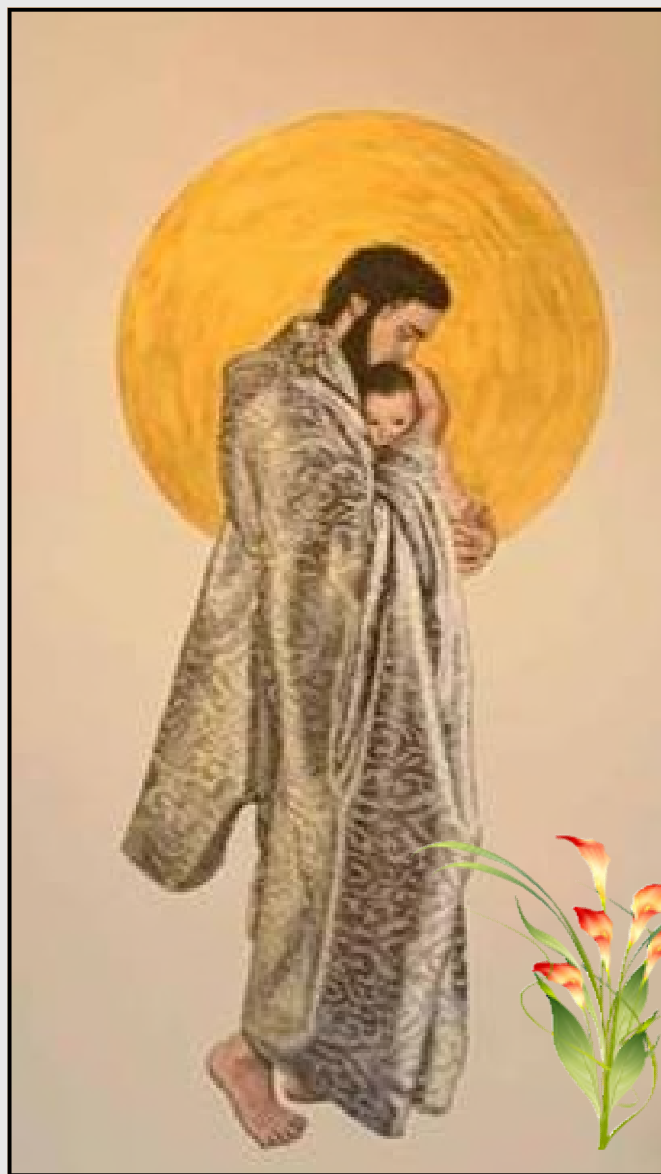




# DMJlink

Daughters of Mary and Joseph ▪ California Region ▪ Spring/Summer 2021

*Hail,  
Guardian  
of the  
Redeemer,  
Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin  
Mary.  
To you God  
entrusted his  
only Son;  
in you  
Mary placed  
her trust;  
with you  
Christ  
became  
man.*



*Blessed Joseph,  
to us too,  
show yourself  
a father  
and guide us  
in the path  
of life.  
Obtain  
for us grace,  
mercy,  
and courage,  
and defend us  
from  
every evil.  
Amen.*

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of Saint Joseph”

**Spring/Summer 2021**

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DMJlink Logo

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**DMJlink** is a publication of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. It has a twofold purpose:

- to inform its members of the involvement of our Sisters in mission and ministry;
- to acknowledge the generosity of our donors.

All material submitted for the DMJlink is subject to revision and/or editing.

**The Guesthouse**

This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.

—Rumi



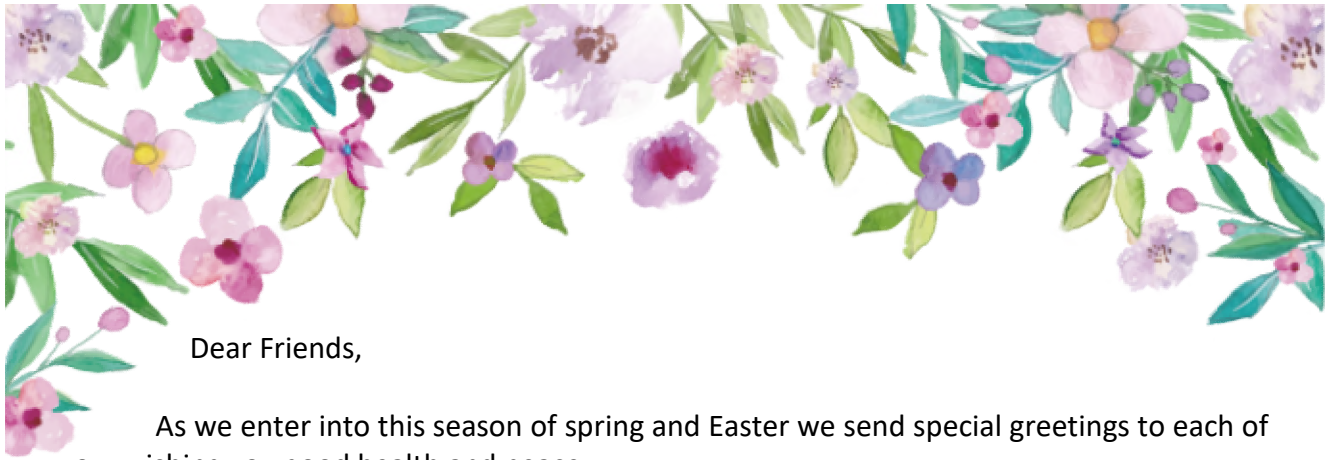
***Our Mission:***

We are an international community of vowed religious women. We are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship manifests itself as an individual and corporate response to the needs of today's world. Our mission is to be a compassionate, joyful presence enabling those to whom we minister to recognize their value and dignity. We are dedicated to sharing the merciful love of God with all who experience brokenness or poverty in any form.

***Our Vision:***

"Be there for the whole Church, be there as a pardoned sinner who has found peace and rejoices in the merciful love of God."

~ Msgr. William Van Crombrughe, Founder



Dear Friends,

As we enter into this season of spring and Easter we send special greetings to each of you, wishing you good health and peace.

We hear so often, “what a year this has been!!” Needless to say, this past year has been challenging to everyone. Each of us has been touched, in some way, by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been forced to live in a world of uncertainty and insecurity, not knowing what each new day would ask of us. All of our plans for the future, our daily routines, our sense of control, have been turned upside down! But we have also witnessed how the pandemic has brought forth the courage and dedication of ordinary people, the First Responders, in all kinds of professions, putting their lives “on the line” for the sake of others.

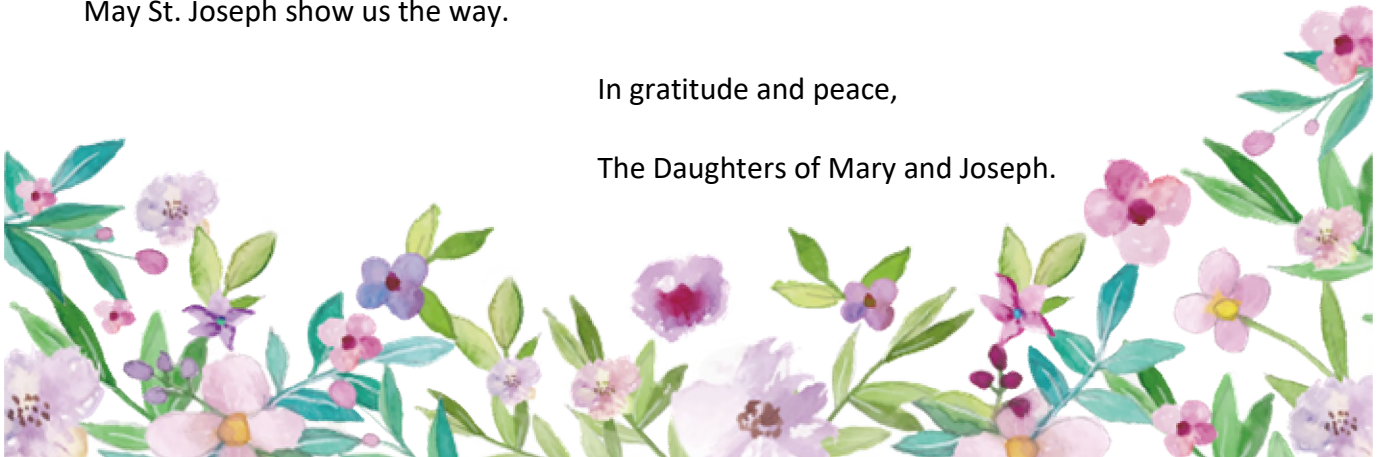
Pope Francis has declared 2021 as the year of St. Joseph. In his Apostolic Letter, he has shared his personal reflections on the life of this saint as a source of encouragement and hope in facing the challenges of our current reality. Like us, St. Joseph’s life was turned upside down by events beyond his control, having to live in the uncertainty and insecurity of the unknown. And yet he remained faithful to what God was asking of him, even in the ordinary events of his daily life.

You, our friends and benefactors, are “*Josephs*” for us. Despite the challenges and insecurities of this past year, you have continued, in your generosity, presence, and example, to support us in so many ways. We, Daughters of Mary and Joseph, pray that our patron, St. Joseph, may especially be your inspiration and guide you during these days of this year dedicated to St. Joseph.

All of us have been pushed to find creative ways to not just cope with our new reality but to positively adapt and grow in our new environment—perhaps to see with new eyes! May St. Joseph show us the way.

In gratitude and peace,

The Daughters of Mary and Joseph.



# Celebrating Our Jubilarians



## *Sister Mary Carmel Walsh 50 Years*

Growing up I had my whole life planned. I wanted to be a teacher like my Aunt Eileen. I also wanted to be a lay missionary in South America for a few years and then return to Ireland. That was as far as my plan went. I went to college in Dublin, trained to be a teacher and joined a lay missionary group. I enjoyed everything about my life in Dublin: three wonderful flat mates, lots of friends, a great social life and really enjoyable students. I'm still in contact with one of those students today!

Then the Lord changed my plans! I felt a call to religious life. My friends were in total shock, and so was I! Everybody was coming out of convents and monasteries in those days, and I was going in! On February 2, 1969, I found myself heading down the country to join the Daughters of Mary and Joseph (Ladies of Mary in those days) in Ballymahon, Co. Longford. Aunt Eileen and her husband drove me down in a snowstorm.

Novitiate was a time of getting to know our Sisters and the spirit of our order. Part of that was welcoming back our missionaries from Africa and the United States, when they came on home visits. I spent a year working in our retreat house in Kilkenny, which was an experience of seeing our Sisters living out the Gospel in daily life. I also got to have a spiritual year which included wonderful courses in Maynooth College and classes at home from Sister Julia. After first profession in September 1971, I taught with the Mercy Sisters in Ballymahon for two years.

At the request of our superior general I came to the United States in 1973. I loved everything about San Francisco: living in community with our Sisters, teaching at school with a wonderful variety of students and faculty, having cultural experiences like Japanese being taught at our school and taking our students on exciting field trips on our school bus.

In 1979 I came to St Augustine School in Culver City. This was our first foundation in the United States in 1926. It always has held a special place in all DMJ's hearts. Part of that time I was privileged to be principal and to work hand in hand with a dedicated faculty and staff, and a student body who made us all proud. Sister Maria and her bingo parents provided financial stability for our school.

My next assignment brought me to Santa Maria and to St Mary's School. I enjoyed being in community with our Sisters who taught at St. Joseph High School, St Louis de Montfort School and also worked in SLDM parish. From there I went to our Lady of the Rosary School in Paramount. It was great to be one of five DMJ's teaching in the school.

I got the privilege to be with my family and being of service to my mom in the last few months of her life. It was great to be able to return all the care and devotion she had given to all of us growing up and to be there when she went to the Lord. Hundreds of relatives, neighbors and friends came from all over to pay their last respects. A happy death is the ultimate blessing and I give thanks to Jesus, Mary and Joseph that she received such a gift.

Since then I have enjoyed substitute teaching at St Augustine, St Paul's and some other Catholic schools in the neighborhood. I'm part of our leadership team for the past year: a year of blessing and challenges. I thank the Lord every day for the graces and blessings he has bestowed on me and my DMJ community, and I thank you our faithful helpers for your gracious prayers and financial help.



~Sr. Mary Walsh, DMJ



*Sister Mary Rose Creegan  
70 Years*

The story of Mary Rose's vocation is one that reveals the mystery of God's call as it unfolds in family, personal faith and chance connections.

Being one of the older girls in a large family, Mary Rose was skilled in caring for her very young brothers and sisters. Her skill was well known in the extended family, and it was no surprise that she was asked in 1946 to help her Aunt Lizzie with newborn twin girls. Mary and Anne, as they were called, were special in that their birth was celebrated as a direct answer to prayer. Aunt Lizzie had a few miscarriages and she and her husband begged God to send them a child. They prayed the Rosary Novena – no ordinary rosary. It involved praying the Rosary in petition for 27 days and in thanksgiving for 27 days.

Mary Rose arrived at Aunt Lizzie's home during the days of thanksgiving. Every day Aunt Lizzie and she walked to church, pushing two prams. The story of the twin's arrival in answer to prayer, really impressed Mary Rose. She decided to pray the same Novena asking God to help her in her desire to be a nun.

In the meantime, Sister Mary Kevin in Castlecor was in contact with two girls who had visited Castlecor with their uncle-priests. Sister, who always promoted vocations, saw these girls as possible aspirants. They quickly discerned they were not called by God to become nuns! Maybe they knew someone who might be interested? One of the girls was a friend of Aunt Lizzie and she was aware of Mary Rose's daily visits to the church with her aunt. She gave Mary Rose's name to Sr. Mary Kevin, mainly to move the focus away from herself!

On the 54<sup>th</sup> day of Mary Rose's Novena, she received a letter from Sister Mary Kevin inviting her to visit Castlecor and talk about vocations. Her letter caused a flurry of excitement. Mary Rose's parents were very happy about it and the Parish priest drove the three of them to Castlecor. The rest is history. 72 years later, after years of teaching in California and Uganda, we are celebrating God's faithful relationship with Mary Rose and her faithful and faith-filled response to God's call!

~Sr. Mary Enda Creegan

## *Sister Brigid Mary McGuire - 70 Years*

Having had the privilege of living with a friend for over forty years, one has come to know, love and appreciate her beautiful, sincere, humble and gracious qualities. This person is our own beloved Sister Brigid Mary McGuire, who is celebrating seventy years in religious life. We praise and thank God for the devotion she lovingly gave to the students in Precious Blood School, Los Angeles; Morning Star School, San Francisco; St. Sebastian School, West L.A.; St. James the Less School, La Crescenta; Our Lady of Peace School, Sepulveda; Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Alta Loma; St. Bernard Parish, Bellflower; and Our Lady of the Rosary School, Paramount for over thirty years.



It is with gratitude to God and the Daughters of Mary and Joseph for giving the local community at Our Lady of the Rosary the honor and privilege of keeping Sister Brigid home through the services of hospice. It has been an honor sharing Sister Brigid's pain and suffering for the last fourteen months bedfast. The blessings of her prayerful presence have been multiplied, and her room is a shrine of holiness and prayer.

The restrictions of COVID-19 have indeed been felt by all in so far as her Sisters and friends have been unable to bring her joy and friendship. However she continues to thank God she is as good as she is. This gratitude is her constant prayer. The care and comfort provided by the devoted hospice staff and the love and attention of her community have been a great source of peace to Sister Brigid. She was able to follow her Jubilee Mass in the Cathedral in her bedroom and was aware of the occasion.

May we all join with her in praise and thanksgiving for Sister Brigid's life of prayer, work and suffering. Saint Brigid of Kildare, pray for us!

By Sister Anna O'Reilly, DMJ



## *Sister Julia Costello - 70 Years*

My life as a DMJ began when I entered our Irish Novitiate on August 15, 1948. There were six in our group; now we are four. After an initiating period of two years, we went to our Motherhouse in Belgium for six months, where we made our First Profession in 1951. After returning to Ireland for a few weeks, we embarked on our first assignment in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We traveled to New York on the *Mauritania* and then flew to Los Angeles.

A surprise greeted me at LAX. One of our DMJ Sisters in San Francisco was awaiting surgery and I was to replace her in the classroom. So I left the airport on a plane for San Francisco. This was a Friday, and the following Monday I found myself in the convent basement (classroom) with a class of about 20 Japanese children. Did I feel out of place? Of course, but I was ably assisted by Mrs. Miamoto, a happy memory. This was the beginning of my fourteen years teaching in San Francisco at both Morning Star and St. Michael's.

In the mid 1960's I was assigned to teach at St. Bernard's High School, Los Angeles. I loved the high school format, with homeroom and "switching" schedules. English and History were my favorite subjects, but Religion was challenging. We were just entering the Post Vatican 11 era, a period of turmoil in the Church.

Another surprise! In 1970 I was assigned to work in formation at the Irish Novitiate in Co. Longford. Times were changing. Religious life was undergoing various forms of renewal as Vatican 11 was impacting our Church and our lives. A year later we moved to County Meath and attended classes at St. Patrick's Seminary in Maynooth. I had no prior training for this ministry, and I felt the challenge. The novices were lovely young women; one of them, Sr. Mary Carmel Walsh, is now a Golden Jubilarian with us here in Los Angeles.

Still another surprise! I returned to L.A. in 1974, fully expecting to go back to teaching. That was not to be; my teaching days were over. Our Retreat Center needed a Sister Director; that became my new assignment: planning retreats, finding directors, keeping accounts, marketing, paying bills! Being manager was not one of my gifts. So after three years my community offered me the gift of a sabbatical.

I chose a nine-month program at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Toronto, Canada. This program prepared me for my future ministry. It ended with a thirty-day Ignatian retreat. My next assignment was Director of a House of Prayer in Camarillo. There my ministry involved home retreats, days of prayer, and spiritual direction.

In 1993 I returned to Palos Verdes for the last time. The Retreat Ministry was alive and active, and I joined a busy staff, working on the Program Committee. Having received my certification as Spiritual Director, I found my niche doing the ministry I loved. I initiated the August Eight-Day Ignatian Retreat, a one-on-one directed period of renewal. In addition, short one-day retreats or workshops kept me busy.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, I became interested in the Interfaith Community. With our collaborative effort we celebrated our first Kristalnacht gathering at the local synagogue, Ner Tamid. This multi-faith event honored those who had lost their lives in the Holocaust. At the end of the ceremony Rabbi Schulman reminded us, "This wonderful event cannot end here. It is like a New Dawn for the Jewish people." And, so, our committee started the Dawn Unity Group, which assembles four times a year, to promote interfaith understanding and collaboration. After twenty years it is still active, meeting now via Zoom.



And, finally, no Surprise! Here I am today living out my final years in our lovely Marian Residence, our Retirement Home. I am peaceful and grateful. I thank God for my blessed and fruitful life and I thank my DMJ Community for their support and for the challenges and opportunities that helped me grow spiritually and professionally. Each day I pray for those who have been part of my journey. Quoting St. Ignatius... All for the greater glory of God."

~Sr. Julia Costello, DMJ





## *Sister Frances Fisher - 70 Years*

Sister Frances was a Texan....no one can doubt that. And the town of Waco had no bad memories for her, despite later happenings there. It was there she was born.

Frances was the daughter of Clementine and Henry Fisher. She had two siblings, Henrietta and Bessie. The family moved to Culver City when Frances was about six. This was an area close to two vital spots for Frances. One was the DMJ convent and school and the other MGM Studios. Frances remembers how she was fascinated by watching the Munchins as they performed their daily routines at MGM. Her mother also had ties with MGM...her dry cleaning service took care of the actors of that era. As we know, Frances and her family became close to the DMJs. Both parents were very devoted to our Community at St. Augustine's Convent. They made our annual one-week vacation to Arrowhead a memorable affair.

We are happy to remember that Frances was a graduate of St. Augustine School. For high school she went across town to attend Immaculate Heart. She often recounted how the bus driver would sometimes do the Math homework for the girls. They wondered whether he was a very intelligent former engineer.

In following her religious vocation Frances did not have far to look. She entered our Community and made her First Vows in 1951. From this point on she was completely involved in education. As we have observed along the way, she was a great teacher. Her first assignments were at her Alma Mater, followed by three years at St. Michael's in San Francisco.

For the next 40 years she taught at the following high schools in the LA Archdiocese: Pius X, St. Joseph (Santa Maria), St. Bernard, St. Genevieve, Corvallis, Our Lady of Loretto, and Cathedral. Besides her teaching career she worked for some time in the LA Marriage Tribunal as Advocate/Notary. And she did parish ministry in Palo Alto.



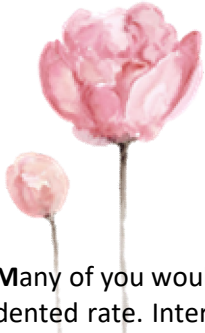
Her teaching prowess did not happen without personal commitment. Her MA's in History, Religious Studies, and Psychology prepared her to meet the varying needs of her students. Her strong faith, kindness, listening skills, and knowledge of her subject defined Frances not only in the classroom but also in the daily routine of her DMJ life.

As the years have gone by, Frances has regaled us with stories. In these latter years she has returned more strongly to her Czech origins. And here we heard words to remind us: "Jak se máš." And many a time we listened to the stories of coleslaw production by her Czech forebears.

Frances is happy and contented as she lives out her 90+ years in a retirement facility surrounded by the beauty of nature.

By Srs: Catherine S, Louis Marie and Julia





## *As Much in Demand as the Vaccine? Maybe.*

Many of you would agree with me that this is an era when people are asking for prayers at an unprecedented rate. Intercessory prayer, as it is formally called, involves prayer for oneself, for another, for a group, or for some special intention, perhaps personal or even social, ecological, economic. I wager that intercessory prayer is as much in demand as an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccination. That may seem like an outlandish statement to some, but I have been thinking a great deal about intercessory prayer in recent days – and doing my best to practice it.

Even though hopes for the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines have brightened our hopes for the future, the virus, like a cyclone, has left massive devastation in its path. People are realizing we cannot go back to life as we once knew it – over 500,000 lost lives, 10 million lost jobs, and plenty of uncertainty, grief, loss, and disorientation to go around. So there is much to pray “for.”

I have been thinking about the word “for” in the context of intercessory prayer. In any dictionary, the word “for” has a lot of meanings. Some of them apply to our prayer for others. One definition of “for” is “in the interest of.” That is very common in the context of intercessions. “Pray for me because I have to get a COVID test.” “Pray that I can go back to work soon.” “Pray that the PPE keeps me safe at work.” We assume the individual is also praying and may have asked a lot of other people to pray also. Thus heaven is being stormed by a great chorus of prayer “in the interest of” a particular intention. All well and good.

Now join me in considering another definition of the word “for.” This one is very apropos for the pandemic and really got me thinking. “For” also means “instead of.” Pray instead of somebody; pray in their place. That kind of prayer is not usually requested because the individual in need does not know how to pray, does not believe in prayer, is too frozen with fear to pray, is too muted with depression to pray, is too worried about finances to drum up the energy, is too inebriated to formulate even the simplest prayer. And so we pray “instead of” that person. We all know such individuals. With exquisite compassion, we can hold such persons in prayer and present them to God -- without slapping any judgments on them as we do so. What a beautiful practice to cultivate in this time of worldwide crisis.

It is well-documented by researchers that the anxiety, depression, increased alcohol consumption, domestic violence, and sleep disturbances that increased dramatically over the last year are not going anywhere soon. This is a period in history when intercessory prayer is a particularly germane ministry, an extremely relevant spiritual practice. I venture to say it is needed as fiercely as the vaccine.

We DMJs are always happy to pray for you, our friends, in all the meanings of the word “for.” To do so is our privilege. We trust you pray for us too.



-- Sister Karen , DMJ

1951



*Celebrating 25 years in California!*

*In 2021, Celebrating 95 years!*

*Pass on something wonderful with a gift to the Daughters of Mary and Joseph in your Will. Big or small gifts in Wills will have a huge impact on our mission (bottom of page 2 in this newsletter). Our continuing work is made possible thanks to the generosity and kindness of people leaving us a legacy.*



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---

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Irene Kim

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Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Fryer

**Dora Fulton**

Lori Kerns

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Mr. Alexander Alvarez

**Rodney Alvarez**

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**John Bedell**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nielsen

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<b>Walter &amp; Regina Los</b> Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Los	<b>Sr. Maryanne Peterson</b> Mrs. Barbara Nugent	<b>Jerry Sheehan</b> Mr. & Mrs. John Sheehan
<b>Sr. Margaret</b> Ann L. Thomas	<b>Herman Poltl</b> Ms. Lois Poltl	<b>Mrs. Virginia Shields</b> Nowinski Family
<b>Timothy Markey</b> Ms. Judyth Arko	<b>Sr. Mary Christina Punch</b> Larry Russell	<b>Ella Louise Siegel</b> Sally & Sue Nowinski
<b>Michel &amp; Grace Martinez</b> Ms. Marie Martinez	<b>Ethel Quiggle</b> Ms. Lois Poltl	<b>Renate Smart</b> Amelia Kacena
<b>Yvonne Martinez</b> Ms. Marie Martinez	<b>Peter &amp; Marcella Rabuzzi</b> Ms. Janice Rabuzzi Kuglin	<b>Richard Smith</b> Daughters of Mary and Joseph
	<b>Maximo Ramos</b> Mrs. Elsa Ramos	
	<b>Anna &amp; Joseph Ranftl</b>	

**In Memory of...** (continued) (those remembered are in **BOLD**)

**Tom Spillane**

Mr. & Mrs. John Arndt

**Shea Stella**

Mrs. Elsa Ramos

**John, Verda, & Theresa**

**Stockemer**

Angela Stockemer

**Patrick Shawn Sullivan**

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick P. Sullivan

**Paul Swist**

Mrs. Christine Swist Crowe

**Walter Swist**

Mrs. Christine Swist Crowe

**Sr. Theresa**

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Allewaert

**Virginia Tracy**

Amelia Kacena

**James Urbano**

Amelia Kacena

**Marie L. Valdez**

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick P. Sullivan

**Janette Nancy Van Tassel**

Joan V. Schmitz

**Arthur Vigil**

Sr. Helen Vigil

**Mr. Jack Vigil**

Mrs. Anne Behm

**Richard Villa**

Sr. Helen Vigil

**Loretta Vincent**

Marydee Falque

**Rich Volk**

Emma Senger

**Sr. Rose Waldron**

Irene Kim

Mr. & Mrs. Art Reardon

**Fred Welker**

Mr. & Mrs. Matteo Costamagna

**Raymond & Margaret Welker**

Mr. & Mrs. Matteo Costamagna

**Jack & Florence Wildermuth**

Mr. John Wildermuth

**Martha J. Yelaca**

Mr. Nicholas Yelaca

**Maria Remedios Zaragoza**

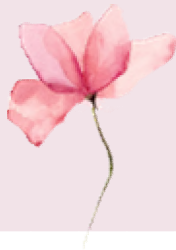
Daughters of Mary and Joseph  
Nowinski Family



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**Sr. Linda Webb  
(310) 377-9968**

**Daughters of Mary and Joseph  
5300 Crest Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**



In all of our relationships, we cannot  
make promises as to how we will always feel,  
but we can make promises to be always faithful,  
to show up, to be there,  
even if we are only talking about the weather.

—Ron Rolheiser, OMI