



Catholic Sisters Week: MSC Sisters & HGA School Team Up

In celebration of Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14, The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus invited Holy Guardian Angels Regional School to join them in an effort to feed the hungry of Reading, Pennsylvania. HGA enthusiastically agreed to team up and for two weeks prior, students and staff collected food donations in preparation for the MSC Sisters' Drive Through Food Drop the morning of March 13.

And what a celebratory morning it was! MSC Sisters, many of whom hadn't ventured out in public since last March, gathered at the HGA parking lot from 9AM-12PM— masked and socially distanced— to collect donations from community members anxious to assist their mission to meet the challenge of food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic. By the end of the Food Drop, joyful volunteers had packed up hundreds of pounds of food that filled *continued on page 2*



MSC Sisters, Lay MSC Associates and volunteers celebrate the kindness of food pantry donors as they celebrate Catholic Sisters week by hosting a Drive Through Food Drop.

Mission Update: MSC Mission in Mexico

By Theresa Molchanow, MSC

On October 6, 1993 Sisters Mary Saponara, Sheila Tague and Theresa Molchanow, MSC flew to Mexico City, Mexico for a new life of service among the people of San Ramón Nonato Parish. It was a challenging beginning and a time of generative energy for mission. MSC Sisters took on the ministries of catechesis for children and adults, preparation of catechists, pastoral attention to the sick, preparation of Eucharistic Ministers, and a food cupboard and parish-based missions.

In the years that followed, Sisters Catherine Cellini and Marie Clark also shared in the mission of Mexico and Mexico native Sister Ma. Remedies Chávez Arreola, MSC was a teacher and spiritual director for the Laity of the Chevalier Family until her assignment to Perú in 2018. Sister Mary Saponara had sole responsibility for parish catechesis until mid-2018 when life took her to the U.S.A.

Throughout our twenty-seven years in Mexico, our mission continually evolved in response to need. In 1999, we *continued on page 6*

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contact: cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org

PNG Project Thanks

The following 2/25/21 letter sent from MSC Sisters of the PNG Province to their Sisters in the U.S. Province, details the Sisters' progress in Papua New Guinea. Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus thanks our many U.S. Province MISSION DONORS for their generous contributions toward these important projects.

Dear Sisters,

On behalf of the MSC Sisters of Papua New Guinea Province, I thank you for your financial support towards the two fencing projects and the construction of two small houses. As you are aware, we were having a serious problem with "rascals" as we call them, forcing their way onto our property with the intent of entering our houses and especially the novitiate. For months, we employed security for the safety of our formandeas and sisters.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each unit in the congregation for contributing toward the total amount needed to meet the cost of the Fencing for the Matanatava Novitiate and Vunamal Provincialate and the construction of two small houses.

The fencing around the Novitiate and Provincialate has been completed and photos are attached. The cost for this project totaled 285,806.32 Kina (74,000 Euros) – 130,063.30 Kina for the Novitiate and 155,843.02 for the Provincialate fencing.

We have received quotations and plans for the small houses. This is the next phase and we will have trusted families rent these houses. This will provide greater security since our Novitiate and Provincialate are somewhat isolated. Your generous support has enabled us to have this security. When the small houses are completed, I will send you another letter and photos.

Once again, my sincere thanks to the General Administration and to you, the Province/District Leaders for your generosity, concern and support of the Papua New Guinea Province.

Yours sincerely,

Sr. Dorothy Patiu MSC

Province Leader, PNG Province



New fence at the PNG Provincialate



New fence at Novitiate Matanatava in Papua New Guinea

Letter from US Provincial

Dear Friends,

Because this issue of *MSC Connections* includes our Annual Donor Report, I would like to take a moment to say to all of you: **Thank you!** Two simple words but they come from deep in my heart.



2020 was a year like no other and yet, time and again, I was amazed and deeply touched by your generosity and kindness to us. I am sure that many of you had your own struggles and challenges during this year of the pandemic and yet you continued to reach out in support of the life and mission of our Sisters both here in the U.S. and around the world.

In his encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" Pope Francis speaks about our need to practice *gratuitousness* – "to do some things simply because they are good in themselves without concern for personal gain or recompense."

Thank you for the *gratuitousness* you have shown to us. You hold a special place in our hearts and a daily remembrance in our prayers as we ask our loving God to bless you and your families always and in all ways!

Gratefully,

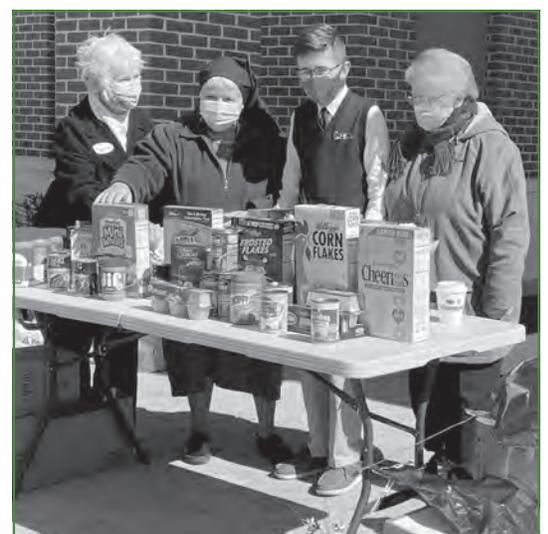
Sister Rosemarie

Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, MSC
Provincial Leader

Catholic Sisters Week *continued from page 1*

four cars and a pickup truck and headed downtown to deliver the goods to the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Thankfully, these efforts helped to fill the shelves and provided food for many in the Reading community. The pantry which serves the people of Reading continues to encourage donations from all who are able to provide.

Provincial Leader Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, MSC commented that the Food Drop was "a beautiful way to celebrate the contributions of Catholic Sisters who have been responding to people's needs for hundreds of years. It is especially rewarding to partner with HGA where our Sisters taught in



MSC Sisters Theresa Molchanow, Lisa Valentini and Bernard Overkamp survey a few of the donations with Michael Rudderow who represents the HGA Regional School community at the MSC Sisters Food Drop.

the parish school for many years. We can do so much good together and we all are called to help one another anyway we can during these challenging times." ✚

2020 MSC Sisters Donor Report

The MSC Sisters express joyful gratitude for all who support our mission. Each of your gifts, whether time, energy, treasure or prayer supports our mission to be God's Heart for others in the United States Province and around the world. Your generosity also enables us to care for ourselves as we age. Thank you for sharing your resources with us. Your gifts make a positive difference every day!

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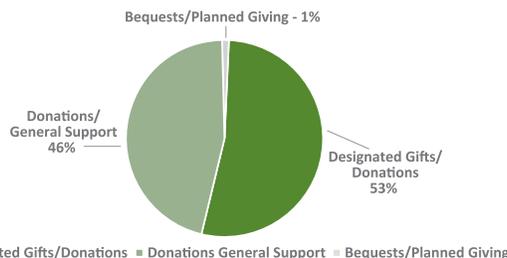
"The love of the heart of Jesus is the remedy destined to save the world at this crucial moment of time."

— Rev. Jules Chevalier, MSC

Thank you for being such a vital member of our MSC network of love!
 Please continue to help us spread the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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SOURCE OF 2020 FUNDS



USE OF 2020 FUNDS



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MSC NUN RUN 2021 - Virtually Unstoppable!



discovered that an elderly and infirm parishioner, Rosa Bojorguez, had been sleeping under the steps of an apartment building. Her situation inspired MSC Sisters to create the Posada of Saint Joseph, a gratuitous shelter for homeless, elderly women. The Posada began the following year under the patronage of Saint Joseph and a vision born of our charism. It was made possible by our MSC leadership and the generosity of many benefactors who put their faith in us. During the MSC Sisters' twenty-year commitment to the Posada, it developed into a ministry of hospitality and personalized care for as many as 13 women.

By 2018, MSC Sisters recognized the necessity of leaving the Mexico mission to other capable hands. It was hoped that the Posada of Saint Joseph could be donated to a Congregation of Mexican Sisters and that Incarnation House (our convent), located five short city blocks away, could be sold. By late 2018 this had not materialized, so in 2019 Sister Theresa began the search for a Congregation of Religious Women who could accept the ministry and administration of the Posada of Saint Joseph.

Months of dialogue and discernment with one congregation and then another, in addition to an advertisement posted in the bi-monthly bulletin of the Major Superiors of Religious Women and Men of Mexico, produced nothing hopeful. Then, as Providence would have it, an opportunity to address the Major Superiors at one of their regular meetings regarding the proposal for the Posada was offered. Communication began with a third Congregation just as the Covid-19 Pandemic was beginning to be taken seriously in Mexico.

These Sisters, Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, were enthusiastic from the start; not only about accepting responsibility for the Posada, but also, about buying Incarnation House. Sister Felisa Nava Lugo, Superior General, and her Sisters came to believe that the two locations could be a means for fulfilling their mission while responding to the mandates of their General Chapter. They felt challenged to trust God, just as their Foundress had done. On April 30, 2020 the Missionary Catechists gave their confirmed "Yes," accepting the ministry and property of the Posada of Saint Joseph! The Sisters were overwhelmingly supportive of the new ministry and expressed their awe and appreciation for the generosity and trust of the MSC Sisters. Three months later, the Missionary Catechists had amazingly reached 80% consent of their entire membership for the purchase of Incarnation House.

What the Sisters would receive were two houses, well-equipped and in excellent condition. By mid-August, two senior Missionary Catechists arrived at the Posada to stay. Neither Sister had any

nursing experience, so they began a time of learning, orientation and community-building. Two months later, Sister Theresa moved out of the Posada and into Incarnation House, still remaining accessible to the Sisters.

During the long months of the Covid-19 Pandemic, two houses for assisted hospitality had closed in the vicinity. Located in a poor



Three Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary signed papers with Sisters Theresa and Mary (right) to finalize the transfer of the MSC Mission in Mexico City.

area of Mexico City, the Posada was needed more than ever! The legalities for the donation and sale of our two properties became more difficult because all government offices had been closed indefinitely. Such negotiations for Religious in Mexico are more difficult due to additional requirements. The government of Mexico must approve any exchange, acquisition or sale, of property for Religious Associations and at least 50% of the Association's total membership also must agree to it.

Reaching the desired goal seemed near impossible. Downsizing at Incarnation House alone might have been overwhelming. Saint Joseph was, however, in charge! "Saint Joseph was the friend and guardian of Jesus and Mary," said Father Jules Chevalier.

"Let us place all our houses, now and in the future, under the outstanding care of St. Joseph." From the start, we showed every confidence in Saint Joseph and in God who had begun this good work and who would bring it into its uncertain future!

Sister Theresa had, all along, the support of good people who knew Mexican Law, trusted her faith and believed in the work to be accomplished. These generous friends included María de los Ángeles Concepción Venegas Ortiz, Doctor Antonia Noemí Hernández Pérez, Medical Doctor and Legal Representative, and Lawyer Licenciado Carlos Alberto Lozada Vega. Their inspiration, support, guidance and expertise were irreplaceable. Amidst innumerable setbacks and changes in the whole endeavor, everything necessary was able to be resolved in record Pandemic time! On November 18, 2020, during Sister Mary Saponara's final visit to Mexico, all necessary legal documents finally were signed. November 30 marked the last exchange of responsibilities between the two Congregations when Sister Theresa delivered the keys and closed the door of Incarnation House behind her. That evening, her plane touched down at the Newark Airport. For the last three Sisters of the Mission of Mexico — Mary, Remedios and Theresa — one door had closed and another would be opened!

When Father Hubert Linckens wrote his advice to Sister Dominica more than a century ago, he had no way of knowing how much his words would continue to speak to every MSC Sisters' heart through the years. He had written: "What God Wills! How God Wills! For as long as God wills!" Thank you, Father Founder! †

"Let us place all our houses, now and in the future, under the outstanding care of St. Joseph." (Father Jules Chevalier)

Donor Tributes

As our benefactor, YOU enable the wonderful stories shared in this newsletter to happen; YOU are the key to the MSC Sisters accomplishing our mission to be the Heart of Christ for others. Please continue your generous relationship with us so that we may continue to positively impact peoples' lives with the love of Christ.

Thank you, all, for your prayers for my family (especially my mom), my friends, and for me. My friends for whom I have asked for prayers are not Catholic. When I told them I had asked the good Sisters for help by praying for them, they were so grateful and were so happy, to know that their spouses were being remembered in prayer. They felt at peace that God was listening. I also knew that "my team" (I say that with fondness) was storming heaven with prayers and I relaxed as I waited, in the little room, for my surgery. I hope that Sr. Floretta [Sr. Catherine Cellini +] sees that her formerly squeamish Sophomore Biology student is trying so very hard on so many fronts.

— With lots of love, Lucia



As a student of Holy Family School, Nazareth I proudly and lovingly remember and appreciate the influence of Sr. Michele Marth on my life. She was my grade 5 & 6 teacher in the 60's, and she was so proud that many of her students went on to become teachers...including myself. My thanks for you MSC Sisters and all you have done for Holy Family in Nazareth and elsewhere.

—Sincerely, Stephanie

Sr. Michele also loved the children at St. Gabriel Preschool in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, one of the poorest counties in the state, where MSC Sisters operated a pre-school for several years.



Sr. Rita Ehrmann, MSC

Sr. Rita Ehrmann, MSC was my math and science teacher at Mt. St. Michael's High School in Reading, PA. . Math has never been my strong suit, but I owe her clear teaching a lot—she would bypass the textbook explanations and show us the basic reasoning principles involved; I thought of her often during my statistics course the year I studied at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and my stats training for the Pharm

Med M.Sc. at Hibernia College in Dublin in my early 60s. Blessings on her! — Sharon

Please accept this donation in appreciation for the wonderful and dedicated Sisters that taught me at Holy Family School in Nazareth, PA. As the years have gone by, I realize that it was not necessarily the "book learning" that has stuck with me, but the character building and discipline that they instilled in us that served us well all these years. I am forever indebted to them.

— Sincerely, Dominic (HF Class of 1962)

Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352233 to support MSC Sisters.

\$10,000 Heart of God Raffle Winner

Congratulations to
Marvin Lubas & Mary Jo Bonner,
the winners of our 2021 \$10,000 Raffle!

Thank you to everyone who played! YOU helped us raise more than \$40,000 for the MSC Sisters and their mission to love with the Heart of Christ.

Advance the Missionary work of the MSC Sisters beyond your own lifetime...

Remember the MSC Sisters when making or changing your Will.

Provide your attorney our official title and address:
Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Inc.
2811 Moyers Lane, Reading, PA 19605

Inquiries may be directed to Carrie at cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org.

Congratulations to the following November Sweepstakes Winners:

Robert Wolf, Lisa Leva, John Whelan,
Jerome M. Sefcik, Anthony Camilli, Pam Klenk,
Jean Kleckner, William F. Lohr, Ron Yorio,
Richard j. Sommers, Nancy Missall,
Andrew M. Duda, Gloria Paglini,
Kathleen B. Sakasitz, Doug Seibert,
James Pleitner, and Joanne Zafonte

Many thanks to all who played – you helped net more than \$17,000 for our retired MSC Sisters!

Celebrating Our 2021 Jubilarians!

70 YEARS



Sr. Agnes Flatley



Sr. Marie Janesch

60 YEARS



Sr. Annuntia Koller



Sr. Virginia Longcope



Sr. Lorraine Molchanow



Sr. Theresa Molchanow

50 YEARS



Sr. Gina Maria Iadanza

Join our prayers of joyful gratitude for our Jubilee MSC Sisters!

Celebrating 70, 60, and 50 years of service in vowed religious life, our Sisters gratefully thank YOU, their family, friends and benefactors for your support. To honor or remember one of our Jubilarians with a gift, please print the Sister's name on your check memo and remit to: MSC Mission Advancement, 51 Seminary Ave., Reading, PA 19605.



MSC Sisters 2021 Nun Run t-shirt (below) displays our gratitude for the businesses and individuals who sponsored our 2021 virtual event. We also extend our love and appreciation to all who registered for and/or donated to NUN RUN 2021. We are blessed by your love and commitment; you help us fulfill our Gospel mandate to love with the Heart of Christ.

TOGETHER APART



TEAM SWANN #9

PERFORMANCE TOYOTA



DIEGO & LINDA CALDERIN • JOSEPH & BARBARA ALBER • DOUG AND HELEN DIDYOUNG
SYLVIA WOLFF • ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, KUTZTOWN • AL GASPARI
DAN & KATHLEEN LANGDON • THE VERMILLION FAMILY • SEIBERT SQUAD

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Center Valley Community • Mario Andretti
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association • Joe & Janel Kenas • Irma Lesser
Wilkin Family • Victor & Sharon Silimperi

Marvin Lubas & Mary Bonner • Simone & Mary Marino • Tony & Ellen DiGirolamo
Tom & Leslye Durilla • St. Catharine of Siena Parish, Reading • Valetta Eshbach

Atty. Frank W. Yandrisevits • Jack & Ann Whelan • M & M Mechanical • Sirmo Family
Power System Associates • Msgr. James Treston • St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, West Lawn
Hildebrand Cousins H2+ • Knights of Columbus #4545 • The Family of Sr. Rosemarie Sommers
Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart • Family of Lola Rozzi • Marcella & Bryan Shaver • Ted & Regina Rinehimer
Mark & Joni Garza • In Mem: Ernest & Helen Galgoci • Brian & Loryn Hoffa • The Brown Family

MSC NUN RUN 2021 - Virtually Unstoppable!



SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 17, 2021
MSC Oktoberfest



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We welcome your comments and suggestions.