



*Blessed
Be God!*

SJS NEWS

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Province of the Immaculate Conception

VOL 3

ISSUE 2

FALL 2014

You're Invited

**SJS Sisters Celebrate
110 Years of Ministry**



**Kindly RSVP by September 19th ~ Call (619)-292-2971 or go to
www.sisterservantssjs.org and click on the buy tickets button.**

Join Bishop Flores and the Sisters

Saturday, October 25th

3:30 pm - Celebratory Mass

Corpus Christi Catholic Church
450 Corral Canyon Road
Bonita, California 91902

6:00 pm - Wine Reception

7:00 pm - Dinner

Auction/Entertainment Following

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley
8757 Rio San Diego Drive
San Diego, California 92108

A LETTER FROM SISTER MARIA PAZ URIBE

Dear Friends,

As we begin the new school year, I have high hopes for a fulfilling year for our students, parents, teachers and friends! Working to promote an environment of faith and love that goes beyond the school grounds is a responsibility we do not take lightly. Our efforts are measured by how well our students do academically, socially and spiritually.

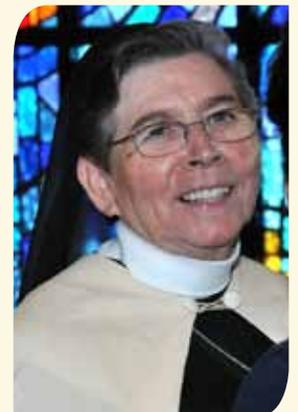
Looking back over the past year, I cannot help but think about many success stories. One such student who stands out is Sagid Manriquez who attended Vincent Memorial in Calexico, unable to speak a word of English upon entering high school. This past May, I was proud to witness his valedictorian speech and learn he is headed to the University of Pennsylvania on scholarship. He credited the caring nature of his fellow students and diligent staff with his academic success. This is just one of many stories showcasing the collaboration of staff, students and parents in an SJS school that makes me so very proud.

We are looking forward to celebrating 110 years of ministry shortly! We thank God for all we have been able to accomplish with His help and in partnership with our church and school communities. I hope you will make time to join us on October 25th here in San Diego for a Eucharistic Celebration followed by a special dinner (details above). The presence of our dear parents, alumni and friends will make our event memorable.

I cannot end without a heartfelt thank you for your gifts of prayer, volunteer hours and monetary support. We remain humbled by your generosity.

God bless you and your family!

Sister Maria Paz Uribe, SJS



CALLING ALL FRIENDS OF THE SISTERS! Go to sisterservantssjs.org

We are seeking testimonials from alumni, students, parents and other friends. Please submit via our website on the Testimonials page or mail your story to 3173 Winnetka Drive, Bonita CA 91902. Thank you very much!



My Interview with Sr. Eva Rodriguez *After her mission trip to Ecuador*

Explain your role at the diocese.

For the past six years, I have served as associate director for the missions, in charge of the Missionary Childhood Association. I make annual visits to 43 Catholic grammar schools as well as five high schools and 22 parish catechism programs. I educate children about missionary work and the needs of children less fortunate and give them the chance to help kids who live in extreme poverty. They help by praying for the missionaries and raising funds through school-sponsored events such as bake sales. Every bit helps! \$67,000 was raised this school year alone to help mission programs around the world.

Where did you go for your mission trip?

Quito, the capital of Ecuador. I stayed at the Working Boys' Center (WBC) there. This program was established 50 years ago by a Jesuit priest by the name of Fr. John Halligan who wanted to help working street boys. He still serves there today alongside two other Sisters! These working children often earn the bulk of their family's income. I already knew Sr. Cindy from WBC since she comes every summer to speak to local parishes in their annual appeal for missionary support.

What was the purpose of the trip?

To experience mission work first-hand and to help out as needed. Since I am fluent in Spanish, I was able to teach the kids. Often with the language barrier, it is not as easy. I am able to share my experiences with the students at each school following these trips.

How long were you gone?

Two weeks. Normally it is four weeks, however, I got very sick and had to delay my trip. I cried about losing half of my time there! I appreciate each and every minute of these trips and I try to learn and help while there.

What was most inspiring about your trip?

So much! The center not only helps by teaching kids but, more importantly, they help every family member. Education helps break the cycle of poverty. The parents are taught to read and write, in addition to the children. The center feeds 400 hungry families every day - breakfast, lunch and dinner. Everyone is grateful for each simple meal.

The poorest families have no running water so these kids must shower at the facility. They are at school 12 hours. The kids are provided with toothbrushes and toothpaste and instructed on personal hygiene such as brushing their teeth.

The teachers instill values for a successful life such as working

hard, and respecting others. All students must save a portion of money earned at the school "bank" and they receive their savings upon graduation. In addition to regular academics, students learn practical work skills such as wood and metal working, sewing, cooking, auto mechanics etc. I got to experience making a wooden step stool using both hand and power tools; I was able to bring mine home.

What other mission trips have you taken in the past?

My first trip was to western Peru, where SJS Sisters have been serving for 14 years. Since the location is in the midst of the jungle, my trip involved multiple plane and boat rides, culminating in a five-hour trip across the Napo River. The Sisters minister to 100 children there who live at school during the school year because their homes are in such remote areas. There is no electricity until 6 p.m. and kerosene is used for cooking. Their diet consists of small quantities of rice and fish and very few vegetables are available.

The Sisters have adapted to their jungle environment and culture and a very different dialect. They remain committed to teaching the children academics while incorporating the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, saying the rosary and spiritual enrichment. Other places I have visited on my mission trips include Kenya, India, Haiti (after the earthquake) and the Philippines. Each one has been very special and inspiring to me; to see the challenges the missionaries encounter every day and how they rise to meet each one with such grace. Truly apostolic work.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

On my bucket list is to do the pilgrimage to Santiago, the leg that takes about a month to walk and ends at the burial site of St. James the apostle. It's something I have always wanted to do.

Sister Eva never intended to become a Sister although an aunt was a nun. While completing her coursework to become a nutritionist in Guadalajara, her family moved to the U.S. She finished her studies and missed her family so finally joined them in Los Angeles. Through church retreats there she met SJS Sisters. At the age of 23 she entered the convent and has been a Sister for 22 years now. Her mother wasn't very happy at first but she fortunately "came around"!

Prior to her current position, Sr. Eva enjoyed teaching at OLGA and St. Mary's in the Imperial Valley. She holds a B.A. from Sacramento State and an M.A. from the University of Phoenix. She resides at the San Ysidro convent.

-Carolyn Zollars

SISTERS ON THE MOVE

An annual task at the end of each school year is to determine how best to place Sisters for service in the coming year based on the changing needs of each school. As a result of this process, several Sisters will be serving in new locations. See photos and read below to learn who is moving where and please pray for smooth transitions for our Sisters and their new communities.

1. **Sr. Hilda Maria Reynoso** temporarily relocated to Guadalajara for physical therapy rehabilitation.
2. **Sr. Aurora Lopez** moved from San Ysidro to El Cajon and still works at the Diocese as vocations director.
3. **Sr. Margarita Gallardo** is now working in Tijuana.
4. **Sr. Luz Maria Jimenez** moved from El Cajon to San Ysidro. She continues to serve at Mater Dei and now helps at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as well.
5. **Sr. Ana Maria Guzman** moved from El Centro to Sun Valley.
6. **Sr. Lupita Quezada** will teach at St. Patrick's in Sacramento.
7. **Sr. Celia Maldonado** moved from El Centro to Sun Valley.
8. **Sr. Claudia Cortez** moved from San Ysidro to Sun Valley to teach at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
9. **Sr. Marcela de la Peña** moved from Sacramento to Paso Robles.

We are pleased to announce that the Hilton Foundation has chosen Sister Margarita Gallardo to help coordinate Phase I of their Sisters Leadership Development Initiative, a three-year program. This is part of the Foundation's larger goal to eradicate hunger worldwide. Classes covering technology, administration and leadership are taught at Universidad Iberoamericana. This program was successfully executed in Africa and is now being duplicated in Latin America, starting with Tijuana. SJS is proud to be a part of serving the population across the border from our San Ysidro community especially given that SJS Sisters were founded in Mexico in 1904.



Sr. Celia Maldonado



Sr. Claudia Cortez



Sr. Marcela de la Peña



THE SISTERS NEED YOUR HELP!

Our dear founder, Fr. Silviano Carrillo has been recommended for canonization. In order to be canonized, a person must have received the status of Servant of God before his/her beatification. Beatification is the third of the four steps in the canonization process. A person who is beatified is given the title "blessed" and the church recognizes his/her capacity of intercession for miracles to those who pray to him/her. The prayer to our founder:

Oh Jesus, eternal priest and bread of life in the Holy Eucharist, You formed the soul of Your servant, Silviano Carrillo, in the furnace of Your infinite love and enriched him with graces to which he so generously responded by becoming an exemplary priest, the founder of a religious congregation, a guide to children and youth, an Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament and of the Virgin Mary, and a devoted pastor of souls. I humbly and confidently beseech You that, through his intercession, You grant me the favor I ask <state your intention(s) now> so that your servant, Silviano, may be raised to the dignity of the altar, a new witness to holiness in the church which will bring souls to share in Your Love; You who live and reign in the unity of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen

We ask all who use this prayer and experience miracles to contact us in order to document them. Feel free to contact our office at 619-292-2971 to learn more about this process. Thank you very much!

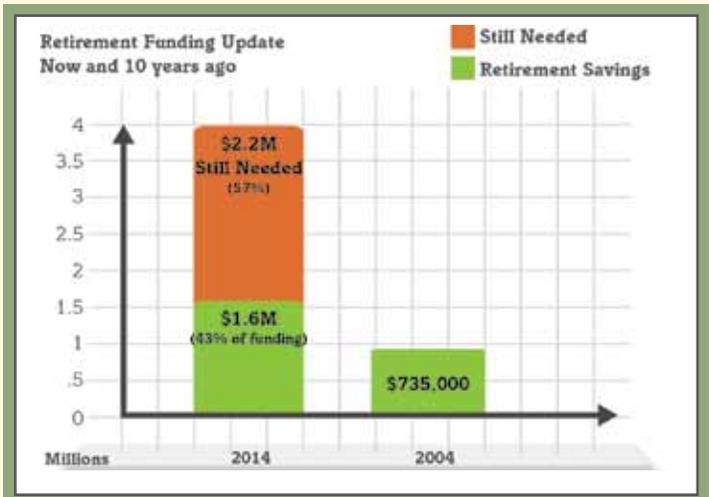
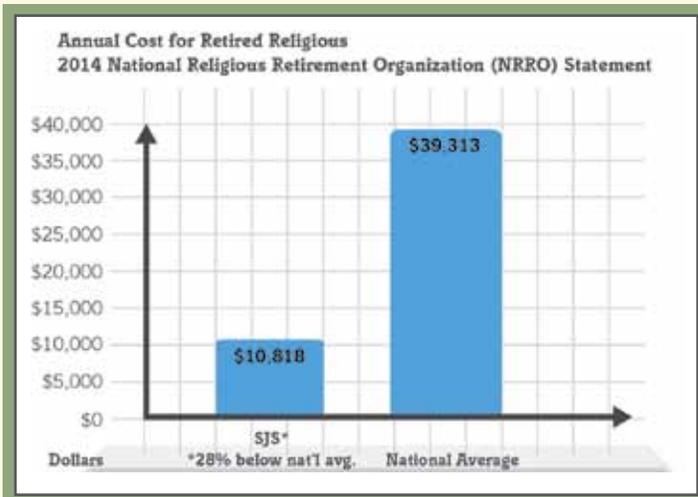
Strategic Plan Update *Charting the course for the next three years*

Eleven Sisters and two staff members met in late spring for a strategic planning retreat led by outside facilitator, Sr. Regina Fox, SSND, program director for the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation. After analyzing progress made in the prior period, the group went to work to determine the strategic plan for SJS for the next three years.

It is no secret that in order to move forward, a written plan needs to be in place to chart the course. Over the next three years SJS is committed to focusing on three key areas; growing our community, the health of our Sisters and fundraising. A task force has been created to develop a new vocations plan in order to increase

the number of Sisters in our ministry. In addition, an integrated holistic wellness plan for Sisters is being put in place to better monitor and maintain Sisters' health. Fundraising will remain another key focus; properly stewarding donors to maintain their trust and providing new opportunities for people to support SJS at higher levels.

Your prayers, volunteer hours and donations toward our ministry are always much-appreciated! To get involved or learn more, call Carolyn Zollars or Sr. Maria Paz at 619-292-2971.



Sr. Maria Elena's birthday celebration



Class of 1989 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel graduates around the bonfire at their 25th reunion in August.



Sr. Lilia with Mater Dei graduate Eric Flores



Sr. Aurora with attendees at a recent vocation event. **To learn about an upcoming Vocation Retreat in San Diego in early October, call her at (619) 651-5954.**



Sr. Katia with St. Mary's students

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Thanks to an initial NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office) grant, our development office exists to sustain the ministry of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. In partnership with our friends, we work to secure a bright future for the Sisters and their mission through ongoing communication, transparency and trust.

The gift of your time

We have opportunities to volunteer to help with our upcoming 110th anniversary and in other capacities so don't hesitate to contact us at czollars@sisterservantssjs.org or 619-292-2971. Thank you!

Other ways to give

I have received several calls lately about how to designate the Sisters as a beneficiary in your will or trust. In addition to taking care of your family, you can leave a set amount, a percentage of your estate or a particular asset (i.e. property) to your favorite charity or charities through your will or trust. In order to name the Sisters as a beneficiary, you must use the following verbiage:

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Inc.

**[Federal Tax ID# 33-0329611]
3173 Winnetka Drive
Bonita, CA 91902**

Beneficiary naming

You can also designate a charity beneficiary of part or all of a bank account, brokerage account or life insurance policy. Simply complete a Change of Beneficiary Form using the proper name, address and Tax ID of the charity (above for SSBS).

Retirement plans/IRA's

Retirement plans/IRA's can also be gifted in full or part to charity. When these funds are inherited by children, up to 70% can be taxed! If retirement plans are gifted to charity, no

income or estate taxes are incurred. For this reason, parents often choose to retain other assets for their children and gift retirement monies to charity.

Gifts of stocks

Stocks held for more than one year and one day can be donated to a charity such as the SSBS. The fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift is the amount of your tax deduction. In addition, no capital gains tax is paid on the appreciation of your gifted security.

We recommend consulting your attorney or other financial planning expert to protect your family's interests. If we can be of any help, call us at: 619-292-2971.



OUR MISSION

The life and mission of the Sisters is to increase the love of Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary, his mother, through the ecclesial ministry of Catholic education.



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Recent Vincent Memorial High Grads Lorena Gutierrez, Caiting Li, Diana Felix, and Arlene Gutierrez

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS

Submit yours using enclosed envelope or email czollars@sisterservantssjs.org. The Sisters are happy to pray for your needs!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Gerriss Klant, Cres Angeles, Lorena Callu and Marina Salcido for helping us with our 110th anniversary event!

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