

# Family *of* Friends

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

FALL 2019

## Homeless

[ hohm-lis ] adjective — without a home: i.e., a homeless child; noun (used with a plural verb) — the homeless: i.e., persons who lack permanent housing

We are living in a time when homelessness has definitely reached crisis proportion. The various sources of media daily describe how these crises impact our cities and neighborhoods. Cities, nonprofits and faith communities continue to wrestle with ways to respond.

This is an issue we cannot ignore. Catholic social teaching calls decent housing a human right and challenges us to act.

This call to action moved both Sisters Kathy Littrell and Elaine

Marie Sanchez to participate in the 2019 homeless count in the City of Fremont, partnering with Fremont City staff and individuals from the homeless community. It was an opportunity to assist in this task, but most important it was a chance to hear the stories directly from the homeless people.



▲ SISTERS KATHY (LEFT) AND ELAINE PREPARING FOR THE 2019 HOMELESS COUNT.

When the final homeless count for the Bay Area was published, it highlighted that in Alameda County alone, the unhoused population had grown by 43 percent over the past two years. This startling increase continues a four-year upward trend and comes when throughout the Bay Area cities struggle to keep their poorest residents housed in increasingly expensive markets. No doubt homeless encampments have been growing, and for a growing number of families, their only available home is a car or an RV, presenting the added challenge of searching for a safe place to park. In all of this information we receive daily, we are called to remember that this is not just numbers and facts—these are people who are in great need, and our faith tradition calls us to respond with some action.

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Sisters *of* the Holy Family

Fremont, California

## President's Message



*For all that has been,  
Thank You.*

*For all that is to come,  
Yes!*

— DAG HAMMARSKJOLD



Dear Friends,

As we enter into the Fall season we begin to see vibrant colors, leaves falling and barren branches. And yet we know, in the resting period of winter, that nature continues to nurture life that will burst forth in Spring.

On November 6th, we will celebrate the beginning of 147 years of commitment to families and responding to needs not adequately met by others. Our founder, Father John J. Prendergast, called us gleaners. Gleaners are those who go into the field after the harvest to gather what remains. We have been, and are, faithful to this call. We remember with gratitude all our Sisters, Associates and partners in ministry who have been part of this rich history of gleaning and now reside with the Holy Family in God's eternal kingdom.

Our theme as we continue to plan our future is *Celebrating our Legacy: Past, Present and Beyond*. As our community moves toward fulfillment, we live the season of Fall—letting go of what needs to be let go of in order for life to blossom in amazingly new ways. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the multitude of our Family of Friends who have been gleaners with us. In our partnership we have supported, sustained and empowered families. This is our—and your—legacy.

We remember in a special way our Sisters who went home to God during the past year: Sister Eleanor Rizzi, Sister Timothy Cronin, Sister Loretta Marie Marbach, Sister Dolores Freitas and Sister Angela Marie Hinckley. We invite you to send us the names of your loved one(s) whom you would like us to remember in prayer throughout November. Their names will be placed before our altar.

Let us, this Thanksgiving, give thanks for our legacy as well as open our hearts to the gleaning to which God is still calling us.

Wishing you a season of blessings,

*Sister Caritas Foster*

Caritas Foster, SHF  
CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

## Celebrating Our Legacy: Past, Present and Beyond

*This has become a mantra for the Sisters of the Holy Family as we greet each day.*

With gratitude for what has been, and aware of what God is calling us to in the present, we strive to have a positive impact on the most vulnerable beyond today.

Today the issue of homelessness calls us to reach out in a variety of ways. Critical is how this has impacted families with young children. This is at the heart of our mission, as was the Sisters' early response to the needs of the day when founded in 1872.



THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY DAY HOME TENT SHELTER DURING THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE.

### Past

Our past reminds us that after the 1906 earthquake destroyed many homes in San Francisco, people flocked to tent cities in parks around the city. Sisters of the Holy Family were there providing needed services. The unhoused children could be found under

the Sisters of the Holy Family tent.

This same spirit lives on today through Holy Family Day Home in San Francisco, opened in 1912 by our sisters, and continuing to provide needed services to children and their families. This home away from home is still located on the corner of 16th and Dolores Street.



BREAKFAST ROLLS APLENTY AT THE HOLY FAMILY DAY HOME FAMILY BREAKFAST THIS SPRING. INSET: AN ART CLASS DEBATE.

Courtesy: Holy Family Day Home

In the mid-1990s homelessness was being more actively addressed in San Francisco. In 1997 Holy Family Day Home was awarded a contract with the City of San Francisco to provide early childhood education for a greater number of homeless children.

### Present

Today Holy Family Day Home is the primary institution in San Francisco through which the City offers early childhood care and education to homeless families. The trauma of homelessness is something children carry with them for years. It impacts their short and long term health, economic stability, and well-being. This Day Home has supported the voiceless in the community for many years by providing needed services.

As the homeless crisis has escalated, the need to expand services to these families has increased. Again, our partnership and collaboration is needed.

Heather Morado, Executive Director of Holy Family Day Home expresses it well in requesting our continued partnership: "Our hope is that if we offer support, love, and guidance, we can allow our families to be so bold and dream for a better tomorrow."

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# Homeless

HOMELESS FROM PAGE 1

Recently, this call to action engaged our community to advocate for the Fremont Homeless Navigation Center (HNC), which received much local community opposition. As advocates for the homeless, we wrote letters, signed petitions, joined with other advocates, and spoke at City Council meetings. On the night of the vote

*...we are called to remember that these are not just numbers and facts—these are people...*

it was comforting to know that while Sisters Caritas and Elaine were at City Hall, our sisters were holding this intention in prayer, and wearing white in solidarity with those who support this effort. An affirmative vote by the City Council certainly said that yes, we all can make a difference, and yes, we all have a part to play in the lives of the most vulnerable.

LEGACY FROM PAGE 3

## **We invite you to be part of this bold dream.**



Partner with us as we reach out to address this critical need. We are committing \$20,000.00 from our Mission Fund to support homeless families and children. Will you join us by

matching this with a generous donation? Every contribution you make to the Sisters increases our contribution and will make our impact that much more significant.

## **Beyond**

In our partnership, we have once again the opportunity to support and empower families beyond this homeless crisis. This is our, this is your, Legacy.

We treasure the gift of your partnership. Your continued support of our mission, whether through financial support or prayer, fills our heart with gratitude.

## The Legacy Continues



► SISTER ANGELA MARIE



**Sister Angela Marie Hinckley** started a small thrift store in Heber City, Utah, in a space the size of a closet. That store has now come out of the closet and is in a two-story building with 11 employees, helping the poor of the city afford clothing, furniture and more. There is

a photo of the founder, Sister Angela Marie, on the wall of the building. Even years after Holy Family has moved on, our legacy keeps on giving.

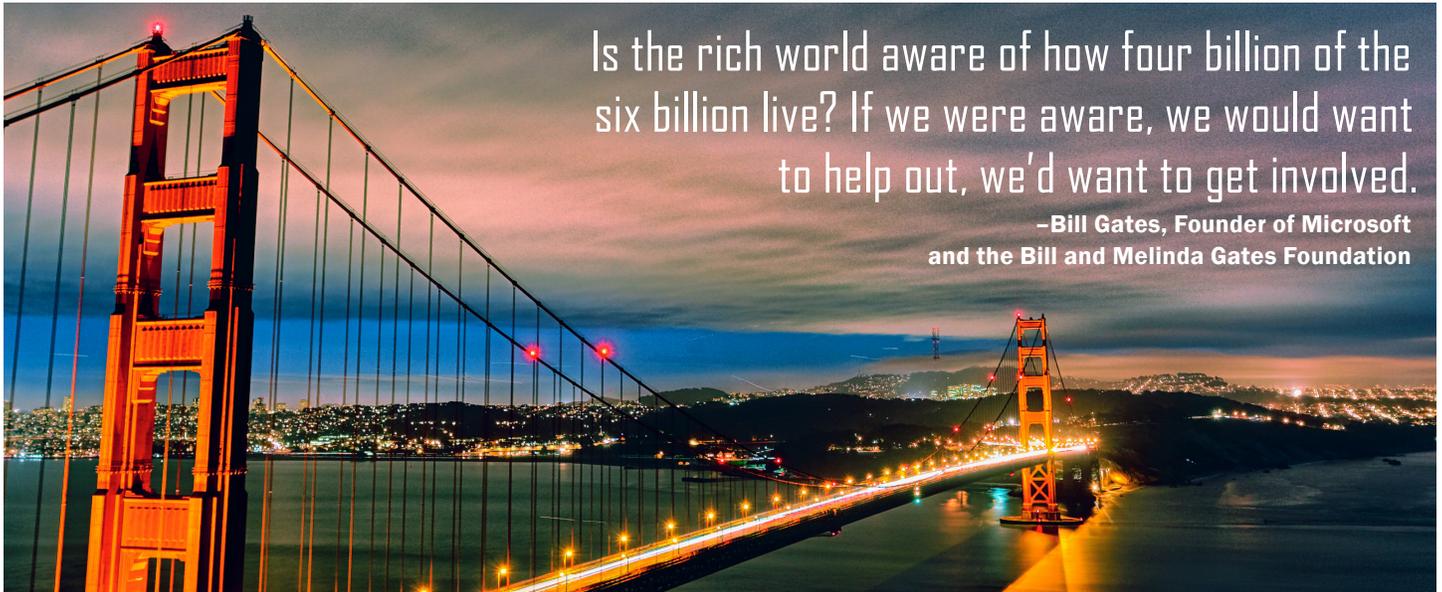
# Sustaining Benefactors

## Spring 2019 Raffle Winners:

\$1,000 winner: Kathy N., San Jose CA

\$500 winner: Richard B., Fremont CA

\$50 winner: Zita R., Anaheim CA



Is the rich world aware of how four billion of the six billion live? If we were aware, we would want to help out, we'd want to get involved.

—Bill Gates, Founder of Microsoft and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

### What is a Sustaining Benefactor?

Sustaining Benefactors are donors who understand the Sisters' need for ongoing, consistent philanthropic support and who pledge to make a monthly donation. Your monthly gift will have a direct impact on our ministry programs and provide a stable source of funding for the Sisters.

### What are the benefits?

Being a Sustaining Benefactor makes giving easier and more convenient for you. There are no repetitive checks to write and no envelopes to mail.

Your donation goes further. It helps reduce our postage, paper, administrative and other overhead costs. Also, because we can count on your contribution monthly, we can more effectively budget our limited resources.

Contributions are easily deducted each month from your checking or savings account; alternatively, they can be charged to your Visa or MasterCard.

### What record will I have of my donation?

Your monthly checking account or credit card statement will show the date and amount of your donation. In addition, we will send you a year-end letter with your total contribution.

Just pick up the telephone and call us if you want to change the amount of your gift, stop the automatic donation transfers, or if you move, change banks, or get a new credit card. We will need this information five (5) business days in advance of a scheduled donation transfer date.

### Is this a safe way of making donations?

*YES!* The automatic transfer of funds is safer than mailing cash or checks. In fact, one of the largest users of this method of transferring funds is the U.S. Social Security Administration.

### How does my gift get distributed?

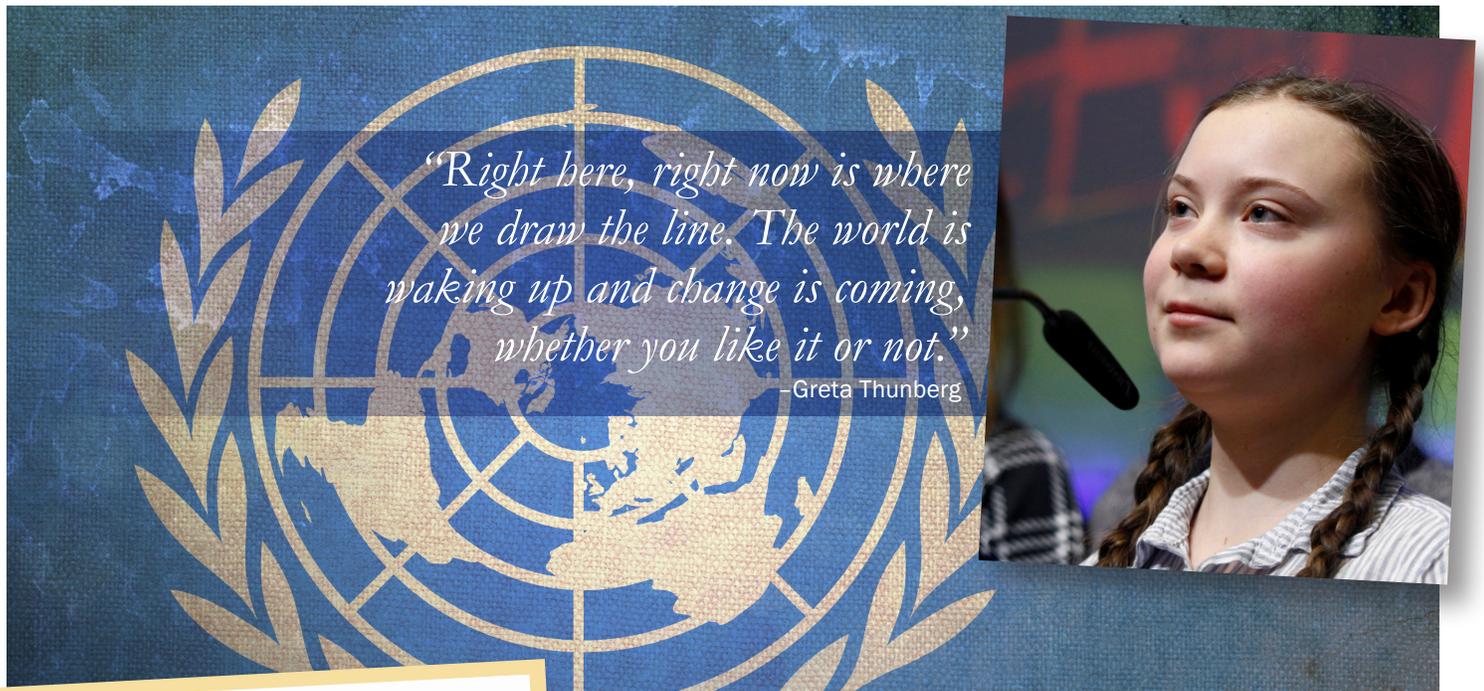
Monies raised through our Sustaining Benefactor program benefit:

- Sisters' Mission Fund which supports our Ministries
- Retired Sisters

### How do I begin?

*It's easy!* Simply call our office at 510-624-4580 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and let us know that you would like to become a sustaining donor. Just decide on a gift amount that works within your budget and we can help you with everything else.

# Season of Creation



*“Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up and change is coming, whether you like it or not.”*

—Greta Thunberg



## SEASON OF CREATION

On September 20, 2019 young people organized around the globe, demanding urgent, transformative action to address the climate crisis.

We could not help but be inspired by the 16-year-old Swedish student Greta Thunberg (*inset above*) who has become a leader in this movement, challenging all of us to not only be informed, but to take action.

Greta started by holding a homemade sign on the steps of the Swedish parliament every Friday, protesting her government’s climate inaction. She gave a TED Talk and this past September testified before a U.S. congressional committee and led millions of people around the world in demanding action to address the climate crisis.

Each day we are all called to make a difference regarding this issue that is and will continue to impact our future generations.

As Ms. Thunberg said in addressing the United Nations audience on September 23rd of this year:

**“You are failing us, but the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you and if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.”**

—GRETA THUNBERG

From September 1st to October 4th each year, the Christian community celebrates the *Season of Creation* by praying and acting together to protect our common home. Sisters of the Holy Family joined with many others in prayer, hands on projects, and advocacy.

The theme of this year’s Season of Creation was “the web of life.” It was a call to each of us to protect every creature in God’s beautifully complex web of creation.

Inspirational is the leadership that has been exhibited by young people throughout the world in advocating for the care of our Planet.

## In Memoriam

*How admirable to devote one's whole life to others, to live, work and die in their service.*

— MOTHER DOLORES

Sister Dolores Freitas, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family for 59 years, died Friday, June 21, 2019, at the age of 78 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister Dolores was born on December 4, 1940, in San Francisco to Betty and Douglas Freitas. She entered the Sisters of the Holy Family from St. Joachim's Parish in Hayward on January 6, 1960 at the age of 18.

Sister Dolores served in religious education and parish ministry in San Francisco and Hawaii in her early years as a Sister. In 1978 she came to Mission San Jose, where she worked in area parishes as well as in the senior centers in Union City and Fremont.



In 1982 she began part-time pastoral service in the Sisters of the Holy Family infirmary, and went on to receive her CNA and served as a nurse's aide in the infirmary for many years. Those who experienced Sister Dolores' nursing care in the infirmary say she was a very caring nurse, and they felt secure and confident in her care.

Sister Dolores had many interests in addition to nursing. For many years she coordinated the Holy Family Sisters' Christmas boutique. She loved arts and crafts in many forms, many of which turned up in the boutique; she would shop other organizations' boutiques for ideas. She also enjoyed playing games with the other sisters and was a great source of movies for any occasion.

A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on Wednesday, June 26. Burial took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma following Mass.

*Memorial Remembrances may be made to:*

Sisters of the Holy Family • P.O. Box 3248 • Fremont, CA 94539

Sister Angela Marie Hinckley, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family for 64 years, died Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at the age of 97 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister was born



Agnes Hinckley on December 13, 1921, in Pocatello, ID, and entered the Sisters of the Holy Family from Cathedral of the Madeleine parish in Salt Lake City, UT on July 2, 1956, at age 34.

Sister Angela Marie worked as a flight attendant before entering the Sisters. She began her ministry as a Sister in the Bay Area, working in religious education both there and in southern California, until she was moved to Helper, Utah, in 1961. She worked in Helper and Tooele in elementary and secondary religious education until 1974, and then returned to California for five years in the Office of Religious Education in the Diocese of Sacramento.

Sister Angela Marie returned to Utah in 1979 and served in a variety of places and ministries: Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Salt Lake City; Coordinator of the Office for the Handicapped for the Diocese of Salt Lake City; Pastoral Associate for St. Lawrence Mission in Heber City and St. Mary of the Assumption in Park City; Director of Social and Human Concerns for St. Vincent de Paul in Salt Lake City. She returned to the Motherhouse in Fremont in 2004, where she resided until her death.

Sister's family will join the Sisters on October 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the Motherhouse Oratory in Fremont to celebrate the life of Sister Angela Marie.

# Family of Friends

Published by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Fremont CA to inform our friends and benefactors of the activities of the Congregation and to thank our generous donors.

### SHF President

– Sister M. Caritas Foster

### SHF Vice President

– Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez

### SHF Congregational Counselors

– Sister Ann Marie Gelles

– Sister Kathleen Littrell

We welcome your comments.

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

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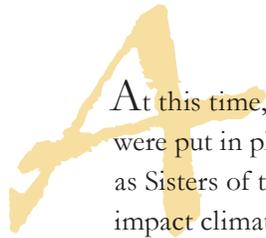
# Sisters of the Holy Family

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# The Last Word



At this time, when the federal government is rolling back standards that were put in place to resist global warming, it is encouraging to know that as Sisters of the Holy Family we are part of an effective movement to impact climate change.

Through our association with Boston Trust Walden, we are one of 200 investors who are urging large corporations to align climate lobbying with the Paris Agreement.

The objective is to limit the global average warming to well below 2° Celsius and to pursue efforts to hold it at 1.5° Celsius.

We are making it clear to these companies that catastrophic climate change negatively impacts every aspect of their goals, including their main goal of profit making.

The companies are being urged to publicly report on how they are meeting a set of investor expectations on corporation climate lobbying. The combined power of the 200 investors is bound to influence the decisions of these major corporations.



CLIMATE RISKS, EXTREME EVENTS AND RELATED IMPACTS (SOURCE: WMO, 2017)