



*Blessed
Be God!*

SJS NEWS

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Province of the Immaculate Conception

VOL. 5

ISSUE 1

Spring 2015



Dear Friends,

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on Religious Life, *Lumen Gentium* and the Decree *Perfectae Caritatis*, Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life. The Pope invites our congregation and (all women and men Religious) to:

Remember! Look at the past with gratitude. With joyful hearts we gathered to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the birth of our Congregation. It was a great blessing to celebrate with the Church and dear friends and give thanks to God for the inspiration the Holy Spirit placed in the heart of our Father Founder, Don Silvano Carrillo.

Celebrate! Live the present with passion. We must ponder in our hearts if God is really the center of our lives as we promised when we made our vows. Because of God's love and fidelity, we continue to respond creatively to the mission of Adoration and Catholic education entrusted to us here and now. We must feel passion for God's mission and compassion for the world. Living with passion compels us to acknowledge the dignity of each person and share our God-given talents with every child of God.

Believe! Embrace the future with hope. Each one of us is called to live the virtue of hope; the fruit of our faith in the Lord, who continues to tell us, "Be not afraid... for I am with you" (Jeremiah 1:8). We believe that the crown that awaits us in God's glory is the precious jewel for which we are willing to live our lives in holiness and joy.

I invite you to join us in celebration and gratitude for the Year of Consecrated Life! Please continue to pray for an increase of dedicated vocations to the Religious life. Let us show our support to all the brothers and sisters who continue to serve the Church in the different ministries throughout the world. As Pope Francis said, "To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone."

Thank you for helping us celebrate the joy of our calling this past year! It is not possible to put into words the gratitude we feel for your love and support.

In Christ,

Sister Maria Paz Uribe, SJS

Sister Maria Paz Uribe
Provincial Superior

*"Ask Jesus what He wants
from you and be brave!"
~ Pope Francis*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The life and mission of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament are directed toward increasing the love of Jesus in the Eucharist through the ecclesial ministry of Catholic Education.

My Interview with *Sister Margarita Gallardo*

by Carolyn Zollars



Tell me about your upbringing and how you became a Sister.

I grew up in a small town in Mexico called San Juan de los Lagos, one of 11 children. I attended an SJS school. My hometown had the first convent after the founding of the motherhouse and my town was named for Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos, considered second in devotion by the Mexican people to Our Lady of Guadalupe. My mother, my sisters and the Virgin Mary influenced my decision to become a Sister. I was born on September 8th, the Blessed Mother's birthday, baptized on the Saturday dedicated to the Blessed Mother and confirmed on Nov. 25, 1948 (back then we were confirmed as babies). I made first vows on November 25th. I never saw these dates as coincidental but rather Divine Providence (in Spanish we say not "coincidencia" but "Dioscendencia"). I was 16 when I entered the convent. March 19th of this year marks 50 years since my entrance!

What has it been like to be an SJS Sister?

My years in the convent have been the best years of my life, with God's grace, not on my own merit. I have lived in most of the California convents, taught various grades and served as principal in various schools. When I came to the U.S., I had one year to learn English before I began to teach! I have lived in six convents throughout the state. It's always been easy for me to move from convent to convent because each community has its great qualities.

What project are you currently working on?

I am the assistant director for the Sister's Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI). This program is sponsored by the Conrad Hilton Foundation's Fund for Sisters as part of its goal to empower women Religious through education. I serve as liaison between the SLDI program and the Universidad Iberoamericana, a Jesuit university in Tijuana. The project began last summer and the program director is Sr. Maria Reina Perea, from the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. Classes are taught by graduate level professors.

What is the purpose of the SLDI Project?

To help Sisters in Third World countries. This program was first carried out in Africa. This is the pilot project for Latin America. The 20 Sisters in the program come from the poorest parts of Tijuana. The work of these Sisters includes caring for abandoned children from the street and helping orphans, immigrants, abused women and children and tending to the elderly. Their charisms are about protecting the marginalized. They speak no English. Sisters in the program had to apply and be accepted. The goal is to provide training in business, finance, marketing and technology in order to help them better serve their mission in their communities.

What do you find most rewarding about the SLDI?

Seeing the Sisters' enthusiasm for learning! Many had never even used a computer. These Sisters appreciate this opportunity so much. They were very disappointed to have no classes in December! It is gratifying to know that they are taking what they are learning back to their communities so there is a great ripple effect.

What else can you share about your current role?

I enjoy seeing the SLDI Sisters and we are bonding like a family. We spend two and a half days a month at the university together and the rest of the time communicate virtually by phone, Skype and DropBox for classes and related work.

Tell us something people may not know about you?

Growing up we had big family reunions with lots of dancing and singing. I love to dance and was happy to do so at the anniversary event. I love sports; love football and I am a big Raiders fan. I don't always agree with how their fans behave! I played volleyball in school when I was younger. Girls didn't play many sports back then but that was one we were able to play and I enjoyed it.



Marie Hamilton's table



Frank Dyson, Annabelle Dessert, Mary Jackson



Roy Vasquez's table



Sr. Lupita Quezada and friends



Paso Robles Sisters and St. Rose friends



Barbara and Terrence Caster and El Cajon friends



Sisters at celebratory mass



Dianne Gonzalez, Rita Soloman-Davis and friends



OLGA students in founding play

110th Anniversary Celebration A Success

Held October 25th, the anniversary event began with a Eucharistic celebration at Corpus Christi Church in Bonita. The service was led by Bishop Richard J. Garcia, bishop of Monterey who happens to be Sr. Maria Paz's cousin. Fr. Pat Mulcahy, pastor, gave the homily as he has been a friend of the Sisters for more than 15 years. Guests enjoyed the procession of more than 50 SJS Sisters into the church, wearing their formal capes and singing their congregation's hymn. Attendees also enjoyed hearing Mater Dei's student choir led by Ricardo Rosales. It was a lovely start to a day of celebration of (and for) the Sisters!

Three hundred guests attended the dinner that evening held at the S.D. Marriott Mission Valley, the first-ever fundraiser for the Sisters that was dedicated to San Diego's beloved Bishop Flores. Highlights included the history table that displayed artifacts and photos from years gone by. Guests were entertained by a variety of musicians, beginning with piano by Ricardo Rosales. William Wilson strummed guitar during dinner and later, the Southwestern College-based Mariachi Garibaldi band entertained the crowd. Alvin Angeles donated his talents as DJ and Sisters joined guests on the dance floor until the music finally stopped.



Suzanne Till reacts to winning tickets to the The Voice Show

The biggest surprise of the evening came during our live auction when a \$100,000 donation was made toward the Sisters' Retirement Fund by the owners of A-1 Self Storage during the Fund-A-Need appeal! Other five figure bids followed with the coaxing of auctioneer, Tony Calabrese, bringing the evening's funds well over \$200,000. Thanks to the generosity of our corporate underwriters, Dhanens Architects, A-1 Storage, Northgate Markets and Shepherd LLC and other event donations, the event raised more than \$300,000 overall. Some Fund-A-Need gifts were made as multi-year pledges. More than \$200,000 has been received thus far with the balance to be paid over the next several years.

All Sisters' dinners were paid for by donors and the wine was generously gifted by parent winery owners from St. Rose School in Paso Robles. Special thanks must be made to Gerriss Klant who tirelessly volunteered many hours as event leader! Jacqui Valdivia of JVK Photography, Sean Hlavac of Small Moon Media and Robert Friedrich of Digital Footprints volunteered their talents for photography and video and with other underwriters virtually eliminated overhead costs. Judith Strauss coordinated volunteers for the event. Without the help of too many to name, our event would never have been possible. The Sisters were deeply humbled by the outpouring of love and support for their anniversary event and they look forward to the next one in a few years!



Did you know?

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament is known in Spanish as Siervas de Jesus Sacramentado or SJS.

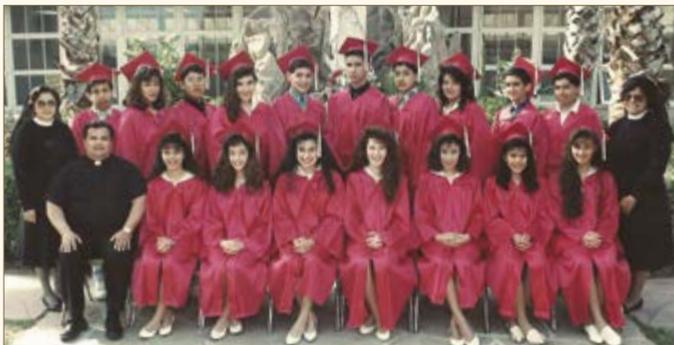
25th Anniversary of SJS Sisters at Bakersfield School

The Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament (known as SJS in Spanish) celebrated 25 years of ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe School (OLG) in Bakersfield on November 25. For 91 years, school personnel have been privileged to serve the community with quality Catholic education. The Sisters of Mercy served as educators since the school's inception in 1923 until 1986 when they were unable to continue doing so. At that time, a lay principal and teachers were hired. Three years later, in June of 1989, Bishop Joseph J. Madera invited the SJS Sisters to minister at OLG. Sr. Maria Paz agreed to the invitation and the community's first Sisters arrived in Bakersfield in June of 1989.



Sr. Susana and helper

School personnel reflected on the past with great gratitude as OLG celebrated the 25th anniversary of SJS's presence. The occasion was celebrated with a Eucharistic Week, culminating on Nov. 25th with a thanksgiving mass, luncheon and 24 hours of adoration. Fr. Larry Toschi celebrated the Eucharist and Fr. Chummar and Fr. Peterson were concelebrants at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Attendees included Sr. Inencion Canas, Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Fresno and Sr. Jean Williams, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools and three original Sisters of Mercy. Following the mass, adoration began with parishioners,



1990 OLG Graduation Class

parents, faculty, staff, Sisters and students thanking God for all graces bestowed upon the congregation of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. It was a great joy to witness 36 junior high students take part in all-night adoration.



Sisters Marcela, Bertha and Maria Luisa honored

At the luncheon held for priests, sisters, parents and benefactors following the mass, OLG students gave Eucharistic presentations. Also in attendance were numerous SJS Sisters, many of whom served at OLG over the years who were happy to reunite with former parents, staff and alumni.

A large percentage of the students attend OLG thanks to need-based scholarships made towards a fund restricted for this purpose. Many of the recipients are children of single parents or others in transition from homelessness to stable homes who would otherwise be unable to attend the school. Fifty-eight of the 185 children currently enrolled are attending on scholarship. In what have been uncertain times for many Catholic schools, OLG enrollment has increased more than 36 percent over the past few years! OLG's success is thanks to God's providence, the hard work and dedication of the Sisters, the dedicated faculty and staff and the generous financial support of the school's benefactors.



One of OLG Student Performances



Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
 Province of the Immaculate Conception
 3173 Winnetka Drive
 Bonita, California 91902
 Phone: 619-292-9271
 Fax: 619-267-0920

NonProfit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 2686
 San Diego, CA

Thank God for Our Sponsors!



Come to our Lifting the Veil Event! In Celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week

Please join us Monday, March 9th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. as we explore religious life with this free educational event. In conjunction with the Hilton Foundation-designated National Catholic Sisters Week, the program will be moderated by USD theology professor, María Pilar Aquino. A panel of SJS Sisters will share their personal journeys and the diverse roles they lead in their religious community. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of San Diego (USD) and theology Professor Aquino. Held at the Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice at USD. RSVP to Sonia at ssalcido@sisterservantssjs.org or 619-292-2971. *Underwriting is still available so reach out to us if you would like to help.*



SAVE THE DATE!



Prayer Intentions Update

In 2014, the Sisters received 668 prayer intentions. During their daily Adoration, they offer these intentions up in prayer. A special mass was also held on January 15 at the Bonita convent that lifted up all prayer intentions received, including the 172 prayers received at Christmas time for this special mass. E-mail your prayer intentions to ssalcido@sisterservantssjs.org (or from our website under Prayers, go to Your Prayer Intentions) or send them via postal mail to 3173 Winnetka Drive, Bonita CA 91902. We are always ready to pray for your needs!

∞ Upcoming Sisters' Jubilees ∞



Sisters Luz Maria is celebrating 50 years.



Sister Lucy is celebrating 50 years.



Sr. Esmeralda is celebrating 25 years.

Congratulations Sisters!!!

Visit our website at sisterservantssjs.org and like us on Facebook