

Family of Friends

JANUARY 2012

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

for the
Kingdom
of God.*

Vocations in Action

Partnership

Advocacy

Service

Justice

Courage

Awareness

Strength

Caring

Dedication

Unity

Leadership

Prayer

God Centered Living

National Vocation Awareness Week was January 9-14, 2012:
a time to rejoice in and be thankful for our vocations.

President's Message

January 2012

Dear Family and Friends,

I am not one to make New Year's resolutions, but one of my "traditions" is to look at a newspaper and pick out some events which seem to reflect a need for Holy Family prayer and presence. Here is my "short list" for the beginning of 2012.

Top on the list of concern and prayer is for children and families. If you recall the Feast of the Holy Innocents, you will remember that King Herod ordered a mass slaughter of all young male children. Although centuries have passed, child abandonment, neglect, abuse and exploitation are still widespread in our world. Our year ended with some good news for California children when California was allocated \$52.6 million from "Race to the Top" funds designed to strengthen early childhood education to better prepare our youngest children for success in school and in life. This issue of "Family of Friends" expresses joy that Holy Family, Saint Vincent's and St. Elizabeth's Day Homes each continue over 100 years of service in their respective neighborhoods. We continue to be a voice for those children who are just "learning how to speak" as we engage in the events which shape their lives.

Next on my list are some events annually acknowledged by the Church.

National Migration Week January 8-14, 2012: This week enables us to express gratitude for the many immigrants who are co-workers at the Motherhouse and help care for our Sisters through On Lok Lifeways. In addition to those Sisters in the Day Homes, most of our Sisters have worked with immigrant families. Currently Sister Sandra Ann Silva ministers to Oaxacan families in Watsonville; Sister Michaela with the Kmhmu in the Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Stockton Dioceses, as well as Sister Joan Litch who is a link with the church and the Kmhmu people in Fresno.

National Vocation Awareness Week January 9-14, 2012: The Sisters at the Motherhouse invited nearby parishes in the area to Vespers on January 12 to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life - to reflect upon everyone's vocation to strengthen their personal relationship with Christ. The Sisters and Associates will conclude the week with a renewal of vows and covenants in the Motherhouse Chapel.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2012: At Christmas we often receive cards and sing hymns asking for peace. It is appropriate that Christian churches throughout the world begin the year by prayer for a restoration to oneness for the Christian community. It is a call to be the peace for which we pray.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

At the Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate a global event - the arrival of the Three Kings who came bringing gifts from the east. It all sounds very glamorous until you realize it must have been a dangerous journey. The "star" we are following during January and throughout the year encourages us to pray and advocate against modern day slavery. We are grateful for the work of Sister Caritas Foster and Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez in this field.

And lastly, students of California history will recall that January 24 is the anniversary of the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort. Serendipitously, the exhibit "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America" opens on that date at The California Museum in Sacramento. Several Sisters of the Holy Family have been engaged in the preparation for the exhibit. We hope you will have the opportunity to visit this tribute to women religious in our state and country sometime during the next six months.

With prayers for a blessed New Year,



Sister Gladys Guenther
Congregational President



PHIL GALVAN RETIRES *after Four Decades of Service*

On November 11, 2011, the Sisters hosted a party to thank Phil Galvan for his years of dedicated service as caretaker at the Motherhouse. Phil's extraordinary service to the community began in June of 1972; however his friendship with the Sisters began much earlier. Phil said, "My wife, Sarah, met the Sisters when she was only 11. I met the Sisters of the Holy Family when I was nine during Christmas time. The Sisters have been a part of our lives for quite a while!"

Phil began his employment with Sisters of the Holy Family as part of the gardening and maintenance staff, but soon his talents surfaced in the areas of carpentry and painting. Ultimately, he came to be considered the primary caretaker of the Motherhouse property. Phil frequently was seen driving the tractor around the grounds doing gardening work on the 14 acres. His carpentry skills showed in many renovations to the Motherhouse and surrounding buildings. The Sisters only needed to mention something needed to be done and Phil took care of it. Soon after Phil started working at the Motherhouse, his wife, Sarah, began working for the Sisters as a laundress. She also worked for the Sisters for many years.

As a Native American of the Ohlone Tribe, who lived in the Fremont area for generations, Phil felt particularly proud that he helped the Sisters respect and care for the land of his ancestors.

Years ago Phil started to keep notes about the property in what has become known as "Phil's Book." This book lists the names and locations of more than 300 trees on the Motherhouse property, the location and details of the many renovations, and information about and instructions for the many peculiarities that come with older buildings. Without Phil, and his forethought to write everything down, much of the history of the Motherhouse property would be lost.

In addition to Phil's regular duties, he volunteered to make the signs for the Palmdale Spectacular, an event held annually on the Motherhouse grounds for many years, plus signs for many other events.

Phil, Sarah, and their son, Andy, became Associates of the Sisters of the Holy Family many years ago, and continue to remain strongly dedicated to the Sisters through their Associate Covenants.

Although Phil officially retired September 2011, he remains a familiar face around the Motherhouse, and is always available for special projects.



**Retirement
Party
Fun!**



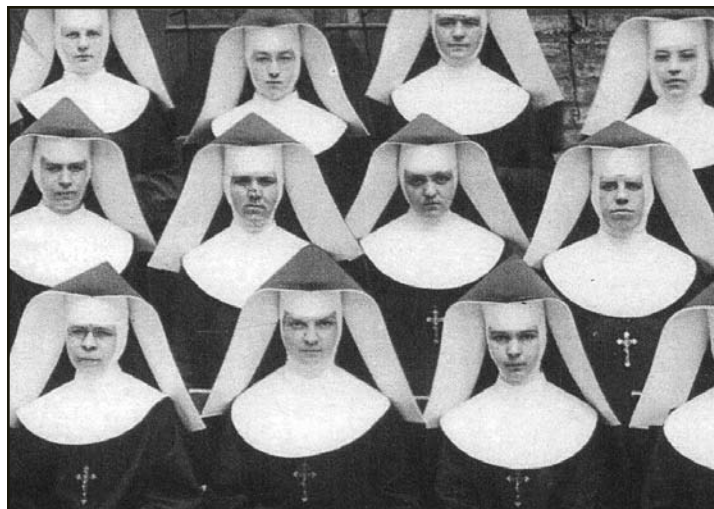
The Sisters thank Phil for his many years of service, dedication, and sense of humor!

WOMEN & spirit

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

DISCOVER A WORLD FEW HAVE SEEN, BUT MILLIONS HAVE SHARED

As one of our “family of friends” you are already well acquainted with Sisters of the Holy Family and probably have a good understanding about our ministry. But do you know about the bigger story of Catholic Sisters in America throughout history? Very few people do. Though most Catholics know one or two religious orders from their own experience, the lives of religious women and the immense role they had in shaping our country is mostly a mystery.



To tell this story, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), in association with the Cincinnati Museum Center, sponsored creation of a traveling exhibit, *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*. The goal of the exhibit is to highlight the contributions of Catholic Sisters to the history of the United States and to share this story with the American public. The exhibit reveals the mystery behind a small group of innovative American women who helped shape the nation’s social and cultural landscape.

The exhibit premiered in Cincinnati in the spring of 2009 and has been touring the country ever since, including the Smithsonian and Ellis Island. **On January 24, 2012, the exhibit opens for its final show at the California Museum in Sacramento. The exhibit will be open to the public from January 24 - June 3, 2012.**

Comments from attendees

“People of all backgrounds, faiths, and genders will enjoy it. This is a very significant exhibit.”

“If you care anything about American history, you’ll love this exhibit. It is not a feminine exhibit, it is an American history exhibit.”

“When I saw the wall, I was just amazed. It came alive. All of these different groups were really there.”

An Amazing Exhibit

Featuring artifacts, photographs, video clips and firsthand accounts, *Women & Spirit* assembles in one place the rich legacy of Catholic Sisters in the development of our country. Over the last 300 years, the Sisters built and managed schools, hospitals, orphanages and other social institutions when most women had few, if any, professional opportunities. Attendees to the exhibit will learn about these inspirational trailblazers, who corresponded with President Thomas Jefferson, talked down bandits and roughnecks in the Wild West and provided the first form of health insurance to Midwestern loggers. As a mostly overlooked part of history, Catholic Sisters played important roles in significant American turning points – from the Civil War, Gold Rush and San Francisco Earthquake to the Depression, Civil Rights Movement and Hurricane Katrina. Through education, health care, social services, justice advocacy and a caring presence, Sisters helped to shape the fabric of America in ways both seen and unseen.

These women did not settle for salving social wounds – they also worked to correct the source of these ills by participating in the struggle for social justice, and continue to do so today with widespread partnerships and collaborations.

Sisters of the Holy Family Were Instrumental in Telling the California Story

In addition to the touring national exhibit, The California Museum exhibit includes a special section about Catholic Sisters in California. The *Women & Spirit* California exhibit is about the contributions Catholic Sisters made in developing California's church and society.

Two Sisters of the Holy Family were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. Sister Gladys Guenther, SHF President, is serving as chairperson of the Sacramento exhibit. Sister Michaela O'Connor, SHF Historian, has been working with a group of Sisters from other California religious communities to bring together the stories for the local exhibit, collect artifacts and photographs, and work with the professional display team to create the exhibit.

This lively exhibit highlights the lasting contributions made to taming the Wild West by Catholic Sisters who were early California pioneers. This story began during the state's chaotic founding years in the wake of the Gold Rush with Sisters attempting to provide social stability by creating a "safety net"— childcare centers, hospitals, schools, orphanages, homes for the elderly, and countless other institutions of charity. Today, many of the institutions founded by Catholic Sisters in the early days of the state are still serving the public and Catholic Sisters remain a vital component in providing a safety net for those in need.

"California is always on the cutting edge," said Sister



Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America

Public Exhibit Opening: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 10:00am. The California Museum, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Runs through June 3, 2012.

Join Sisters of the Holy Family for a tour to see the exhibit at The California Museum on March 15, 2012, or sign up for a bus tour leaving from San Francisco to visit the exhibit in Sacramento on March 3, 2012. For more information about either tour, call Sister Angela 510-624-4592 or email: angelap@holyfamilysisters.org

You are also invited to attend a Background Lecture about the "Women & Spirit" Exhibit to be given by Sister Michaela O'Connor. The lecture will be held at the Motherhouse on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 2:00 pm and repeated at 7:30 pm.

Michaela O'Connor, "and the work of Catholic Sisters in our state is no exception. Sisters were shaped by what they experienced here, and in turn helped to shape the lives of those with whom they came in contact."

Sister Michaela said, "Women religious were able to do things other women of their time could not, and in this way they paved the way for other women. So many people have such mistaken stereotypes of Sisters, and I think it will be a great eye-opener for people to realize the expanse of the work undertaken by Sisters in this country, and in California in particular. We see the schools and hospitals, but there are other areas of service that are not so recognized because they didn't leave buildings behind. *Women & Spirit* tells a story that needs to be told, writing women back into our history." Sister Michaela emphasized, "I hope a lot of people will come to see it."

On display in the exhibit will be audio-visual features, creative artwork, and a rich selection of historical artifacts and photos, most of which will be viewed by the general public for the first time.

California has greatly benefited by the hard work of many women religious. This exhibit testifies to their efforts, without which the California of today would be a very different place.

Day Homes: Caring for Children in Need

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES

It has been a wonderful year of celebration for the children and families of three Day Homes, which were started by our Sisters more than 100 years ago: Holy Family Day Home in San Francisco, St. Elizabeth's Day Home in San Jose, and Saint Vincent's Day Home in Oakland. All of them continue to care for hundreds of children every day.

What has always distinguished these Day Homes is the quality of care they provide. Teo Baumgardner, who is now a staunch supporter of Holy Family Day Home, remembers her childhood years spent at the Day Home, starting in 1949, as a time filled with happiness, love and support. She says, "My parents, Rose and Erwin Succetti, were eternally grateful that I spent my youngest years surrounded by love and a feeling of absolute security."



The Need Is Still With Us

After more than 100 years of providing childcare for working poor families, we see that contemporary families still have the same need for quality, affordable childcare.

According to the Center for American Progress, in 2011 more children than ever are living in poverty. The Census of 2010 revealed that one out of every five U.S. children lived in poverty. In California, one out of every four children lives in poverty and families are living in financial extremes never before felt in California. The effects of the Great Recession, which ran from December 2007 through June 2009, have hit families hard. These problems have continued well past the declared end of the recession. When incomes are adjusted for inflation, it is clear that more families and children are living in poverty today than three or four decades ago.

Today's families live in a complex and unsettling work environment; many are unemployed and many more are underemployed. This underemployment of California families plays a definite role in the vast income drop families are currently experiencing. Families, who are working, worry and experience stress that at any time their underemployment may become unemployed.

OUR CONNECTION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DAY HOMES IS STILL STRONG

- ❖ St. Elizabeth's and Holy Family Day Homes continue to be Sponsored Ministries of Sisters of the Holy Family.
- ❖ Sisters Loretta Marie Marbach and Judeana Davidson serve on the Board of Directors at St. Elizabeth's.
- ❖ Sister Gladys Guenther is on the Board of Directors at Holy Family Day Home.
- ❖ Sister Marianne Smith continues to work at Holy Family Day Home where she has ministered for over 20 years.
- ❖ Sister Ann Maureen Murphy, while retired from the position of Development Director, continues to volunteer at Saint Vincent's Day Home.
- ❖ Sister Agnes Gough, who died in July 2011, previously served on the Board of Directors of St. Elizabeth's and was an active member of the Day Home until her health prevented her from continuing with her duties. To continue her work and honor her memory, St. Elizabeth's created an Enrollment Scholarship, which will afford a family with assistance for tuition support thereby providing a child the benefit of receiving an early education that he or she may not have received otherwise.

Leading the Way:



HOLY FAMILY DAY HOME: 100 Years in the Mission

Donna M. Cahill, Executive Director

San Francisco's last big earthquake in 1989 badly damaged the original Holy Family Day Home, which was built in 1911. After a major fund-raising drive, spearheaded by Executive Director Donna M. Cahill and her dedicated Board of Directors, the doors of a wonderful new facility opened in 2007, welcoming 150 excited children and their families. Over the years, the Day Home has seen incredible changes, as well as the constant need to help families. Among the families of the 171 children currently enrolled at the Day Home: 20% come from the shelter system; 70% report incomes below \$25,000; and 30% are enrolled in welfare-to-work programs. For every child that comes to Holy Family, we strive to provide a safe, secure, nurturing environment that fosters growth and learning. We're proud to say that this facility rivals any private day care center in the City.

ST. ELIZABETH'S DAY HOME: 105 Years of A Lifelong Learning

Dianna J. Ballesteros, Executive Director



St. Elizabeth's Day Home celebrated 105 years of service on September 30, 2011. Our work in early childhood education is significant, which plays a critical role in building a strong foundation for children to become lifelong learning individuals and for their lifelong success. Lately, the concept of how important this work is has integrated several sciences: biology, neuroscience, and genetics. Lifelong learning means people, at any age, feel competence and confidence. They are open to consistently learn through all life experiences and through one's entire life span. This is the primary goal in our profession of early childhood education – to give children the love to learn from preschool to forever. Our work continues to assist families to break the cycle of poverty and grow and improve our generations of the future. St. Elizabeth's Day Home prides itself in continuing the legacy of the Sisters of the Holy Family – we are a teaching and learning organization.

SAINT VINCENT'S DAY HOME is one of the jewels in Oakland's crown,

according to Jerry Brown, Governor of California
Corinne Mohrmann, Executive Director



More than 100 years ago, Saint Vincent's Day Home was founded in West Oakland to ensure that children of the "poorest of the poor" working families would be educated and nurtured, and their parents empowered to meet family responsibilities. The Day Home is located in what has become one of the Bay Area's most challenged communities. In the midst of this harsh environment, Saint Vincent's Day Home stands out as an oasis of beauty and stability, offering hope to the children and families it serves. Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1911 and now an independent nonprofit, the Day Home is the oldest and largest Child Development Center in Alameda County.

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.

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Sister Gladys Guenther

SHF Vice President

Sister Judeana Davidson

SHF Congregational Councilors

Sister Marietta Fahey

Sister Mary Lange

Sister Carolyn Whited

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Poverty-stricken youth show higher rates of academic failure, are twice as likely to repeat a grade, and they are about ten times more likely to drop out of high school. Dropouts are more likely to use drugs or alcohol, get into criminal activity, and become parents as teenagers (Pew Center, 2011). High school dropouts struggle finding employment, and may have to seek public assistance.

The 2010 California Parent Survey commissioned by the Lucile Packard Foundation found that 16 percent of children have parents who do not believe they have affordable childcare options. The parents most likely to feel this way are dual language-speakers, those without a high-school diploma, and those with household income under \$25,000, considered poverty level (Berkeley Associates, 2010).

One of the most important factors between high and low-income workers is EDUCATION. There are numerous studies that point to the fact that increasing the availability of high quality early childhood education, or preschool, can help families and children for future generations. Preschool or early education gives children the social, emotional and cognitive capabilities they need to succeed in school. Creative, focused programs of early childhood education have been shown to have lifelong benefits for children that persist up to 20, 30, even 40 years later (Developing Child, Harvard, 2007).

- ❖ **More families live in poverty today than in the 1980s.**
- ❖ **Poverty-stricken youths are 10 times more likely to drop out of high school.**
- ❖ **Early childhood education provides the skills children need to succeed in school and life.**

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WOMEN & spirit
CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

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