

## Your Generosity Our Service



Sisters Frances Kendrick, SNJM and Catherine Ferguson, SNJM prepare beds for a family arriving to new temporary housing.

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# What More Can WE Do?



Sisters of the Holy Names find ways to care for the homeless, immigrants and refugees, and families in need. Here are some of their stories.

## At the Border

When a call came looking for volunteers, especially Spanish-speaking Sisters, to help greet migrants crossing the border in Texas, Sisters Mary Becker and Mary Ondreyco raised their hands. They journeyed from California to El Paso, where they stayed with the Sisters of Loretto and worked at Nazareth House.

Each day, when immigrants and asylum seekers are released from detention centers, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) buses bring them to locations like Nazareth

House, which welcomes about 50 new arrivals each day. Guests are given food, clothing, a hot shower and a place to sleep. All the guests carry documents from ICE that allow them to travel legally and have a hearing date – usually within two weeks – when they need to appear in a federal court as part of the asylum process. At that hearing, depending on the judge, they could be allowed to continue the asylum process or they might be deported.

Volunteers like Sisters Mary and Mary assisted with a variety of tasks, from helping with intake to preparing and serving dinner to sorting clothes. Both feel grateful that they had an opportunity to meet the brave families who fled violence and poverty in their home



Top: Sisters Mary Ondreyco (second from left) and Mary Becker (far right) helped serve dinner at Nazareth House in El Paso, TX.

Middle: Sisters Mary and Mary also helped prepare the food they served.

Bottom: Ann Dibble, SNJM Associate, supported families in El Paso as they seek asylum in the United States.



countries to start a new life in the U.S., bringing with them inner strength, hope and a desire to live in peace and to work and support their families.

SNJM Associate Ann Dibble went to El Paso a few weeks after Sisters Mary and Mary, helping to care for refugees until they can connect with family or friends.

## Caring for the Homeless

When St. Joseph's Parish in Spokane, WA, decided to participate in Family Promise, which supports families at risk of becoming homeless, the parish agreed to host a homeless family for a week at a time. When the parish started providing meals and overnight accommodations to guests, Holy Names Sisters looked for ways that they could support this need. Sisters Frances Kendrick, Catherine Ferguson and Karen Conlin helped to assemble cots and make beds so that the new arrivals would feel welcome.

## Using Resources Well

When the Sisters' convent in Albany, NY was built in 1961, it was designed to house Sisters from entry in the community until entry to eternal life. It also provided classroom space for elementary-age students of the Academy of the Holy Names Albany until its lower school closed a few years ago. As the nature of religious life

changed, Sisters moved out of the convent and into the communities where they served. As the community considered what to do with the building, a local nonprofit lost its facility due to a water main break and needed a new location to continue providing household goods and books to families in need. The Sisters welcomed Grassroots Givers into the former elementary school, providing a way to fill needs in the community while the organization looks for a new location closer to the families and schools it supports.

This year, as the Holy Names Sisters say goodbye to this building that has meant so much, there is great pride in knowing that it is serving the community until the end. ■



Sisters Catherine Ferguson, Karen Conlin and Frances Kendrick in the room they prepared for a family who will be staying at St. Joseph's parish in Spokane, WA.

Sister Bea Hall with items to be distributed by Grassroots Givers, including clothing carefully sorted by size and all kinds of household goods.



## An Ongoing Commitment to the Homeless and Immigrants and Refugees

In 2018, the Sisters' U.S.-Ontario Province Leadership Team established the Immigrant & Refugee Fund to support the work of Sisters, in partnership with other nonprofit organizations, to address the many needs of people coping with displacement. Individual donors are invited to partner with us by supporting our ministry programs or the SNJM Immigrant and Refugee Fund, ensuring that the Sisters will have financial resources to help those who are trying to make a new life for their families.

# Unlocking the **SECRETS** of the Past: The SNJM Heritage Center



**A phone call:** “Hello? I’m looking for a copy of my high school transcript. I graduated in 1956 from St. Mary’s High School in The Dalles.”

**An email:** “We have an adoption certificate for my grandmother from 1877 signed by one of the Sisters at St. Mary’s Academy in Portland. Do you have any further information?”

**At the door:** “My late mother-in-law had these scrapbooks about her student years at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Oakland. Do you want them?”

**Another email:** “I’m writing a book about the history of Windsor, Ontario and need a photo of St. Mary’s Academy.”

Those are just a few of the thousands of requests received over the past 13 years by Sarah Cantor, Director of the SNJM Heritage Center and Archives.

More than 300 people contact the archives each year. Five staff and a few steady volunteers connect researchers with information about Holy Names schools, individual Sisters and their own family histories.

The SNJM collections, dating from the Sisters’ arrival in Oregon in 1859, include administrative records of the Sisters in the U.S. provinces, school and student information, and files for each deceased Sister. They also include paintings, furniture, school memorabilia and other items that help tell the Sisters’ story.

Requests come from many directions. Often, schools with an SNJM connection reach out when they are celebrating a milestone, looking for photos, names of founding Sisters and principals, and historical highlights about school life. One Oregon parish wanted a list of all Sisters who had taught in the school over its 100+ year history in order to create a panel paying tribute to SNJM service in their community.

Common inquiries from professors and historians concern labor rights activist Sister



This page, clockwise from top right:

The SNJM archives are housed at the Holy Names Heritage Center in Lake Oswego, OR, built in 2007 thanks to generous donors.

Sister Miriam Theresa Gleason, SNJM, shown here prior to her entry into religious life in 1916, was a pioneer in the labor rights movement.

The class of 1937 at Academy of the Holy Names in Rome, NY.

Gabriella (circa 1934) a resident of the Christie School (Lake Oswego, OR).

Sister Marilyn Harris, SNJM with former student George Nakata from the St. Paul Miki School (Portland), 70 years after she was his teacher.



Miriam Theresa Gleason and the Sisters' role in the landmark *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* Supreme Court decision in 1925.

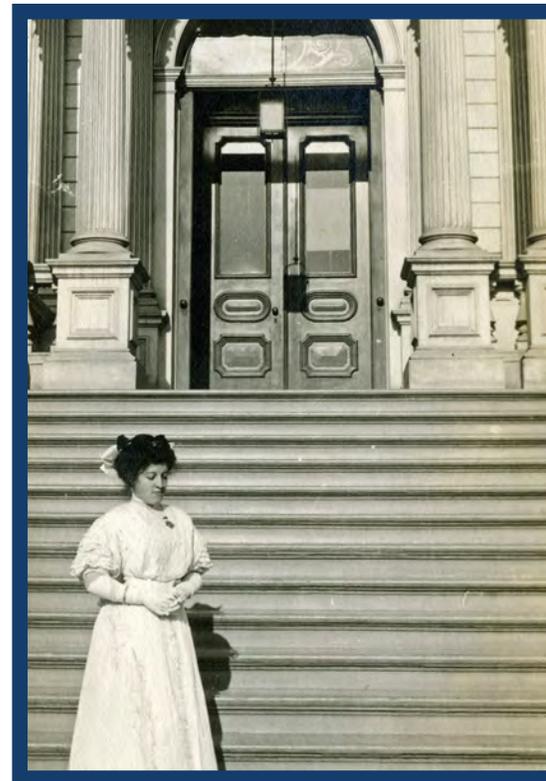
Another frequent request is for information about former teachers. Alums often want to thank or learn more about a teacher who made a difference in their lives. One man called wanting the burial location of a Sister who taught him in elementary school during the 1940s so he could send flowers to her grave. When he learned that Sister was in her 90s and very much alive and well, he was thrilled. When Sister was contacted to see about connecting her with a former student, there was a long pause and then she asked, "Who thought I was dead?" After hearing the response, she replied, "I remember THAT kid." Seventy odd years later, he was still making an impression.

Another time, a family was looking for a photo of their mother's alma mater, the Academy of the Holy Names in Rome, NY. She had graduated in 1937 and lamented the loss of her class ring. Using a photo found in the archives, family members had a duplicate made and later sent the archives staff a touching video of their

mother receiving her ring.

Some of the most meaningful requests relate to the Christie School, an orphanage the Sisters operated in Oregon from 1908 until the 1960s. More than once, family members have told Sarah that photos of Christie residents from the SNJM archives were the first images they had ever seen of their mothers or grandmothers as children. And once, the archives staff found data in the files to help a woman track down half siblings she never knew she had.

While not all inquiries lead to such dramatic conclusions, it is rewarding to see that the information safeguarded in the Sisters' archives can provide answers that make a difference in someone's life. Whether that means pride in a school's long history, the chance to thank a Sister who influenced a person's development, solving a genealogical puzzle or replacing a lost class ring, the archives' staff stands ready to help. ■



Mae Smith, class of 1906, Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Oakland, CA). Photo courtesy of Jim and Judy Morton.

## SNJM Water Project Update

Sister Barbara Spears (far right) traveled to Brazil on behalf of the SNJM Water Project last fall. With training and materials from *Water With Blessings*, she delivered 15 filters and taught local women to use and care for them. Each filter can provide enough clean water for four families with children for at least 10 years. Your donations to the SNJM Water Project will underwrite the direct costs of helping God's thirsty children around the world have access to clean water.



# A Call to VIETNAM

One of the most thoroughly intercultural U.S.-Ontario Province ministries is A Call to Vietnam. Initiated in 2001 and co-directed by Sisters Kay Burton and Agnes Le, the program supports the ministries of a Vietnamese congregation, Lovers of the Holy Cross of Hue. Donated funds provide

scholarships to carefully selected students, augment outreach ministries to the poor and marginalized in Vietnam, and support a summer English program for younger Sisters. Holy Names Sisters and other volunteers have

traveled to Vietnam each summer to teach English, with the intention of ultimately enabling some Sisters from Hue to study in the United States and become proficient English speakers and teachers.

One hoped-for outcome of the collaborative ministry is

empowering Lovers of the Holy Cross to sustain their own English conversation program. This effort has borne fruit as several young Sisters from past summer English classes are now students in the United States. Sister Dung Nguyen (My Dung) and Sister Dung Huynh (Kim Dung) are jointly sponsored by Heritage University in Toppenish, WA and by the U.S.-Ontario Province. They live with members of the SNJM community and are enrolled at Heritage University, earning masters' degrees in Educational Administration and English Language and Literature respectively.

Both are diligent, successful students, taking full advantage of all available opportunities to master both conversational English and coursework that will enrich their Congregation's vibrant ministries. English is important for the congregation's preschool/ kindergarten curriculum as a unique offering that enhances their ability to recruit and enroll students. This is critical because preschools are one of the few revenue-generating ministries they are permitted to conduct. As a future principal, My Dung looks forward to introducing new instructional methods to her faculty. Kim Dung will meet other English language needs of her Congregation as a teacher and translator.

Understandably, being full-time graduate students absorbs most of their time, but both also have had opportunities to meet Sisters and Associates in various Northwest locations, become familiar with multiple aspects of U.S. culture, and explore some scenic highlights of the region. Engaging and adventurous, they bring a contagious spark to gatherings and have deepened the intercultural bonds which continue to characterize all aspects of the A Call to Vietnam Ministry. ■



SNJM Sisters Mary Ellen Robinson, Anne Herkenrath and Makiko Fujiwara welcome LHC Sisters Kim Dung and My Dung to Seattle.

During study breaks Sister Kathleen Hilton, SNJM, has helped My Dung and Kim Dung experience the beautiful Northwest and U.S. culture.

Studying in the Heritage University Library.

# A CENTURY of Ministry

What's in a hundred years? Sister Frances Harold (Karen Mary) celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March and is about to celebrate 80 years as a Holy Names Sister.

Growing up in Portland, OR, the inspiration of her parents shaped her life. She reveled in her father's stories about his teen years during the Alaska gold rush. His resilience and resourcefulness impressed her, and her mother's deep faith and generosity informed young Frances for a lifetime.

Her sisters, Mary Jane (Angel Guardian) and Anne (Rosilda), joined the community before Frances. It was the charism of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names, which compelled Frances to enter.

She began as a music teacher, working not only on children's musical skills but on their love of music and its enrichment of the human heart. She was one of the first to attend the Institute for Spirituality and Worship at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Sister Frances enjoyed 10 years in parish religious education in Canby, OR, followed by ministry in St. Helens, OR. The addition of youth ministry caused her to reflect: "These kids want skiing and beach trips and I am nearly 70. It's time for someone else to take over."

Retirement from parish work did not mean an end to her ministry, though. Sister Frances agreed to introduce the Retirement for Religious program to parishes. With companion Sister Andre Campau, SSMO, she crisscrossed Oregon promoting the fund drive in support of religious communities.

During the next 11 years, she was continually struck by the generosity of the Catholic people when they understood that Sisters who have served in education and health care do not receive retirement benefits from the Church, and their Congregations' struggle to support retired Sisters.

When she read a parish bulletin ad for a communion minister for the local hospital, Sister Frances thought, "I can do this. I can give a couple of hours a week." She volunteered there for 17 years, retiring at age 90.

Looking back, she cannot choose one ministry as her favorite. "I just loved all those things I did," she says. She still finds ways to volunteer, including helping to stuff envelopes for the SNJM Christmas appeal.

Although Sister Frances is shy of the spotlight as she passes her milestone birthday, she is grateful for God's special gift of 100 years of living, the abundance she has experienced and the continual generosity of family and friends. ■



Sister Frances with great niece Mary Frances at the 100th birthday celebration.

Sister Frances helped stuff the annual Christmas appeal in December, 2018.

The Nguyen family, who know Sister Frances from her days of ministry in Canby, OR, at her birthday celebration.

# Celebrating 150 Years of Ministry in California

Marie Rose

by Abby  
Hasselbrink,  
HNHS '20

She came with a  
vision  
A place for young  
women  
Justice, faith, art  
And education.

From Canada they  
came  
Life would never be  
the same  
For the Bay Area  
And the Sisters of  
the Holy Names.

Legacies they  
would create  
Across the United  
States  
Imparting social  
justice values  
With academics  
and faith.

Although Marie  
Rose has passed  
Her mission was not  
left in the past  
We live her dream  
every day  
Whether in class or  
at Mass.

Holy Names Forever  
Changed us for the  
better  
We will carry  
Noblesse Oblige  
In all our lives'  
endeavors.



On April 27, 2019, the year-long celebration of 150 years of ministry in California came to a close. The theme for the year was REMEMBER, REJOICE and RENEW. That is what the Sisters, ministry partners, friends and relatives did during the anniversary year throughout California.



The Sisters are grateful for all who participated in the celebrations to "Remember, Rejoice and Renew!"

*Feb. 2, 2019*

St. Monica Parish hosted Mass and a reception in the parish church and in the event center at St. Monica High School. (Top two photos)



*March 14, 2019*

The HNU and HNHS communities joined the Sisters for a special sesquicentennial Mass and reception on the campus of Holy Names University. (Photo on left)



*April 27, 2019*

The year of celebrating concluded with a Mass and reception at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Los Gatos. (Photo on left)

Visit [www.snjmcal50.org/rejoice](http://www.snjmcal50.org/rejoice) to view photos of the events in May and September 2018. You can also listen to the Sisters of the Holy Names song by Mark Lennon. ■

# Gift of Prayer

A Gift of Prayer is a thoughtful and special way to honor a friend or relative, give thanks for God's many blessings, or celebrate a special occasion: birthday, wedding, anniversary; or remember the deceased.

A Gift of Prayer can be particularly consoling for a friend or loved one who is coping with a death or other life challenge. Prayers may be requested for special intentions, such as improved health, successful surgery, comfort, strength, peace or whatever is needed.

A card acknowledging your gift is sent to the person or family indicated and we'll send you a thank-you card as well. Donation amounts are always kept confidential and we do not put the recipient on any solicitation list. Contributions help support the Sisters and their ministries.

Send a gift of prayer online ([www.snjmca.org](http://www.snjmca.org)) or send this form in the enclosed envelope.

Prayers for \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of person/persons

In Memoriam (recently deceased?  Yes  No)

Special Intention \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.

To honor/celebrate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

Send card to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sign card from \_\_\_\_\_

Personal note (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ check #\_\_\_\_\_

## In Memoriam

Sister Mary Grace Dykzeul, SNJM

(Hermana Grace)

February 22, 1924–April 18, 2019

More and more, one discovers that the real ministry is living each moment in the presence of Christ and inviting all to join along.

Cada vez más, uno descubre que el verdadero ministerio es vivir cada momento en la presencia de Jesucristo e invitar a todos de reunirse con El.

—Sister Grace Dykzeul, 1981



Sister Gerrie (Geraldine) Will

{Sister Michael Joseph}

Dec. 4, 1932 - May 18, 2019



My life's been full,

I've savored much

Good friends, good times,

my loved ones' touch

—*I'm Free*, Author  
Unknown

To learn more about the Sisters' lives, visit [www.snjmca.org](http://www.snjmca.org). Select Sister Obituaries under News and Events.



# Celebrating Beloved Traditions

## Strawberry Luncheon

On May 8, 2019, 194 guests attended the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Luncheon held at the Orchard City Banquet Hall in Campbell, CA. Fifth-grade girls from St. Mary School in Los Gatos joined us as hostesses and helpers. Friends and a graduate from St. Mary School, relatives, Sisters and Associates volunteered their time to fill the jobs needed for the success of this event.

To view more pictures from the day on our website [www.snjmca.org](http://www.snjmca.org), select Event Photo Albums under News and Events.

## Serving up Strawberries

When the Sisters arrived in San Francisco in 1868, they were

greeted by the Sisters of Mercy and were served strawberries and cream. Thus began the tradition of Strawberry Day in California. Each year, Sisters, ministry partners and students share strawberries on May 10. ■



Top to bottom:

**Strawberry Luncheon:** St. Mary fifth-grade students continued the tradition of helping at the luncheon. Fran Fillice enjoys the luncheon with her daughter Christy and granddaughter Gianna. Pat Winter shares the joy of winning a basket with Georgie Wolf (on left). Sisters Rita Josephine, Jean Cather and Gloria Johansen.

**Serving Up Strawberries:** Ramona – Sisters Kathleen Callaway, Anna Keim, Daleen Larkin at Ramona Convent Secondary School, Alhambra. HNHS – Sisters Carol Nicklas, Dianne Nixon, Noel Girard at Holy Names High School, Oakland. HNU – Sisters Carol Nicklas and Maureen Hester at Holy Names University, Oakland.

# WHY THEY GIVE: Partners in Mission

We know people have many reasons for being our Partners in Mission. We will tell a donor's story in each issue of SNJM Now. If you'd like to share your story, contact us at [development@snjmusun.org](mailto:development@snjmusun.org).

By S. Mary Ann Farley, SNJM

For 35 years, Kay Foster was the beloved, competent, always trusted director of nursing at Convent of the Holy Names in Spokane, WA, retiring only when the last Sister moved to the retirement community now known as South Hill Village. She is a faithful member of Assumption Parish and an active and happy grandma. Kay and her husband Chuck have been monthly donors to the Sisters of the Holy Names for 39 years! When asked "Why?" the words just flowed from Kay.

"We give because of our personal relationships with the Sisters. We give because of who they are, what is important to them. In so many end-of-life conversations with the Sisters in the Care Center, I have heard why they chose religious life, what joy they have found, the fulfillment they feel and pass on."

"I just received the Jubilee announcement and smile as I remember interactions with the Sisters who are celebrating, and rejoice in who they are and how they live in the world. I resonate with your stance on refugees and immigration because that is close to my heart and I want that work to continue. I want to see the

ripple effect of the work the Sisters are doing become an ever-wider circle because I believe that makes a major difference in our world."

Chuck and Kay talk about how and where they want to donate when they receive so many requests and there is so much need. "We believe in consistently donating to or sponsoring organizations where we see the boots on the ground and know the hearts of the people."

Chuck and Kay, it is with deep gratitude that we tell your story. The sharing of hearts and minds and resources makes exponentially more possible than any of us could do alone. The ripples continue! ■



Among her many experiences as a nurse in the Sisters' Care Center, Kay (far right) helped Sister Jeanne Concannon (RIP), wearing pink, learn to use donated equipment that helped lift her to a standing position. Next to Sister Jeanne is author Sister Mary Anne Farley, wearing black and white.

Kay and Chuck Foster during a 2018 visit to Lourdes, France.



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**Among the Holy Names Sisters who are celebrating 60 years of religious life in 2019:**

Adjacent: Sister Mary Ann Farley (in blue) volunteers at the Maybelle Center for Community in Portland, OR, an organization that reduces loneliness and isolation among members experiencing poverty, mental or physical challenges, addiction or trauma. She is one of 19 Holy Names Sisters celebrating 60 years of religious life in 2019.

Left: Sister Eileen Dunn is part of 96-year tradition of Holy Names Sisters ministering at St. Gabriel parish in Washington, DC. She has served as Director of Religious Education since August 1989.



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