



SOLAR FOR OUR BONITA CONVENT AND BUSINESS OFFICES!

Thank you to so many of our friends for generously supporting our mission. By investing in our Going Green Challenge you have made solar a reality and we are now able to install solar panels in our Bonita convent and business offices!



Dear SJS Friend,

2019 is a year of celebration for our SJS community. We are blessed in crossing so many milestones; our 115th Anniversary celebrating our Founding Father Silviano Carrillo and our SJS mission, the 60-year Anniversaries of Sr. Ana Rosa Aceves (right) and Sr. Maria Paz Uribe (left) and their good works done through the many blessings of God, and the fruits of all our SJS Sisters good works, reflected in the many successes obtained during our 85 years of love and service at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, in San Ysidro and the many other schools we serve.

Many of you have been a part of our SJS family for a long time. We thank you for taking this journey with us and we hope you will join us in our celebration. We ask for your prayers, so we can continue our mission, good works and successes for many years to come. You are in our prayers and we thank God for the blessings of the wonderful friends we have in you.

In Christ,

Sister Lilia M. Barba, SJS
Provincial Superior



SJS FRIENDS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

In January we came together in appreciation to thank our generous friends and benefactors. We were reminded to come to bring gifts to Jesus. We offered the gifts of ourselves: our faith, our fidelity and our love, as we came together to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.



HOUSE OF FORMATION ALTAR DEDICATION

On December 22, 2018, Fr. Efrain Bautista dedicated the altar in our new House of Formation Chapel. When an altar is dedicated it is anointed with holy oil, incensed, and lit with candles. The prayer of dedication reads in part, "Make this altar a place of communion and peace so that those who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with His Spirit and grow in your life and love." (The Catholic Catalogue)



A BEAUTIFUL LIFE-TIME OF GIVING ONESELF ENTIRELY TO GOD

On the same day, at 16 years of age, Sister Ana Rosa and Sister Maria Paz entered the SJS convent. A 60-year bond of friendship in Christ.



Sister Ana Rosa Aceves, SJS

Genoveva Aceves was born on June 8, 1941 in Tepatitlan, Jalisco, Mexico, the oldest of five siblings. Her Father was a farmer and had an inspiring devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and praying the Rosary as a family each night was a must.

In her youth, Genoveva attended the school where SJS sisters taught. She admired how they helped and treated others, as well as their joyful hearts, expressed in song and prayer. She felt religious life would be a beautiful way to spend her life. So, at age 16, she entered the SJS convent. Every first Sunday of the month her parents would visit and make sure she still wanted to stay with the Sisters. She remained committed to her chosen vocation. She professed her first vows on March 19, 1959 and was given the name of Ana Rosa del Corazón de Jesús.

In 1959, Sister Ana Rosa moved to California to serve as teacher and principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy (OLGA) in Calexico for 15 years. Later, she was the principal at Vincent Memorial High School in Calexico and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in San Ysidro for a total of 31 years. She then served as SJS Vice Provincial for 7 years. Sister Ana Rosa is now back in Calexico at OLGA where she tutors students one-on-one in reading and math, her area of expertise! She helps students feel secure in their learning and teaches how they can help each other.

Sister Ana Rosa is thankful to God for choosing her to love and serve Him in such a wonderful religious community. Sister Ana Rosa tells those discerning a vocation in the religious life that, "God will guide and support and never fail you. There will be both hard days and great days, He will understand them all and help you in your life, one day at a time. It is a calling, like when Jesus called the Apostles."

Congratulations Sister Ana Rosa for answering God's calling 60 years ago. Your tireless dedication to love and serve God and our SJS community have brought blessings to us all.



Sister Maria Paz Uribe, SJS

One of 11 children, Sister Maria Paz was born in Autlan, Mexico. Every evening at the dinner table her Father would ask each one of his children to talk about their day, making them feel very special. They also prayed the Rosary every night together as a family. As a child, Sister Maria Paz attended school where the SJS Sisters taught. In fifth grade she was asked by her SJS teacher if she had thought about becoming a Sister. She said "no", but it got her thinking about it, so she began praying to Mary for guidance. At age 16, she joined the SJS.

Sister Maria Paz earned her M.A. from the University of San Diego and remained in California. She has taught in Calexico as teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy and Vincent Memorial for a total of 12 years. She spent 14 years in El Centro as teacher and principal of St Mary's school and was principal at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in San Ysidro for another 7 years. She served in the SJS council for 24 years, 14 of those years as the Provincial Superior for the California province. In 2016, Sister Maria Paz was honored by the San Diego Diocese with the Sister Claire Fitzgerald Leadership award. Currently she is in El Centro at St Mary's as a counselor and Director of discipline.

As a "people person", Sister Maria Paz knows almost everyone in the communities where she serves, along with their children and their children's children! She is the happiest when teaching. However, God is at the core of who she is, and loving and serving Him in the Blessed Sacrament is most important to her.

Sister Maria Paz' advice is, "Pray together as a family, give personal time to your children every day. Stay close to God, help those less fortunate, and always be grateful and forgive others". These are the same basic principles instilled to her by her parents that we should all remember.

Thank you, Sister Maria Paz, for giving yourself entirely to God, and so many others, for the last 60 years. You have been and always will be a blessing to us all!

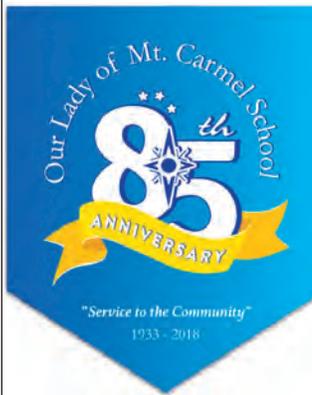
LENTEN PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our SJS Sisters want to pray for your intentions throughout Lent!

You can submit your prayer request at <https://usasjs.org/prayer>

We hope our prayers bring comfort, healing and love during this very holy season.

Congratulations!



OLMC 85TH ANNIVERSARY

For 85 years Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in San Ysidro, CA. has been assisting students in developing their full potential by stimulating spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development in an atmosphere of faith, love, and community.

OUR FOUNDER'S CORNER Bishop Silviano Carrillo Cardenas

On November 25, 1904, Father Silviano founded The Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament (*Hermanas Siervas de Jesús Sacramentado*). For 115 years our Sisters have nurtured hearts and minds of children and youth with love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and academics.



"In his eternal designs, the Lord has allowed us to witness the providential birth of a religious congregation dedicated to the perpetual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the God of love, and to the Christian education of children and youth."

Silviano Carrillo

The Impact of SJS Sisters on Students, Families, and Communities



Hello! I am Allegra Sonza, the daughter of Michelle and John Sonza. I first met the SJS sisters as a child while attending Saint Mary's school in El Centro and my mother worked with the sisters as a teacher. I am also an Alum of Vincent Memorial Catholic High School in Calexico. I attended St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, and received my master's degree at the University of San Diego. The education I have received from the SJS Sisters and the other Catholic schools has been a true blessing and has forever shaped the course of my life. Since I was a child, I have been tremendously grateful to every Sister who I have come to know. One Sister who I cherish is Sister Maria Paz. She has been a life-long friend of my family and has been an incredible leader in her community. I work for Ronald McDonald House Charities® of San Diego as their Major Gifts Officer. The SJS Sisters have inspired me to always live out my Catholic faith by being kind to one another, while putting others first, treating everyone with due respect, and helping those in need. Life poses challenges but with God in your corner, anything and everything is possible. I thank the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for their inspiration, and my family for the love they give to me.



I am Mario Vela, Alum of Vincent Memorial Catholic High School (VMCHS) class of '08. Originally from Mexicali, Mexico, when my family moved to Calexico, CA, I attended St. Mary's School and later VMCHS. At VMCHS I participated in the challenging and incredibly impressive Mock Trial classes. Students learn to master the art of public speaking, understand complicated legal concepts, and trial law better than some law students. I earned an AA in Psychology and BA in Political Science and Public Law from UC San Diego. After working for a bankruptcy law firm, I moved to Boston to pursue my law degree. I received my Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School in 2015. I am now a Deputy District Attorney for the County of Imperial. I am blessed to have come back to my hometown in the Imperial Valley to become more involved and give back to this community that has given me so much. I now coach the Mock Trial team at VMCHS. Our team won the 2018 Imperial County Championship for the first time in over two decades and went on to place tenth place in the California State Championship. The morals that were instilled in me during my time as a Catholic school student now serve as the unshakeable pillars for my actions. The SJS Sisters selfless dedication and commitment to their students inspired me to be just as dedicated in all aspects of my life. My class collectively thought Sr. Lilia Barba was quite an effective principal. Aside from running the school, she was very involved and supportive of all extracurricular activities and connected with students on a personal level. And that's what makes a great leader. The Sisters are almost like custom made teachers tailored to fit the needs of each individual student.

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Your gift supports our mission to Love and Serve, TOGETHER WE ARE SERVANTS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Our Sisters devote their lives to preparing children for success spiritually, academically and socially through Catholic education. Thus, forming adults committed to their faith and ready to make a positive difference in their communities. By supporting just one Sister in her ministry, your gift will multiply the impact of her love and service to over 2300 students in our Catholic schools each year.

Ways to Help:

Bequests: You can name the Sisters for a specific amount or a percentage of your estate.

Life Insurance Policies: You can designate the Sisters as the beneficiary.

Appreciated Stocks: If held more than one year, you can donate stocks to the Sisters and receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value and pay no capital gains tax.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA): You can support the Sisters while avoiding multiple estate and income taxes. Charitable rollover is now permanently allowed by law. You can make a direct gift without having to recognize the income.

Charitable Gift Annuities: Make a gift, receive income for life, and experience tax benefits. The remainder, upon death, can benefit the Sisters.

The **AmazonSmile Foundation** provides .5% of donations from most Amazon retailers to a nonprofit such as the Sisters. Google "Amazon Smile" and register the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament or call us to guide you through the process.

Vehicle Donation: Donate a car, boat or other vehicle and receive a tax deduction! One call takes care of everything, even pick-up: (877) 537-5277.

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 intercede for the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament so they may grow in their vocation and continue to love and serve our communities for many years to come.

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

Fr. Silviano, intercede for us.



We thank God for our Community Partners



Donate online at usasjs.org

For more information contact Vicki Whitmire, Development Director at 619-292-2971
Unless otherwise indicated, donations will be considered unrestricted.