



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

Holy Family Sisters

JUNE-JULY
2014

Celebrating Our Sisters Jubilees!



Sister Joanna Connolly - 80 Years

I taught religious education for many years in various cities in Southern California. I particularly loved working with children and ministering to families who were outside regular parish programs. In 1955, I was sent to Hawaii in response to a request from the Bishop for Sisters to teach catechism. Although the Catholic Church had been in Hawaii for many years, there was very little religious education being taught there. Just as they had done in California, the Sisters of the Holy Family went to the small towns, gathered the children and started holding catechism classes wherever the Sisters could find space. I loved the native people of Hawaii and ministered and made my home there for 45 years.

I have lived through many changes in the Church, as well as in the world. I remember the day we stopped wearing our traditional habit, when Mass changed from being celebrated in Latin to English and helping counsel those parishioners who found it difficult to accept the change. The changes never bothered me as the gospel message was always the same. Now that I am back in California and living at the Motherhouse in Fremont, I still find ways to reflect the love of God to everyone I meet.



Light of the World, Salt of the Earth

~
Just as salt gives
flavour to food and
light illumines the
darkness, so too
holiness gives full
meaning to life and
makes it reflect
God's glory.



Sister M. Jane Mast - 70 Years

In 1944 I entered the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family at their Motherhouse in San Francisco where I made my novitiate and profession. Except for a nine month intermission, I remained in San Francisco until 1952. During that time, I worked in Religious Education at St. Mary's Cathedral and part time in other San Francisco parishes. From 1952 to 1958 I lived in our San Anselmo Convent and continued to minister in Religious Education in the vicinity of Marin County. In 1961, I again lived in San Francisco where I earned my M.A. degree in 1962 from the University of San Francisco. From then on my ministries continued at parishes throughout California. In 1987 I began serving as Pastoral Minister at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Santa Clarita, California in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles until my retirement in 2008. At that time I moved to the Motherhouse in Fremont to begin a ministry of Presence and Prayer.

Sister Stephen Smario - 70 Years

As I reflect on the past 70 years, I am filled with gratitude. Just the thought that God has chosen me to live with Him, in Him, and for Him, is quite awesome. My life has been one of service and remains one today.

My ministries began in San Francisco and continued on to Oakland, Las Vegas, Lemoore, Camarillo, San Diego, Burlingame, Alaska and San Jose. I worked in the field of catechesis, was a Master Catechist, and a Chaplain at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose. I had the privilege of being our Convent Sacristan for over 30 years.

I am now 90 years old and no longer minister as I have done in the past. I do as much as I can for the Sisters and all those I meet on my continuing journey with the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Being a Sister of the Holy Family continues to be a joyful, loving and exciting experience, and a spiritually fulfilling life.



Sister Marianne Smith - 70 Years

I recall vividly the day I entered Holy Family 70 years ago. My mother, dad and sister accompanied me. My two brothers were still on active duty in the Navy. They both managed to call to say goodbye a few days before I left. It was a bittersweet day, but the very next day was “visiting Sunday” so that made it easier for my parents.

Seventy years have flown by! I have happy memories of those years. God has certainly given me the “hundredfold” of blessings and happiness. Of course, there have been sorrows mixed in, but the joys have outnumbered the sorrows. My heart and mind are filled with love and gratitude for my parents, siblings and all my great nieces and nephews. My dear Sisters have always been a joy and blessing to me. Deo Gratias!



Sister M. Sharon Mello - 60 Years

I was born Patricia Ann Mello and lived in Oakland where I attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Holy Names High School. I entered the Sisters of the Holy Family in San Francisco in January 1954. My first ministry was at St. Francis Day Home. I was at St. Joseph's in Berkeley, as well as parishes in El Sobrante and San Jose. From that time on, my religious life has been spent in the Dioceses of Sacramento and Stockton. I am presently Director of Pastoral Care at St. Anne's Parish in Lodi.

Sister Carol Reichert - 50 Years

My vocation with the Sisters of the Holy Family probably began in the 7th grade when I first met the Sisters in Elk Grove, California. Some years later, as a high school senior in Chico, I was seriously considering religious life. I was reminded of my earlier association with the Sisters of the Holy Family and it seemed this was the Order to explore more closely. Fifty years later, I guess I can say it was right that I entered the Sisters of the Holy Family!

I have been privileged to live in a variety of interesting places and minister with dedicated lay people and members of other religious Orders. Eventually, my ministry evolved to include Adult Religious Education, mainly R.C.I.A., and inactive/returning Catholics. Part of those “adult” years included a Master's Degree from Regis College in Denver.

I had 12 very enjoyable and blessed years in the Archdiocese of Louisville with ministries including parish and social outreach work, diocesan religious education, and five years as the Motherhouse Coordinator for the Dominican Sisters of Kentucky.

For the past eight years I have been living in Hawaii on the island of Kauai to assist with the care of my aging parents. For six of those years, I worked part-time at a local parish. Currently, I am caregiver for my mother, and enjoying volunteer work with the local Domestic Violence and Suicide Prevention Task Forces.

Over these 50 years, God has provided significant places and people to contribute to my spiritual formation and growth, for which I am very grateful.



Diana White - 25 Years

After working at Pacific Bell (currently AT&T) for 25 years and after much prayer and many visits to other communities, I entered the Sisters of the Holy Family on September 8, 1989. I am currently celebrating 25 years as a Sister of the Holy Family. In these years I have been a religious education teacher, parish assistant, an R.C.I.A. coordinator, a child care counselor, a drug counselor, a prison chaplain, and a listening ear for many people.

Every day I thank God for the privilege and blessings I receive as a member of this Community and I am thrilled to accompany other people as they find God in their lives. In turn, they help me to find how God is working in my life. My current ministry is to our Sisters living at Mission San Jose assisting them in driving wherever they need to go, being present to them for sharing and listening to them as they share with me. I also do computer projects and give assistance those who need help of all kinds. When I entered this community in 1989, I wrote an autobiography and I ended it with these words,

“I PUT MY HAND IN HIS AND I ASK HIM TO LEAD ME WHERE HE WILL.”

As a 25 year Jubilarian looking into the future, I again affirm those words.