisters and Associates shared their love for the Holy Family.

Have You Visited Our Web Site?

holyfamilysisters.org

The Sisters of the Holy Family have taken advantage of the wonderful communication opportunity that the internet provides and has developed our own Web site. Though we have had the site for several years, we realize that many of our friends are not aware of what they can find there.



If you have Web access and have not visited our Web site, we hope you'll find a chance to do so. You can use it to increase your knowledge about our congregation, look up information you need, or use it to acquaint your friends with Sisters of the Holy Family.

Information includes:

- News of our congregation
- History and mission statements
- Information on upcoming events
- Overview of ministries
- Prayers and scriptures
- Artwork and writings by our Sisters
- Opportunities for giving
- Contact information, and a lot more.



**Winners of our
Holiday Drawing were:**

**First prize, \$1,000
Jeanne Dzubur**

**Second prize, \$500
Patricia Carney**

**Third prize, DVD player
Raymond Symington**



We Are Grateful for Grants

Received October 1, 2005
thru September 30, 2006

Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Julio R. Gallo Foundation
Trust Funds Incorporated

We Are Grateful for Bequests

Received October 1, 2005
thru September 30, 2006

Grace M. Barry Family Trust
Clara L. Bevan Trust
Elise M. Robbins Trust



Sisters Marie Julie Casattas, Diane Maguire, and Barbara Sheahan

First and foremost, it is always a joy to be together with our Sisters and Associates. For us that was the real highlight of the week.

As we talked about the models of governance we presently have, we found it life-giving to be able to come up with some alternatives that, hopefully, will be helpful for the new Leadership Team. Also, a thank you to Sister Sharon for all she did to make the week possible. The hospitality was wonderful.

Sister Lucille Hintze

Every four years Holy Family Sisters have meetings to determine the direction for the Community and for our Leadership. From start to finish, our December sessions were new and lively!

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

CURRENT FUND REVENUE AND EXPENSES

OCTOBER 1, 2005 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

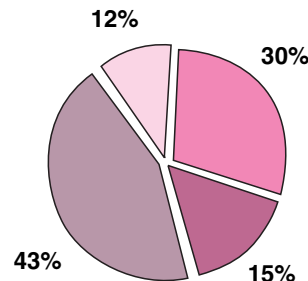
Revenues*

Members Compensation	\$ 1,429,073
Rentals	\$ 712,183
Gifts, Guilds, Others	\$ 1,978,336
Social Security Income	\$ 584,795
Total Income	\$ 4,704,387

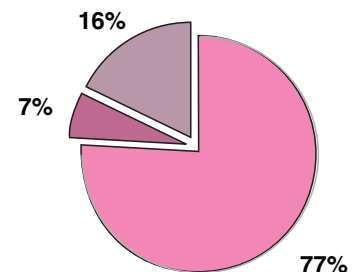
Expenses

Community Living	\$ 3,323,326
Health Care/Care Center	\$ 305,271
Supporting Services	\$ 715,245
Total Expenses	\$ 4,343,842
Balance Forward	\$ 360,545

Revenues



Expenses



Note: In addition to the expenses mentioned above for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2006, the Sisters of the Holy Family contributed \$851,898 to ministries and other needs consistent with their mission.

* The Revenue does not include Realized/Unrealized Capital Gains/Losses in our Investment Portfolio.

A copy of the independent audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2006 is on file in our Finance Office.



*Chapter, December 2006
...renewal, inspiration, fun.*

Sister Carol Bettencourt

Chapter gave us the opportunity to come together and to experience at a deeper level our prayer, our ideas and dreams for our future, and to enjoy being with one another. We have been blessed in numerous ways as Holy Family, but one of our greatest blessings is the gift of one another.

Sister Laetitia Rossi

My impression of Chapter was that of a good time to share feelings and ideas, and a time to look at the future of the Sisters of the Holy Family. This is always a good time for me to get to know my Sisters better and to enjoy their company.

