

Family of Friends

APRIL 2013

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



*for the
Kingdom
of God.*



President's Message

April 2013

Dear Family of Friends,

Spring has arrived at and we are experiencing the great awakening which occurs each year in the gardens surrounding the Motherhouse. Each year we are surprised anew by flowering trees and the activity of wildlife which accompany the arrival of new life. This year we have many reasons for celebration; the festive feast for St. Joseph, our patron, the early arrival of Easter, our continual seasonal celebrations of God made manifest in creation, and progress regarding our ability to preserve the park-like land and atmosphere at our Motherhouse.



Just as nature seems to have been on a journey through winter, so, too, the Sisters of the Holy Family have been on a journey to understand our relationship to God's gift of the earth and cosmos. In 2004 the Sisters made a commitment to embrace the Earth Charter. It seemed a natural step for a San Francisco founded Congregation to extend Francis' commitment to "Brother Sun and Sister Moon ..." into their own lives and practices. The Motherhouse property was purchased in 1948 as a place of quiet contemplation, as a place set apart for learning for the Novices. Even though the City of Fremont surrounds us, the quiet and meditative nature of the land still envelops us.

In practice we have been guardians of children and committed to families for over 140 years and have sustained the natural order at the grounds at Mission San Jose for 65 years. These words from the Preamble to the Earth Charter inspire and motivate us to continue our journey: *"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations."* (Earth Charter Initiative: "Text of the Earth Charter")

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Family of Friends* which gives an insight into our sustainability interests and our response to the challenge put forth by the U.S. Bishops *"to examine how we use and share the goods of the earth, what we pass on to future generations, and how we live in harmony with God's creation...to explore the links between concern for the person and for the earth, between natural ecology and social ecology."* (Renewing the Earth, <http://nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp/bishopsstatement.shtml>)

The Journey continues and with the prophet, Daniel, we acknowledge that all creation is called to "bless the Lord."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Gladys Guenther". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister M. Gladys Guenther, SHF
Congregational President

Palmdale: Our Home and Historic Treasure

SINCE 1948, SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY have been privileged to own Palmdale, a remarkable natural oasis tucked between residential and business neighborhoods in Fremont. We have been conserving and protecting Palmdale for over 65 years. We love this property, both as our home and as a rich environmental and historic treasure.

For the past several years, we have been contemplating how we could conserve this natural treasure...the land, the trees, and the entire eco-system associated with it. Four years ago, we made it our goal to find a way to preserve, in perpetuity, a significant portion of Palmdale as close as possible to its current serene state. In recognition of the extensive costs of maintaining the landscaping and trees and the care of the historic Starr and Best homes, we knew we could not realistically continue to finance their upkeep for many more years.

At the same time, we have been grappling with the fact that our Motherhouse is functionally obsolete in many ways and we need to have more appropriate housing for our Sisters, many of whom are in their 80's and 90's.

Our exploration and discernment brought us into discussion with Dutra Cerro Graden (a consulting company that specializes in working with religious communities on strategic land use issues). Together we have developed a plan that will solve both our challenges. The plan combines preservation with development in an extremely well thought-out approach that we believe will be good for our congregation, the community of Fremont, and future generations. The plan calls for dividing our property and selling a small portion of it for residential

development. Monetizing a portion of the property will provide the funds needed for preservation and for new housing for ourselves.

The Core Area, about 5.5 acres, which contains the most significant trees and landscaping, will be preserved as Private Open Space in perpetuity.

On the northwest corner of the property, we will build new housing for our Sisters. There will be three single-story cottage-like buildings designed specifically for senior housing which will allow our Sisters to age-in-place at home. Each building will be home for 15 Sisters. In developing our plans, we have been guided by concepts

defined as "The Household Model" by LaVrene Norton and Steve Shields in their book *In Pursuit of the Sunbeam*. This model is grounded in respect for each individual and the goal to let them direct their own lives. LaVrene will be making a presentation on the Household Model on May 16, in the Motherhouse Auditorium to which the public is invited. (See box below.)

The Best House will continue to be used for receptions and parties, which happily means all bookings will be honored and new events can be scheduled there.

We are still in the formative process of making plans for our property and there are many decisions yet to be

made, but we are very pleased to be working towards accomplishing our dual goals of preservation of the land and providing appropriate housing for our Sisters. Throughout our discernment process, we have sought the best use of the resources entrusted to our care and strived to leave a legacy for future generations. Later in the Spring we will be having an Open House to share more details of our plans.



"Nursing Homes, Assisted and Independent Living Environments Embrace the Household Model" . . . Presentation by LaVerne Norton

Why would we expect our aging and frail elders to give up home – just when they need it the most! The Household Model provides an alternative solution. From coast-to-coast, nursing homes, assisted living, and even friend groups of independent, healthy elders are shaping into small, shared households. This session will showase images, stories, and video of a half dozen care homes deeply engaged in renovating and reorganizing into home. Come learn about this model for senior living.

May 16, 2013 • 7:00 pm • SHF Motherhouse Auditorium

FBI Honors Sisters for Their Work Against Human Trafficking

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY WERE HONORED to be a recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award at a luncheon on December 12, 2012 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fremont. Since 1990 the FBI has presented this prestigious award to honor individuals and organizations for demonstrating outstanding contributions to their local community through service. The Sisters of the Holy Family were selected by the San Francisco FBI Field Office for their efforts in addressing the issue of Human Trafficking through raising awareness and supporting agencies providing services to victims/survivors.

During the award ceremony, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Joel Moss of the FBI's San Francisco Field Office, said the Sisters "personify the true meaning of the award by identifying a need and making it their mission to raise awareness of some of the worst crime against our youth," and "for making a difference in our community."

Sister Gladys Guenther, president of Sisters of the Holy Family, said the Sisters committed themselves to participate on whatever level they each felt was possible. Some collected or made items, such as blankets, clothing and toiletries, for human trafficking victims in shelters. Others took part in the walk-a-thon held last year by the Sisters of the Holy Family on the grounds of the Motherhouse. The walk-a-thon raised \$5,000 for local organizations providing direct services to victims. Still others underwent the six-month training course and began making presentations on human trafficking to civic groups and faith communities throughout the Bay Area. They spoke with parents and children about Internet safety and pushed for anti-trafficking legislation.

The Sisters of the Holy Family will be formally honored April 2013 in Washington, D.C. Sisters Marietta Fahey and Elaine Marie Sanchez will receive the presentation by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III on behalf of the Congregation.

We are grateful to our local FBI for their many partnerships since 2008 when we, as a Community,



chose to focus on addressing Human Trafficking. Although the Director's Community Leadership Award is given to the Sisters of the Holy Family, it represents the many individuals and organizations that collaborated with the Sisters in these endeavors.

The Award recognized that through their combined efforts the Sisters had become a vital link between law enforcement agencies, faith communities and community resources. "It was interesting to receive the award," said Sister Gladys, "but it's more gratifying to know that the small efforts we made have raised awareness of human trafficking to the public." Sister Caritas Foster, coordinator of the Sisters' anti-trafficking ministry, said "human trafficking is modern-day slavery. People are being exploited, bought and sold." During her presentations on human trafficking to various groups, Sister Caritas seeks to educate those in attendance about the scope and urgency of the problem. "Human Trafficking 101 is what I call it," she said. "It's basic information."

"Labor is the predominant way people are exploited," said Sister Caritas, who points out that people are often brought into the country legally and then trafficked. "Usually, they're working to pay off travel costs. They're forced to live and work wherever. At the end of the week, they owe more than when they started."

"The Internet is one of the primary places where people are bought and sold," said Sister Caritas. "It's the place we do business now." Her educational presentations are designed to do more than educate; it is hoped that those in attendance will take action by reporting suspected cases of human trafficking to authorities who can then investigate.



Felipe "Phil" Galvan Passed Away

FELIPE "PHIL" GALVAN, LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE SISTERS, passed away March 25, 2013, at the age of 87. Phil is survived by his wife, Sarah Mary Galvan; a daughter, Eleanor Galvan; two sons, Michael and Andrew Galvan; plus a sister, a brother, four grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

An Army Veteran of World War II, Phil was employed by the Sisters of the Holy Family from June 1972 until his retirement in September 2011. Phil began his employment with the Sisters as part of the gardening and maintenance staff. Ultimately, he came to be considered the primary caretaker of the Motherhouse property. Phil was frequently 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.

Phil dedicated himself to the preservation of his ancestral Ohlone culture. In 1967, Phil proposed naming the local community College "OHLONE." Almost 50 years later, Ohlone College remains the only community college in the United States named for an Indian Tribe. Phil felt particularly proud that he helped the Sisters respect and care for the land of his ancestors.

In 1971, Phil and other members of his family formed The Ohlone Indian Tribe, Inc., for the successful purpose of maintaining and preserving the Ohlones Indian Cemetery on Washington Boulevard in Fremont.

On June 13, 1982, Phil and his brother Ben Galvan laid the cornerstone for the widely acclaimed reconstruction of the 1809 Mission San Jose adobe Church.

Phil, Sarah, and their son, Andy, became Associates of the Sisters of the Holy Family many years ago. Although Phil officially retired in September 2011, he remained a familiar face around the Motherhouse, and was always available for special projects. The Sisters are indebted to Phil and his family, for his many years of service, dedication, and his wonderful sense of humor!

Let the earth bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

Mountains and hills, bless the
Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

Everything growing from the
earth, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

You springs, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

Seas and rivers, bless the
Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

You dolphins and all water
creatures, bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

All you birds of the air, bless
the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

All you beasts, wild and tame,
bless the Lord;
praise and exalt him above all
forever.

[Daniel 3:74-81]

'Abide in me,' Jesus tells us, 'and you will bear much fruit.' Yet too often we forget that fruit needs different seasons in order to grow. "Just as there are seasons in the world around us, so there are in our interior life," Teresa of Avila wisely observed. "We cannot expect it to be otherwise."

Spring is a season of renewal and rebirth. It's a time when buds become leaves and flowers, when healing rain washes city streets and falls like grace on parched country fields, when the hard ground beneath us softens to allow shoots of new life to emerge.

As on the outside, so also on the inside: Spring is a time for cleaning out and making way for fresh possibilities and new commitments. It's a time to revive our senses and expand our horizons. It's a time to begin again.

Spirituality of the Seasons

Celebration of Life Giving Water

Article by Diana White, SHF

SUCH AN ORDINARY THING: WATER. We see water, we drink water, we waste water and we don't even think about it. In this workshop I learned that the earth is about 70% water to about 30% land and only 1% of the water is drinkable. Presented along with these facts were the many other aspects of water and how it nourishes the body, the mind, and the spirit of each of us.

This information was given at the recent Spirituality of the Seasons Workshop, through the use of Learning Centers situated around our large Community Room at our Motherhouse. In each Learning Center different aspects of water were emphasized. Water use in Creative Art, Written Expression, and Scriptural Connections allowed each participant to get her hands and mind into each aspect of water's gifts.

I wish that I had been able to participate in each of the Learning Centers, but my concentration was on the Scriptural Connections. My meditation on the readings I did in scripture made me look at the aspect of water in our sacramental life in the Church. The water in baptism shows the death and life of the individual, going down into the water symbolizing death to my past life and coming up out of the water bringing me new life. Each time I enter the chapel I am reminded of this when I bless myself with the holy water from the font. Water into wine at Cana, the water of Jesus' baptism, the miracles performed on the Jordan as the Apostles' nets broke with their load of fish. I came away with much material for meditation.

The day included a beautiful opening prayer that began with the song, Ode to Water. Different waters from many different countries and states were blended together in Mrs. Tobin's crystal bowl. Some handouts were available, such as "Fun Water Facts," and 101 Ways to Save Water."

Spring Celebration: April 20th

As we go to press, the next workshop, *Spring – Celebrate the Beauty of the Earth*, will be April 20 9:00am - noon. Other upcoming celebrations include: June 22: *Summer – Celebrate the Amazing Diversity of Life through the Symbol of Fire* and October 19: *Fall – Celebrate the Sun, Moon and the Stars through the Symbol of Air*. All workshops are at the Motherhouse. No cost to attend, but call 510-624-4500 to make reservations

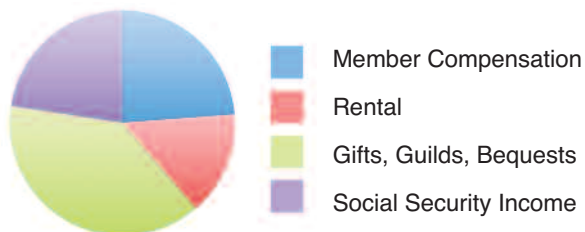


SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY FINANCIAL REPORT

Current Fund Revenue and Expenses as of September 30, 2012

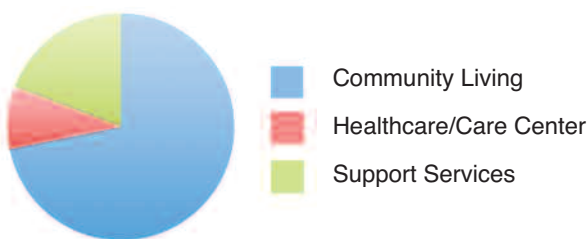
REVENUE

Member Compensation	\$	622,045
Rental	\$	387,832
Gifts, Guilds, Bequests	\$	1,011,641
Social Security Income	\$	590,548
TOTAL INCOME	\$	2,612,066



EXPENSE

Community Living	\$	3,440,674
Health Care/Care Center	\$	426,667
Support Services	\$	921,811
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	4,789,152
BALANCE FORWARD	\$	(2,177,086)



Note: In addition to the expenses above, SHF contributed \$XXXXXX in 2011-2012 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, 2012 is on file in our Finance Office.

OUR WARMEST THANKS AND DEEP FELT GRATITUDE FOR THESE BEQUESTS AND GRANTS

Received October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

BEQUESTS

Estate of Darlene Barkowski	The Cecilia Lucy Bruni Living Trust
Mary Louise Canfield Trust	Estate of Mary C. Collins
The Thomas F. Faria Living Trust	The Gartland Trust
The Mary V. Flynn Lotz Trust	Amparo Lechuga Rook
Ms. Anne E. Tacchi, Trustee	

GRANTS

Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation
Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation

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 thank 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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In keeping with our commitment to the Earth Charter, this newsletter is printed on recycled stock using environmentally-friendly inks.

Visit our website: holyfamilysisters.org

Tree Restoration Project Completed (Almost!)

Over the years the Sisters have embraced the Earth Charter and contents of *Renewing the Earth: A Pastoral Statement of the United States Catholic Conference* (1991). The following statement from that document emphasizes the value of our small but ongoing efforts to maintain an oasis of beauty on our property in Fremont. "All of us need both a spiritual and a practical vision of stewardship and co-creation that guides our choices as consumers, citizens, and workers. We need, in the now familiar phrase, to 'think globally and act locally' finding the ways in our own situation to express a broader ethic of genuine solidarity."

The Tree Restoration Project on the grounds of the Motherhouse is completed. The 41 diseased and dead trees were replaced with 20 lively and appropriate trees including Mexican Palms, Redwood, White Birch, Ginkgo, Olive, Arbutus Marina, Raywood Ash and Eastern Redbud.

While we have completed the planting phase, we have not completely funded this project. The total estimated cost to remove and replace the trees on the Motherhouse property was \$65,000. Since our last *Family of Friends* we have raised \$27,000, we need \$38,000 to reach our goal. Can you help? If you would like to make a donation toward our trees, please make a notation on the reply envelope included in this newsletter. Our trees bring peace, nourishment and safety while improving the quality of life for our Sisters, families, friends, guests and neighbors.

