

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Family of Friends

APRIL 2015

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



*for the
Kingdom
of God.*



*Dedicated to Stewardship &
Preservation of Mother Earth*

President's Message

April 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

As we celebrate Easter, Springtime, and respect for the earth, we find that we have many words of hope, gratitude and thanksgiving to share. One of my favorite passages from scripture comes from Hebrews 11; in it we read: *"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.*

"Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11: 1-3; 39-40).

It is in that spirit of believing and hoping in something better for the future that we take this opportunity to showcase our preservation project at Mission San Jose. In our centerfold section you are invited to review the rich history of the property that generations have called Palmdale, and to review the elements of the entitlement process which culminated in City of Fremont approval. We are currently engaged in the preconstruction phase, which includes archaeological work, removing underground oil tanks and putting in a perimeter sound wall. The plan is to continue our preservation efforts and begin construction work in November 2015.

We are grateful for the support of our neighbors and friends during this process and look forward to enjoyment of the grounds for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Sister M. Gladys Guenther, SHF
Congregational President



How the Sisters Practice Green!

There are many advantages to going green, such as saving energy and resources, protecting our health of our Sisters, as well as the health of our earth. The more people we can influence, the more people they will influence. Get enough people to change and the rest of the world will follow. Here are just a few examples of what our Sisters and Staff are doing:

RE-USING: Lamps From the old parking lot will be recycled and reused to illuminate the new parking areas on the Motherhouse grounds. Buying new would cost more than \$2,000 per lamp; recycling and reusing will cost much less, approximately \$500 per lamp.

COMPOSTING: The Sisters earned a certificate from our waste management company for being a pilot program for composting. Food scraps and food-soiled paper products make up a huge percentage of garbage. By participating in the food scrap recycling program, food scraps can



Our Call to Stewardship of Creation

WE READ IN GENESIS that God created the universe and saw that “it was good.” God then placed it in the care of humankind, setting them on a journey of discovery of its rich diversity and gifts. Developing people intimately knew the earth and had a deep reciprocal relationship with it. We see this reflected in Jesus who told stories of “the birds of the air” and “harvests” and “sowers and seeds.”



However, today, our water and air are polluted because of our attempts to control rather than cooperate with the earth. Climate change is a real threat. Species are facing extinction faster than in earlier times. We are facing critical decisions. What, if anything, are Christians called to do?

St. John Paul II often spoke out about the need to address issues related to our responsibility

Some of the early Church Fathers, as well as saints like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Hildegard de Bingen, wrote about our interdependence with creation and our call to reverence and protect it. Contemporary theologians call us to a new relationship with the universe. Thomas Berry, Matthew Swimme and Joanna Macy, among others, call us to a spirituality of creation, a recognition of our deep connection with creation and the revelations of God that it holds.

Our own connection with creation began in the life-giving waters of our mother’s womb. It expanded with our first breath of air, our first sight of our mother’s tender eyes, the feel of her loving touch as she cradled us in her arms. Doubtless, we do not recall these initial experiences but, as we grew, we were drawn to explore more of creation as we crawled in its grass, luxuriated in the feel and taste of its dirt and mud, marveled at its various creatures from the ant to the butterfly and at its plethora of vegetation. We gazed with wonder and awe at the mysterious stars in the sky. Our sense of play, discovery and enjoyment of the earth led us to a desire to protect and nurture it. It was our “first book about God.” And it was good.

toward the earth. Pope Benedict took this a step further in arguing for good environmental stewardship as a moral imperative during his World Day of Peace address in 2010.

Pope Benedict also approved a plan to cover the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall with solar panels, enough to power the lighting, heating, and cooling of a portion of the entire country. He authorized the Vatican’s bank to purchase carbon credits by funding a Hungarian forest that would make the Catholic city-state the only country fully carbon neutral. And several years later, he unveiled a new hybrid Popemobile that would be partially electric.

Pope Francis has said, “Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is it the property of only a few. Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude... A Christian who does not protect creation, who does not let it grow, is a Christian who does not care about the work of God; that work that was born from the love of God for us...”

become compost, a valuable resource, not a waste.

CONSCIENTIOUS CHOICES: The Sisters of the Holy Family use only Fair Trade coffee in the dining room and events at the Motherhouse. Purchasing through a fair trade marketplace promotes fair wages and human dignity.

GREEN CERTIFIED PRODUCTS: Our housekeeping department uses all chemical products that have been green certified. By using



environmentally responsible products we improve our environment by reducing toxic pollution and waste, conserving resources and habitats, and minimizing global warming and ozone depletion.

REDUCING ENERGY USE: All the ballasts and light bulbs were changed in 2003-2004 to CFL and LED models that have earned the ENERGY STAR. By using less energy, we save precious natural resources and cut down on pollution.

Preserving The Gardens of Palmdale



AFTER FIVE YEARS of exploration, planning and engagement with the City of Fremont, as well as other stakeholders, the Sisters of the Holy Family have been able to accomplish their primary goal of preserving the 5.5 acres of landscaped open space on the Palmdale property. That portion of the landscaped area will be open to the public under the title, “The Gardens at Palmdale.” We already have a website, gardensatpalmdale.com, which serves as a walking tour, tree identifier, and historical timeline. The preservation of the historic Best and Starr homes brings the preservation up to 6.5 acres of land. A unique aspect of the project is the creation of an endowment to perpetually fund the gardens, including the ponds, trees and grottos, for years to come.

Currently, we are focusing our efforts on creating the foundation which will “plan for the maintenance of public access to the site under an open space easement to be established by the foundation. The open space easement would be consistent with the General Plan because it would assist in preservation of a historic resource.”

Everything we are toiling to accomplish is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

- 1.** A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- 2.** The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- 3.** Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- 4.** Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- 5.** Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques, or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property, will be preserved.
- 6.** Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design,

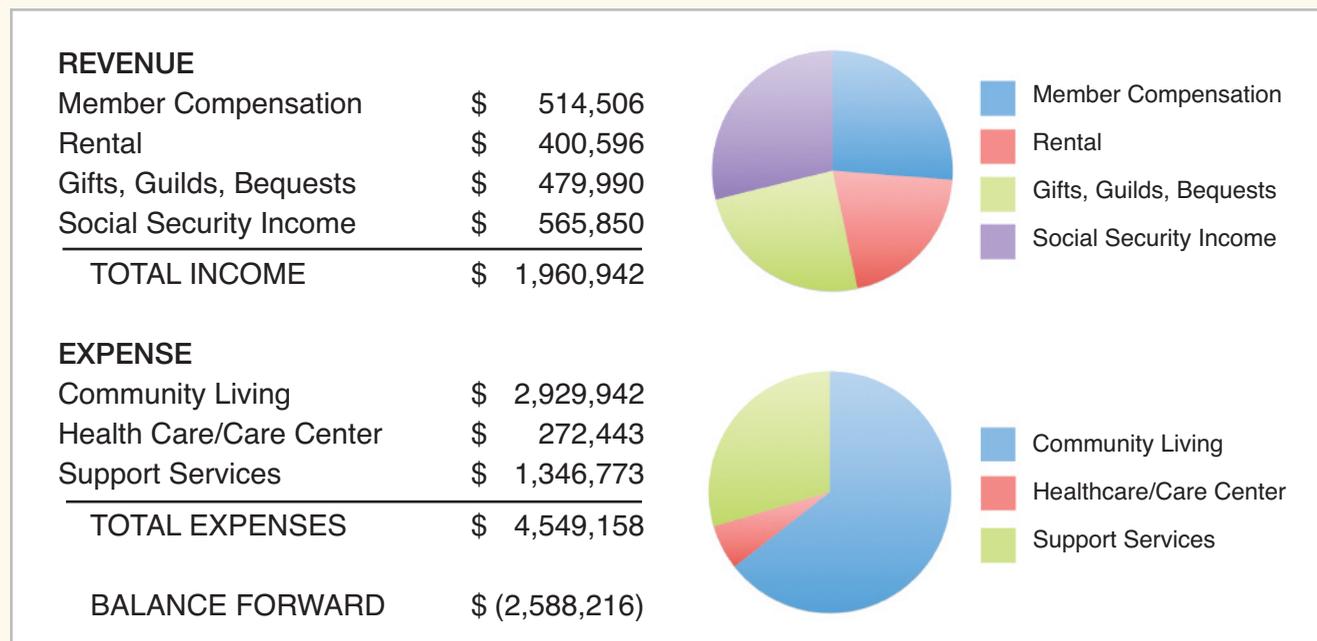
color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

- 7.** Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- 8.** Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- 9.** New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
- 10.** New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

A detailed analysis of the implication of the standards and the entitlement process can be found in the November 18, 2014 Fremont City Council Minutes.

SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY FINANCIAL REPORT

Current Fund Revenue and Expenses as of September 30, 2014



Note: In addition to the expenses above, SHF contributed \$402,069 in 2013-2014 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, 2014 is on file in our Finance Office.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THESE BEQUESTS

Received October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014

BEQUESTS

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Estate of Dorothy C. Connell | Dolores Dupignac Trust |
| Monsignor Vincent Fleming | Mrs. Lionel Goularte |
| Estate of Thomas J. Lowe Jr. | Estate of Clare C. Lowe |
| Marques Living Trust | |

Easter Event Story goes here

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

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

JOIN OUR MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MANY BELOVED WOMEN
IN OUR LIVES, WHO HAVE BEEN LED BY THE SPIRIT AND
HAVE INSTILLED PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR CHILDREN.

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Seating at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Reserved seating only

Please call 510-624-4580 for information