

# Sisters' Journey

*Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate*



## CHAMPIONING A SINGLE SACRED COMMUNITY

The primary revelation of God among us today is the world around us: our universe. In ways great and small, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate are committed to promoting the health and well-being of all people as well as of the planet.



maculate are committed to promoting the health and well-being of all people as well as of the planet.



New Motherhouse Work-in-Progress: Xerioscape Courtyard

On a practical level, the Sisters have developed the new motherhouse with attention to our ecological circumstances, and the congregation's respect for life has been carried through in designs of interior and exterior spaces that make use of renewable materials and processes. At the same time, the love for the earth shown by many environmentalists reminds us that contemplation often springs from an appreciation of beauty and an experience of wonderment. Therefore, water-conserving landscapes and gardens are an integral part of the new facility's design.

God is found within, not apart from, the universe. We are challenged to develop our spirituality in a process that centers on the risen Christ and grows to perfection in love, a love that embraces every manifestation of creation. Through responsible stewardship, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, in the words of Father Berry, "awaken to the to the majesty and the awesome presence of the divine."



### Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate

#### General Council

Sister Miriam Mitchell, SHSp  
*General Superior*

Sister Marian Murray, SHSp

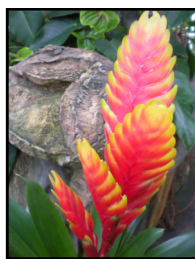
Sister Mary Fagan, SHSp

Sister Marguerite Connors, SHSp

Sister Gabriella Lohan, SHSp



In discussing this growing focus in religious communities around the country, Sister Marion points to the work of Father Thomas Berry, author of The Intimate Universe: A Challenge to Religious Communities. Father Berry "promotes the concept of a single sacred community of the entire universe" in which he challenges us to understand that "our imagination, our emotions, and our intellect would be completely dysfunctional without the activation they receive from the outer world."



From this we can realize that the preservation of the world "is not simply an aesthetic inspiration or recreational need or an economic urgency...It is even more a necessity for the inner life of the soul. It is in this experience of the universe that we awaken to the majesty and the awesome presence of the divine." The Sisters of the Holy Spirit seek to witness that responsibility in many ways.



Sister Albert Fraher SHSP

## Celebrating the Life of Sister Albert Fraher

Our congregation gathered to bid farewell to Sister Albert Fraher on February 28, 2009, who joined her Lord and Savior just a few weeks away from her 101st birthday.

Her community thanked God for the gift of Sister Albert's life, and for her gift of service to others through her life as a Sister of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate for almost 82 years. After she retired, Sister Albert wrote her memoirs. The work stands as a reflection on the life of a woman dedicated to serving

God's people. Her final entry was made in 2002, when she celebrated her 75th Jubilee as a Sister.

Sister Albert made her first profession in 1927, and for the following 56 years she taught in 12 different schools in Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, New York and Texas. In her memoirs, she speaks with joy of her work in the schools and of the students whom she loved.

As in every life, Sister Albert had many joys and sorrows – truly she shared in the suffering and

resurrection of the One to whom she committed her life.

in October 1983. Sister Albert retired (or semi-retired) after a long and faithful life of teaching. Immediately she began a whole new ministry: accompanying sisters to doctor appointments, visiting with, and bringing communion to, the sick in hospitals and nursing homes in San Antonio.

Faithful to her God literally for over 100 years, Sister Albert was proof that "it is no secret what God can do."



## Developing Our Past; Building for the Future

### Donor Honor Roll 2008

Last year, hundreds of generous donations helped advance our work in the Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma as well as internationally in Mexico and Zambia. In addition, many contributions were made to help build our new motherhouse. Your gifts, regardless of the amount, each were vital to our continued ministry to the less fortunate of God's people. We are humbled by your generosity and hope to do all we can to continue to merit your support.

#### Platinum

(Gifts of \$10,000 +)

Stephen & Mary Birch  
Foundation

C.B. & Anita Branch Trust  
Woodrow Claunch Estate  
Frost Bank Charitable  
Foundation

St. Francis de Sales  
Cathedral, Houma LA

Saint Susie Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stehling  
Rev. Paul L. Weinberger

#### Gold

(Gifts of \$5,000 –9,999)

Children In Need Fund  
Mrs. Dolores G. Keshtkar  
Robert & Theresa Kleineck  
Father Mike Lenihan  
Douglas P. Martin  
Myra Stafford Pryor Trust

(Frost Bank)

Mr. & Mrs. John P. Silk  
Mr. & Mrs. Liam Smyth  
Ms. Julia P. Vitale

#### Silver

(Gifts of \$1,000-4,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Jesse J. Aguilar  
Apostolic Work Group,  
Diocese of Elphin, Ireland  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick E. Armand  
ARC Catholic Charities  
Baker Family Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Bosworth  
Collins Family: Bernadette,  
Denis, Michael & Sue  
Mr. Paul Cunningham  
Mr. Clifton Ellis Davis  
Ms. Catherine Dineen  
Donallen Family  
Mr. & Mrs. John Flanagan  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis R. Harman  
John & Mary Healy  
Lucan Drama Club

(Ireland)

Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Moseley  
Father Sean Noone  
Andrew J. & Katalin Novak  
Foundation

St. Bartholomew Church,  
Bethesda MD  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory M. Schuler  
Mr. Thomas A. Terrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Woodnut  
Mr. & Mrs. Mario Yzaguirre

#### Bronze

(Gifts of \$500-999)

Anonymous  
Apostolic Ladies Group  
(Ireland)  
Ms. Barbara D. Broussard  
Ms. Breda Cullen  
Mr. Tom Cunningham  
Mr. & Mrs. John Donnellan  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Finnerty  
Mr. Paddy Thomas Finnerty  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Gorman  
Ms. Mary Ann Harman

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip J. Harr  
Ms. Helen A. Joffrion  
Mrs. Dolores G. Keshtkar  
Ms. Joan T. Lawhon &  
Andrew J. Novak  
Mr. Jewell E. Malick  
Malitz Construction  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Molloy  
Mr. Jerry McKenna  
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel J. Miller  
Mission Management & Trust  
Moylough Social Services  
Mr. & Mrs. James Naquin  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reynolds  
St. Joseph Parishioners,  
Marion, IA  
St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael P. Seidl  
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley J. Wilson  
Mr. David W. York

#### Benefactors

(Gifts of \$101-499)

Mr. Cemore M. Abney  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Alcott  
Mr. Cliff Augustine

## Uniting a Divided Community of God's People

Seven years ago, Sister Bernie Barrett responded to the call from the Regional Conference of Women Religious to work



*Sister Bernie visits with Beatrice, an 89-yr-old who had a kitchen and bath updated after Sister assisted her with the paperwork.*

with other religious communities in Lake Providence, Louisiana to live among the people in this divided racial community; as Sister Bernie explains it, "to be a compassionate presence to the people, bringing them hope and realization of the

gifts within themselves."

In Lake Providence, Louisiana, sometimes that presence includes community organizing, working with state and parish (county) legislators, school boards, and housing authorities. "It is important to communicate with our elected officials," remarks Sister Bernie, "at times they just need a little challenge to remind them that they



*Sister Bernie and a client, Glenda, review the home built with a USDA matching grant.*

represent all their constituencies."

One of the ways Sister works directly with the people is through her assistance with the paperwork that must be processed for government housing. Daunted by the application process, people used to give up trying to apply for assistance associated with getting a home or of getting a necessary renovation.

Sister Bernie feels most rewarded by her work with her elderly clients. When asked to elaborate, she states, "I learn so much from the people. They are survivors who have managed to live and to raise their children despite almost overwhelming odds."

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bitlvo  
Mr. Darrell Bohuslav  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Brautigan  
Ms. Anne Galsco Brawley  
Ms. Janet M. Brossette  
Mr. & Mrs. William Buss  
Ms. Maeve Cahill  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Collins  
Mrs. Joan Connaughton  
Ms. Christian Contreras  
Ms. Mary D. Costello  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Culberson  
Ms. Ita Donaghue  
Mr. James Duffy  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Fields  
Sr. Ann Finnerty  
Ms. Mary B. Gallagher  
Ms. Joan Gitter  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Havel  
Mr. Gregory Hollewinske  
Mr. & Mrs. William Huston  
Rev. James P. Hynes  
Rev. Joseph P. Hynes  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Jennings  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kearney  
Ms. Carmen Kuhlmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Loftus  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Lynch  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Lynch  
Ms. Mary Majek  
Mrs. Noeleen Melody  
Jay Loretta & Roger Masterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Denny McHugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Meschi  
Mrs. Ann Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Natalicchio  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nieswiadomy  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Noce  
Notre Dame Alumni & Friends  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack O'Sullivan  
Ms. Avis Marie Poovey  
Mr. David W. Reininger

Ms. Mary Ann Renner  
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan Reynolds  
St. Benedict Church, Seattle WA  
St. Joseph Women's Guild,  
Dallas TX  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Sanford  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Schoenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Schwab  
Ms. Carolyn Seidel  
Ms. Jo Ann Stone  
Ms. Louise Jeanette Terwey  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wilkie  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson

### *Friends*

*(Gifts to \$100)*

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Alexandria  
Analytics & Services Inc.  
(Escobar Family)  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Arthus  
Mr. Francis X. Barial  
Ms. Marlene Benner  
Mr. Brandon R. Berg  
Ms. Ann L. Bippert  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert L. Bonam  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Bordelon  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilberto Borja  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis N. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Cleary, Jr  
Mr. Preston L. Cole  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Connell  
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Connors  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Coyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Homer J. Cozby  
Louis J. Deluna, MSgt (Ret)  
Mr. Edward J. Doherty  
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Doskey  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin E. Dowd

Ms. Mary K. Dowd  
Ms. Maureen A. Dowd  
Mr. James W. Duffy  
Mr. & Mrs. Rene Echeverria  
Mr. & Mrs. Marcial H. Escobedo  
Ms. Ann F. Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Fallone  
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Figueroa  
Most Rev. Patrick F. Flores  
Ms. Lucinda J. Garcia  
Mr. Michael G. Gavin  
Sr. Nora Gavin  
Mr & Mrs. John Lynn Gidley  
Ms. Virginia Gieb  
Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Gillespie  
Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Gilliam  
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Grasso  
Ms. Rita Guzzetta  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin G. Houters  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Hampton  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Holub  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Hopperstad  
Mrs. Marilyn J. Hoster  
Mr. & Mrs. Trudy T. Huguet  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence M. Hyland  
Ms. Norma J. Janice  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Jennings  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Jennings  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Joubran  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Keough  
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Koch  
Mr. William Leicht  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Lell  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard P. Long  
Ms. Lorraine M. Lynch  
Ms. Mary Marquez  
Ms. Christy McLemore  
Mr. Donald G. Massey  
Ms. Connie McQueen  
Mr. Frederick C. Michaud  
Ms. Gretchen Mitchell

Ms. Joyce Mitchell  
Ms. Mary A. Murchison  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Montgomery  
Mr. & Mrs. George Montgomery  
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Morgan  
Mrs. Marie Nosky  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Opela  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack O'Sullivan  
Ms. Lena Prasifka  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Preininger  
Mr. & Mrs. John Riordan  
Col. & Mrs. Everette Rochon  
Mr. Kevin Roddy  
Ms. Peggy Roper  
St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
Altar Society, San Antonio TX  
St. Pius X Men's Club, Dallas TX  
Mr. & Mrs. Emil J. Schandua  
Ms. Deborah Schueneman  
Ms. Maryse Selvakumar  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Shaw  
Mr. Peter H. Shaw  
Mrs. Mary A. Sneed  
Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Spink  
Ms. Jacqueline C. Stone  
Ms. Ann E. Susmar  
St. Joseph Women's Guild  
Mr. & Mrs. Francisco R. Valdez  
Ms. Marsha Wachowiak  
Fr. Stephen White MSC  
Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Whitley  
Ms. Helen J. Wyczalek  
Ms. Susan D. Zook

### *Gifts in Kind*

The Sisters wish to thank all those who contribute their time and talent, including José Vielma & Associates



## Message from Sister Miriam —

Dear Friends,

It's hard to determine where to begin to share with you, as so many wonderful things have happened since our last **Sisters' Journey!**

At this time, our new smaller Motherhouse is "substantially finished." The architects are working on the "punch list," attending to all the minor fixes and/or touch-ups. The big move from our present Motherhouse to the new building will take place June 30 – July 3. We will have information about the official blessing and open house in our next issue.

In this issue we want to acknowledge the many benefactors who have supported, and continue to support us in our ministry and mission work, in the building of our new facility, and in caring for our frail elderly Sisters. We are truly humbled by your generosity in such



The new, almost finished motherhouse with the original motherhouse in the background.

times as these. We know many of you have had to cut back on your personal spending in order to continue your charitable giving. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven will be great!"

A growing concern for us is the responsibility to care for our environment and to do what we can to reverse the damage that has been done to God's creation. As the lead story in this issue describes, we as a congregation have committed ourselves to Education: by which we continue to ground ourselves in a renewed sense of awe and reverence for God's creation, and to Action: by which we commit ourselves, as individuals and as a congregation to take concrete steps to help reverse the destruction of our planet.

We are very aware that as the earth is destroyed, all of God's creation, including humans will suffer the consequences. I am very aware, from my own experience, that it is the people who are poor and vulnerable who suffer most. I invite you, dear friends, to join us as we "awaken to the majesty and the awesome presence of the divine" (Father Berry).

Sister Miriam Mitchell, S.H.Sp  
General Superior



*Join us  
as we  
"awaken to  
the majesty  
and the  
awesome  
presence of  
the divine."*



*Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate*

*Founded in Texas in 1893  
to Serve the Poor in Their Need*

### NEW ADDRESS EFFECTIVE JULY 1

300 Yucca Street  
San Antonio Texas 78203-2399

Phone: 210-533-5149

Fax: 210-533-3434

E-mail: [mmitchell@shsp.org](mailto:mmitchell@shsp.org)

[www.shsp.org](http://www.shsp.org)