



May 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Sisters of Social Service,

Light-filled, longer days, along with the colorful sights and sounds of springtime, have brought renewed hope for our community as we slowly climb out of the lonely darkness of the last 14+ months of the pandemic. While all of our Sisters and much of the nation have been vaccinated, and things seem to be improving, we recognize that we are far from being free of worry, and that the world is still in a very fragile and fractured state of transition. Mindful of our Benedictine roots and our reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit, we draw strength from the gospel and the charism of who we are as a community of Sisters united in hope as living instruments of justice and peace, and servants to the poor especially in tentative times.

Knowing this, and true to our prophetic role, we have much to celebrate this year, especially the milestone of 95 years advocating peace and justice for the common good in Los Angeles. On May 23, some of the Sisters will come together on Pentecost to bear witness to this significant anniversary as well as distinguishing many Sisters who are celebrating anniversaries of commitment to the Sisters of Social Service. These include Sisters Lois Davis, Joan Keltus, Patricia McGowan and Shaun Wise (50 years), Martha McCarthy (25 years), and Raquel Cruz, Lisa Lopez and Isabel Garcia Rodriguez who are renewing temporary commitments.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Throughout the last year we have remained steadfast and reassured that the power of the Holy Spirit is ever-present in the challenges that we face, enabling us to continue the important and life-transforming work we are called to do. We couldn't succeed in our efforts without the consistent support of you, our compassionate and generous donors, who keep us energized as we move forward. Today, in honor of our 95th year in Los Angeles, I invite you to consider a gift towards our goal of raising \$95,000 to boost the efforts of our ministries. As the limitations of the pandemic lift, we are seeing first-hand the physiological, psychological and emotional repercussions people are experiencing after a year of isolation, fear and the loss of loved ones. Now more than ever, our ministries are called to meet the needs of those living on the margins of our society, and appeal to you for your faithful support.

We Sisters of Social Service seek to live in trust and openness, having confidence that the Spirit will guide and teach us how best to live out our mission, and ever-mindful of the constant, bountiful gift of your friendship and support. Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sr. Maribeth Larkin SS'.

Sr. Maribeth Larkin
General Director