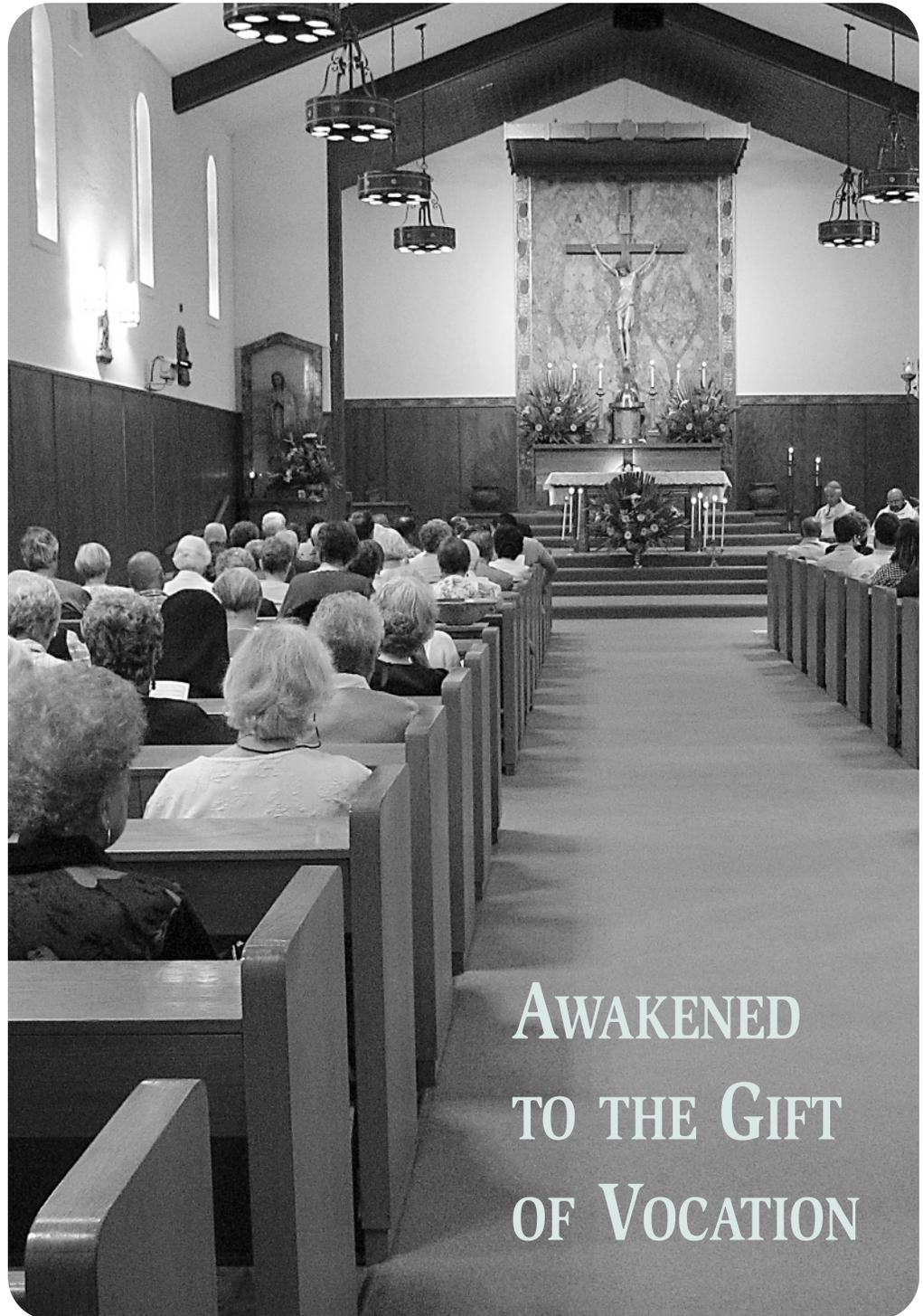


Family of Friends

APRIL 2010

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

for the
Kingdom
of God.*



AWAKENED
TO THE GIFT
OF VOCATION

President's Message

April 2010

Dear Family of Friends,

*The Sisters began the New Year by celebrating **National Vocation Awareness Week** with an Open House in conjunction with the Mission San Jose Dominican Sisters. The annual event coinciding with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is an opportunity for all of us to consciously recall our baptismal commitment and mission to be Jesus' disciples. We, who have been anointed by the Holy Spirit, are incorporated into Christ to be like him as priest, prophet, and king.¹ Like Jesus, our Baptism sends us forth on a mission which we live out in the single, married, or vowed religious states of life. In the United States we are particularly encouraged to act in a counter cultural fashion and foster a culture of vocation. Although very few people attended our Open House, we had a wonderful experience among ourselves as we shared our vocation stories – our being called by God to membership in the Sisters of the Holy Family. The experience motivated us to gather our thoughts and share our insights with you.*



Therefore, this issue of "Family of Friends" will be devoted to an overview of the vocation question in the United States. We will highlight some interesting points from the CARA Study² released this last summer and review with you our SHF mission and values which in recent past issues have focused on our presence and ministries in the Diocese of Fresno, and Hawaii. This issue will present a broad and objective picture of the life and mission of the Congregation and its impact on the local church in the Diocese of Oakland.

*By the time this issue reaches your home, we will shortly be acknowledging the 47th **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** which this year will be celebrated on April 25, 2010. For this annual occasion the Holy Father issues a pastoral letter, which this year has a threefold theme: friendship with Christ, the gift of oneself to God, and life of communion³. How the Sisters of the Holy Family witness to those themes will be sprinkled throughout this issue. It is our hope that you will join with us and encourage members of our church to reflect on their own vocation and to be faithful to it.*

Sincerely in the Holy Family,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Gladys Guenther". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Sister M. Gladys Guenther, SHF
Congregational President

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church #1241, English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church for the United States of America copyright © 1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica copyright © 1997, United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

² Recent Vocations to Religious Life: A Report for the National Religious Vocation Conference, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Georgetown University Washington, DC., August 2009; Mary E. Bendyna, RSM, Ph.D., Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D.

³ Pope Benedict XVI, From the Vatican, 13 November 2009 for Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2010.

http://www.serracanada.com/News/2010/2010_01_31_pope_vocations.php

Celebrating Vocation Awareness

Each year on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. At His baptism, Jesus was named the Beloved Son of God. With this celebration we recommit ourselves to follow in His footsteps. Initiated through our baptism, we also are commissioned to proclaim the Good News with our lives.

On Sunday, January 10, 2010 the Sisters of the Holy Family set aside time to reflect upon our vocations and those of our neighboring sisters, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose.

Refreshments were served to our friends, family and neighbors in Fremont. We also shared stories, prayer cards, and tours of our Motherhouses.

Sister Ann Maureen Murphy shared stories of her vocation and involvement with early childhood education. Sister Patricia Wittman told of her ministry as a staff librarian at St. Patrick's Seminary and her volunteer activities since retirement. Sister Ann Marie Gelles also shared her experiences in her ministry work with the blind.

Our Mission And Vision



As Gleaners, we stand at the edge of society where Christ is encountered in Word, Silence, and Action, where power of His Kingdom pushes out the boundaries of our world.

We will be recognized by our simplicity of life and visible presence among the most abandoned. Our mission as Gleaners will be to serve segments of the population who are under served by Church and social institutions.

Our coming together as a Community will be typical of the gathering of disciples around Jesus. Thus, we are open to the power of the Spirit which unifies and empowers us with a passion for mission.

The richness of our Community life will be the result of our commitment to interact with one another and assume the responsibilities of active participation as we live our common faith and mission. This will be enhanced by our spirit of inclusiveness where individuals, drawn by the charism, freely choose levels of participation where they live out their commitment as Vowed or Associate members of Sisters of the Holy Family.

Our position in the world as Gleaners calls our Congregation and institutions to a larger social agenda. Toward that end we will network and collaborate with other congregations for the poor; impacting policy with Gospel values and promoting the values upon which we were originally established.

Witness Awakens Vocations

The fruitfulness of our efforts to promote vocations depends primarily on God's free action, yet, as pastoral experience confirms, it is also helped by the quality and depth of the personal and communal witness of those who have already answered the Lord's call to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life, for their witness is then able to awaken in others a desire to respond generously to Christ's call.

Paraphrased from the "Message of the Holy Father for the 47th World Day of Prayer for Vocations," 25 April 2010 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Pope Benedict XVI

Commitment to the Vocation



Sisters' Ministry in Oakland Diocese

In 1911 Sisters of the Holy Family came to the City of Oakland, which at that time was part of the San Francisco Archdiocese. The home purchased was used for the convent and a day home for children, and it eventually became Saint Vincent's Day Home (SVDH). The Sisters' intent and goal was to have a safe place where catechetical and life skills were taught to the children of hard working mothers in the community.

Through the Sisters' extensive home visitations with families they came into close contact with cases of neglect and suffering. Although the children were their first priority, their work reached a wider circle. They exerted a wholesome influence upon the entire community among which they lived and labored.¹

Childcare ministry continues today at Saint Vincent's Day Home and the Sisters are proud to continue to provide financial assistance. In addition, our **Sister Ann Maureen Murphy** is the current Stewardship Director at Saint Vincent's, which is now an independent organization. (Additional information can be obtained on their website: www.svdh.org.)

Today the ministry of direct service and advocacy on behalf of the disenfranchised continues in the Diocese of Oakland through the ministries of these Sisters:



Top: Saint Vincent's Day Home in Oakland.

Bottom: Sr. Michaela O'Connor and Kmhmu children in Richmond.

Sister Michaela O'Connor serves the catechetical, outreach and prayer needs of Kmhmu families in Richmond, California. In addition, Sister and her helpers are presently working on the Cherish Kmhmu Traditions 2009 (oral history) project.

Ministry to people with special needs began in Oakland in the 1950s. **Sister Aurora Pérez** has continued this ministry since 1976 and was instrumental in implementing the Special Religious Education Department (SPRED) Program in the Diocese of Oakland in 1980.

¹ Rev. Dennis John Kavanagh, SJ, *The Holy Family Sisters of San Francisco 1872- 1922: Second Part, Chapter X, "Oakland"* p. 185. Gilmartin Co., San Francisco, 1922. This book is out of print, but can be found online at Google book search.

Sister Leonard Donovan, now retired, served in the Diocese of Oakland in the Department of Adult Education as a Director and a Coordinator, as well as Director of Catechetical Ministry, from 1973 to 1992.

Sister Mario Raffaelli is the longest serving member of the pastoral staff at St. Lawrence O’Toole – St. Cyril Parish in Oakland where she is involved in catechetical ministry and ministers to the sick and homebound. **Sister Sharon Flannigan** is presently assisting Sister Mario in catechetical ministry at the parish.

Sister Marjorie Wakelin teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) to Asian seniors at the Oroysom Village and Avelina Senior Housing in Fremont. This community is special to the Sisters of the Holy Family. In 1993, we began several years of advocacy and considerable public engagement to enable the construction of this affordable family housing project (owned and operated by Mid-Peninsula Housing) near our Motherhouse.

Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez ministers in an area of Oakland known for its poverty and violence. In her capacity as Social and Neighborhood Outreach Worker at St. Martin de Porres School, Sister Elaine offers low income children and their families links to social services, parent education, and ESL classes for Latino mothers. Sister was also instrumental in establishing a hot lunch program for the children.

Sister Marietta Fahey offers a time and place for personal growth and prayer at Holy Family Center in Walnut Creek and at our Motherhouse whose grounds and facilities have been used for years for parish retreats, scripture series and seminarian days of prayer.

Sister Caritas Foster is active in educating and raising public awareness concerning victims of human trafficking. Working in collaboration with local agencies, she is a knowledgeable and valuable speaker at many service clubs and nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

There are currently 68 Sisters of the Holy Family living in the Oakland Diocese, and 22 of our Sisters were born and raised in the Oakland Diocese.



Above: Sr. Aurora Pérez and one of her SPRED students.



Left: Sr. Caritas Foster gives a presentation about Human Trafficking.

Right: Adult students in Sr. Marjorie Wakelin’s “English as a Second Language” class.

Past issues of the Family of Friends outlined the Sisters’ ministries in many other dioceses and parishes. Find those stories at: www.holyfamilysisters.org/301/Newsletters.htm

Witness Awakens Vocations

The very life of men and women religious proclaims the love of Christ whenever they follow him in complete fidelity to the Gospel and joyfully make their own its criteria for judgment and conduct.

Paraphrased from the "Message of the Holy Father for the 47th World Day of Prayer for Vocations," 25 April 2010 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Pope Benedict XVI

Companions on the Journey

We are many who come together under one faith to be companions on the journey, sharing our lives and our ministry. Sisters of the Holy Family are active in promoting education, self-empowerment, deepening of one's own prayer and spirituality, and collaborating with others.

Spirituality

Through individual and communal prayer and faith sharing, Sisters of the Holy Family seek to deepen our relationship with God and others.

I was filled with joy when I pronounced my First Vows and four years later when I said "yes" to my God forever through Perpetual Vows. On January 16, 2010 our Community celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family with the renewal of Vows and renewal of the Associates' Covenants. For me this was a faith-filled and joyous experience for which I am as grateful now as when I made the initial commitment on January 6, 1944. ~ Sister Stephen Smario

Shared Vision

Sisters of the Holy Family share a vision of active response to the Gospel's call. We are committed to promoting justice and ecological sustainability through the Earth Charter and our Millennium Development Goals.

God, you do see; you see every trouble, every cause for grief; you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more. ~ Psalm 10

Ministry

We collectively and individually strive to live our mission "to seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially families, for the Kingdom of God." The diversity of our ministries reflects our commitment to provide meaningful and relevant services to the communities in which we live and work.

My goal is to make the learning of Braille more satisfying and fun than the way I learned it. I like to challenge my students at the California School for the Blind in Fremont to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. I am grateful to be a small part of helping my students discover their dreams, work towards their goals, and eventually attain their heart's desires. I have been living my dream for 33 years as a Sister of the Holy Family. ~ Sister Ann Marie Gelles

Community Life

In Community, our life and friendship with one another supports and challenges us. We recognize the value of each member's gifts, nurture inclusiveness, and celebrate diversity.

As the years went by I became not only close to the Sisters but I had built a relationship with God. My early desire to give myself to God in thanksgiving for His great love grew until I took the step at age 20 and entered the Community of the Sisters of the Holy Family. ~ Sister Stephen Smario

Reflections and Renewals: Vow and Covenant: Saturday January 16, 2010



May we all continue our journey with peace and joy in the gifts we all have, and the love God has for us. In gratitude, ~ Associate Theresa Mitchell



The Mass for the renewal of the Vows of the Vowed members and the Covenants of the Associates was a beautiful commitment to the promises that both make to their God and the Community. ~ Sister Loretta Marie Marbach



The day was a beautiful and blessed day - the meeting, the Mass, the Renewal of Vows and Covenants, and dinner. It was a day filled with memories that I will never forget. Love and Prayers, ~ Associate Rosemarie Pacheco



Associates participate by their faith sharing presence. The renewal Covenant in a group is an outward sign of commitment to help build God's presence. ~ Associate Fran Bruno

Associates: In Union with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family

Associates of the Sisters of the Holy Family are women and men who, in the midst of their ordinary lives, feel drawn to the mission of Jesus in the spirit and charism of our Sisters: a divine gift given by God in Baptism and Confirmation. These graces of the Holy Spirit strengthen a person in the love and service of God and others. Association with the Sisters of the Holy Family gives adult Christians the opportunity to deepen their commitment to living out their baptismal calling while extending the work of the Sisters. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family currently has 57 Associates.

An Associate shares her/his faith, life experiences, talents and gifts in union with the Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Family. Each Sister and Associate lives out her/his own baptismal calling to the mission of Jesus and in service to the SHF charism "to seek out and advocate for the poor and needy." Association recognizes that together we can live our baptismal calling more fully when we are strengthened by others who share a similar call to mission and ministry.



Pictured above are the Sisters and Associates from Las Vegas, on the occasion of the Associates' Covenant Renewal. Standing L to R: Martha Milner, Claudia Trujillo, Sister Barbara Sheahan, Sister Diane Maguire, Mary Resendez, Al Schroeder, and Sister Marie Julie Casattas. Seated L to R: Jackie Francish, Denise Delvin, Nancy Symanski, Betty Jones, Elena Murphy, and Teresa DeRiso

What is an Associate asked to do?

- Share with the Congregation of Sisters and Associates their faith and life experiences
- Share in the life of the Congregation through ministry, prayer, friendship, hospitality and simplicity
- Bring the spirit of our founder, Sister Dolores Armer, to our waiting world by participating in a ministry according to each individual's giftedness and circumstances

Study About United States Catholic Vocations Reveals Dramatic Changes

"People of all ages and walks of life continue to be called to religious life, which is changing with the times," said Holy Cross Brother Paul Bednarczyk, Executive Director of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC).

"The Church and the world need women and men religious. Their witness has been the impetus for social change and spiritual renewal throughout history. Now a new generation of religious men and women show a renewed appreciation of our Catholic worship, identity, and communal living. Their witness remains a vital part of the life of the Church."

Growing diversity

The Study surveyed 4,000 people in training or final vows in U.S. religious communities since 1993. The study's findings, which did not include diocesan priesthood, show an increased diversity in ethnicity, age, and life experiences among new members. It was found that the diversity is more than just cultural. Many newer members are highly educated and may have been married or have children.

While the religious are an aging population and most communities report diminishing numbers, some attract new members and a few are even experiencing significant growth. Men's communities and women's communities following more traditional practices have better success attracting younger members today.

Spirit attracts

Approximately 75 percent are drawn to religious life very much by a sense of call and desire for prayer and spiritual growth. An overwhelming 85 percent say what attracted them to a community was its members, citing their sense of joy, commitment, and zeal.

Beyond the example of professed members, the most significant draw for new members is community life and prayer. It was found that most new members want to live, work, and pray with other members of their community.

Hope in the future

Religious institutes acknowledge the challenges of diminishing numbers, generational differences, and diversified ministries. New members express hope in the future of religious life. One study participant said religious life "has been here a long time, and it will continue in whatever shape that God wants it to be." Another said: "Community life – If it's lived well, if it's joy-filled – attracts people."

The "Study of Recent Vocations to Religious Life" was undertaken by the Center for the Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), a Georgetown University-based research center, on behalf of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), a professional association of religious vocation directors, based in Chicago. The study is available at www.nrv.net.

Sisters of the Holy Family are Nurturing Vocations

God has provided our Sisters with ample ways to foster vocations this past year. We recently sponsored a Vietnamese Sister who will be studying at the Jesuit School of Theology this spring. We also provided an English immersion experience for two Spanish speaking Sisters of the Apostoles de la Palabra Institute.

Since December Sister Anne Marie Diahoua, Sisters of Notre Dame of the



Rosary from the Republic of Congo, has been a guest resident at the SHF Motherhouse in order that she can attend her course of study at Life Chiropractic College West in Hayward. There is a great need for more sisters in her community to become qualified as chiropractors. Her community works in a wide range of social services and religious support services, including an orphanage in Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo.

Witness Awakens Vocations

Personal witness, in the form of concrete existential choices, will encourage young people for their part to make demanding decisions affecting their future.

Paraphrased from the "Message of the Holy Father for the 47th World Day of Prayer for Vocations," 25 April 2010 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Pope Benedict XVI

What You (The Reader) Can Do To Nurture Vocations

For everyone:

- 1. Pray for an Increase in Religious Vocations.** Jesus says in Matthew 9:38 "to beg the master of the harvest to send laborers into the vineyard."
- 2. Pray With Your Children.** Make 'vocations' one of your daily intentions. Attend Mass with your children; it can create a strong family bond. Pope Benedict XVI said that unless we teach our youth how to pray, they will never hear God calling them into a deeper relationship with Him and into the discipleship of the Church. If you are ever blessed that your child does express an interest, show support and give encouragement.
- 3. Participate in the Parish and Practice the Faith.** A healthy parish community includes the participation of all its members; this includes your family. We all need to be reminded that the whole point of our lives is to grow a deep, intimate and loving relationship with God. This is where every vocation starts.
- 4. Give Support, Speak Positively About Priests and Nuns.** Show the priesthood for what it truly is – a call to be a spiritual father to the whole family of faith. Similarly, the consecrated life for a young woman is a call to be united to Christ in a unique way, and to be a spiritual mother to those she encounters in her life and service.
- 5. Study the Scriptures.** Take the opportunity to read and explore the Scriptures. There are so many examples of vocations that it can never be exhausted. Read the Bible to your children or, if they are old enough, encourage them to read themselves. Talk with them about what you have read.

For those considering a vocation:

- 1. Practice the faith.** We all need to be reminded that the whole point of our lives is to grow in a deep, intimate and loving relationship with God. This is the first step for any young person desiring to discern any call in life.
- 2. Enter into the Silence.** Silence is key to sanity and wholeness. We can only "hear" the voice of God if we are quiet. Spend 15 minutes of quiet prayer each day – this is where you can begin to receive clear direction in your lives.
- 3. Be a good disciple.** You can be a true follower of Jesus by serving those around you. By discovering your call to discipleship, you also discover your particular call within the Church.
- 4. Ask God.** What does He want for your life? Know He only wants what is good for you. If you are called to consecrated life, it will be the path to great joy and contentment.
- 5. Try it.** If you feel that God is inviting you, apply to the seminary or religious order. Remember, the seminary or convent is a place of discernment. You will not be ordained or asked to profess vows for many years.

Adapted from both: Father David Toups, USCCB Vocation Awareness Week and the National Office of Vocations of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales

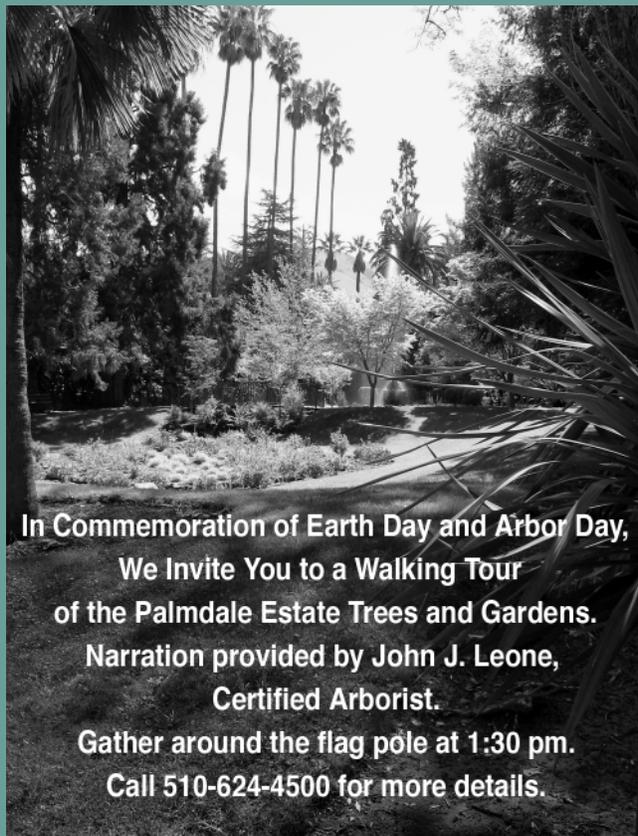
Calendar

Upcoming Events in 2010

April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter
April 11-17	Week of the Young Child 2010
April 22	SHF Motherhouse Guild: English High Tea at Best House
April 22	Earth Day
April 25	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 30	Earth Day and Arbor Day at Motherhouse (see announcement below)
May 6	SHF Motherhouse Guild: May Crowning
May 9	Mother's Day Brunch (Hawaiian theme) at the Best House and Gardens of the Sisters of the Holy Family
May 9	Spring Raffle – Ticket Drawing
May 27	SHF Motherhouse Guild: May Luncheon
June 28	Peace and Justice Day (see announcement below)
October 21	SHF Motherhouse Guild: Soup Luncheon
December 9	SHF Motherhouse Guild: Christmas Luncheon

Please contact the Sisters of the Holy Family at 510-624-4500 for more information on any of these dates.

APRIL 30, 2010; 1:30 p.m.



June 28, 2010

Peace and Justice Day God saw all creation and said, "It Is Good" (Gen 1:31)



*A day to deepen our gratitude, awareness, and
commitment to the miracle of creation.
Our life and commitment to the principles of the
Earth Charter call us to use our gifts and energy
to serve the whole earth community
of which we are a part.
This day will offer us an opportunity to pause and
reflect together on this sacred commitment.
Through brief presentations, reflection time,
sharing and ritual, we hope to deepen our
awareness of the Creator Spirit present in
all creation and calling us to become one holy,
healthy community of beings.*

*Thank You
to our many friends
who supported our mission
and ministry through your
gifts and prayers this past
year. You are in our hearts
every day as we share our
gift of vocation.*

Our Heartfelt Gratitude For These Grants and Bequests

Received January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Bequests

Daniel W. Archer Revocable Trust
Estate of Carla M. Massocco
McCarroll Living Trust
Marian Morris Survivor's Trust
Sheila M. Richards Revocable Trust
Estate of Walter and Clara Wade

Grants

Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters
The Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation

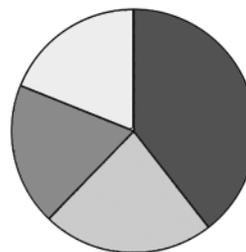
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Sisters of the Holy Family

Current Fund Revenue and Expenses, October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

REVENUE

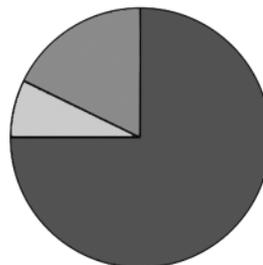
Member Compensation	\$	1,142,782
Rental	\$	887,458
Gifts, Guilds, Bequests	\$	1,722,739
Social Security Income	\$	654,128
TOTAL INCOME	\$	4,407,107



- Member Compensation
- Rental
- Gifts, Guilds, Bequests
- Social Security Income

EXPENSE

Community Living	\$	3,280,842
Health Care/Care Center	\$	362,192
Support Services	\$	857,497
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	4,500,531



- Community Living
- Health Care/Care Center
- Support Services

BALANCE FORWARD \$ (93,424)

Note: In addition to the expenses above, SHF contributed \$820,408 to ministries and other needs consistent with our mission.

Revenue does not include realized/unrealized capital gains/losses in our investment portfolio.

An independent audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009 is on file in our Finance Office.

Vacation House For Rent in Santa Cruz



The Sisters of the Holy Family are pleased to offer for rent,
Casa Garcia, our vacation home in Santa Cruz, CA.

Great location for vacation or retreat!

Call or email for information regarding availability and/or
reservations: Sister Laetitia Rossi, 510-624-4500 or
Laetitia.portress@holyfamilysisters.org

Family of Friends

Published by Sisters of the Holy Family of Fremont, California
to inform our friends of the activities of the Congregation
and to honor our generous donors.

SHF President

Sister Gladys Guenther

SHF Vice President

Sister Judeana Davidson

SHF Congregational Councilors

Sister Marietta Fahey

Sister Guadalupe Partida

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Hall Media Group, Chico, CA

We welcome your comments to:
Linda Micciche, Director of Development, 510-624-4581