



# 2023 Summer Greetings

Every year about this time, we bring you a message of sincere gratitude for your ongoing support of our community and ministries, sharing some highlights of why we continue to strive to make a difference in our broken world, and how it happens ONLY because of your partnership with us. You are a gift to the SSS!

This year has been truly unforgettable, especially as we celebrate 100 years since the founding of the Sisters of Social Service in 1923, in Budapest, Hungary. It has certainly been a whirlwind of events, travel and camaraderie for many of our Sisters, inspiring us to look to the future with great hope and renewed energy to attend to the great needs of those living on the margins of our communities. There is so much to accomplish, and we have been filled with tremendous encouragement by the gestures of support from our friends and supporters all over the world, who believe in the work of our ministries and the strides we are making for those we serve.

As followers of the Gospel of Jesus, we are brothers and sisters to everyone! We don't get to pick and choose who we're going to be charitable towards or who we'll give service to, which sits at the heart of our charism. Now, more than ever, the Spirit is calling us, guiding every Sister of Social Service to live out our mission to advocate peace and justice for the common good.

Heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our community. We are truly grateful for your companionship on our journey to make a difference in the world.

With blessings of the Spirit,

*Maribeth Larkin SSS*

Sr. Maribeth Larkin, SSS  
General Director

# We thrive because of You!



**Across Borders, Towards Unity: Visits to Taiwan, Mexico and Philippines** – 2023 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of our communities in Taiwan and Mexico, where we provide life-giving assistance to those we serve. Within the last year, members of our Leadership Team undertook significant journeys to visit our Sisters in Taiwan, Mexico and the Philippines, strengthening our global sisterhood. Above, Sisters Maribeth and Chris enjoyed lunch with our Taiwanese Sisters and Associates. Above, right, Sisters Maribeth and Albertina shared in the opening of a new diabetes clinic in Tacambaro, Michoacan, Mexico, where Sister Isabel read a special prayer.

**SSS Centennial Celebrations** – 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the original founding of the SSS community in 1923, in Budapest, Hungary, bringing multiple celebrations throughout Eastern Europe in 2023. To kick off this auspicious occasion, members of a delegation of ten SSS leaders traveled to Rome in January for an extraordinary visit with Pope Francis. The Sisters of Social Service of Los Angeles look forward to celebrating our own Centennial coming up in 2026!

Learn more about SSS worldwide celebrations



## A Year in the Life of the SSS

**Social Service Auxiliary in Action** – The SSA has enjoyed an action-packed year of camaraderie and fundraising for the Sisters. Meaningful events such as the annual Lenten Day of Reflection, Christmas Toy Drive and Spiritus Benefit Luncheon, all contributed to the success of the last year. This year's Spiritus Benefit honored the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation and Rob and Joanne Smith, for their 40+ year partnership of leadership and philanthropy to the greater Los Angeles area.



Enjoy Inspirational SSS Videos

**In and Around Encino and In Memoriam** – The Biophilia Treehouse, a project co-sponsored by UCLA's Counterforce Lab, Pando and the SSS, officially launched in April. Camp Mariastella recently donated funding to build our new "Labyrinth" in the Upper 40, dedicated to generations of campers who have been nourished by this important SSS ministry. **In Memoriam**...We are saddened that this last year brought the passings of three beloved SSS: Sisters Marti McCarthy, Marianna Halsmer, and Mary Ellen Petrich. *Come Holy Spirit!*



**Pentecost and Chapter 2023** – A solemn Mass of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost kicked off Chapter 2023, celebrating special anniversaries for Sisters Jeanne Felion, Nodelyn Abayan and Mary Grace Nichols (bottom right), as well as Sr. Suzanne Simo, seen above with Hungarian Sisters, Sisters Agnes Pataki and Magdi Kovari, visiting from Buffalo and Budapest. The 10-day long Chapter culminated with the election of the new Council for 2023-2027, (under the bell) from left: Sisters Jennifer Gaeta, Beatriz Guijosa, Maribeth Larkin (General Director), Celeste Arbuckle and Simone Campbell. We were also blessed to have a wonderful representation from our Asia-Pacific Sisters. From left, Sisters Michele Walsh, Marilena Navarez, Vangie Lasao, Sonia Delima, Theresa Tsou and Nodelyn Abayan.



"As Christians, we are brothers and sisters to everyone."

We don't get to pick and choose who we're going to be charitable towards or who we'll give service to."



## More Ways to give and Connect

**BY SUPPORTING THE SSS** you enable our Sisters to make an important impact both locally and around the world.



scan to give

### DOUBLE YOUR GIFT WITH A MATCHING GIFT

Many businesses have "volunteer incentives" which many donations double your gift to the Sisters! This could essentially double your gift to the nonprofits! 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 the good works of the Sisters while securing your financial future. These include gifts of stocks or bonds, or including the Sisters of Social Service 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, advising you about the most up-to-date products that will benefit your family best.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Mary Hatton, Director of Development, mhatton@sssa.org or 818.285.3358**