



Beyond
BORDERS

Students from Qenqo, Peru, perform a Christmas dance "Cholito Jesús."

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Letter from SNJM Province Leadership Team

SNJM U.S.-Ontario Province
Leadership Team (L-R): Sisters
Maureen Delaney, Linda Patrick,
Carol Higgins, Mary Slater, Diane
Enos and Marcia Frideger.

Dear Friends,

United by our commitment to serve wherever the call arises, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary have always responded with courage and compassion. From our beginning in Longueuil, Canada, Blessed Mother Marie-Rose's dream has flourished into a global congregation, connecting communities across Canada, the United States, South America, Africa and beyond.

Our first global call came in 1859, when a request from the Archbishop brought twelve pioneering Sisters on an arduous 7,000-mile journey from Quebec to Portland, Oregon. Over the years, our congregation grew, spreading our charism across borders. In 1931, we arrived in Lesotho, where our Sisters continue to provide education, healthcare and pastoral ministry. In 1962, our reach extended to Peru and Brazil, answering calls from communities in need.

Today, that mission continues. Across all the regions we serve, our Sisters and Associates partner with and contribute to organizations that foster education and social equity. In this issue of *SNJM Now*, we share with you the ongoing work of our Sisters around the world. We also highlight four of our funded ministries, organizations striving to empower immigrants and underserved communities through education, advocacy and compassionate hospitality.

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary embody faith in action. Each step of our journey reflects our living charism, responding to the world's needs through the promotion of justice, concern for the poor and disadvantaged, and an unwavering belief in the dignity of every person.

Maureen Delaney SNJM

Diane Enos SNJM

Marcia Frideger, SNJM

Carol Higgins, SNJM

Linda Patrick SNJM

Mary Slater SNJM

Serving with Purpose

The Worldwide Reach of SNJM

Across continents, the Sisters of the Holy Names are transforming lives through a deep belief in the power of education and compassion. Below, we explore three stories of this meaningful work and commitment to serving those in need.

Educating Women Religious for a Better Tomorrow

“We celebrate you, Sisters, because you have persevered,” said SNJM Sister Barbara Spears at the graduation ceremony for 64 Sisters in Ghana. Graduates recently completed the Sister Leadership and Development Initiative program presented by the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC). “I believe these Sisters have acquired competencies that will allow them to bring valuable change and growth to their ministries. The skills acquired do not end with the individual Sister, but rather they are tools for service to your congregations, the diocese, communities, society and yes, the people of God.”

Sister Barbara traveled to West Africa for two weeks in August of 2024 as the Board Chair of ASEC to attend joyful celebrations in Ghana and Nigeria,

speaking to groups of graduates as they completed ASEC’s three-year program. ASEC, a U.S. organization that serves thousands of Sisters in Africa, has been funding education for 25 years, including leadership development, high school scholarships, higher education and two-year college programs.

SNJM first started relationships with communities in Africa when a group of Sisters traveled to the Southern African country of Lesotho in 1931. Healthcare-focused ministry work during the mission trip led to the creation of several healthcare centers including Lesotho’s Maryland Health Center. Today, SNJM’s Lesotho Province is an active community of over 70 Sisters. Twenty-seven of those Sisters have graduated from ASEC leadership and technology programs in the past decade, and Sister Francina Mokoteli is now Director of ASEC programs in Lesotho.

Sister Barbara Spears (center right, in orange) attends the ASEC graduation ceremony for women religious in Ghana.

Education is a core component of many SNJM ministries because of its transformational impact. ASEC’s work supports communities in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa that face obstacles of poverty, chronic hunger, disease, ecological degradation and violence. Forty-eight percent of Sisters in these countries lack higher education credentials and access to the training they need to effectively carry out their





service work (ASEC Congregation Survey, 2019–2020). ASEC programs help Sisters lead with education, strengthening their communities from within and making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals in Africa.

Support of ASEC is part of SNJM’s response to the needs of our world and our commitment to “deepen our capacity to live our oneness and interdependence with the whole Earth community,” (SNJM Acts of the 35th Chapter, 2021). Sister Barbara said to the new group of leaders in Ghana, “We are challenged as women religious to examine the ways in which we can individually and collectively bridge the gap. You and I can do it.”

Strengthening Andean Communities Through Education

Communities in the Andes Mountains of Peru receive little government support for education. Students need teachers. Teachers need support. Sister Lourdes Quintana Cortavirtarte is helping make a difference.

Sister Lourdes first traveled to the high Andean communities in Peru’s Coya District with Sister Brigid Baumann in 2012 to support the Kausay Wasi Clinic on visits to communities that have limited access to medical care. Sister Lourdes also worked with the missionary ministry of Coya’s San Juan Bautista Parish. She made a permanent move to Coya in 2022 to support the mountain communities.

Traveling to Patabamba, Qenqo and Sihua, Sister Lourdes created programs for young people in the villages. Her “Espere” workshop on forgiveness and reconciliation served high school students, and she ran classes teaching St. Ignatian spiritual exercises to children. To promote the Coya community’s resolve to care for the environment, Sister Lourdes organized a recycling program to collect and process plastic and cardboard waste.

“These first activities allowed me to learn more about the towns and rural communities,” said Sister Lourdes. Many years of reflection on the needs of the high Andean communities built her dream to “awaken and develop the potential that children and teachers have.”

In August 2024, with the support of grant funds and contributions from family and friends, Sister Lourdes started the “Soccoy Kicharinquin” (“Open Hearts”) program to support students and their teachers in Queqo and Sihua. The program focuses on accompanying children and young people through spiritual growth, encouraging the joy of music in children by forming community choirs, and providing resources for the local teachers.

“She supports the teachers,” said Sister Linda Patrick, a member of the SNJM Provincial Leadership Team who visited the schools in December 2024. “She is accompanying them and helping them to be better teachers.”

“It’s not just the Holy Names Sisters who



Top Left: SNJM Sisters in Lesotho celebrate after completing their ASEC Leadership and Development program.

Top Right: SNJM Sisters visit with students at the school in Sihua, Peru.

Middle: Peruvian students from Patabamba play as Sister Lourdes observes.

Above: Sister Lourdes presents a freshly harvested head of lettuce from a local friend’s garden.

are doing this work. They are building a community of people who are working to serve the poor,” said Sister Linda. “All of these people are giving their time and energy to help lift people up. That is a wonderful thing. That is what we need to do. It is Mother Rose’s vision being carried out.”

Welcoming Refugees with Compassion and Care

Angela Rose House, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Names in Windsor, Ontario, serves as a sanctuary for refugee claimants seeking safety,

stability and a fresh start. The house, donated in 2007 by the Ursuline Sisters of Chatham, opened its doors to refugees in February 2008. Named in honor of Ursuline foundress St. Angela Merici and SNJM foundress Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, the house commemorates the lives of two women born 350 years apart who shared a vision of compassion and hospitality.

The three-story home provides temporary shelter for up to 10 people. In 2022, SNJM opened Oak House to complement Angela Rose House. This additional two-story home

accommodates 10-12 individuals and serves as a transitional space for refugees ready to integrate into the community and achieve independence.

Refugees (families and single women) arrive first to Angela Rose House and, once they have completed their immigration application and begin working, move to Oak House to prepare for resettlement and integration into the Windsor community. Ilda Demir, who has served as coordinator of the homes for more than seven years, works directly with the residents, getting them settled and providing resources.

The impact of Angela Rose and Oak Houses is evident in the stories of its

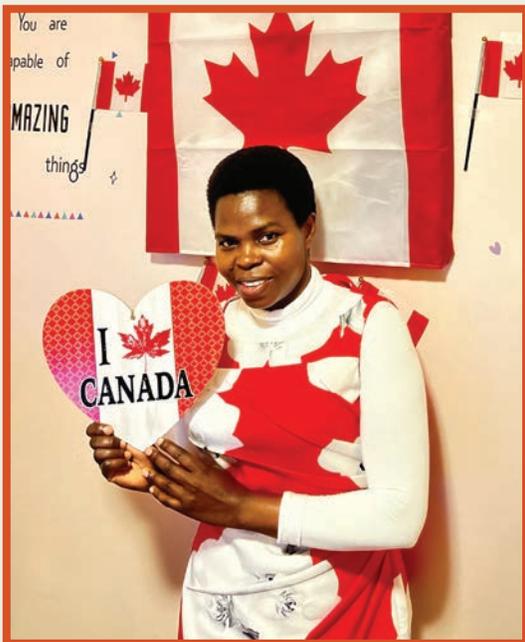
residents. Florence, a former resident, reflected, “When I arrived in Canada, I was welcomed here at the Angela Rose House. This has been my home since I entered Canada, and I thank God that I am now a Canadian citizen. I was helped with every need, regardless of how big. Truly, this is a place of hope.”

Another resident who moved to Oak House in January 2024 shared a similar sentiment: “I am so thankful for Ilda bringing us here from the immigration hotels, where I couldn’t cook and didn’t have enough space for my girls. Thank you to God for bringing the Angela Rose and Oak Houses into existence. It is a home filled with love, peace and laughter. A home where you are well taken care of, where the Sisters make sure you are safe. A home of no discrimination. My safe place.”

Besides offering transitional housing, Angela Rose House staff help the refugees with settlement, work with them to understand and complete the refugee claimant process, provide emotional support, walk them through registering children in school and adults for ESL classes, accompany them to appointments, and prepare them for independence. All the services aim to make the entire process easier for them as they settle into their home and integrate into the community.

For over 16 years, Angela Rose House has welcomed more than 360 refugees from 43 countries. Today, 20 refugees, including children, are residents of the two houses, continuing their journeys of rebuilding their lives in Canada. The benefits are long-lasting. Many of the refugees who have been through the houses maintain connections with each other as a supportive community.

The Angela Rose and Oak Street Houses are more than a refuge. They are a symbol of hope, resilience and the enduring spirit of hospitality that transforms lives and inspires communities. ■



Resident Florence celebrates her Canadian citizenship.

Celebrating Jubilarians

This Spring we celebrate women who professed their vows 25, 50 and 60 years ago. You can read their biographies by visiting www.snjmusontario.org/jubilarians



*50-Year
"Golden" Jubilarian*
Sister Peggy Hurley



*25-Year
"Silver" Jubilarian*
Sister Connie Harrington

60-Year Jubilarians



Sister
Rosalie
Anderson



Sister
Mary Ann
Dunn



Sister
Lydia
Nikolaisen



Sister
Agnes
Bachmeier



Sister
Shirley
Krueger



Sister
Linda
Orrick



Sister
Mary
Becker



Sister
Elizabeth
Liebert



Sister
Teresa
Shields



Sister
Roberta
Carson

Ministry in Action

A Commitment to Human Dignity

Amidst the challenges in injustice and poverty, Holy Names Sisters and Associates remain steadfast in their commitment to protecting human dignity and standing with the most vulnerable. The initiatives below, supported by SNJM Ministry Grant funding, remind us that to protect human dignity is to defend hope itself.



Above: Two young members of the Santa Chiara Children's Center family.

Below: Bertha Oliva, General Coordinator of the Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH). PROAH has partnered with COFADEH since 2009.

The Friendship Office of the Americas/Honduras Accompaniment Project

The Honduras Accompaniment Project (PROAH) is a project of the Friendship Office of the Americas that emerged as an emergency response to the U.S.-backed military coup in Honduras in 2009. The project provides accompaniment for human rights defenders at risk due to their individual and collective work for human rights and environmental rights in a context of targeted political violence.

PROAH aims to address the deep injustices that force so many to flee Central America, focusing on root causes linked to U.S. policies in the region. Reflecting on its impact, Sister Carol Ries shared, "I am particularly impressed

with the staff and volunteers as they accompany local Honduran people, particularly women on the margins, exercising leadership skills to bring justice and human rights for all people."

In a country where violence, impunity and inequality are deeply entrenched, PROAH works with partners in Honduras to stand as a powerful force for change, reminding the world of the enduring importance of justice, solidarity and human dignity.

The Santa Chiara Children's Center

The Santa Chiara Children's Center in Haiti offers refuge for children grappling with the profound challenges of poverty, hunger and emotional neglect. A dedicated staff ensures that the center's

43 students receive a nurturing education tailored to their needs. Sister Vera Ruotolo, a longtime supporter of the center, said, "I was passionately drawn to the Santa Chiara Children's Center because of the very poor and abandoned children rescued from the extreme poverty and daily chaos of Haiti."

Located in an area without running water, paved roads or reliable electricity, the center relies on solar power and a diesel generator to maintain its operations. Founder Gerry Straub shared, "The gangs'



pervasive attacks on people, hospitals and businesses goes on unabated. We can't succumb to hopelessness. In Haiti, hope is always delayed and often

betrayed. The only way to disarm the destructive sense of hopelessness is following Christ and living the Gospel more fully."

SNJM's **Immigrant and Refugee Fund** was established in 2019 to support organizations that directly serve people who live outside their country of origin or have been displaced within their country. On an annual basis, Sisters establish partnerships with organizations to find effective ways to provide resources for migrants and refugees.

Immigrant Resources and Immediate Support (IRIS)

Bellingham, Washington's Immigrant Resources and Immediate Support (IRIS) provides immediate assistance to immigrants and refugees experiencing a temporary period of crisis. The organization works to get assistance to families as quickly as possible, cutting through the red tape that immigrants often experience attaining resources. Sister Susan Wells, a member of the SNJM Congregational Leadership Team, is a member of the IRIS Advisory Board. "IRIS is unique in that we respond very quickly to urgent situations and provide low-barrier access to support services," she said.

SNJM's grant will assist in funding this critical work. IRIS plays a significant role in the network of community services that respect the human dignity of all members of the Skagit and Whatcom County communities. Sister Susan summarized, "The SNJM investment in IRIS has had a tremendous direct impact on the lives of so many immigrants and refugees who often have nowhere else to turn for support."

Adelante Mujeres

Adelante Mujeres, which translates to "Women Rise Up," was founded in Oregon in 2002 to serve under-represented communities. The organization's first adult education program, led by Bridget Cooke and Sister Barbara Raymond, "formed a group that could talk about what they had really always wanted to do, but had never had the opportunity,"

said Sister Barbara. That became a theme of Adelante Mujeres work: listening to the aspirations of passionate women and building programs and services to support their efforts.

Approximately 98% of participants in Adelante Mujeres's programs are low or extremely low-income and an estimated 91% are first-generation immigrants. The "Casa Qui" program and storefront helps Latine women-owned businesses meet capital and financial requirements to enter the market. The "CHICAS" program served over 600 young people in 2024, providing after-school programs, field trips and summer camps.

SNJM's grant supports Adelante Mujeres's Leadership and Advocacy programs, including their "Immigration Academy," which educates participants on immigration policies affecting their communities.

Through education, entrepreneurship and advocacy, Adelante Mujeres continues to create opportunities for Latine women and youth, empowering them to lead and shape a more inclusive community. ■



Top: Adelante Mujeres staff and supporters participate in the annual May Day rally at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Oregon.

Bottom: Sister Barbara Raymond.

Rest in Peace

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary invite you to rejoice with us in the birth into eternal life of our Sisters.



Sister Lorna Mae McCormick, SNJM

(Sister M. Michael Anthony)

November 20, 1931 – September 28, 2024

Sister Lorna Mae McCormick, SNJM departed this life in Spokane, WA after 69 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Lise Jolie, SNJM

February 14, 1957 – November 4, 2024

Sister Lise Jolie, SNJM departed this life in Windsor, Ontario, Canada after 41 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Miriam Mark Eddy, SNJM

(Mary Eddy)

August 2, 1934 – January 1, 2025

Sister Miriam Mark Eddy, SNJM departed this life in Los Gatos, CA after 70 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Margaret O'Brien, SNJM

(Sister M. Rose Teresita)

December 31, 1931 – October 19, 2024

Sister Margaret O'Brien, SNJM departed this life in Tampa, FL after 73 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey, SNJM

(Jeanne Elizabeth Fahey)

February 14, 1927 – November 25, 2024

Sister Miriam Daniel Fahey, SNJM departed this life in Campbell, CA after 78 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Jane Margaret "Marg" Lynch, SNJM

(Sister M. Marguerite Elizabeth)

June 18, 1939 – January 6, 2025

Sister Jane Margaret "Marg" Lynch, SNJM departed this life in San Jose, CA after 65 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Frances Herrick, SNJM

(Sister Mary Virginia)

January 11, 1938 – October 22, 2024

Sister Frances Herrick, SNJM departed this life in Monroe, MI after 66 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Juliana Lucey, SNJM

(Sister Mary Aloyse)

June 19, 1926 – December 15, 2024

Sister Juliana Lucey, SNJM departed this life in Los Gatos, CA after 75 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Elise Hanrahan, SNJM

(Sister Michael Marion)

October 23, 1935 – January 30, 2025

Sister Elise Hanrahan, SNJM departed this life in Saratoga, CA after 68 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Marianne Viani, SNJM

(Sister Mary Caritas)

March 12, 1938 – December 19, 2024

Sister Marianne Viani, SNJM departed this life in Saratoga, CA after 66 years as a Holy Names Sister.



Sister Frances Wink, SNJM

(Sister Germaine Mary)

December 20, 1931 – February 2, 2025

Sister Frances Wink, SNJM departed this life in Lake Oswego, OR after 72 years as a Holy Names Sister.

For extended obituaries, please visit our website at snjmusontario.org/about-us/obits

Send a Gift of Prayer

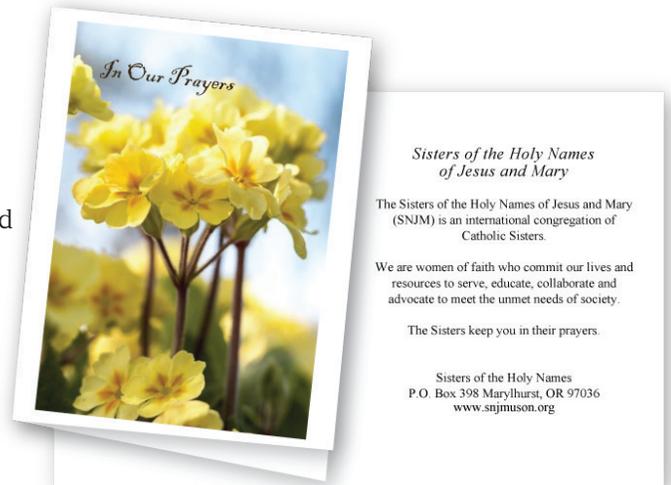
When you receive word that a loved one has passed away, someone is ill or has been in an accident... An invitation arrives to celebrate a birth, wedding, anniversary or other milestone... You want to send a special card, but are not sure what would be appropriate.

Send a **Gift of Prayer** from the Sisters of the Holy Names.

A **Gift of Prayer** is a special way to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion.

A **Gift of Prayer** shows compassion and can be consoling for a friend or loved one coping with a challenge. Prayers may be requested for special intentions such as improved health, successful surgery, safe return, comfort, strength, healing and peace.

Recipients and their intentions are held in the prayers of the Holy Names Sisters and Associates. A personalized card acknowledging your gift of prayer is sent to the recipient you indicate (donation amounts are kept confidential). All contributions help support the Sisters and our ministries.



Send a gift of prayer online (www.snjmusontario.org/prayergift) or by sending this form to: Sisters of the Holy Names, PO Box 398, Marylhurst, OR 97036.

Prayers for _____
Name of person/persons

In Memoriam (recently deceased? Yes No)

Special Intention, or To honor/celebrate _____

healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.
or birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

Send card to _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Sign card from _____

Personal note (optional) _____

Prayers for _____
Name of person/persons

In Memoriam (recently deceased? Yes No)

Special Intention, or To honor/celebrate _____

healing, strength, peace, gratitude, speedy recovery, safe trip, etc.,
or birthday, baptism, anniversary, holiday, promotion, friendship, etc.

Send card to _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Sign card from _____

Personal note (optional) _____

Your Name _____ Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ check # _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____



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A Single Decision Sparks Decades of Service

How often does a single interaction or decision alter the course of our lives? For Sister Rose Gallagher (1934–2014) and Adele DellaValle-Rauth, current Associate and former Sister, a conversation in October 1981 did just that. Living in southwestern Virginia’s Appalachian Valley, they ministered to migrant farm workers, including Haitians who fled poverty by boat, seeking work in the United States. Controlled by crew bosses who often cheated them out of their wages and inflicted violence when disobeyed, the workers faced harsh conditions. Sister Rose and Adele brought clothes and food to the camps, helped with medical care, and taught English, basic literacy and math skills. The Sisters were regularly threatened by the crew bosses for their interference.

On that October day, a Haitian man approached the Sisters and told them he wanted to stay and find a steady job. In what Sister Rose called a “startling moment of grace and insanity,” the Sisters devised a plan to extricate the man from the control of the crew boss. In a tale out of a thriller, the Sisters drove a van into the orchard at night, lights off, where eight frightened Haitians waited.

The Sisters took the men to Roanoke, where they settled and later brought their families from Haiti to join them. This unexpected work with Haitian migrants-turned-refugees inspired Sister Rose and Adele to learn more about the culture, language and the factors driving them to leave Haiti, leading to their next ministries.

For the next 30 years, including 20 spent in Haiti, Sister Rose dedicated herself to improving the lives of the Haitian people.



Adele served as a resource to parishes

in the Diocese of Richmond to “twin” with a Haitian parish in mutual solidarity. After leaving religious life, Adele and her late husband and fellow Associate Bob DellaValle-Rauth continued traveling to Haiti for their work. For Adele, working with the Haitian people became “the most powerful ministry I have ever had.” Together, Sister Rose and Adele impacted the lives of hundreds of Haitians, both in Haiti and the United States, all sparked by a single conversation.



Above: The eight Haitian farmworkers resettled in Roanoke, Virginia.

Left: Sister Rose Gallagher and Adele DellaValle-Rauth, Associate, with Haitian immigrant Erzius Eldius in Washington, DC in 1983.