

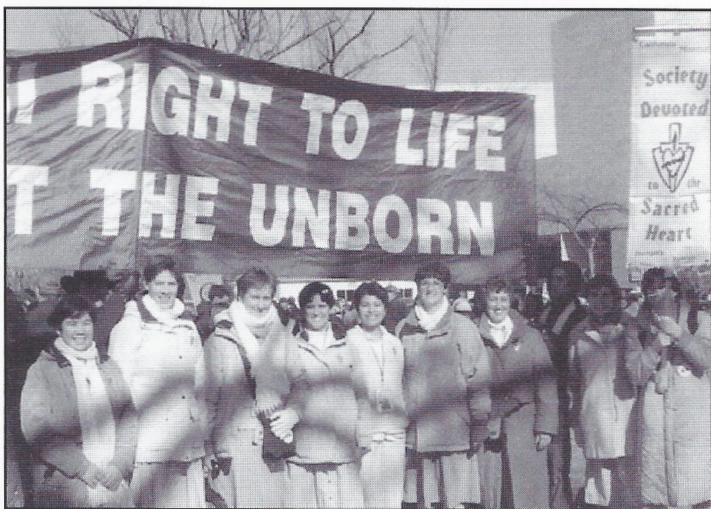


# *Joyful Apostolate*

Spring 2009

## WITNESSES FOR A HOPE-FILLED FUTURE

In January, nine of our Sisters from convents in California and St. Louis, MO. were privileged to participate in the March for Life that took place in Washington, D.C. Teenagers, families, Bishops, priests, seminarians, religious, lay people - Catholics and non-Catholics alike, gave witness by their presence to the dignity and preciousness of God's gift of life. Here are some of our Sisters' reflections:



"I was amazed at the number of people from all walks of life, age, race! Most of all I was impressed by the spirit of unity. We were all there for one purpose - to treasure and protect God's incredible gift of life."

"On this day we saw that, Yes! our Catholic Church is alive and active, pointing the way to a hope-filled future!"

"This is what events look like if God is involved. We stood up with hundreds of thousands of people for life!"

*“Jesus considers you most precious,  
the Father has given me’ – as the*

## **WE RECEIVE JOYFUL MAIL**

Hello, Sacred Heart Sisters,

I was randomly searching for young adult groups for a friend of mine when I came upon a link to your site. Many fond memories came rushing back. I was a member of the Sacred Heart Kids Club in Santa Ana for many years.

I remember a summer where my family went up to Big Bear Retreat Camp to help in fixing up the camp. I remember fun times in the kitchen with Sr. Hermine while my father and mother sewed and installed new curtains, (early 80s) and my father refusing payment for anything beyond the cost of materials...Boys' Camp later that summer was a blast. I still remember the fun hikes, skits, and singing around the camp fire.

As a youth, many of you Sisters were part of my faith formation with the confirmation classes and retreats. I always enjoyed “heading up the mountain” to the Retreat Camp and opening up to God.

Life moved on to young adulthood in college (Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo). Life moved quickly and got busy, though never too busy to be involved with the Church, especially through music. I was the student music director at the Newman Catholic Center for a while, a cantor for the southern half of the Diocese of Monterey, and always singing in a choir.

Now God has me on a new journey - life as an enlisted soldier. I am almost done with my 3rd year in the Army and have a couple more years left on the current contract. While in, I have been involved with Mu-

*He looks upon you as 'those whom  
'gift' of the Father.'*      *Sister Ida*

sic Ministry at each of my bases. It has been an amazing experience to sing and minister to fellow soldiers.

It's odd to say this, but the most prayerful and powerful Easter Vigil I have yet to experience was Easter 2008 while deployed in Iraq. I continue my service to God and country stationed now in Germany.

Thank you for your inspiration in my early years of life that paved the way for the many blessing of Music Ministry later in my life. I hope to pray with you again sometime in the near future.

Agape e Philia,  
Gabe Gonzalez Rivas II

### **LET SISTER IDA INSPIRE YOU**

"YES, LORD!" The joyful response of Sister Ida to the plan of God: the story of her own vocation and how God was leading her to begin the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart. 68 pages.

"THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY" Thoughts of Sister Ida, a first collection from her talks and letters. Pocket edition.

"THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH" More thoughts of Sister Ida, inspiring with profound simplicity. Pocket edition..

"THE SOURCE OF OUR HOPE." Most recent collection of Sister Ida's thoughts based on her deep faith.

"GOD HAS A HEART FOR YOU" C.D. with songs of the Sacred Heart Sisters, joyfully singing of the love of God.

"LOVE DOES SUCH THINGS" Christmas C.D. Every day is Christmas with this CD. Celebrate the coming of Christ every day as you join the Sisters in song.

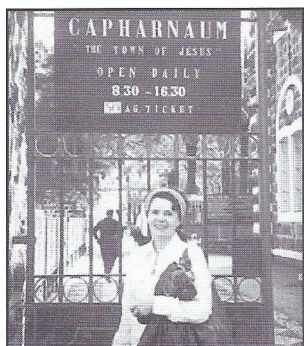


Sacred Heart Convent  
869 S. Rimpau Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90005  
323-935-2372 Fax 323-935-5943  
[sacredheartsisters.com](http://sacredheartsisters.com)



*"When we keep believin"*

## FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA



Do we have hope today? In the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus is born, there is great hope, great rejoicing. Those who came to see Him in the manger were filled with hope and joy.

Later, in the temple, the old man, Simeon, has his hope fulfilled. It is the same with Anna, the prophetess.

This is the same Jesus we have today. At the end of Luke's Gospel, two of Jesus' disciples are walking to Emmaus. They are talking about hope. They say, "We had hoped ... " They speak of hope as past; their hope is over.

A stranger joins them and walks with them and asks about their sadness. They let him know that they had hopes, expectations: "Now everything is gone, our expectations are crushed." Does that remind you of today - that sense of the absence of God? We remember times when He was so present, and now perhaps we are at that stage where we say, "I wish my hopes had been fulfilled." Hope turns to despair, to desperation. When we start speaking about hope in the past tense, somehow or other we do not notice Jesus. He becomes a stranger to us.

Life is hard, we are not in control of some situations. Jesus did not separate himself from this real world. He took it all upon Himself. To us, His followers, He says: "I will help you through. I am not going to save you from pain, or difficulties, or sorrows, but I will be with you." The minute we are kind, as these two men were kind to this stranger on the road, inviting him to their table, we become companions. We are not just walking side-by-side, but really com-pane, breaking "bread together", eating bread together. Then they recognize Jesus, He becomes part of them, hope is back, their hearts are burning with joy. All of a sudden, everything becomes clear!

This is our life too. We are not saved from the difficulties of this life, but we have hope, we have Jesus, and He is walking by our side.

*ng, hoping, asking, we experience*

## WE ARE PILGRIMS

Earlier this year we gathered to celebrate the 9th anniversary of Sister Ida's entrance to eternal life. Her joyous spirit and vibrant teaching continue to inspire us to love and proclaim Our Lord with dynamic zeal and conviction.

We remembered with joy and gratitude how 25 yrs. ago, Sister Ida led us on a pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land where Sister Ida guided us to contemplate what it means to be pilgrims on earth.



Sister Ida's thought about pilgrimage: "Why do we visit holy places like Jerusalem, the Holy Land...? These places became significant because REAL events took place there. People were meeting God in a very wonderful way.

We make a pilgrimage to have a similar encounter with God, with our Blessed Mother... Why? To renew our life, to live in the Spirit of that Person. The holy places help us to remember God's constant love and care for us, His communication with people, His incarnation,

# *the miracle of faith and the presence*

and the whole world.” Last Easter we realized that our Sisters who entered the Community after 1983, did not have this blessed pilgrimage experience with Sister Ida. We sincerely believe that it is due to the Holy Spirit and Sister Ida’s inspiration that we looked into the feasibility of making another such sacred pilgrimage!

We are most grateful to our benefactors who are making this pilgrimage possible. So the plan is underway! We will live simply, being hosted by religious communities, and will travel on foot and public transportation, buying our food along the way. This sacred pilgrimage will contribute greatly to the formation and education of our novice, temporary professed, and finally professed Sisters as we live and experience the land where Our Lord was born and lived, and where His Church was founded and established in Rome.

We will leave on May 28, and return June 13, in time to carry on our summer apostolic activities. We ask your prayers for our safety, and of course, carry you and your intentions in our hearts to the holy places.

## **CHILDREN’S RETREATS**

At one of our recent gatherings we happily realized that on just one weekend, five of our convents were giving retreats for children. And that was just in Southern California!

In St. Louis, our Sisters were called upon for the sixth consecutive year to give a retreat for the entire student body at St. Sabina’s Catholic School. Several students were heard saying: “This is the best school day of the year!”

During a First Communion retreat at the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center in Santa Ana, a small child whispered just before Consecration: “Bye, bye bread!”, and as Father elevated the Sacred Host, the child gently said, “Hi, Jesus!”



*ence of God within us."*

*Sister Ida*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT, ALIVE IN THE CHURCH



### **With those preparing for Confirmation:**

Twelve enthusiastic adults are preparing to receive the Gift of God's Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Northridge, CA. They gather every Monday evening with Sister Eva for study, prayer, and sharing their faith as the time of Confirmation approaches. An occasional delightful celebration helps form a close community of friendship and faith.



### **In the consecration of a new Bishop:**

Sister Jane and Sister Agnes together with our Sisters from St. Louis, were privileged to be invited to the celebration and the Mass of ordination of Bishop Richard Stika, Knoxville, TN, and witness the warm welcome of priests and people of the Diocese. Formerly pastor of Annunziata Parish in St. Louis. Bishop Stika has been a close friend of our Sisters ever since we opened a convent in St. Louis.