



► SISTER CARITAS (SECOND FROM RIGHT) PARTICIPATED IN THE GROUNDBREAKING FOR CITY CENTER APARTMENTS, AN ABODE SERVICES PROJECT IN FREMONT, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY, FEB. 27TH.

As part of their ongoing Legacy commitment, the Sisters of the Holy Family are significant financial partners with Abode Services in the City Center Apartments project.

City Center Apartments

Abode Services Housing Project
Fremont CA

- 60 units of affordable and supportive housing
- 30 studio units, 29 one-bedroom units, and a two bedroom home
- Each unit will be self-contained with a private bath, kitchen, and living room/sleeping area
- The building will be fully ADA-accessible and all units will be either ADA-accessible or able to be modified for full accessibility
- Lease-up is expected to start in early 2021
- Abode will provide on-site services

For more information, please contact Abode Services Project Manager Sandra Heredia. (sheredia@abodeservices.org)

MINISTRY

According to dictionary.com, a ministry is defined as follows: *to give service, care or aid; to attend, as to wants or necessities.* That definition is certainly true. But can ministry be more than that?

During 2019, the Sisters of the Holy Family were actively engaged in their ministry in many ways. One significant ministerial activity was the empowering of numerous local organizations through financial support and partnership:

- We awarded a grant of \$20,000.00, matched by another \$20,000.00 from you, our generous donors, to Holy Family Day Home. These funds were used specifically to give support to children whose families are experiencing homelessness by funding food stability through the HFDH pantry. Funding was specifically set aside for the Winter break so that families would have ample resources while the educational program was closed.
- We also provided funding to Abode Services to support the primary goal of their housing flexible fund: to provide discretionary assistance to the population and ultimately to achieve housing stability and safety for homeless people living in the Fremont area.

President's Message

May 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

Sending you Easter greetings of peace and joy. I write this on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. In today's gospel we hear Jesus say to the disciples (including us): "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me."



▲ SISTER CARITAS

During the past weeks we have lived sheltering in place, hearing of the spread of COVID-19, and of the increasing number of deaths globally from the pandemic. We may be asking ourselves why is this happening? Where is God? Why doesn't God answer our prayers and bring an end to the pandemic? Even with these questions stirring, or raging, within us we need to day after day hear the words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." We can let our hearts not be troubled because our faith tells us that nothing—neither death nor life, neither the fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--can separate us from the love of God: The Easter season and celebration of Christ's resurrection remind us that our faith is not in vain. Let us rejoice and be glad for God is faithful and God's love is everlasting. Alleluia!

This issue of Family of Friends was almost ready to go to press when we received the sheltering in place order and all non-essential business came to a halt. Instead of changing the

And again, mid-May brought another hiccup and our production schedule was interrupted anew. But our message has not changed: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." God's love is with us.

content of this issue, we decided to send it as it was originally written and let you know how life as intervened since then:

- ▶ We have been praying for your mothers, fathers and mentors. All those persons—living or deceased—rest in the heart of God. God knows them by name. We will continue to pray for them throughout the summer months. If you so wish, please use the enclosed card to send us the names of your loved ones. We always appreciate hearing how that person/those persons have blessed your life.
- ▶ Sister Christopher Schmidt, one of our Jubilarians, went home to God on March 21. Sister Lucille Hintze also went home to God on March 24. Both sisters will be featured in our next issue of Family of Friends. We remember them with gratitude for their many years of faithfulness, for the partnerships formed in mission and lives they touched. We look forward to when we can gather for liturgy to celebrate their lives and journey with them to their final resting place.
- ▶ Our Board of Directors made the decision to re-direct any remaining Legacy Funds from this year for response to immediate emergency needs in light of the pandemic. We have been responding to the growing needs around food insecurity and technology. Daily as we watch the news we see the growing lines at food banks and pantries. We have been partnering with organizations reaching out to families with children and home bound elders. In addition to food, with sheltering in place orders there is a growing need for technology to keep elders connected with families and friends as well as providing technology resources to low income families to participate in at home schooling programs. If you would like to join us in responding to these ever growing needs, please consider a gift to our Mission Fund.

During these days as we wait for a return to some kind of normalcy, let us open our hearts to all we are seeing and hearing about the inequality and injustice that is experienced by so many. Once our eyes are open, let our hearts be moved to find new ways of responding so that all people may experience the blessings of life that our God desires for each person. God's desire is our work. May we be faithful to what is entrusted to us and we ask this in the name of the Holy Family.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Caritas Foster".

Caritas Foster, SHF

CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

Hospice Volunteering



Associate Life in the Sisters of the Holy Family is composed of Christian women and men who have been drawn by the spirit and charism of the Congregation and who participate in its life and mission through kinship, prayer, and service. Associates commit themselves to live their faith, personal gifts and skills in their own daily circumstances and ministry outreach, in the mission focus of the Congregation.

The ministry outreach of each Associate takes different forms according to their personal gifts and skills. The Associates are active in prison ministry, campaigning against human trafficking, working with the homeless, working in parish food pantries, visiting the elderly in a nursing home, bringing Eucharist to the sick and elderly. The list can go on and on. The ministries are as diverse as the Associates.

The following is a snapshot of two of our Associates involved in the ministry of hospice. This ministry of presence and service is focused on providing patients, caregivers, and families with the most comfortable and compassionate end-of-life experience possible.

Associates Lauralie Haikin and Joan Buckland both volunteer in this ministry by providing respite care to families and caregivers. Both assist with Bereavement and Christian Remembrance services for the families. Lauralie volunteers with Providence Hospice in Newberg, Oregon, and Joan provides this service with Kaiser Hospice in the Bay Area.

Visits to the home have been primarily to provide respite care to hospice families. It is so important for families to have time for self-care, be it getting together with friends, shopping, taking a walk in nature or

LAURALIE HAIKIN ▶



▲ JOAN BUCKLAND

going to a caregiver support group.

Time with patients is tailored to their needs and expressed wishes which have included:

- ▶ Reading whatever interests them
- ▶ Writing letters to family or friends to be delivered after their death
- ▶ Listening to stories of their life experiences
- ▶ Sitting, holding hands, and praying with patients who are near death

The rewards of hospice ministry are immeasurable.

There is a greater appreciation for life and understanding of what is truly important, a deeper understanding and acceptance of the role of death in the process of life and an enriched understanding of different cultures and life perspectives.

Hospice ministry is a wonderful opportunity to share one's God-given talents and Christ's love with those in the final stage of life.

SHF Archives Find a Home

Partners with Passion

Little has been written about the work of women religious in the United States. A new archival collaboration between the Sisters of the Holy Family and Santa Clara University's Archives & Special Collections is laying the groundwork to change that.

BY NADIA NASR

Founded in San Francisco in 1872, the Sisters of the Holy Family (SHF) congregation has cared for the poor and needy, especially families, in service to God. Their archives tell the stories of their visionary founders, who recognized the needs of families and children in post-Gold Rush San Francisco; and the Sisters who answered God's call to go to Alaska, Hawai'i, Nevada, and Texas, often unsure of what they would do or where they would live.

Today, as SHF approaches its 150th anniversary, they are preparing for permanent closure. Far from an isolated event, many other congregations are preparing to close and their archives are at risk of becoming permanently lost. Larger religious orders, such as the American Jesuit Province, are consolidating their archives at centralized repositories like the Jesuit Archives & Research Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Most at risk, however, are outlier congregations like SHF that don't have another province of their order, community with the same heritage, or institution they've founded with which to merge their collections.

Earlier this year, the SCU Archives & Special Collections (A&SC) concluded a two-year project to transfer the SHF Archives from Fremont to Santa Clara by way of Rockville, Maryland. In Maryland, History Associates,



ABOVE: THE ORIGINAL NINE SISTERS. RIGHT: MINISTRY TAKES TO THE ROAD.

BELOW: PARTICIPATING IN A LOCAL IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS RALLY.



Inc., spent six months rehousing materials in the SHF Archives and preparing detailed descriptive inventories to facilitate research. This \$180,000 project was funded in large part by the SHF Congregation, and enabled A&SC to fast-track a process that otherwise may have taken 2 to 3 years to complete.

The SHF Archives form part of a core group of collections centered on women in theology, including women religious and lay women in the church. These include our flagship collection, the professional papers of Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M.; the archives of the Sky-Arch Hermitage, the home of a canonical hermitess since 1994; and the publications of the Catholic Women's Network, a Bay Area organization founded in 1988 to support women's spirituality and personal growth. These collections, in concert with the SHF Archives, reflect the many facets of women's spirituality and contributions to the Church in the Bay Area and beyond.

Now that the SHF Archives have come home to SCU, our work is just beginning. In the coming years we anticipate active use of this collection by students and researchers from a variety of academic disciplines, including religious studies, women's and gender studies, education, history, social sciences, and pastoral ministries. We are working to make tens of thousands of existing digital images available online, and are already planning digitization projects for other parts of the SHF Archives. To support these efforts, in 2018 SHF established a \$100,000 endowment for the long term care and exhibition of their collections, including future transfers to A&SC.

As SHF prepares for closure they look not only to preserve their past but also to

live their mission into the future. In 2018 SHF also established a second \$100,000 endowment for A&SC, in support of archival collaborations centered on women religious in the West. This past November, they affirmed their faith in A&SC's stewardship by contributing an additional \$200,000 to this second endowed fund.

With these funds we are poised to move beyond acquiring materials toward a more expansive definition of a collaborative archives program offering a variety of services made

Their archives tell the stories of their visionary founders, who recognized the needs of families and children in post-Gold Rush San Francisco...

possible through this SHF endowment. These services could include archives management consultations, digitization services, grants for archival supplies, or some other need we've not yet anticipated.

Echoing the words of Sr. Elaine Sanchez, we are more convinced than ever that we have, and will continue to have, what we need to move into the future. We are partners with passion for the archives, partners that are flexible, and partners filled with the excitement of the opportunities we have before us. We are grateful to the members of the SHF congregation for their tremendous show of faith in A&SC and in Santa Clara University. We thank them for entrusting SCU with their legacy, and pledge to keep their stories alive.

MS. NASR IS HEAD OF ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT THE SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY. THIS ARTICLE IS REPRINTED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

In Memoriam



Memorial Remembrances may be made to:
Sisters of the Holy Family
P.O. Box 3248
Fremont, CA 94539



▶ IN HER COAT OF MANY COLORS, SISTER MERCE COMMANDS THE ATTENTION OF HER AUDIENCE.

Sister M. Mercedes Braga, SHF, died peacefully at the Motherhouse on November 5, 2019, just before her 91st birthday. She was born Marie Louise Braga on November 10, 1928, in Glendale, California, and entered the Sisters of the Holy Family from Portola Valley, California, on January 6, 1951, at the age of 22.

Sister Mercedes served in catechetical ministry and day homes in California, Hawai'i and Nevada, in places from rural to urban. In 1996 she returned to Sacramento, and in 1998 began working with Wellspring Women's Center, where she remained until health concerns brought her back to the Motherhouse in 2018.

Just a few days before Sister Mercedes' death, the Holy Family Sisters had an anointing service for her, and stories of her many escapades kept us all laughing, including Sister Merce. As she left the service in her wheelchair, she was singing, "I Could Have Danced All Night." We can imagine her now, dancing before the Lord in her coat of many colors!



◀ SISTER DIANE SERVING OTHERS IN THE BREAKFAST PROGRAM.

Sister Diane Maguire, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family for 58 years, died Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the age of 76 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister Diane was born on February 7, 1943, in San Francisco, where she learned her catechism from Holy Family Sisters at St. Finnbar's Parish. She entered the



▲ SISTER DIANE

Congregation from that parish on July 16, 1961, at the age of 18.

Sister Diane started out in catechetical ministry in various parishes in the Mission San Jose area, and in 1966 was transferred to San Francisco to serve in Holy Family Day Home. That began her lifetime of Day Home ministry in various locations but mostly in Las Vegas.

Caring for an aging parent took her to Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, where she began teaching in Catholic schools. After retiring from teaching, she began a social justice ministry.

When Sister moved from Las Vegas to the Motherhouse in Fremont, California, she became involved in Pax Christi and the Tri-City Free Breakfast Program, in addition to making communion calls to the homebound and driving Sisters on shopping trips. She also facilitated a group of rosary-makers who met weekly at the Motherhouse.

Remembering Mothers, Fathers & Mentors



The Scriptures not only remind but command us always to “honor your father and your mother.”

When I think of my Mom and Dad, there are so many memories of their kind and gentle care, sweetness and hospitality. Remembering them brings a gentle smile, a quiet tear to my one small heart.

Our mothers and fathers are our first teachers—our guideposts—mentors and companions.

Over my own years, I have met and come to know many parents—a special kind of patchwork quilt. They come in all sizes and shapes, all colors, all backgrounds and traditions forming for me a rich and beautiful mosaic design.

Parents—our primary teachers in who we are, encouraging us as we take our first steps and grow and who support us in the paths that we take ... living our call—desires—vocation.

Along the journey, parents are a guidepost for their sons and daughters. They remind and encourage and plant seeds for hope and blessing in what is yet to come for their children.

Parents are mentors with their own personal experience, examples, wisdom and goodness ... wanting only what is best for their sons and daughters.

Parents are constant companions to their children in their life journey with their presence, goodness, patience, support, love ... they guide as little ones take their first steps—as a young child begins school and continues to grow into an adult.

Mothers and fathers keep vigil and pray ever so steadfastly for what is nourishing and good for their offspring—even to breaking open one’s life for their son and daughter. (Age is no factor.)

In their love, tears, and prayer—parents faithfully hold constant vigil for the “well being” of their sons and daughters.

And so we give praise—

Our father-mother God, be a source of constant refuge, peace, and joy for all parents. Strengthen and guide them on their own journey—may they proclaim Your works and give thanks, praise, and glory to you all their days. Amen.

—*Sister Marie Deering*

Remembrance Cards



This Spring, we encourage you to use the Remembrance Cards enclosed with this mailing to provide the names of your mothers and fathers—your first teachers—or any other special person who may have played a significant role in your life. All of these special people will be remembered in the daily prayers of our Sisters, during the months of May and June.

Jubilarians Celebrate Their Calling

The Sisters on these two pages are celebrating Jubilees in 2020. As part of their celebration, they have written brief articles on what the Sisters of the Holy Family have meant to them and how their vocation has shaped their faith and been an integral part of their lives.

“Yes”...And the Dance Goes On

by SISTER ANGELA PERSANO (ALSO KNOWN AS ADRIENNE JEAN PERSANO), 60 YEARS



SISTER ANGELA

Sixty years as a Sister of the Holy Family, truly a call! From early childhood, my one wish was to be a Prima Ballerina. God had other plans for me...and I answered “yes.” In March of 1960, I met the Sisters and

entered the Community in July of that same year. Surprisingly, my early yearning became a reality when Sister Mary Jo asked her class to present a project having to do with Scripture. Always loving the words of the Magnificat, I now had the opportunity to translate them into sacred movement, my expression of prayer. This was the beginning of many years of praising God through the art of Liturgical Dance. After 35 years of parish ministry, and 17 years in the Finance Department, today my “yes” continues as a support person to Administration at the Plaza office. I thank my family, friends and the Sisters of the Holy Family who daily inspire me to continue my “dance” and offer to God my forever “yes.”

“Give Them Whatever They Need”

by SISTER CHRISTOPHER SCHMIDT, 70 YEARS

As a Sister of the Holy Family for 70 years, I have ministered to God’s people in California, Nevada, and Hawai’i through religious education in parishes and on the Diocesan level.

I hold a special place in my heart for the people of Hawai’i. They taught me about other peoples, cultures, and beliefs. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,” is a verse from the Gospel of John that has inspired me and helped me realize God’s universal love for everyone. The Hawaiian people taught me to appreciate the good of each person and the gift of different religious traditions. Consoling families after a death became an important aspect of my ministry. Hawai’i showed me the importance of being present and giving whatever is needed.

Today, I continue to live out our mission by praying for the ongoing mission of the Church and for peace among all nations.



SISTER CHRISTOPHER

“I walk in the world to love it.” —Mary Oliver

by SISTER MARIETTA FAHEY, 60 YEARS



SISTER MARIETTA

I felt God called me to live my love for the human family. During my years in catechetical ministry, parents would ask: “Sister, walk me to my car?” I discovered my listening presence was helpful in guiding, supporting, encouraging, even challenging their growth into wholeness, ordinary holiness. My “theology of the parking lot” was born!

Holy Family Center, Pleasant Hill, CA, (1982-2005) emerged, a place in the neighborhood providing resources for personal growth and deepening spirituality. Everyone was welcome. I was licensed for 30 years in an international school of human development (Personality and Human Relationships—PRH), guiding self-discovery processes, workshops, and mentoring. My joy is encountering, accompanying persons to live more authentically their potential for the positive emergence of their family and our human family.

“The designs of God’s heart are for all generations.” —Psalm 33:11

“It is in giving that you receive”

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



SISTER SHARON

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 hundredfold.

“The Name of that Boat was Love”

by SISTER CHARLEEN O’BRIEN, 60 YEARS



SISTER CHARLEEN

I learned by example from our dear Sisters their zeal and love of the poor and families. My first Mission was our Day Homes. How I loved those preschoolers for 28 years! First I taught catechism and visited families and gave

them food and clothing; then senior day health centers and with our own Sisters; now sharing, caring, praying, and gleaning their wisdom. I have always and still believe that the Holy Family Sisters and our Charism are the best path for me. From Mother Dolores...“And I saw the river that must be crossed to reach the Kingdom of Heaven; the name of that river was Suffering. I saw the boat which takes many souls across that river, the name of that boat was love.”

“I loved the children!”

by SISTER GEORGETTE ROEDER, 75 YEARS



SISTER GEORGETTE

During her 75 years as a Sister of the Holy Family it was the children Sister Georgette loved most. 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 in the San Francisco Archdiocese and Hawai’i.

On her return to the Mainland after 24 years serving in the Islands, 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.

“Bringing Good News to the Poor...”

by SISTER JO MARIE ARREDONDO, 60 YEARS



SISTER JO MARIE

Throughout my life “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me... to bring good news to the poor.” (Luke 4:18) has inspired me. I met the Sisters of the Holy Family in 1953 when they came to San Antonio, Texas. Since very young, I wanted to be a sister because my parents were generous about helping people and I wanted to follow their example. When I joined the Sisters of the Holy Family, my assignments were to ministries with the poor in Northern California, East Los Angeles, Helper/Price, Utah, and San Antonio, Texas. In

Price, I worked with Hispanic leaders to bring about bilingual education in the schools. In the Salt Lake Diocese, we brought awareness of the needs of the Hispanic members in the Catholic Church of Utah. Now, the Diocesan newspaper is published in English and Spanish. Today, I still feel anointed and sent to bring the Good News to whomever I meet.

Homelessness

2020 Housing Facts

- ▶ 11.1 million households are severely cost burdened, spending at least half their income on rental housing.
- ▶ Since the 1990s, the United States has destroyed almost a quarter-million public housing units.
- ▶ Public housing repairs and rehabilitation need more than \$26 million in major capital repairs.

Source: Networklobby.org

To meet the needs of the homeless in the cities of Fremont, Newark and surrounding areas the Clean Start Mobile Hygiene Program was developed to provide much-needed shower and laundry services. For someone experiencing homelessness, keeping yourself and your clothes clean can be incredibly challenging and can affect self image and self confidence in finding and maintaining employment and being part of the community. Every person deserves the opportunity to wear clothing that fits properly and is in good shape.

Lisa Stambaugh, a volunteer with *Fremont for Everyone*, a group that advocates for the Fremont Navigation Center, saw a need in that

many clothes of the homeless have rips and tears that would be simple to repair if they had the means. Lisa started a group of volunteers called *The Mend Zone* that goes selectively to sites where the Clean Start

Mobile Hygiene services are provided. She and her volunteers stitch, mend, hem, patch, repair and do whatever it takes to help in empowering people to feel good about their appearance. The volunteers have performed tasks that include: hemming pants and sleeves, repairing rips (especially in pockets), replacing drawstrings, fixing straps on purses and backpacks, and more.

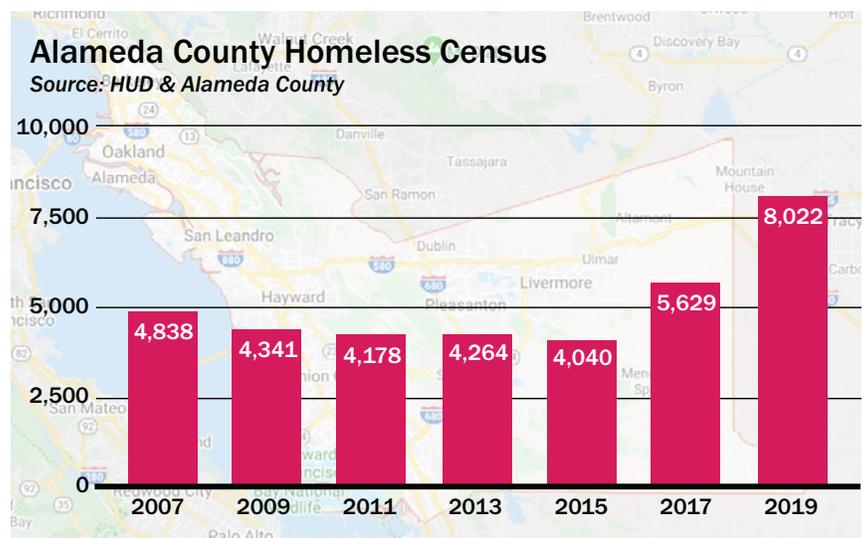
Currently Lisa and her volunteers go to Centerville Presbyterian Church the second Thursday of the month where the church sponsors a free dining room. At the Niles Discovery church on each Wednesday the Mobile Hygiene



SISTER DIANA WHITE (LEFT), LISA STAMBAUGH (CENTER) AND CATHERINE STROMMEN (RIGHT) MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING IS READY TO WEAR.



Please visit www.themendzone.org for more information about the group or to volunteer.



ACCORDING TO RECENT DATA, THE LOCAL HOMELESS SITUATION IS ACTUALLY TURNING INTO A CRISIS.

service offers their services and Lisa and her volunteers perform the same mending services to all who bring their clothes

Sisters of the Holy Family supports the Fremont Navigation Center and Holy Family Sister Diana White is a volunteer in Lisa's group. She goes to Centerville Presbyterian Church the second Thursday night of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 pm along with Lisa and other volunteers and goes to Niles Discovery Church on Wednesdays when her schedule permits.

Celebrating Our Legacy



Thank you to all who participated in our Fall 2019 Raffle for the Mission Fund. And congratulations to our winners:

- ▶ **First prize of \$1,000:** — David E. of Petaluma, CA
- ▶ **Second prize of \$500:** — Bernice B. of Napa, CA
- ▶ **Third prize of \$50:** — Patricia B. of Waco, TX

Legacy Fund Committee Report

Some of you may remember the book: *A Legacy of Caring: The Impassioned Mission of the Sisters of the Holy Family* which was published on the occasion of our 125th Anniversary. The author, Charlotte Hall, shared the following observation:

“Listening to the Sisters talk about the future, I am struck by the realization that while most of us plan for our lifetimes we assume at some point our children will take over and be responsible for their lives; the Sisters are also planning for the continuation of their family. However, it is a much larger family, and their plans are for a much longer future. The task is challenging. They see a future that needs their charism. Their challenge is to make sure their mission continues.”

In the spirit of that challenge we have over the years made decisions about personnel and commitment to various ministries. Today many of our sisters are no longer physically active in ministry but their hearts are! That is why the congregation identified five areas where we want to focus our energies and resources to leave a lasting legacy. We have decided to provide grants to organizations who address the following contemporary issues: homelessness, hunger/food insecurity, children, healthcare, and immigration/refugees. A committee was formed to identify recipients of the first grants which were awarded in February 2020 to Mercy Housing California, Merced Housing Texas, and April Showers in San Leandro. Each of these organizations has a track record of success, advocates for the homeless and delivers services in areas where our sisters have ministered. We look forward to making another set of grants in the springtime.

If you would like to join us in this pursuit please consider making a donation to the Sisters of the Holy Family Mission Fund.

Merced Housing California

Founded in 1981, Mercy Housing strives to create vibrant and healthy communities by providing quality service-enriched affordable housing designed to alleviate poverty for low-income families and children, seniors, veterans and those with other special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality and safe housing. Mercy Housing California is the largest regional division of Mercy Housing, Inc. and manages 140 affordable housing complexes across California from San Diego to Shasta County, serving more than 19,000 low-income individuals.

Merced Housing Texas

Merced’s mission is to create and strengthen healthy communities by providing quality, affordable housing with supportive services for low-income individuals, families, and older adults.

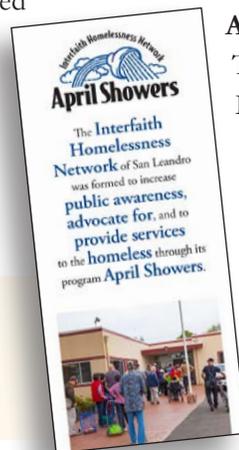
Merced’s goals are to:

- ▶ provide quality, affordable multi-family housing for low-income Texans through their Multi-Family Housing Program;
- ▶ support residents to become healthy, self-sustaining and productive members of their communities through the Resident Services Program;
- ▶ enable senior and disabled homeowners to live in greater safety and comfort and stay in the homes they own and love through the Owner-Occupied Repair Program.

April Showers San Leandro

The Interfaith Homelessness Network of San Leandro was formed to increase public awareness, advocate for, and to provide services to the homeless through its program April Showers. To read their brochure, visit the link below.

www.morine.com/AS_TriFoldBrochAddressREV2.pdf



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 Councilors

– 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.

www.holyfamilysisters.org
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Sisters of the Holy Family

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Ministry from page 1

- ▶ And a grant was made to the City of Fremont Human Services Department specifically to help families with back rent, enabling them to be eligible for a Stay Housed subsidy and financial coaching. In addition, a grant provides the City with the flexible funds necessary to serve the homeless on the street.

While we suppose that it's possible to see this as the Sisters' hands simply writing checks, the reality is that the funds that were awarded to these three organizations enabled the hands of a multitude of ministers to carry out missions and ministries beyond the

physical abilities of our current Congregation. In this sense, important ministries that directly align with our vision and mission were made real and impacted the lives of people in need in significant ways.

Maybe ministry *can* be more than “giving service, aid and care.” Maybe, if it's thought of strategically, a ministry can be a multiplier of good. And who couldn't use a little more good?

We are asking all our friends, donors and supporters to please take a moment and send an e-mail to:
▶ Friends@holyfamilysisters.org
Be sure to include your name so that our effort to make certain that our records are correct is successful.
And thank you.

