

We celebrate

# Jubilee 2020



## Jubilarians 2020

### 75 Years

✠ Sister Timothy Cronin  
Sister Georgette Roeder

### 70 Years

✠ Sister Christopher Schmidt

### 60 Years

✠ Sister Loretta Marie Marbach  
✠ Sister Dolores Freitas  
Sister Charleen O'Brien  
Sister Angela Persano  
Sister Jo Marie Arredondo  
Sister Marietta Fahey  
Sister Sharon Flannigan



# Jubilee 2020



In our missioning for this year, we were challenged by the words: “Our collective mission is to deepen our relationships with each member as a community of the whole as we continue to pray for and stand against conditions that demean or undermine the dignity of persons or the sacredness of the family.” In light of this year’s mission invitation, the jubilarians were asked to share a glimpse of their mission and charism experiences by reflecting on, “what inspired you to do God’s mission through Holy Family over the past 60, 70, or 75 years?” Their stories of faith, hope, and love follow.



## *“I loved the children!”*

by Sister Georgette Roeder -- 75 Years

During her 75 years as SHF it was the children Sister Georgette loved most in her many years of catechetical ministry in the San Francisco Archdiocese and in Hawaii! Recently when she was asked what she loved most in her years of ministry she said: “I loved the children” and her face became radiant! Sister Georgette’s life was a witness to God’s loving presence to many children and families.

On her return to California after 24 years serving in Hawaii, Sister enjoyed living her gracious spirit of hospitality, welcoming persons who came to Holy Family Center in Pleasant Hill. She provided healthy, tasty snacks and meals along with a good dose of humor!! Now she continues to live her humor and welcome visitors at the Motherhouse in Fremont.





## *"Crossing the River"*

by Sister Charleen O'Brien -- 60 Years

I can't believe it's been 60 years since I entered our wonderful Community! I learned of our charism by reading the book Sister Teresita gave me of our first 50 years. Then after entering I learned by example from our dear Sisters from their zeal and love of the poor and families. My first mission was our day homes. How I loved those two-, three- and four-year-olds who I ministered with for 28 years. In between on Saturdays I went as a companion to teach catechism and visit the families of the children. We also helped them with food and clothing. The rest of the years up to the present I have been with the elderly at Senior Day health centers and with our own Sisters. It was always my desire from the time

I was a young Sister to be with our elder Sisters sharing, caring, praying, and gleaning their wisdom. I have always and still believe that the Holy Family Sisters and our Charism is the best path for me. My favorite quote is from Mother Dolores, "And I saw the river that must be crossed in order to reach the Kingdom of Heaven and the name of that river was Suffering; and I saw the boat which takes so many souls across that river, and the name of that boat was love."

## *"Yes...And the Dance Goes On"*

by Sister Angela Persano -- 60 Years

My 60 years as a Sister of the Holy Family is truly a call! A call that came and singled me out for something beyond my wildest dreams, because since my early childhood my passion was to be a Prima Ballerina. But God had other plans for me! Thanks to my Pastor, Monsignor Bedford, I met the Sisters of the Holy Family in March of 1960 and entered the Community in July of that same year. To my surprise my early yearnings were to become a reality during my first year as a Junior Professed. Sister Mary Jo asked us to think of something original to present to the class having to do with scripture. I have always loved the words of the Magnificat and now I had the chance to transform them into movement, my expression of prayer, which I did, with the help of two other sisters. That was the beginning of many years of praising God through the art of Liturgical Dance. And this holy symphony of prayer has resounded throughout my 60 years of service; a symphony of "yeses" experienced in the 30 years in parish work where I saw the reflection of God in the eyes of the children and in the hearts of their parents; the 17 years I spent in the Finance Department. Today my "yes" continues as I look upon the Wisdom that comes with "old" age keeping busy as a support person to Administration at the Plaza offices. I thank my family, friends and the Holy Family Sisters who daily inspire me to continue my dance and offer God my forever "yes."





## *“Bringing Good News to the Poor”*

by Sister Jo Marie Arredondo -- 60 Years

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19) This quote inspires me, anoints me, sends me forth in a quest to be and to bless others with God’s loving presence.

I met the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1953 when they came to San Antonio, Texas. The Sisters prepared us for Confirmation, treated us and acted as one of us, and played softball with us. Since I was very young I wanted to be a sister. My parents were always

very generous about helping people in need and I wanted to follow their example. Fortunately, when I joined the Sisters of the Holy Family, my assignments were to ministries with the poor to areas in Northern California, East Los Angeles, Helper/Price Utah and San Antonio.

Besides Religious Education, in Price, Utah I was able to work with Hispanic leaders to bring about bilingual education in the schools. In the Salt Lake Diocese, the Hispanic leaders and I worked together to bring awareness of presence and the needs of the Hispanic members in the Catholic Church of Utah. Today, the diocesan newspaper is published half in English and half in Spanish.

While in Utah, I attended the Incarnate Word Pastoral Institute in San Antonio which gave me the opportunity to study “Hispanic Culture and Religiosity,” through the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) program. This experience enabled me to get involved with COPS (Communities Organized for Public Service) and Las Hermanas (Hispanic Sisters Organized to bring awareness of the Hispanic needs in the U.S. Catholic Church.) During my 17 years in San Antonio I worked with students at MACC in the Pastoral Institute, Merced Housing Texas, and also ministered at Our Lady of Good Council Church where I grew up. Merced Housing Texas purchases and renovates apartment complexes for low income and senior housing and makes health and safety related repairs for low income seniors at no cost to them.

Today, I still feel anointed and sent to bring and bear the Good News. How I related and treat others still expresses “...bring the Good News to the poor...” Along with our associates, sisters, and others we continue to write letters to legislators to bring about social change and a more just society. We pray for the needs of our world and for conversion of those who deal unjustly with others. We give financial assistance to organizations who foster our mission of seeking out and advocating for poor and needy families.



# “I Walk in the World to Love It”

by Sister Marietta Fahey -- 60 Years

I entered the Sisters of the Holy Family because at an early age God stole my heart and I believed that my love was meant to be lived for the human family. I wanted only to teach “God loves you.” I believe in the potential God creates in every person. No matter the bumps / sufferings along the road, everyone is meant to come to fullness of life, making a difference in their family and in our world!

During my years in catechetical ministry, often a parent would ask: “Sister, walk me to my car?” I discovered that my listening presence was meant to help guide, support and encourage their next step. I call this my “theology of the parking lot.” During these years, I felt called to accompany and educate persons / families on their journey toward wholeness / holiness.

We opened Holy Family Center in Pleasant Hill, CA, (1982-2005) to provide a place in the neighborhood with resources for personal growth and deepening spirituality. Anyone regardless of their faith stance was welcome. I was licensed for 30 years in an international school of human

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# “Behold! I Am Doing Something New!”

by Sister Sharon Flannigan -- 60 Years



“Behold I am doing something new -- can you not perceive it springing forth in your midst?” (Is. 43: 19)

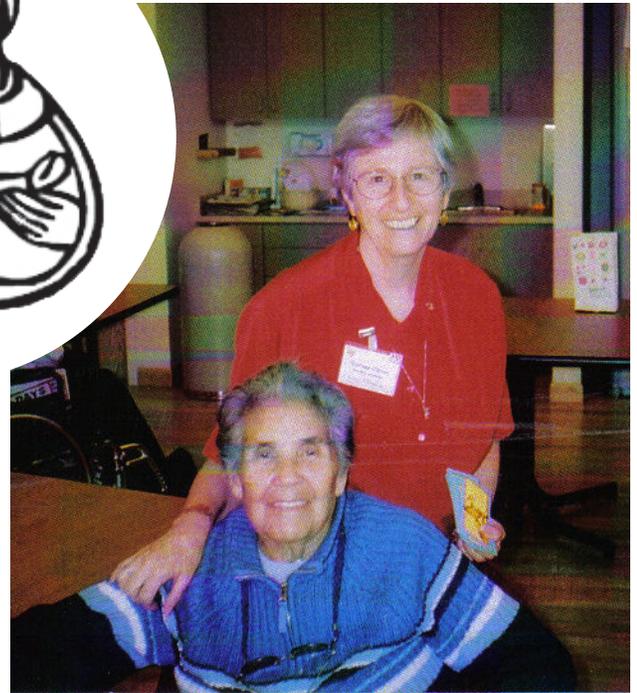
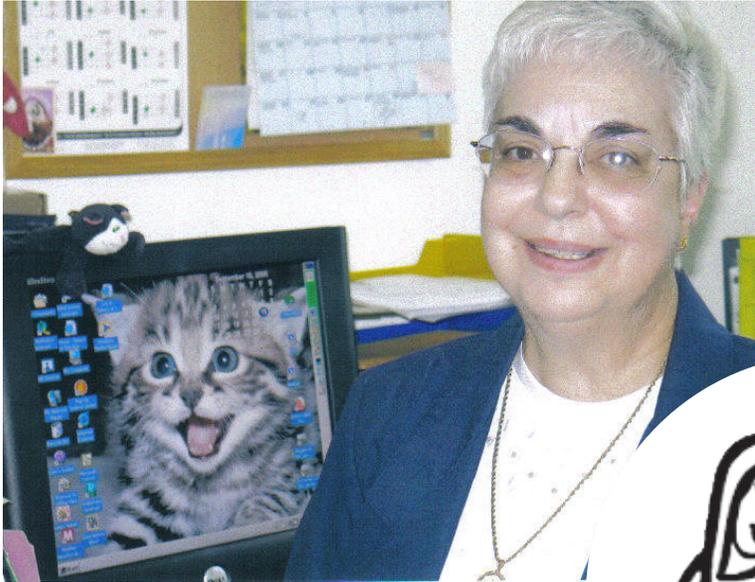
This scripture passage has been my guide throughout my religious life. These words kept me aware of the emerging surprises and focused on God’s wisdom in them and His grace to help me respond.

I am grateful for the example and foundation in faith my parents gave to me. And for the constant joy the children I have taught have given to me. It is my privilege to continue to share the gospel with them.

I am also grateful for the example of the wonderful faith- filled women and men who have ministered with me. And for the priests who were open to the sharing of faith in new and creative ways.

I truly have received the hundred fold.

# 375 Years in the Lord's Vineyard!



*Sister Marietta Fahey: "I Walk in the World to Love It" (from preceding page)*

development (Personality and Human Relationships- PRH) offering tools, guiding processes for persons on their path. I continue to encounter and accompany anyone who wants to grow... change ... live more fully their potential for the positive emergence of the human family.

"The designs of God's heart are for all generations". Psalm 33:11

I continue to hold hope for the future of the human family:

"What does the world mean to you if you cannot trust it to go on shining when you're not there?"

M. Oliver poem: "October"

