



SJS NEWS

SISTER SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Hermanas Siervas de Jesús Sacramentado

Province of the
Immaculate
Conception

Blessed be God!

FALL 2016



Dear SJS friends,

Welcome to a new chapter in the life of our Province! Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit will give us many surprises that will continue to nourish our mission to Adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and Educate children and youth.

Our heartfelt thanks to each one of you for all the prayers and affection we received during the preparation and celebration of the III Provincial Chapter. God was truly present through each sister delegate in the prayerful environment of discernment and renewal we experienced at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, California.

After the Chapter, during our annual Provincial gathering, we received the document that presents the Priorities and Norms derived from the III Provincial Chapter. In a nutshell, the Chapter determined the urgency to make Vocations the central focus of the next five years. By that, we will strive to pray for, celebrate, promote and nourish the vocation of each one of the SJS in our stage of life, as well as to open the doors to new life by intently promoting Religious Life in the schools, parishes and Dioceses where we serve.

I invite you to join us in fervent prayer to our Mother Mary under the advocacy of the Immaculate Conception, our patroness, so that she may intercede before her Son and obtain for us the blessings we need to bear abundant fruit and continue the mission entrusted to our Father Founder Don Silvano Carrillo.

May the Lord bless the work of our hands!

Sister Lilia M. Barba, SJS
Provincial Superior

"Live joyfully in Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ!"

Silvano Carrillo

www.sisterservantssjs.org

Inspiring Youth at Steubenville



Sr. Aurora, Sr. Leticia, and Sr. Esmeralda at Steubenville

SJS Sisters participated in the Steubenville Catholic Conference for Teens at the University of San Diego. It was an inspirational weekend retreat with speakers, music, mass, prayer and fellowship that gave hundreds of youth an opportunity to encounter Christ and see the truth and beauty of our Catholic Church.

Sr. Esmeralda is a Shining Star!



Learn about her inspiring story in a new video on our website at www.sisterservantssjs.org/become-a-sister/sister-stories



WELCOME SISTER LILIA BARBA, OUR NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Sr. Lilia (far left) entered the convent in 1982 and took her final vows in 1992. She holds a B.A. from Mount Saint Mary's College and an M.A. in Catholic Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco. Prior to coming to the United States, she received a diploma in Faith Formation. She was president of Mater Dei Catholic High School in Chula Vista, California for the last 4 years. Prior to that, she was principal at Vincent Memorial Catholic High School in Calexico for 13 years.

Sr. Lilia was born and raised in Tepatitlan, Jalisco, Mexico, the seventh child of a family of 6 girls and 4 boys entrusted by God to Arnoldo Barba and Soledad Orozco.



She describes herself as quite a mischievous and playful child, with a creative mind. She learned at a very early age the importance of God and family. Her parents instilled in their children, first and foremost, a love of God, unity, respect and kindness towards one another.

She was educated by the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament (SJS). The story of her faith is inspiring. She was 14 when she felt the call to become a Sister. Her parents wanted her to wait to enter the community until she was 18. She went and knelt before a statue of St. Therese, and told her: "You'd better help me... you found a way to enter at 15." When invited to become an Aspirant, she asked God for a sign and a white rose bloomed miraculously. "I know and am convinced that God called me to consecrate my life

to Him, and even in difficult moments, that conviction has carried me through."

Sister Lilia was a classroom teacher for 8 years, a high school principal for 13 years and most recently a high school president. "I prayed every day that my leadership and decisions would become a reflection of what God has done in my life. I believe each one of us has a mission to make Christ present in the lives of others and make His light shine through us.

Sister Lilia enjoys music, art, cooking and baking. "I like sharing my talents, and I pray that I can say like Erma Bombeck,



of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Catholic education that our Father Founder, Don Silvano Carrillo, entrusted to us. God has gifted me with a wonderful leadership team who, with their experience and exemplary life, will help me lead the Province to holiness, joy and new life."



"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything You gave me."

As the new Provincial Superior, her vision for SJS is "to facilitate the process to pass on the torch of the love of God to new candidates, so they may realize the beauty of Religious Life, particularly at SJS, living our charism

When asked what she wishes for SJS, she replied, "First and foremost, prayer. She also dreams of taking the Sisters to Rome, to see the breath-taking places that bring us back to the birth of our Church.

Near and dear to her heart is finding a suitable place for Initial Formation, where aging sisters can also be cared for. "I envision this place to be the heart of our Province."

"I believe the connection between the pillars of our Congregation and the new sisters is essential to the continuation of our mission and ministry."

Lastly, Sister Lilia wishes for the Province to explore the possibility of establishing a Mission in a third-world country. She says, "We are educators by nature, and we are devoted to evangelization through Catholic education, it would be invigorating to share the love of God with those who do not know or love Him."



"I have 30 nieces and nephews, and 15 great nieces and nephews. As a family, we love each other deeply, and try to find moments to get together and have fun!"



CONGRATULATIONS SISTER BELLANIRA MEDA!

In August, Sr. Bella celebrated her First Profession of Vows into the holy sisterhood of our community. Somehow she always felt this was her calling.



"I've always had a strong foundation of prayer, especially the Rosary. At 23 years old my searching for God began to increase and I found myself on the internet looking for anything related to the Virgin Mary and Jesus. I listened to Catholic radio all the time and read many books about the Saints. I purchased a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and made an altar to her in my bedroom, Mary became my Spiritual Mother. I couldn't pray the Rosary without seeing our blessed Mother urging me to consecrate and dedicate my whole life to the Lord, but I felt unworthy to the vocation."

One Sunday at mass during the homily the priest was talking about vocations, when he walked down the aisle and came right up to Bella and said, "We need religious vocations!" She began to cry as she knew this declaration was meant for her.

The next day she went to the priest. He sent her to the Diocese of San Diego, where she spoke with Sr. Aurora Lopez, the Vocations Director. After leaving the meeting she

sat in her car questioning, "What do you want me to do Lord?" Just then Sr. Aurora called her cell phone and asked if she was interested in joining her congregation, Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. "I was so excited and happy!"

Sr. Bella is currently attending school at Bakersfield College. She also assists in the after-school program at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School in Bakersfield.

"Ask the Lord about your mission. He will tell you what to do and will provide you the strength you need."

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, she is the youngest of 9 children, 5 girls and 4 boys. Her Father died early, and she admires her Mother who raised all 9 children on her own. "She is a Saint. The Rosary was always by her side and she prayed for us continually."

In the last few years, the most important thing she believes she has learned is that Jesus gives Himself freely, fully, faithfully, and fruitfully. She meditates on this when



she receives Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. "Jesus said, 'I lay down my life freely, no one takes it from me, so that you [my Bride] might have life.' Jesus pours out his life for all of us every time we receive him."

Books inspire her and have ignited her spirituality. "The Total Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary, according to St. Louis De Montfort is an amazing book, and it brought me so close to our Blessed



Mother." She says that she has also been inspired by Bishop Fulton Sheen and Archbishop Luis M. Martinez. "The way they explain God, makes it so simple and easy to understand."

Sr. Bella marvels at the talents God has given her. "I am a natural athlete. I love sports, especially soccer. I also can pick up a musical instrument and naturally know how to play it, like guitar and piano."

Regarding any advice she may have for someone discerning their call to a vocation she suggests they "Let go of the fear. Follow the Commandments, go to Mass, spend a lot of time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and receive the Sacraments."

Mission: *Increase the love of Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary, his mother, through the ecclesial ministry of Catholic education.*

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word”

OUR NEW VOCATION DIRECTORS



Sister Aurora Lopez
619-651-5954



Sister Juana Pereyra
805-423-0586



Sister Katia A. Chavez
760-562-2727

Learn more about our SJS community today!

usasjsvoc@sisterservantssjs.org

Golden Jubilees

Congratulations to (L to R below) Sr. Martha Leticia Enriquez in Guadalajara and Sr. Luz Gabriela Rivera in Sun Valley, both celebrate their Golden Jubilees in November!

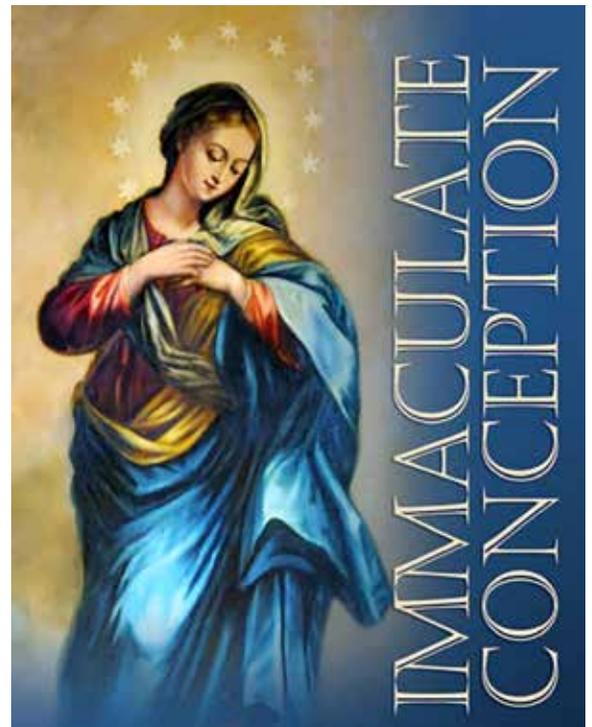


We thank God for our Community Partners

Our deepest gratitude to you for your prayers and many other contributions. Our Sisters always feel and express the love you have for them, and we hope you experience the love we have for you as we keep you in our prayers daily and serve in your school and parish communities.



National Religious
Retirement Office



Prayer to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception

O most Holy Virgin,
immaculate in body and spirit,
look kindly on me as I implore your powerful
intercession.

O most Holy Mother of Jesus and my
Mother, receive my prayers and present
them to God.

I implore you Virgin Mother,
please bless the Sister Servants of the
Blessed Sacrament with many new vocations
into their community, allowing them to
continue their mission to love and serve.

O Mary conceived without sin,
Pray for us who have recourse to thee

Fr. Silvano, intercede for us.