



SJS NEWS

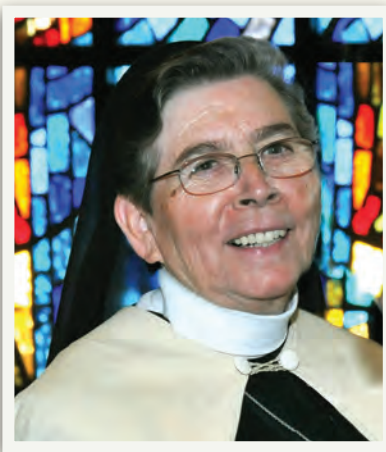
*Blessed
Be God!*

Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Province of the Immaculate Conception

VOL. 3

ISSUE 1

Spring 2014



Dear Friends,

We give thanks to God for our 110 years of ministry which began in Mexico in 1904. I hope you will join us for our 110th anniversary gathering to be held on Oct. 25, 2014, here in San Diego. We are delighted to have Bishop Flores preside over a mass at Corpus Christi Church in Bonita and then join us for a celebratory dinner afterwards. (Please look inside for more details of the event.)

Our founder, Fr. Silvano, believed that the best way to transform the world is through education. At our schools, we not only teach academics but reinforce strong values and nurture the love of Jesus in the holy Eucharist. We strive to work together with parents to provide a holistic education. Our students learn to share with those who are less fortunate, taking an active role in making the world a better place while maintaining the dignity of each person. As our founder used to say, "Good citizens of life here on earth, make good citizens of heaven!"

To the parents of our students, a sincere thanks for your trust and investment in Catholic education. To our donors, our heart-felt thanks for your ongoing support that helps sustain our mission and community of Sisters. May God bless you and your loved ones!

Sister Maria Paz Uribe, SJS

Video About Sisters' Journeys Released



A big thanks goes to John Paul the Great University Film Department and students (from left) Leah Murphy, Michelle Gilmour-Myer and Lisa Spehar for completing a video about several SJS Sisters' religious journeys (posing with Sr. Aurora). This film, made for our vocations efforts, can be viewed on YouTube, Facebook and our website. Thanks also to Sisters Lilia, Maria Elena, Katia, Hilda Maria and Aurora for sharing their stories! Timely release for the inaugural national Catholic Sisters Week, being held March 8-14, 2014 thanks to an initiative by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. *Blessed be God!*

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

From the Development Office

Tax Planning Tips

With the April 15 deadline nearly upon us, this is a good reminder that the current year is the time to plan for next year's taxes. Prior to the end of 2014, if you estimate your tax debt, you can likely give more to the charity you love and lower your tax bill at the same time. You can choose between giving to the IRS and giving to the Sisters!

Are you looking to increase your income? There are a number of planned giving options available that provide immediate and ongoing charitable income tax deductions. This is a great way to see the benefits of attractive annual income payments while helping the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. To learn more, consult your financial planner or call us at 619-292-2971. I can provide illustrations of the payout of various options in complete confidence. You can also go to our website, sisterservantssjs.org and look under SUPPORT to explore other ways to support the Sisters.



Staff Introduction



I am excited to welcome Sonia Salcido, alum of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, as our new development coordinator. She replaces Ericka Ramirez who left us for the Big Apple in January. Sonia's enthusiasm for the Sister's mission as a former student helped her stand out from our large pool of talented applicants.

Carolyn Zollars



Save the Date
Celebrate 110 years of SJS Ministry
Saturday, October 25, 2014

Mass in Bonita at 3:30 P.M. led by Bishop Flores
Reception/Dinner/Dancing 6:00 P.M.
In Mission Valley, San Diego

Tickets

Purchase on our website now,
sisterservantssjs.org, go to Support.
We expect to sell out!

Sponsorships start at just \$2,500
so contact us to learn more!

We hope you will join us!

My Interview with SJS Treasurer, *Sister Adriana “Rebeca” Zuro* – *By Carolyn Zollars*



What is the provincial council?

A provincial superior and four other sisters who are elected to govern the community of 51 sisters in administrative matters. We meet monthly and when a special need arises.

Explain your vow of poverty.

The vow of poverty bounds a religious person to live a simple life following Jesus' example. As sisters, we have no personal assets: bank accounts, real estate, life insurance, etc.

What is your role as treasurer?

I oversee the province's assets and investments with the guidance of experts in the field. I am accountable to my provincial council and every sister in our province, our donors, the IRS and other legal entities. Daily operations such as bookkeeping, transfer of funds to local communities, training of local treasurers, filing of forms, tracking of expenses at each convent and insurance payments keep me busy. I work closely with the fundraising office to make sure our policies for internal controls, investing and spending are in sync with our core values.

What expenses are incurred by the Sisters?

We spend money on basic needs such as food, utilities, clothing, healthcare/medicine, education, utilities, building repairs, gasoline, and teaching materials. Our expense for travel has increased. As we age, more of our parents experience health issues and we need to visit them. We are also often called to attend meetings at the Mother House in Mexico.

What about stipends; don't they pay the bills?

No, Stipends certainly help pay the bills but we must find other sources of income. Stipends for religious sisters are very low compared to salaries of a lay teacher because our service is a ministry. We have educated students for over 80 years in the U.S. at diocesan and parish schools. Many of our sisters have reached retirement age and still keep active, however, less than half of our sisters currently receive a stipend.

What keeps you awake at night?

Keeping our mission alive and providing adequate care of our older and infirm sisters has me working late. Serving as treasurer can be overwhelming at times, but knowing God is the "CEO" and "Controller" gives me peace.

Who owns and maintains the convents?

We live in 10 communities throughout California. We own three buildings, the other seven are owned by the dioceses or parishes where the sisters minister. We pay rent for some of the convents and we pay most of the repairs and maintenance of the buildings whether we own them or not.

How do you handle retirement?

We sisters never retire, really! We choose to continue to serve. Sisters who can no longer be physically active in a ministry spend more time worshipping, helping in the convent and sharing their experiences with other sisters in their community. When health issues become a major challenge to an elder or infirm sister, we offer the option of moving to the nursing facility run by our sisters in Guadalajara. It often works out well but sometimes a sister would rather stay in her community here in the U.S. We want our sisters to have a dignified and peaceful retirement; however, we are not yet funded to provide the opportunity for a sister with significant health issues to retire here in the U.S.

This is one area being addressed by our fundraising program because so many of our friends are concerned about our ability to afford retirement. We closely monitor our investments with our committee of finance professionals and our AllianceBernstein advisor. We are making strides in growing our retirement fund and by increasing our giving options to include major and planned gifts, we are hoping to make even greater gains.

Go to our website sisterservantssjs.org, then "Support" or call us in confidence at 619-292-2971 to learn more.



Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Province of the Immaculate Conception

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Blessed Be God!



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Sister Servants of the
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Special Celebrations



Look who is turning 80!
Sisters Leonor and Maria Elena celebrate big
birthdays on March 15 and May 5, respectively.
Congratulations!



A happy belated 80th birthday
to Sister Maria Felipa! May God
bless you in the coming year.
Congratulations!



Jubilee anniversaries this summer:
Sister Marcela, 50 years and Sister Juanita,
celebrating 25 years as Sisters!
We are grateful these Sisters chose religious
life with SJS. ***Congratulations!***

Special Thanks for Your Testimonials!

Our heartfelt thanks to the students,
parents and alums who wrote
testimonials we posted on our website
this past year:

Anne Irigoyen, Melody, Myriam Fletes,
Adam Orozco, Norma Viveros, Ana
Honold, Esperanza Rivera, Letty and
Kenny Baker, Andrew Perez and
Annemarie Angeles.

We appreciate your kind words about
our impact! If you have a good quality
photo you can email us, we will
include that as well.

To share your own testimonial, log onto
sisterservantssjs.org and go to Support and
scroll down to Testimonials.



February 22 – April 6, 2014

This exhibit features the amazing
contributions Sisters have made in
developing California's church and
society and testifies to their efforts,
without which the California of today
would be a very different place.

The Sister Servants of the Blessed
Sacrament have included artifacts
from our community.

Temecula Valley Museum
28314 Mercedes Street
Temecula, CA.
951-694-6450
temeculavalleymuseum.org

Call for Volunteers!

*We are seeking
volunteers for
upcoming events:*

Sunday, May 18, 2013
Bonita Chili Cook-off

Saturday, October 25
110th Anniversary Celebration
in San Diego

Please contact Sonia Salcido
at 619-292-2971 to sign up to help.

Thank you!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



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