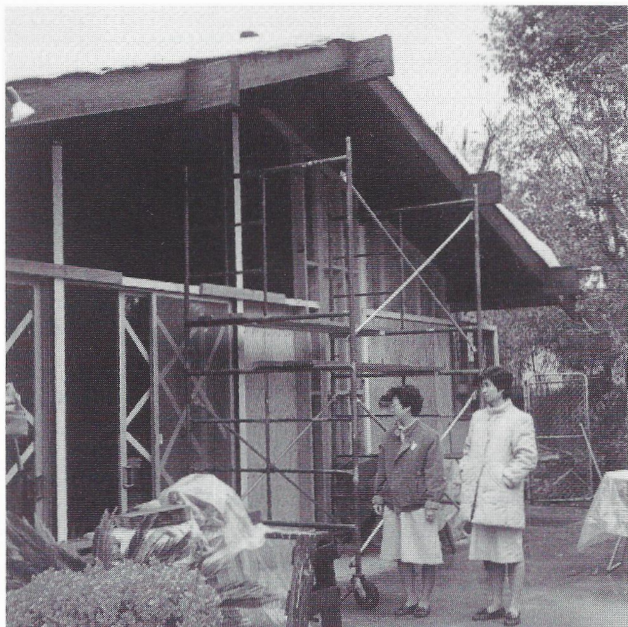


Joyful Apostolate

Winter 1994

Dear Friends,

I will never forget the sound and the shaking that woke me up on the 17th of January in our Motherhouse in Northridge. It sounded like hearing thousands of windows and glass-ware crashing.



I ran to meet our Sisters in the narrow corridor, our safest place in time of an earthquake. "Where are you, Sister Maria, Sister Annette," I called and soon they came running. More quakes followed. For me it felt like sitting on a wild bronco waiting to be thrown off its back, except I knew that above us were not the blue skies, but the house. *(Continued on back page)*

"Lord save us, blessed Mother be with us," we prayed out loudly. Later on we explored what happened. The hallway was filled with broken pieces of glass mixed with dirt from the flower-pots. Cold wind blew in through the large broken windows of the living room, debris everywhere, yet on the cracked wall the picture of the Sacred Heart hung solidly. We almost heard Jesus saying: "Do not be afraid, I am with you." My room was turned upside down, the only object "in place" was our Lady's porcelain statue on a shelf otherwise emptied by the quake. We knew she was interceding for us.



Dear Friends of our Joyful Apostolate,

We call on your goodness in supporting us to restore our Motherhouse in Northridge.

The initial estimate of the contractor to repair damages is \$72,737.00, and we don't have earthquake insurance. Our community is a non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible.

You are in our grateful prayers!

Please send your checks to: JOYFUL APOSTOLATE
869 South Rimpau Blvd
Los Angeles, Ca 90005

Attention:Earthquake Restoration Fund

Our Chapel was badly damaged, the marble altar and tabernacle, Ed Connolly's art-work, was thrown to the ground and cracked, the large window broken. We could not go into the kitchen, the contents of the fridge and freezer mixed with the items from all our cabinets filled the floor.

We tried to call our Sisters, the lines were dead. We heard on the radio that we were in the epicenter. "If we have survived here, our Sisters living further away must be all right," we consoled each other. As the quakes continued we asked the Holy Spirit to still the earth and prayed for our relatives, friends and for our Sisters by name. When the sun came up we went outdoors, the roof was badly damaged. We sat in the car, ate, then prayed our breviary prayers.

I don't even try to describe our joy when around 9 a.m. we saw Sister Jane, -who was on her yearly visitation in our Rimpau Convent,- accompanied by Sister Agnes stepping out of a car! Very soon our Sisters from Solvang and LA. joined us in cleaning and making the house somewhat livable.



Please pray for the gift of patience for us. It is not easy to do our regular work while workers come and go, the walls are being reinforced, the roof and the garage entirely re-done and the heater is off. This is a "built in" Lenten sacrifice, yet the joy of the Spirit is within us and we continue to give thanks to God for saving us and we pray for all of you with great love,

In Jesus,

Your Sister Ida



Chinese New Year



It was such a joy and blessing to celebrate our Chinese heritage with our Families and Friends again! This year there was something entirely new in our celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Instead of at the Novitiate house in LA. the "Year of the Dog" was celebrated in



Celebration



our spacious Retreat Center in Santa Ana. This gave us the opportunity of inviting more friends to meet our families and our Community. We were very happy that Mrs. Maria Tu, Sister Lucia's mother joined us this year. She immigrated to the USA from Taiwan and contributed to our joy greatly.



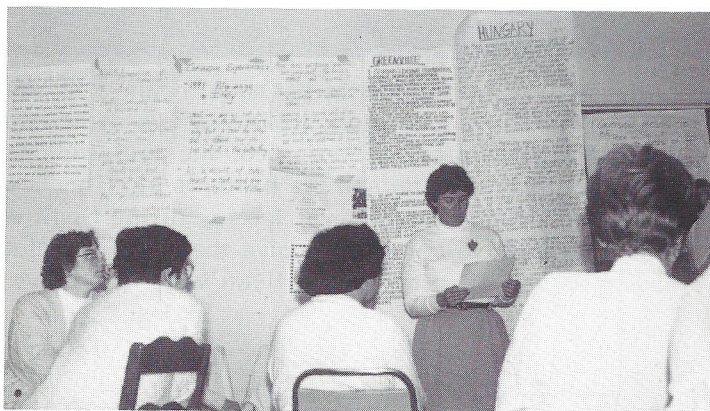
Sister Jane greeted our guests and as usual, we had delicious Chinese dishes followed by colorful entertainment. Later on we visited our beautiful Chapel and had a prayer service which included lighting of the incense, honoring those who went ahead of us to heaven and asking Our Lord to give to all of us present and to all of you who could not come, a grace-filled New Year.

We are very grateful to our Community for encouraging each one of us to treasure our culture and traditions.

Join Us in Prayer and Preparation...

We are happy to share with you the blessed occasion for which we are preparing: our General Chapter. Every six years this extraordinary event takes place in the life of our Community. Our Sisters from the U.S., Taiwan and Hungary will gather on June 2, 1994 in our Retreat Camp at Big Bear Lake. We will pray and reflect on the many blessings we have received and on the many dimensions of our community and apostolic life, discerning where God is leading us. We will elect our Superior General and Council, who will govern our community for the next six years.

On New Year's Eve we began our journey of prayer and studies to ready our minds and hearts to see our Lord's plans for us. We are reading and discussing pertinent classic readings from Scripture and Church documents in order to respond better to the needs of the Church.





We welcome and invite you to join us in some of the spiritual preparations for our Chapter:

- Each morning we are asking for God's guidance and the gift of humble reliance on Him.
- Each evening we call on our Lord to grant us docility of heart and poverty of spirit.
- Each day, through a process of rotation, our Sisters make a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for a grace-filled Chapter.
- On Fridays we are fasting on bread and water for breakfast and lunch and have a simple meatless meal for dinner.

Every Chapter is an Ecclesial event, bringing blessings to the whole Church, to our Community and to those whom we love and serve. Please hold us in your hearts and prayers giving thanks to God with us for his abundant goodness.