



AUTUMN 2021



Serving those on the margins

Dear Friends of the Sisters,

The Sisters of Social Service remain profoundly grateful for your extraordinary support, especially during the last 18 months of the pandemic.

As we celebrate our 95th anniversary, we continue to be deeply humbled by the care, concern and support of our benefactors — family and friends like you — who partner with us on a daily basis to help us carry out our mission: “to minister to the needs of the most underprivileged and disadvantaged people living on the margins of our society.” — *Sr. Frederica Horvath, Foundress*

Like so many others, our community has been hardhit — just before Thanksgiving last year, we lost three of our Sisters to COVID-19. Though this has been a challenging time, both financially and emotionally, we have never wavered that the power of the Holy Spirit by our side would make it possible to navigate uncharted waters. We experienced

new and deeper connections to one another as we mourned the death of our Sisters, and continue to value the faithfulness of those valiant women.

It’s encouraging to note that Pope Francis declared this the Year of St. Joseph, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St. Joseph as Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter entitled “Patris corde” (“with a father’s heart”) Pope Francis recalls the significance of St. Joseph’s protective, loving presence in the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Even before Jesus was born, when Joseph was searching for a safe place for Mary to give birth, he was put into the role of protector.



I witness the pain and suffering of body, mind and spirit in a very real way. Walking with the patients and their loved ones on this sacred, vulnerable journey allows me the opportunity to share God's love, mercy and compassion.

— Sr. Yolanda, SSS, Chaplain, Huntington Memorial Hospital



In supporting the Afghan people fleeing the chaos of their country, I took all of my skills from group work into a different culture with families in the midst of crisis and hope. I saw beauty of the children whose favorite song was “Heads, shoulders, knees and toes!” They are the hope for the future!

— Sr. Simone, SSS & Afghan Refugee Team





(FAR LEFT) I advocate for peace and justice on behalf of those who are alienated. In the very complex litigation of asylum cases, I hope to help them live in dignity, and free from violence.

– Sr. Lisa, SSS, ED/Attorney at Law, Southern California Immigration Project

Sr. Margaret Slachta taught us: “To spread around us the Spirit of prayer and love – this is the core of our calling.” I am grateful that I can practice such a calling in my ministry with hospice care.

– Sr. Theresa Marie, SSS, Hospice Administrator

Later, after being visited by an angel in a dream, Joseph took his family and fled to Egypt to escape King Herod’s desire to find the “newborn king of the Jews” and kill him. In this sense, St. Joseph is also, as the Pope writes “...the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty. Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” These powerful words are inherent to the mission of the Sisters of Social Service, *“...to engage with and on behalf of those who are alienated, struggling, or living in poverty. The rights of all peoples to live in dignity, free from violence, racism, sexism and coercion of every kind.”*

Your thoughtful gift of support is greatly needed and appreciated. We will include you, your family and loved ones in our prayers throughout Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the Savior, once more.

May the blessings of the Spirit be yours now and throughout the season,

Maribeth Larkin

Sister Maribeth Larkin, SSS
General Director



I was mentored by hardworking, “roll-up-your-sleeves” Sisters; whoever works alongside us is an extension of our Mission. The Holy Spirit wants us to be challenged, to stand up for others, and to value the sacred in each person, forever and ever!

– Sr. Albertina, SSS, Director, Regis House Community Center



Today

*we urgently call upon you
for your ardent support.*

Our budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year exceeds last year's budget by over \$285,000. This is due in large part to increased costs towards the following:

- Elevated demands on our ministries as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to penetrate vulnerable communities where we serve
- Increased cost in supplies due to the manufacturing supply-chain crisis
- Expansion of communications efforts to grow and maintain important connections with our constituents
- Reorganization and expansion of our Villa Retirement Community
- Considerable rise in the cost of living all across our SSSLA communities
- Extensive increases in maintenance costs of our ministry properties

*You may donate online or
return the enclosed reply card.*

Thank you



Your gift makes a difference

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 guidance.

Online giving at www.sssla.org,
just click **GIVE NOW**

For more information, contact Mary Hatton,
Director of Development, mhatton@sssla.org
or 818.285.3358.

Thank you in advance for your support!



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