



Joyful Apostolate

Fall 2019

*Spreading the Love of Christ
on Three Continents*



(Above, left to right) Sister Audrey Tóth, Sister Shannon Stafford, Sister Guadalupe Rodríguez, Sister Ines Horváth live in Budapest, Hungary, where our Sisters have been serving the people of Hungary and neighboring countries for more than 25 years. Sister Guadalupe has been learning Hungarian while completing her Bachelor's Degree and fully participating in the summer camps that our Sisters organized and led.



(Above, left to right) Sister Laura Bradford, Sister Arlene Te, Sister Mary Ann Lou, Sister Ann Wang and Sister Mary Beth Kozlowski. Sister Laura has been assigned to our convent in Taipei, Taiwan and she has been studying Mandarin since May, with the goal of eventually being able to catechize in Mandarin. Sister Laura's deep faith and joyful obedience are evident as she has embraced this new assignment.

Forming Catechists to Proclaim Christ



(Above) Sister Eileen presenting to a group of catechists at St. Joseph Korean Catholic Center in Canoga Park, CA. She and Sister Catherine Marie directed a beautiful day of prayer and deepening in our faith-life, including this lesson about Sacred Scripture, looking at a timeline of major Biblical figures, seeking to understand more deeply the ways that God's promises in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament.

(Below) In the heart of Los Angeles at Holy Spirit parish, Sister Virginia and Sister Paula are part of an Archdiocesan catechist formation team that is training young adults and adults who are catechists in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.



In September at the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center, our Sisters directed a retreat for 64 catechists and Catholic school teachers from throughout the Diocese of Orange, offering support for their ministries. After spiritual input and prayer, including Adoration, the Sisters explained Sister Ida's "5-Step Illustrated Explanation" for teaching. The retreatants left renewed and energized.

Throughout California and in Taiwan and Hungary, as we have begun this school year, our Sacred Heart Sisters have been forming catechists and RCIA teams, giving retreats to catechists and school teachers, and working with the Bishops' offices in a number of dioceses to help implement better evangelization and catechesis. We are grateful that we have been called and "sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus" (*SDSH Constitutions*).

From the Heart of Servant of God Sister Ida



Sister Ida meeting with a family during family sharing time at Family Camp in Big Bear in the 1980's.

What did we do in the summer? We had Girls' Camp, Family Camp, home-visiting, University studies, 8-day Retreat (for all of the Sisters), 30-day Retreat for two Sisters, 50th and 25th Jubilee celebration for four Sisters (editors' addition in italics).

Now you know all about our summer. Or, do you? These are the facts, the data, but there is so much more behind it, so many stories involved. Data is for filling out forms for school or work. The stories are for friends who want to hear more.

For years you may have heard about God, and you loved Him for what you heard, but when you meet him in person, then all of a sudden, all that you heard falls into place and you begin to understand. It is always exciting to know more about someone you love, and every occasion deepens this knowledge.

Every summer we have the chance to be together, to get to know each other better. It is exciting and wonderful! God gave us intelligence and he gives us the chance to use his gift. He respects us. He is God with those he loves, those who are the work of his hand. Where is he? Above us, below us, on our right, on our left, He is completely surrounding us. How much closer can you be to someone!

There is a big difference between being somewhere with the intention of learning, or just sitting back and being an observer. God has so much to tell us, but do we listen? There is no end to the surprises he has for us but we have to listen and be open.

Proclaiming our Lord's Love in Hungary



(Above) A children's unit Mass during Family Camp in July in Városlőd, Hungary. With the theme of "Remain in Me that You May Bear Fruit", sixteen families came together and spent a weekend being renewed and strengthened as families in the Heart of our Lord. In preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress 2020 in Budapest, we focused on the Eucharist during our Family and Children's Camps. <https://www.iec2020.hu/>



(Above) Youth Diocesan Camp (EMIT) in July in Csattogó-völgy. Approximately 250 young people attended; they were divided into three subcamps by grades: yellow (7-8th), green (9-10th), blue (11-12th). Sister Ines was part of the yellow subcamp, while Sister Guadalupe and Sister Audrey were in the blue subcamp. Sister Guadalupe, with the help of Sister Audrey as translator, gave a small-group presentation on what "mission" means to her, especially coming from another country.



(Above) Starting the school year in our parish programs. Pictured: Sisters and catechists walking into the church for Mass. Summer is over, but was very graced-filled. We are ready for the year! "Our hearts are filled with wonder as we contemplate your works, O Lord" (Sunday, Evening Prayer 1, Liturgy of the Hours).

Celebrating Golden & Silver Jubilees

Sister Sharon Richards Sister Carmen Acosta



Left to right: Sister Carmen, Bishop Alex Aclan, Sister Sharon after the Mass of Thanksgiving in August at Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Sister Carmen: “The day I entered the convent, my youngest brother, Roy, asked me a question that cut straight to my heart. “Carmen, aren’t you coming home with us; don’t you love us anymore?” How could I answer the questioning heart of my three-year-old brother with an answer that would satisfy him and assure him of my love? How could I explain to anyone the questions that were in my young 17-year-old heart as I took the step to follow a call from God that from the time I was Roy’s age, entered my heart and gave me a “taste” of God’s Love that made me yearn for it day after day, year after year, until the day I could say “yes” to follow God’s call even though it meant leaving those whom I loved? My heart was tearing, too....I knew that God loved all of us and for some reason was giving me the chance to experience the deeper truths about God’s personal love for us from the Source, the Heart of Jesus... What I can say today is that I did find the answers I was searching for. I discovered a Love that never fails... a Love that was offered to me as a free gift, selflessly, totally, permanently from the One Who brought me joy beyond my expectation.”

Sister Sharon: “The quote from my Jubilee card reads: ‘May every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the father, That Jesus Christ is LORD!’ I met our Sisters over 52 years ago as a young college student, and my first impression was surprise at the habit they wore; it was too modern for me...remember this was the 1960’s. But, when I heard the Sisters speak of the personal Love of God and the person of Jesus, my heart began to melt! The Sisters spoke of Jesus as a Real Person, one deeply in love with me, with each of us. Not a God of history or theology, but a personal and loving God...I’m thankful for all the opportunities I have been entrusted with to share about our Loving God- from Compton to Santa Ana to Los Angeles to Reno and Tahoe to the San Fernando Valley! I have been blessed by serving in our Family Camps, Girls’ Camps, Schools of Prayer, Summer Schools of Religion and so much more.”

50 & 25 Years of Faithful Love

Sister Andrea Chiang Sister Michelle Bittner



Left to right: Sister Michelle, Bishop Alex Aclan, Sister Andrea after the Mass of Thanksgiving in August at Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Sister Andrea: “Allow me to tell you a story about a young woman who came to the U.S. in 1986...The first Mass she attended in the States was at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Oakland. This young woman was me. It really is an amazing grace to see how God has blessed me in so many ways over the years... When I was a teenager, God gave me a good friend named Gloria... I observed her quietly and wondered why she was so peaceful at such a young age. I realized that her positive disposition had something to do with her faith in God, and this was very attractive for me. When I discovered she was Catholic I asked if I could go to Church with her because I wanted to know the God she loved and served. This friendship eventually led me toward the decision to be baptized. One year after I was baptized, I came to California to pursue graduate studies...The motto of St. Ignatius, “For the greater glory of God,” prompted me to consider what I could offer to God who had blessed, loved and sustained me throughout my life, even when I did not yet know Him. After a period of prayer and discernment, I realized that God was inviting me to dedicate my whole life to Him as a Religious Sister.”

Sister Michelle: “When I was discerning what God desired for my life, the scripture verse that really impacted me was when Jesus tells His apostles in Mark’s gospel, “You have to lose your life to save it.” Once I truly surrendered myself to His all encompassing, loving embrace, then I was really free. Free to give Him every part of my heart, and free to receive an ocean of grace. God cannot be outdone in generosity!...I am so grateful that He called me to my Community! I love our Charism – to teach about Him with Joy and Trust, which I learned from Sister Ida.... After 10 grace-filled years in Hungary I cannot always speak as clearly as I would want, but I can repeat Jesus’ counter-intuitive words about losing your life to save it: *Aki elveszíti életét értem és az evangéliumért, megmenti azt.* It’s completely true in any language: if you lose your life for Him, He will pour His own life into your heart. I am so very grateful!”

Summer Camps in California

"His Love Endures Forever"

Family Camp



(Above) Nearly 50 families experienced the graces of being on retreat together at Sacred Heart Retreat Camp in Big Bear Lake, CA. Supported by the presence of numerous Sisters and priests Hearing faith presentations at their own, age-appropriate level, sharing spiritually each day as a family, praying together and enjoying family time nourished their relationships with God and with each other. Parents share that "family camp is the most important thing we do as a family each year."

Girls' Camp



(Above) Girls' Camp 2019: Saint Therese unit is excited to have earned the Mary Shrine award for the day through their excellent Catholic-Christian spirit. They processed with the Marian shrine back to their unit area, where a place of honor had already been prepared.

With the theme of "His Love Endures Forever", the camps this summer reminded us of who God is and of his wondrous love. God is faithful, he is loving and he loves us infinitely. Mass, prayer time, faith presentations, campfires and singing, delicious home-cooked meals, hikes and all of God's creation, crafts and good times with friends were all reminders of God's love for us.