

Family of Friends

JULY 2007

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

for the
Kingdom
of God.*

Blessings

We beg You in Your goodness, almighty God, to pour the showers of Your blessing upon these newly budding trees and vines which You have made, and which You have been so kind as to nourish with temperate weather and sufficient rain. Bring the fruits of Your earth to full ripeness. Grant, too, that Your people may always give You thanks for Your gifts, so that You may fill them that are hungry with the fruits of a fertile land and that the poor and the needy may praise the glory of Your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

President's Message

July 2007



Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that I introduce the new Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Holy Family: Sister Gladys Guenther, Congregational President; Sister Marietta Fahey, Councilor; Sister Judeana Davidson, Vice President; and Sister Guadalupe Partida, Councilor.

I trust you will enjoy reading their mini biographies on the opposite page. Together we plan to continue in the footsteps of those able women who have served the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family over the last 135 years. It will be our challenge to actualize the commission statement from our installation ceremony: "to call forth the wisdom that is in our midst as we are all called to be 'prophets of a future not our own'."

We are fast approaching the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the principal Marian Feasts of the Church year. I well remember my many years in parish ministry when we celebrated First Communions on this summer date. In the Hispanic Community, the Feast Day was sometimes referred to as the "Dormition of Mary" or "Mary in Transit." I believe that these middle days of August give us all the opportunity to integrate the Feast Day into our lives. We have the opportunity to look backward and look forward, to rest and transit, and to anticipate the gifts God has prepared for us.

Shortly after our installation, the entire Congregation was invited to set aside a day to reflect upon and recommit ourselves to the Earth Charter in conjunction with the millennial goals. We are challenged and realize that there are many opportunities for us "to seek out and advocate for children and families..." as we begin adjusting to our new positions on the Leadership Team.

I want to thank all of you for making our Mother's Day Brunch such a success. This year the proceeds will be applied to the installation of a new heating and air conditioning unit in our Golden Gleaners Community (Care Center). The 40 year old system is indeed in need of a transition all its own!

In agrarian cultures, the festivities surrounding the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary included a blessing of fields and gardens, one of which we have used on the cover of this newsletter. We look forward to you blessing us with your company at our own "Garden Party"- the annual Palmdale Spectacular to be held on September 9th.

We commit ourselves to walk the journey with you,

Sr. Gladys Guenther

Sister Gladys Guenther
Congregational President

Meet the New Leadership Team



Sister Gladys Guenther Congregational President

Sister Gladys was born in upstate New York to Gus and Helen Guenther from whom she and her four siblings received both the gift of faith and a love of travel.

Sister entered the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1967 after graduation from San Francisco State University. She holds a Masters in Education with a major in Instructional Technology from San Jose State University and has a keen interest in utilizing new technologies. During her 40 years as a Sister of the Holy Family, she has ministered in the Archdiocese of San Francisco in the Religious Education Office and in parishes in Oakland, San Francisco, Monterey and Stockton. She was the Pastoral Administrator of a parish without a priest in Lathrop, California and also conducted gang prevention programs for Catholic Charities in Stockton. For the past four years Sister has served as Congregational Vice President and as a member of the Board of Directors of Holy Family Day Home, San Francisco.

Sister Gladys enjoys people, live theatre, projects, and brings the gift of enthusiasm for her new ministry as Congregational President.



Sister Guadalupe Partida Congregational Councilor

Sister Guadalupe Partida was born in Watts, California and attended public schools. When she began to think seriously about becoming a Sister, she visited various religious congregations and was attracted to Sisters of the Holy Family because of their love and service to people, and their hospitality. She joined them in 1949.

Sister Guadalupe's first assignment was St. Francis Day Home in San Francisco where she enjoyed helping in the daily care of the young children. Her next assignment was to rural parishes in San Diego for home visiting, and teaching Christian Doctrine to children attending public schools.

Later, Sister was transferred to San Antonio, Texas where she became involved in social justice issues. She attended classes at the Mexican American Cultural Center and Incarnate Word University where she became grounded spiritually, preparing her to promote evangelization both in ministry and in advocacy for the voiceless.

When she returned to California she promoted the Cursillo Movement among adults and youth and became a spiritual advisor to the Catholic Daughters of Hanford, California.

It has been a joy and a challenge to Sister Guadalupe to work with people of all nationalities. She is grateful for her many years of ministry, in service to families. Now she is privileged to be called to the service of her Congregation.



Sister Judeana Davidson Congregational Vice President

During Sister Judeana's 46 years as a Sister of the Holy Family, her ministry has been rich and varied. She has served in many California parishes and for several years was the Diocesan Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Fresno. For almost 20 years, Sister Judeana was in early childhood ministry, first in the Congregation's day homes and then in preschools in northern California and Utah. Most recently, she has been a pre-kindergarten teacher and the facilitator of a women's spirituality group. She is looking forward to working with the other members of the Leadership Team to serve the Congregation and the broader community as the Sisters strive "to seek out and advocate for the poor and the needy, especially families, for the Kingdom of God."

Sister Judeana is grateful for all those who partner with us, especially you, our friends and benefactors, and she sincerely appreciates your continuing support of our Congregation and our mission.



Sister Marietta Fahey Congregational Councilor

Sister Marietta Fahey entered the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1960. Her ministry background includes faith formation (Director of Religious Education in various parishes, retreat work, and spiritual direction) and as Director of Novices for the Congregation for six years.

Motivating her in all these activities has been her deep desire to accompany people and families toward increasing wholeness, into happiness by living decisions peacefully, and into the joy of ordinary holiness. And in all this, discovering that the experience of life is the experience of God. Her hope is that each family then, in turn, contributes their goodness to the human family in a variety of ways.

While seeking tools for this growth work Sister Marietta discovered Personality And Human Relationships (PRH), an international school for human development. Here she found the tools she was looking for...tools/methods/an understanding of the person in the process of growth. Both in her own life and in accompanying others, she finds these tools are effective for ongoing personal, relational, and spiritual growth and integration. Since 1983 Sister has been accompanying persons on this precious, sacred adventure.

Sister Marietta is continuing this work with adults, as she also shares in the new adventure as a part-time member of the Leadership Team. Sister Marietta looks forward to grace and growth for all of us.

New Ministry Reaching Out to Mixtecs: a little-known, isolated group of immigrants.



Sister Sandra Ann Silva, who recently completed a four year term as Congregational Councilor on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Holy Family, is embarking on a new project whereby the Sisters are extending their services to a group of immigrants, the Mixtecs in Monterey County, California, one of the areas in the state where the Mixtec people are located. These immigrants from the southern Mexico state of Oaxaca endured extreme poverty and bleak employment prospects in their native country and are coming to California in search of work in the farming fields. The families are linguistically and culturally isolated; most speak only their indigenous language of Mixteco. As a result, the people face serious exploitation and discrimination on the job, in housing, and in the marketplace, despite the fact that they are making a vital contribution to the region's economy.

Sister Sandra Ann is presently in Mexico to study the Mixteco language and culture. After her studies in Mexico, Sister Sandra Ann will relocate to the Monterey area to begin her ministry to the Mixtec people, working with the Mixtec Migrant Farm-Worker Project in Monterey County. Sister will be making home visits with community members and offering workshops, in collaboration with other agencies, to inform the Mixtec people about the resources available to them, and to share information and offer opportunities so that the people may improve their living situation.

Families Enjoyed Mother's Day Brunch



Mother's Day Brunch was again a tremendous success, both for the Sisters and for our guests. While the Sisters welcomed scores of returning guests, there were also many new guests this year. Many of you expressed how much you look forward to coming here each Mother's Day. One family told us they have been to every Mother's Day Brunch since it began.



The proceeds from this year's event (\$18,000) will assist in the replacement of a much-needed heating and air conditioning system in our Golden Gleaners Community (Care Center). Without your participation, it would be a much more difficult task to provide for the comfort of our elder and frail Sisters.

The Sisters in the Golden Gleaners Community thank every one of you and will keep you in their prayers and hearts.





*The Sisters of the Holy Family
Hope You Are Planning on
Joining Us for a Wonderful Day
in the Spectacular Gardens of Palmdale*

Palmdale Spectacular X

Sunday, September 9, 2007 • 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Four Course Dinner with Wine • Silent and Live Auctions • Entertainment • Drawing

Enjoy a Day in the Garden

This year the theme of Palmdale Spectacular is ***The Spectacular Gardens of Palmdale Estates***. During the event you are invited to spend time exploring the grounds and gardens, taking pleasure in the surroundings while also enjoying a fun-filled afternoon of hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auctions, an elegant dinner, and entertainment.

Participate in Our On-line Auction

This year we are hosting an On-line Auction, which is a new event in conjunction with the Spectacular. This will be of special interest to our out-of-town friends and others who can not join us at Spectacular X

The On-line Auction will feature an exclusive group of items which will not be available on the day of the Spectacular. Get in on the fun...visit our Web site, www.holyfamilysisters.org and click on the link to the auction.

Log on as often as you want between August 3 and September 7, 2007.

Nine Sisters Celebrated Jubilees



Sister Patrice Bradshaw
(60 years)



Sister Cabrini Catania
(60 years)



Sister Thaddeus Cuellar
(50 years)



Sister Ancila De La O
(50 years)



Sister Alana Hartman
(50 years)



Sister Concetta Lombardo
(50 years)



Sister Victor Negrete
(50 years)



Sister Marie Deering
(40 years)



Sister Gladys Guenther
(40 years)

Sister Patrice Bradshaw

After decades of parish ministry, in Northern and Central California, Sister Patrice left active ministry in the 80s and began Community Ministry at the Motherhouse. Her ministry now is one of prayer in our Golden Gleaners Community.

Sister Cabrini Catania

"For 36 years I taught, as Jesus taught, in garages, in fields, on hillsides and in borrowed classrooms, to gather children for prayer and instruction. During the last 22 years I have ministered as a Hospital Chaplain, also as Jesus did, to empathize with, and comfort, the sick and the elderly." Sister Cabrini was in Pleasanton for 13 years before retirement in 2003. Now she is Chaplain at Washington Hospital in Fremont.

Sister Thaddeus Cuellar

Sister Thaddeus was in Parish Ministry in the Los Angeles Area, the Bay Area, and Hawaii for many years. She is also a gifted artist whose artwork has graced several of our Easter cards. She is now involved in Community Ministry at the Motherhouse.

Sister Ancila De La O

Before coming to the Motherhouse, Sister Ancila taught Religious Education and Adult Formation and was involved in Volunteer Ministry in Scripture and Prayer Groups. Her ministry has taken her to Utah, San Antonio and Hawaii. She now is continuing her Ministry of Prayer.

Sister Alana Hartman

Before Sister Alana began her ministry as a Music Teacher, she was in Parish Ministry. Sister remembers taking children from their schools in long lines for the Stations of the Cross during what was then called "Release Time." Other special remembrances were days of activities with games and races.

Sister Concetta Lombardo

Sister Concetta remembers cooking for the Sisters and took great joy in her position as Hospitality Director at the Motherhouse for many years. She served Parishes in the Bay Area and San Antonio, and is still doing Community Ministry.

Sister Victor Negrete

From Alaska to Hawaii to California, Sister Victor has ministered to mostly rural and native people. She remembers particularly her time at St. Joachim in the 60s and the Mission Church in Russell City with the nearby railroad station and the gambling on the streets.

Sister Marie Deering

Sister Marie spoke of days with the children who were always filled with much surprise, wonder and delight! What was so wonderful was their great sense of trust. She says her 40 years in Holy Family have been rich in God's blessing. She currently is Assistant Manager of a group home for developmentally disabled.

Sister Gladys Guenther

Sister Gladys worked for 20 years in the Stockton Diocese and is now looking forward to representing the Congregation as Congregational President.

Two Day Homes Celebrate Milestones

Over the years, the Sisters have owned and operated several early childhood centers which we refer to as "homes away from home." This year two of those sponsored ministry sites are reaching significant milestones.

On September 30, 2007, St. Elizabeth's Day Home, located at 950 St. Elizabeth Drive in San Jose, continues its centennial celebration with Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by a BBQ lunch, children's concert and, of course, a birthday cake. The Day Home is embarking on a major gift campaign to refurbish their 40-year old campus. Watch their web site, www.stelizabethsdayhome.org for more information.

On October 13, 2007, Holy Family Day Home will celebrate the dedication of their new building at 299 Dolores Street in San Francisco. Archbishop George H. Niederauer will dedicate the building at 11:00 a.m. This new facility will enable the Day Home to enroll 170 children, and offer a host of services to families in the new family support wing. The progress towards their \$7,100,000 capital campaign and other information can be accessed via their web site: ww.holyfamilydayhome.org



The Sisters of the Holy Family



The Sisters of the Holy Family (SHF) established their first day care facility for the children of poor and working parents in San Francisco in 1878. This pioneering work grew rapidly and several Homes were established. The first to be called Holy Family Day Home was dedicated on February 13, 1900 at 429 6th Street near Brannan. It was completely destroyed in the great earthquake and fire of 1906, along with all of the others.

The Sisters continued to provide their services out of special tents in City parks and from temporary quarters for some time after the earthquake. Through the generosity of many friends, particularly Mrs. Virginia Vanderbilt (the former "Birdie" Fair, who had assisted at the Homes as a teenager) Holy Family Day Home opened in a new facility on this site in 1912.

Through the dedication of countless Sisters and laity to the welfare of young children, the ministry continues.

SHF Directors, Holy Family Day Home
San Francisco, California

1912 - 1917	Sister M. Martha Ryan
1917 - 1925	Sister M. Philomene McNiff
1925 - 1929	Sister M. Benvenuta Grady
1929 - 1933	Sister M. Marcella Cashman
1933 - 1940	Sister M. Cyril Sullivan
1940 - 1943	Sister Maria Maddalena Musante
1943 - 1949	Sister Maureen Hennessy
1949 - 1955	Sister Anne Marie Muller
1955 - 1958	Sister Maureen Hennessy
1958 - 1964	Sister M. Agnes Gough
1964 - 1966	Sister M. Mark Jordan
1966 - 1973	Sister M. Cleophas Crandall
1973 - 1988	Sister M. Alicia Busiakos
1988 - 1997	Sister Ann Maureen Murphy

"If the Home makes a few children happier and the influence of the Sisters moulds the lives of some into men and women of gentleness of heart, I shall feel content."

-Virginia Fair Vanderbilt

Exploring New Ways to Meet Global Challenges

On June 18, 2007, Joanna Bramble, CSJ engaged the Congregation in a workshop entitled "Opening the Global Heart." The day was sponsored by our Justice and Peace Committee and explored ways we could bridge the gap between the Earth Charter and actualization of the Millennium Development Goals. As part of the workshop, participants moved into dyads for discussion. Pictured at right are three dyads in discussion: Sister Jacinta Fiebig and Sister Margarite Apostolo; Doris Schmedinghoff and Sister Kathy Littrell; Sister Joanna Connolly and Sister Elizabeth Murray.



Leverage Your Giving Power

Humankind has always been endowed with a charitable spirit. But no society has embraced philanthropy more than our own. With each generation, we establish new plateaus by which the generous spirit is measured. There is an understanding that giving is both a reflection of the best parts of who we are and the key to the most important work we will accomplish as neighbors and in our communities.

Each year it is the generous spirit of friends like you that makes our work possible. This generosity is evident in countless ways, including gifts of financial support. And while giving may seem a straightforward concept, there are actually many ways that friends can choose to make a gift. Some careful planning will ensure that your objectives are met. A planned or differed gift is an effective way to

maximize financial goals and create an estate plan that provides the maximum tax benefits.

A Planned Gift May Provide:

- ❖ Income for yourself and other loved ones.
- ❖ A charitable income tax deduction.
- ❖ Relief from capital gains taxes on gifts of appreciated property.
- ❖ A reduction in federal estate taxes and probate costs.
- ❖ The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a meaningful gift to the Sisters of the Holy Family.

You can find further information on how to leave a legacy on our web site: www.holyfamilysisters.org — just follow the links in the "How You Can Help" section. Or you can contact the Development Department at 510-624-4581 regarding a life gift or bequest to the Sisters now, or through a will or family trust.

Visit our website: holymfamilysisters.org

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.

SHF President

Sister Gladys Guenther

SHF Vice President

Sister Judeana Davidson

SHF Congregational Councilors

Sister Marietta Fahey

Sister Guadalupe Partida

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