



Summer 2022

**Dear Friends and Family of the Sisters of Social Service,**

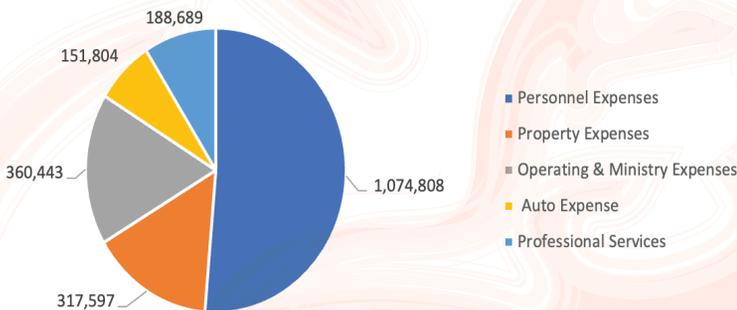
I cannot begin this letter without first saying **“Thank You!”** Thank you for your consistent support of our community both at home, and, more recently, of our Sisters in Eastern Europe. Your gift, regardless of the size, makes a difference in the lives of our Sisters and our ministries, every day of the year! Each time we have come to you asking for your assistance, you’ve delivered, especially during the pandemic. It is heartwarming for me to be the General Director of our religious community of women where we see first-hand the arrival of your generosity in our mailboxes, online and in person at any given moment. From the bottom of my heart, I truly thank you.

**That being said, we need your assistance!**

Recent headlines in the news of widespread, record-breaking inflation and an erratic stock market cannot be ignored. Just as the world is carefully climbing out of the afflictions of a years-long pandemic, painful disruptions to our budget projections and retirement accounts, not seen in years, are staring us in the face. Our costs to run our ministries have gone up significantly in the last six months, as well as the cost of food and utilities. Even now as I write this letter, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has lost thousands of points since it’s high in January, pushing us into an official Bear market, and incurring significant losses to our community investments.

**Thus, we anticipate a shortfall of at least \$634,000 by the end of our fiscal year on September 30, 2022.**

Expenses



Revenue, Expenses, Deficit



**Today I am asking you, our devoted partners, donors and friends, for your help, cooperation and collaboration.**

As we continue to witness the pain and suffering of war, political unrest, the pandemic and exclusion of our brothers and sisters at home and around the world, our faith urges us to be guided by the Holy Spirit, finding the courage and energy to search for solutions and respond with action.

Our SSS community may be modest in size, yet we are mighty in faith! The blessings of the Holy Spirit surround us daily, most recently during our annual Pentecost Assembly in early June. Not since 2019 have we had so many Sisters (45) gathered in Encino, truly a gift from God to be together as we celebrated Final Vows for Sr. Isabel, Renewals for Sisters Lisa and Raquel, 75 Years of Commitment for Sr. Mary Ellen, and 50 Years of Commitment for Sister Joeline and myself. These milestones are important reminders that the Spirit is alive and working among us, leading us with steady guidance as we work to strengthen our bonds of communal living while answering the call to the urgent demands of our ministries. Meeting the needs of families and people living on the margins has never been more crucial. We cannot fulfill our mission as Sisters of Social Service without your unwavering assistance, no matter the size, and for this we are again, so very grateful.



**Pentecost 2022** was an important date of renewal, anniversaries and final vows for the sisters. Left to right: Sr. Joeline Santiago (50 years of commitment), Sr. Mary Ellen Petrich (75 years of commitment), Sr. Maria Isabel Garcia Rodriguez (final vows) and our General Director, Sr. Maribeth Larkin (50 years of commitment).



**Above:** Sister Raquel and Sister Lisa renew their promises with the help of Sister Chris.

*Please pray for us!* Pray for faith, endurance, clarity and wisdom as we, as a community, press onward in our mission to meet the needs of those whom we serve on a daily basis, as well as our Sisters. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this invitation for help, cooperation and collaboration. We maintain an attitude of hope and thankfulness.

With blessings of the Holy Spirit,

*Sr. Maribeth Larkin SSS*

Sr. Maribeth Larkin, SSS  
General Director

## *How your gift makes a difference!*

- Provides a safe, nurturing after school program and healthy snacks for children and families in need at Regis House (\$30/week)
- Ensures that the needy visiting Regis House receive food to go, basic grocery items and grocery gift cards (\$100/week)
- Helps us to offer discounted access to mental wellness and healing (\$75/hour)
- Enables those experiencing severe stress, anxiety or PTSD affordable spiritual direction at Holy Spirit Retreat Center (\$75/hour)
- Allows young girls the priceless experience of a week at Camp Mariastella (\$400/week)
- Provides 24-hour care for our elderly, retired Sisters at the Villa (\$450/day)
- Supports our Sisters in Formation, who are discerning the call to be a Sister (\$500/month)

Please visit [www.sssla.org](http://www.sssla.org),  
and click 'Give Now.'

*Thank you in advance for your support!*





## *Provide a Lasting Legacy!*

### **Double Your Gift With a Matching Gift**

Many businesses have “volunteer incentives” which match any donations employees make to nonprofits. This could essentially double your gift to the Sisters! Please check to see if your employer offers such a program, and we will gladly assist you with any transaction.

### **Planned Gifts, Estates and Bequests**

There are many ways to support our good works while securing your financial future. These include gifts of stocks or bonds, or including the Sisters of Social Service as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy or IRA. Remembering the Sisters in your estate plan provides a lasting legacy for you and your family. Your financial and legal advisors can provide further guidance.

## *Thank you!*

For more information, contact Mary Hatton,  
Director of Development, [mhatton@sssla.org](mailto:mhatton@sssla.org) or 818.285.3358.

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