



Joyful Apostolate

Fall 2017

25th Anniversary in Budapest



(Above) Cardinal Péter Erdő receiving a traditional bouquet of flowers from Sister Mary Tomasella, Superior General. (Below) The church was filled to capacity with clergy, family and friends.



When our foundress, Sister Ida Peterfy, and our Sisters escaped through the Iron Curtain in 1949, they had no idea when our Lord would lead them back to Hungary. Sister Ida sought the opportunity to return and in 1992, sent Sister Eva Batta, Sister Judith Fogassy and Sister Shannon Stafford to re-establish the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart in Hungary.

This past September, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Budapest, the parish which welcomed the Sisters 25 years ago. The main presider of the Liturgy was Cardinal Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, also Bishop György Udvardy, Bishop István Katona and many priest friends who joined the celebration with families, friends, benefactors of the Sisters and local parishioners. Sister Mary Tomasella, our Superior General, and Sister Elizabeth Normanly, Council Member, flew to Hungary for this celebration, bringing all of the Sisters with them in spirit and in prayer.

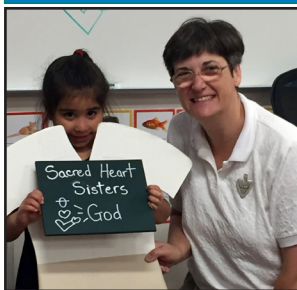
Spreading the Good News through our parish apostolate

Our Lady of Lourdes, Northridge, CA



Sister Sharon (above, far right) and Sister Frances (not pictured) oversee the R.C.I.A. and Religious Education programs at Our Lady of Lourdes parish. We have been involved in this parish's Religious Education program since 1994. Throughout these years, most of our postulants and novices have enjoyed their first experiences of teaching classes here.

St. Euphrasia, Granada Hills, CA



Directing Adult Faith Formation through RCIA, enrichment sessions and retreats has been our privilege for the past six years at Saint Euphrasia parish. This year, the Catholic School students enthusiastically welcomed Sister Joanna to their classes for Vocations Awareness Week (photos above). Have you encouraged a future Sacred Heart Sister lately?

The Sacred Heart Sisters are actively serving in numerous parishes throughout Southern California and in our missions. Some of the parishes in which our Sisters are involved in the Religious Education programs (in addition to those pictured here) are Immaculate Heart of Mary in Budapest, Hungary, (in California): Mission Santa Ines in Solvang, Cathedral Chapel in Los Angeles, St. Stephen of Hungary in Los Angeles, Saint Hedwig in Los Alamitos, Saint Kateri in Santa Clarita, and Christ our Savior in Santa Ana.

Our Lady of the Pillar, Santa Ana, CA



It is amazing that our Sisters have worked in Our Lady of the Pillar Parish for fifty years. More than 60,000 children have walked through the classroom doors, desiring to learn about Jesus. Some of the catechists have generously taught for many years and are still involved in the program. They knew Sister Aurelia (one of Sister Ida's first companions) and Sister Yolanda, who taught them our 5-Step-Illustrated-Method of catechesis. The children come to class weekly, eager to learn about Jesus. Throughout the years, we have also taught some of their parents and grandparents. God has given a most precious gift, two vocations from the parish to our Society, Sister Martha Muñoz and Sister Guadalupe Rodriguez. Sister Diane (top right) and Sister Debra (top left) have been serving in the parish for many years. Sister Diane directs the Religious Education Program and Sister Debra leads the Sacred Heart Club for children who have already received their First Holy Communion.



This school year, our 1st year novices, Sister Vivian (above, left photo) and Sister Charis (above, right photo) are teaching 1st Communion classes on Saturday mornings. As you can see, they enjoy sharing the Good News and interacting with the young people.

“We are sent to proclaim the Gospel”

From the Heart of Servant of God Sister Ida



Sister Ida in the 1960's, preparing a lesson and teaching with the help of a puppet "friend".



“It is not just what we say but who we are that preaches to the people and is the source of apostolic action. We are being sent on a mission. Jesus said, “I send you.” (Jn 20:21). Being sent on a mission is not a work we assume on our own. Apostolate is not just a private enterprise, such that I have a good idea and on my own I assume it and I am successful or unsuccessful in it. No! It is a commission from Christ.

Actually, in God's providence, mine was not a vocation to teach little children catechism; it was not my idealistic desire or wish. My call was the love of Our Lord. This may sound simplistic or overly general, but I do want to express it in simple words and concepts: If you love someone, you love those who belong to him and you want them all to know the person whom you love. This is what led me to teaching religion. My first call and first desire was that more and more people would know Our Lord on a deeply personal level, with an interior knowledge. This is the core of our teaching method, this was the origin of the 5-step Method of Illustrated Explanations.

The origin of this method was a personal commitment to the Lord, or in other words, the realization that He is personally involved in my life, He knows me by my name, He loves me, I am unique and special to Him. It was this same vision and conviction that I wanted to convey to others, to children and adults alike. I was seeking to find a way.

The Spirit of God was generous with very practical inspirations, and soon I was able to develop the Five Steps that carry through every one of our catechetical lessons: 1. Attracting of Attention, 2. Illustrated Explanation, 3. Correlation With Life, 4. Weekly Practice, 5. Review and Conclusion. What is so exciting about the Method is that it really was a gift of God in times when you had to sweat out the truth in such a way that it would be understandable, not heavy, and focus on the essence, reaching those who never heard about God or might not have that many chances to hear about Him again.

Our apostolic life is much more than what we can humanly do. If you want to bring forth lasting fruit, you have to be connected to the source and know that it is through His power that you are doing what you are doing; and the results are also my work and His work combined. This is our joy and our greatest gift – we are doing what we are doing through the power of Him who loves us and who incorporated us into His own life.”

Good News of our Lord Jesus, in order to prepare the Kingdom of God in the hearts



*"Enter his gates
with thanksgiving"*

-Psalm 100



Prior to the liturgy, Father Imre Varjú, pastor of the parish when the Sisters first arrived, welcomed the congregation sharing the history of the beginnings and the opportunities which he saw in having a religious community living in the midst of the parish on the parish grounds. He expressed his gratitude and joy and the richness of serving together with the Sisters.



The celebration included a program designed for children and teens (pictured above) led by young adults who had participated in a previous training session. The Children's Program was held under canopies on the parish grounds. There were four rotating stations: a presentation on Vocations given by Sister Ines and Sister Elizabeth, a video about the Society's history, a craft station entitled "St. Joseph's Workplace", and a Quiz Review with prizes. There was a wonderful spirit among those who attended.



At the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, the parents of Sister Audrey, Sister Ines and Sister Sophia presented the gifts. These three Sisters met our Sisters in Hungary and entered our Society from there.



Bishop Udvardy (pictured above) who has worked together with the Sisters throughout these 25 years at the National Catechetical Office, talked about the meaning of the mission. "We want to share the Good News and the joy we each receive by knowing Christ; we all have this mission as Christians," reminded Bishop Udvardy. "This mission is the charism of the Sacred Heart Sisters: their foundation is the personal encounter with the Risen Christ who gives the strength and motivation to all their activities, and He is the source of the existence and service of the Community."



Sister Mary Tomasella, Superior General (left photo, above) spoke of the charism of the Community. "We want to witness with our lives and teaching that Jesus Christ is the foundation of unity and love. We speak in different languages but we all learn and understand the language of love as we seek the One who is the source of it." Sister Michelle (above, right) superior of the convent, greeted the people and thanked them.



Following the liturgy, the guests were invited for a generous reception of homemade goods provided by parishioners. There was also a photo display of the history of the Sisters, from the beginnings of the Community when Sister Ida Peterfy first responded to God's call, encompassing these past blessed 25 years of the Sisters' return.

**See more from the Jubilee in the Features section
of our website: www.sacredheartsisters.com**

of his people.” -Constitutions of the S.D.S.H.

Sister Audrey Tóth



Sister Audrey met our Sisters through our presence in Hungary. She was introduced to our Sisters by a Religious Brother, a Marist missionary from Spain. What attracted her to the Society was “the interaction of the Sisters with one another and their interaction with the youth and children”. Her vocation was fostered through her contact with our Sisters, through “Sacred Heart Kids’ Club, Camps, youth group and Holy Hours with the Sisters.” Sister Audrey entered the Novitiate in 1997 and professed perpetual vows in 2006.

Sister Sophia Farkas Sister Ines Horvath



(Photos above: Bishop Andrés Veres, Sister Sophia Farkas, Sister Ines Horvath, Bishop Udvardy at the Sisters’ perpetual Vows, March 2014 in Mission Basilica, San Juan Capistrano, CA)

Sister Sophia was 15 when she met our Sisters who established their convent at her parish. She was very involved in serving her parish community in various ways including choir, scouting, pastoral council and also our Sisters’ family catechesis, RCIA, Confirmation preparation and Family Camps. God’s personal love grew in her heart deeper and stronger through daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, spiritual direction, community service, personal sharing with the Sacred Heart Sisters, and love for the Catholic Church where she worked until she entered.

Sister Ines was 13 when she first thought of a Call to Religious Life. She knew the Sacred Heart Sisters, who lived in her parish in Budapest. She came to really know the Sisters through the summer camps that the Sisters led. She said, “I helped with Confirmation classes & R.C.I.A., summer camps and more. I remember Sister Eva telling a Gospel story as if it would have happened just around the corner - I wanted to know God the same way and be that close to Him. I made a final decision to enter the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart during a prayer on a Girls’ Camp counselors’ weekend.”

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