



To seek out and advocate
for the poor and needy,
especially families,
for the Kingdom of God.

Holy Family Sisters

JUNE-JULY
2013

Congratulations Jubilarians



Back row: Sister Carolyn Whited, Sister Patricia Wittman, Sister Caritas Foster, Sister Mary Helen Jathas, and Sister M. Joanne Logan. Seated in front: Sister Geraldine Garbarino, Sister M. Eleanor Rizzi, and Sister M. Therese Martinez. Inset: Sister Marie Ann Brent

Sister Geraldine Garbarino – 70 Years

As Sister Geraldine celebrates 70 years in religious life, she expresses her gratitude to her parents and family who, through their example and sacrifices, supported her in her vocation. Sister is also grateful for her 53 years of catechetical and pastoral ministries. Sister Geraldine continues her journey in love. *“It is only in giving to others that we truly live.” Ethel Percy Andrus*

Sister Therese Martinez – 70 Years

Sister Therese reminisces that much has happened since 1943 when she entered the Sisters of the Holy Family. The people and the children Sister Therese worked with over the years were outstanding. In each ministry there was always one special person who needed something spiritual or material. The last 24 years, before Sister's retirement, she spent teaching fifth grade in the Alum Rock School District in San Jose. Sister considers these years challenging and very special. Sister has learned that nothing stays constant in our lives so the



teaching, too, came to an end. In her retirement years she has the opportunity to continue to pray, read and work on crafts. Sister is grateful for the support given her by her family and her Community. Sister loves the Holy Family!

Sister Marie Ann Brent – 60 Years

Sister Marie Ann entered the Sisters of the Holy Family on January 6, 1953. After final vows Sister Marie Ann's catechetical ministries took place in San Antonio, Texas and then various communities throughout California. In 1970 Sister Marie Ann was asked to serve in the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska. What initially began as six weeks during the summer turned into formal missioning and Sister Marie Ann continued serving in Alaska. Sister was the Pastoral Director for the “bush” country taking on an additional form of outreach as an Emergency Medical Technician. Sister's Alaskan ministry continued as Pastoral Administrator in lieu of a resident priest in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Dillingham and Valdez. Now retired, Sister Marie Ann still lives in Alaska and volunteers with the Senior Program and the local parish in Valdez.

2013 Jubilarians, *Continued*

Sister Mary Helen Jathas – 60 Years

As 60 years as a Sister of the Holy Family glides across Sister Mary Helen's mind, she thinks of the opportunities she has had to be able to minister in a variety of places with a variety of people. Sister finds that these years have been enriching ones. The love, respect, and support Sister has received from her family, her friends, the religious of the Congregation and the hundreds who have come into her life these past 60 years, are cherished blessings.

Sister Joanne Logan – 60 years

Sister Joanne Logan was born in a small town in Oregon, received her education and earned her living there until January 1953 when she boarded a bus destined for San Francisco. Two days later she entered the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family in San Francisco. Sister chose Holy Family because of the Capuchin priests who knew of the Sisters and their ministries and suggested that she contact them. After a "come and see" invitation, she looked no further. Most of Sister Joanne's 60 years have been ministering in the Diocese of Oakland but assignments have taken her to other parishes in California and Hawaii, to name a few. Sister obtained a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministries/Catechetics at Santa Clara University. Sister Joanne is now retired and resides at the Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister keeps active pursuing personal interests and doing "in house" volunteer ministry. Sister also volunteers with the SPRED Program in the Diocese of Oakland. Sister Joanne says, "It is a good life!"

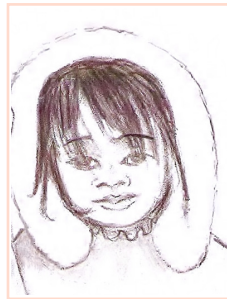


Sister Eleanor Rizzi – 60 Years

Sister Eleanor, at the age of 12, first met the Sisters of the Holy Family at Holy Family Parish in San Jose where she and her family attended Mass. Sister Eleanor and her mother were recruited to help with the sewing and crafts at the parish. Later, Sister Eleanor volunteered at St. Elizabeth's Day Home in San Jose. The Sister in charge at the time was influential in Sister Eleanor's decision to enter the Sisters of the Holy Family. Sister Eleanor began her ministry in Religious Education in the parishes and recognized there were troubled children and parents with unmet needs. This knowledge led Sister Eleanor to pursue her license in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy, which she received in 1984. From then on, Sister Eleanor counseled children and families in this capacity. Although Sister Eleanor retired in 2010, she continues to counsel children by volunteering at Abode Services in Fremont.

Sister Carolyn Whited – 60 Years

In the fall of 1951 while studying at San Jose State University, Sister Carolyn found that she could not deny the urge within her to devote her life completely to the service of God. She realized her call was to serve those on the fringe of the church and society, not to educate the already churched. Sister stumbled upon the Sisters of the Holy Family and resonated with their focus on the mission: "to seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially families, for the Kingdom of God." It is with much gratitude and deep joy that Sister Carolyn celebrates 60 years of union with her Holy Family Sisters in striving "to do justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly" with our God. (cf. Micah 6:8)



Sister Patricia Wittman – 60 years

Sister Patricia was introduced to the Sisters of the Holy Family by a vocation leaflet received by Catholic Charities in Portland where Sister Patricia was employed. After a visit to the Sisters' San Francisco Convent, this lifelong commitment began. Parish ministries included a diocesan program of teacher formation of adults for elementary and high school religion classes and Sister Patricia was deeply impressed to see how their caring and inspiration truly worked with God in making faith connections for young people. Sister was later assigned to parishes in Hawaii. While in Hawaii Sister Patricia received a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Hawaii and ultimately became Librarian of Holy Family College at the Motherhouse. After the College closed Sister Patricia continued her ministry at St. Patrick's



Seminary Library in Menlo Park which began the next 25 years of her "second career." Now retired, Sister participates in the activities in her parish, Corpus Christi of Piedmont, realizing gratefully what a blessing this life of opportunities continues to be.

Sister Caritas Foster – 50 years

It is with gratitude that Sister Caritas Foster celebrates 50 years as a Sister of the Holy Family. Sister is grateful to have shared in the mission of Christ in various ministries and to have worked with many wonderful and committed people sharing faith and working for justice. Her Sister and Associate companions have been both grace and blessing. Sister is deeply indebted to the God who called her to this vocation. Her heart rejoices in a life filled with amazing grace.