Sowing the Seeds of Growth

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope
2016 Report to our Friends
OUR MISSION
The Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope operates solely to provide quality, affordable Catholic education for the children of their inner-city elementary schools and to ensure a vibrant future for these schools and the communities they serve.
Dear Friends,

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope was established in 1995 to provide development and financial support to eight Dominican affiliated Catholic elementary schools in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland. Today the seeds of that incredible decision continue to bring new life to our schools and their families. As St. Dominic preached, “We must sow the seed, not hoard it.” This could not be more true than it is today for Vision of Hope.

In this past year, our leadership transition with Sister John Martin has been smooth and seamless with our board, staff, school principals, development boards and you, our faithful friends and supporters. In addition, we welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors, initiated a strategic planning process, and completed our second year of raising over $1,000,000 for the annual fund. These are wonderful signs that seeds of growth continue to be sown for Vision of Hope.

As Vision of Hope considers its future and the future of our schools, we believe we are called to sow the seeds of innovation and growth. Each year it becomes more and more evident that our schools must not only survive but also must thrive. To achieve this end, urban Catholic elementary schools must adjust to new paradigms in education, funding and leadership. This year’s report illustrates how innovation is shaping Vision of Hope and our schools.

Join us in celebrating the success of this year and thanking all those who have invested in our schools and children. As a partner in Vision of Hope’s mission, know that you are making a difference in the lives of our students and their families today and in the future. May God bless you for your commitment to Catholic education.

Gratefully,

Lori Hawkins
Vision of Hope Board President

Ann Magovern
Executive Director
Board of Directors

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Dr. Charlene Lobo Soriano
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Diana Zarnoch
Carol Zweifel

Associate Director
Bill Masterson
Administrator
Sister Karen Elizabeth Zavitz, O.P.
Director of Marketing
Nancy Slepicka
Executive Assistant
Jan Maderious
Vision of Hope Fast Facts

Member Schools
- San Francisco: St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception, St. James
- Oakland: St. Elizabeth Elementary
- Los Angeles: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Sacred Heart, Santa Teresita, St. Michael, St. Frances X. Cabrini

1,800 combined enrollment

25% of students are from a single parent household

89%
- Latino
- 4%
- African-American
- 3%
- Multi-racial
- 2%
- Filipino
- 2%
- Asian

65% qualify for Federal free or subsidized lunch program

$1,100,000 allocated in FY 15-16 for tuition and operating support to our eight schools

34% of students receive tuition assistance from Vision of Hope

86% of students receive tuition assistance

69% of eighth graders were accepted to one or more Catholic high schools
Bay Area Schools Transformed with Gift from Shea Family Charities

Children and staff of Vision of Hope’s three Bay Area schools were thrilled to return to their schools in August to see the much anticipated work that was completed over the summer by Shea Family Charities. Fresh coats of paint, repaired bathrooms, new carpet and significant technology upgrades made each school feel new and bright! It is difficult to put into words the impact of this gift for our schools, teachers, students, and their families.

“You can’t imagine what your generous donation has meant to our school and our community,” Principal Deline Easterday told John and Dorothy Shea and their daughter, Anne Davison, as they toured St. Elizabeth. “We’re now the jewel of the Fruitvale neighborhood,” she said.

Shea Family Charities has funded major projects in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for more than 20 years. This was their first venture working with Catholic schools in the Oakland Diocese and Archdiocese of San Francisco.

“We hope to do more,” said John Shea. “Catholic schools do such a wonderful job educating inner-city children. They need our support.”

After visiting the northern VOH schools in January, and seeing their many needs, Anne Davison, who lives in Northern California, spearheaded Shea Family Charities’ expansion to the Bay Area. We are most grateful for the many ways Anne has given leadership to this project.

John Shea is president and chairman of the board of the J.F. Shea Company, Inc., an outgrowth of a business his grandfather began in 1887 in Portland, Oregon. The company has sold thousands of homes and completed large commercial construction projects exceeding $1 billion throughout the U.S.

John and Dorothy Shea are part of Vision of Hope’s founding leadership and have remained faithful friends ever since. Dorothy Shea was a member of our Southern Advisory Board and served on the Development Board of St. Francis X. Cabrini School. Over the last decade, our five schools in Los Angeles have received new wiring, painting, building improvements, and technology upgrades. In 2013, the Sheas built a soccer field at St. Francis X. Cabrini in honor of Sister Johnnie!

“We could not be more grateful for John and Dorothy Shea, and for their investments in our Vision of Hope schools,” said Executive Director Ann Magovern. “Their leadership and dedication to Catholic schools, especially those that serve the poor, is unmatched.”
All schools repainted!

Sparkling new sinks and bathrooms!

34 Wireless projectors!

Our Three Bay Area Schools Thank Shea Family Charities!

All new carpeting!

Apple TV for all classrooms!

New window blinds!

Mac laptops for all teachers!
To survive and thrive, urban Catholic elementary schools must adjust to new paradigms in education, funding and leadership. That was the consensus of panelists and participants in the Day of Innovation organized and hosted by Vision of Hope on July 11th at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in Los Angeles.

“This day is a significant step in Vision of Hope’s strategic planning process,” said Executive Director Ann Magovern in welcoming more than 40 representatives of Catholic education, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, charitable foundations, board members and Vision of Hope schools.

The program was broadcast live to the Dominican Motherhouse in Fremont, and attendees there actively participated in the discussion. Moderator Carol Enright, who has been serving as facilitator for the VOH board’s strategic planning committee, introduced the panel of experts:

- Kathy Ash, Executive Director of the Catholic Education Fund, Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Anthony Galla, Deputy Superintendent for Elementary Schools, Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Bishop David O’Connell, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Tara Rolle, Executive Director, Drexel School System, Diocese of San Jose
- Joe Womac, Executive Director, Specialty Family Foundation, Los Angeles

**Most Critical Issues**

To begin, Enright asked each panelist to answer the question, “What are the critical issues and trends affecting the sustainability of urban Catholic elementary schools?”

Tara Rolle said it is important that schools be necessary and important academically to Catholics, and must be rigorous with proactive messaging.

Joe Womac shared that academic outcomes of inner city Catholic schools have slipped in comparison to charter and other private schools. Reversing this trend should be a major priority.

Kathy Ash advises schools to address their financial model and apply business principles. She noted that as the number of Sisters in teaching positions dwindled, it became more expensive to carry out the mission of serving the poor. “We need to find a sustainable financial model,” she said.

Anthony Galla emphasized that the educational landscape is changing as well as the relationship between pastors and principals. “Effective leadership is where we must funnel the financial support,” he said.

Bishop David O’Connell believes the most critical issue for Catholic education is the breakdown of relationships among families, schools and parish neighborhoods. “Relationships are frozen. The challenge is to restore these crucial relationships,” he said.

**Innovative Models for the Future**

As the discussion evolved, innovation and collaboration became the message of the day. Tara Rolle, Executive Director of the Drexel Schools in the San Jose Diocese, gave an overview of its new system of schools.

Rolle explained that the Drexel System currently administers seven of the 26 Catholic elementary schools in the San Jose Diocese. Based on a new governance model, the Principals report to the Assistant Superintendent and board, not the pastor.

In addition, the system centralizes the development, marketing and technology functions of their seven schools. Teachers are required to participate in the Blended Learning Training Academy through Santa Clara University. Preliminary results are positive; eighty percent of students are reaching math proficiency.

**Recommendations**

The panel discussion closed with final recommendations for Vision of Hope. Bishop David O’Connell made the case for building relationships. He challenged us to, “Organize the parents and members of the parish to discuss issues affecting our schools. Train parents and students to become leaders for their school.”

Tony Galla encouraged us to, “Take advantage of professional learning communities. Leadership with innovation, our schools will grow.”
Celebrating Seeds of Growth and Success

Victoria Martinez is a 2016 graduate of St. Frances X. Cabrini, where she excelled in academics and volleyball. She applied to and was accepted by Marymount High School, Notre Dame Academy and The Buckley School. Victoria has chosen to attend The Buckley School, which awarded her an annual scholarship of $40,000. Because the Sherman Oaks school is far from her home in South Los Angeles, her father will drive her or she’ll commute by bus. Mr. Martinez is grateful to SFXC for preparing his daughter for high school, and said if it weren’t for Vision of Hope, Victoria would not have been able to attend a Catholic school.

Brian Rodas, Class of 1991 at St. Michael School, graduated from Loyola High School and Loyola Marymount University. He earned a Master’s Degree in Math from the University of Maryland and is now a math professor at Santa Monica Community College. Brian says Catholic schools foster a “sense of love, drive for excellence, and positive character development from the Christ like nurturing atmosphere where people want the best for you.” He feels blessed by the scholarships and financial aid he received throughout his education and is grateful for the many opportunities opened to him.

Lorena Ortega-Guerrero, Class of 2012 at St. Elizabeth Elementary and 2016 graduate of Holy Names High School, received a full scholarship to Yale University. Lorena was a Vision of Hope Veritas Award winner as a 7th grader. She plans to study history and ultimately wants to pursue a career in medicine.

Sarah Aguirre, a 2016 graduate of St. Ignatius of Loyola, was accepted by La Salle High School and received the four-year full tuition San Miguel Scholarship. One of four co-valedictorians at St. Ignatius, Sarah graduated with a 4.0 grade point average. She is a volleyball player and now plays on the junior varsity team at La Salle.
Sister Mary Susanna Begins Next Chapter of Dominican Life

Sister Mary Susanna Vasquez, O.P., an educator beloved by faculty, staff, students, parents and the Saint James Catholic School community, is moving on to another chapter in her life after serving as a teacher and principal for 41 years. Beginning with her own elementary school years, Dominican education has been the guiding force of her life.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Susanna Theresa was born in the Mission District of San Francisco, attended St. Anthony School (now St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception) and graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy. She attended City College of San Francisco and received a Bachelor of Arts in English from San Francisco State, where she also earned her teaching credential.

“Mom wanted my two brothers and me to have the opportunity of a good education,” she said. “If you had a good education, you would have a good life.”

Sister Mary Susanna taught one year at St. Anthony before entering religious life with the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. Over her long career, she taught grades 1-2 and 5-8 at Immaculate Conception Elementary and St. James in San Francisco, St. Therese in Portland, Oregon, St. Joseph and St. Leonard (now Our Lady of Guadalupe) in Fremont and St. Catherine Academy in Anaheim.

She was principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe School for five years and for the last 12 years was principal of St. James, one of Vision of Hope’s eight elementary schools.

Sister Mary Susanna believes that Catholic education plays a significant role in the mission of the Church. “Catholic education must remain affordable for the poor and for all who seek to bring gospel values to society,” she says. “Gospel values permeate everything we do.”

Financial sustainability and enrollment — attracting and retaining students — are never-ending challenges for Catholic elementary schools. “Our tuition this year was $6,200, and even with tuition assistance from Vision of Hope, the Archdiocese and BASIC Fund grants, many families can’t make up the difference,” she says.

The support provided by Vision of Hope is crucial. This past year each of the eight Vision of Hope schools received $100,000 for tuition assistance and academic programs, such as blended learning and music.

“With Vision of Hope, we’re part of a bigger family,” she says. “The annual Day at Races brings us into contact with many donors and new friends.” That bigger family includes the Dominican Sisters.

Because Catholic schools traditionally support the family and educate the child, Sister Mary Susanna knows that donating to Catholic education at the elementary level is a good investment. “I will be forever grateful to my sisters for creating the Vision of Hope program, and to the many benefactors and friends who believe in the mission of St. James,” she says.

After preparing her office for the incoming St. James principal, Mr. Alex Endo, Sister Mary Susanna embarked mid-August to hike the 500-mile Camino de Santiago pilgrimage from southern France into Spain with Dominican Sister Francis Clare Fischer and her sister-in-law, Karen Kuestner Fischer.

When she completes the Camino trek in mid-October, Sister Mary Susanna will reside at the motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose and devote her time in service as a recently elected councilor on the Congregational Leadership Team.
Vision of Hope Invests in Training Teachers as Technology Specialists through LMU’s School of Education

Through an innovative program offered by the Loyola Marymount University School of Education and with the support of Vision of Hope, two of our Los Angeles elementary teachers are now studying to achieve LMU certification as Technology Integration Specialists.

The professional certificate program is intended to create a pipeline of teacher-leaders in K-12 schools to effectively integrate technology into curriculum, instruction and assessment, in collaboration with administrators and fellow teachers, to build sustainable change.

Jennifer Hayes-Botello, third grade teacher at St. Michael School, and Christine Douglas, technology instructor at St. Ignatius, have already completed the first of four courses offered over the summer, fall and spring semesters.

During four-hour classes held on Saturdays June 27-August 5 on the LMU Westchester Campus, Jennifer and Christine got an overview of how emerging digital technology impacts curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Christine Douglas

“Being able to take part in the LMU Technology Integration Specialist Certification program is a blessing. I’ve learned how to work with our principal to strengthen a culture of learning in our school and ways to develop methods of using technology to improve student learning and achievement.

“My professional goal for the first part of the school year is to implement Schoology in our junior high and to use apps such as Goformative and Flipgrid for formative assessments. I am excited to lead our faculty in integrating technology and to show them the wealth of resources that will be a huge asset for our students.

“Although this will only be my fourth year teaching at St. Ignatius, I have felt embraced by the Dominican Sisters and their charism since my first day. The Dominican Sisters and Vision of Hope are the cornerstone of our school and have done so much to improve our students’ lives in both their faith and their education.”

Jennifer Hayes-Botello

“Thank you, Vision of Hope, for providing an opportunity for me to participate in the technology certification program at LMU.

“During the summer session, we took an in-depth look at how school climate, culture and instructional leadership are key components when integrating technology into school curriculum. There is a big emphasis on creating a culture for learning through effective staff collaboration.

“We learned how to use data to identify gaps in achievement and develop a strategy that could potentially close those gaps. We developed a teaching toolkit that addresses problems of practice that teachers face in the classroom, such as engaging all learners, ensuring submission of student work and promoting student collaboration.

“I have gained so much useful information in the past six weeks. I am looking forward to continued development and support throughout the year.”
Robert M. Holstein, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

A $1,500 scholarship is awarded in the fall to two eighth grade students from each of the eight Vision of Hope schools who carry on Bob’s legacy of being “a person for others.”

Recipients
Sacred Heart
Mikaela Campos and Dat Nguyen
St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception
Ellias Baugh and David Orellano
St. Elizabeth
Venice Albania and Ellis Cervantes
St. Frances X. Cabrini
Eddie Lemus and Verchiel Vega
St. Ignatius of Loyola
Josie Beltran and Diego Flores
St. James
Jewell Claudio and Angela Vallesio
St. Michael
Paola Gonzalez and Kenneth Granados
Santa Teresita
Lauren Castillo and Mario Medrano

Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship

The Sister Renilde Cade Memorial Scholarship was established to honor Sister Renilde’s compassion, trust and courage. Each spring six incoming eighth grade students are chosen to receive a $750 scholarship.

Recipients
Sacred Heart
David Padilla, St. James
Valerie Perez, St. Michael
Julieanna Gonzales, St. Ignatius
Christina Herrera, Santa Teresita
Alexander Loza, St. Elizabeth

Donors
Thelma Albrecht
Frances and Bob Bridenbecker
Kathleen E. Fixa Trust
Lenore and Frank Heffernan

Sister John Martin Fixa Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a student who exemplifies Sister Johnnie’s extraordinary kindness, humility, dedication, joy and commitment to academic excellence.

Donors
Linda C. Applegate
Sharon Koenig
Kathy Ault
Margaret Brabec Skalski
Rodney W. Burgoyne
Mag and Joe Caramucci
Edwin Casco
Don Casper
Maureen and Patrick Conway
Mary Ann Culpeper
Kathleen Fixa Trust
Kathleen and Paul Gasta
Loretta Hawkins
Mary and Joe Heumphreus
Norma Higgins
Ann Hirsch
Loretta Holstein
Lauri and Donald F. Kaefer
Annely and John Kelleher
Jasmine Y. Kim
Helene Mahboub
Socorro Mc Gowan
Teresa and Michael McGuire
Becky and Bob Mumper

Veritas Scholarship

S. Mary Dominic and S. Mary Thomas

Through this tribute, two 8th grade students are selected annually to receive a $1,500 scholarship award for Courageous and Compassionate Leadership, a hallmark of two outstanding Congregational leaders.

Recipients
Elizabeth Soriano, SAIC
Melissa Castaneda, St. Frances X. Cabrini

Donors
John and Marilyn Blasco Craigie
Christine De Leon
Patty and James Grass
Gerald and Regina Jose
Claudia Lackee
Antonia Leber
Rosanne and Paul Lyon
Marylynn and Ken Moore
Carol Nyeholt
Alice G. Salazar

Kathleen E. Fixa Memorial Scholarship

The Kathleen E. Fixa Scholarship was established in tribute to “Mom Fixa’s” unyielding generosity and stalwart commitment to Catholic education.

Donors
Susan and Albert Alioto
Linda C. Applegate
Don Casper
Mary Ann Culpeper
Cyndi and Charlie Fixa
Kathleen and Paul Gasta
Linda Mansfield
Arleen T. Osuna
Arthur Rosenberg
Michael and Charlotte Rosenberg
Irma Straub
Virginia Sweeney
Dolores Wagner

Holy Family Scholarship

Carol and Bob Ellingson
Rev. Stephen Howell
Lynda and Timothy Connolly

George and Evelyn Smith Parenting Scholarship

Donors
Joan and Eugene Bock
Claire Bonacci
Nancy Javore

Parenting Scholarship

Donors
Joan and Eugene Bock
Claire Bonacci
Nancy Javore

Holy Family Scholarship

Donors
Carol and Bob Ellingson
Rev. Stephen Howell
Lynda and Timothy Connolly

Vision of Hope • 2016 Annual Report to our Friends • Page 13
Vision of Hope schools, once again, are the big winners from our Southern and Northern Day at the Races. The sold-out events raised $141,506, an 18% increase over last year! Fans enjoyed photo-finish races, elaborate buffets, hundreds of silent auction items and, most important, lots of fun.

Thank you to all members of our planning committees in the North and South for their leadership and generosity in making these events such a success. We are also deeply grateful to our event sponsors, underwriters, and auction volunteers. Proceeds from the two events go directly to our eight schools for tuition assistance, music programs, and school operations.

Plans are under way for next year’s events, so mark these dates on your calendars:

**DAR-South:** Sunday, March 26, 2017, Santa Anita Race Track, Arcadia

**DAR-North:** Saturday, May 20, 2017, Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley
Vision of Hope Financial Highlights

August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016

Income

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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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Expenses

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Gross income in 2015-2016 was $2,081,398. Of this mount, $1,442,098 was raised through support provided by Vision of Hope’s generous benefactors. Unrestricted gifts accounted for $364,741. Gifts in support of Vision of Hope’s operations accounted for $232,211. Vision of Hope sponsors two major fundraising events – Day at the Races at Santa Anita Race Track in Southern California and Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields in Northern California. Together these two events grossed $141,506. Benefactors gave $234,577 in support of tuition assistance. Of this amount, $39,565 was contributed by students in the Dominican sponsored and affiliated schools. Net investment earnings accounted for $639,300 in income. Over 99% of net investment earnings were generated by Vision of Hope’s Tuition Assistance Endowment which is currently valued at $10 million. Gifts to endowments totaled $473,690. Vision of Hope received a one-time gift of $400,000 to its Tuition Assistance Endowment from the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose.

Operating expenses include personnel, contract services and other related expenses. These accounted for $288,008. Vision of Hope distributed $484,000 in tuition assistance from its endowments. An additional $558,421 was distributed to the schools in the form of tuition assistance as a result of our annual fund. Named scholarships and the net proceeds from Southern California Day at the Races accounted for $56,750. Vision of Hope distributed $120,870 in school grants to support administrative needs and blended learning initiatives.

An important measure of a charity’s efficiency is its cost to raise a dollar of income. Vision of Hope’s cost to raise a dollar of income is $.14 when investment income is included and $.20 when investment income is excluded.

Financial highlights are presented using cash basis accounting. Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2016 will be available in November.
<table>
<thead>
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Julie Apel
Linda C. Applegate
Ara Technology
Diana Assereto
Lee Aubry
Kathy Ault
Regina Aviles
Sophia Ayala
Theresa Mary Baker
Jay and Linda Bartman
Cindy Bath
Tina and John Becerra
Brother Dominic Berardelli F.S.C.
Catherine Berger
Rene Berger
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Betance
Georgeann and Ed Binetti
Ellie and Lock Bingham
Toni Blake
Anthony Boas
Claire Bonacci
Marian and Tim Botello
Margene Bourne
Megan Bourne
Claudia Bowers
Norma Bowersox
Mary Ellen and Tom Brabec
Sara and Patrick Brabec
Betty Brachman
Paul and Suzanne Bradshaw
Ronald Brazil
Noreen and John Brennan
Mary Brophy
Kevin and Sandra Browne
Monique Bruce
Elizabeth and Gerald Brusher
Carol Bucci
Elizabeth and Richard Bucher
Michelle Bulen
Toni and Rodney W. Burgoyne
Sheryl Burke
Lillian and Ross Cadenasso
Laura and Cruz Calvillo
Stephanie Capodanno
Robert and Chimene Cappa Jr.
Mag and Joe Caramucci
Margaret Carnell
Kate Carter

Rev. Michael Caruso, S.J.
Alexandra Carver
Edwin Casco
Curt Cassels
Patricia and Robert Cavagnaro
Maggie and Dick Chaffee
Jim Chaky
John Chard
Charles Schwab
Marilyn Charm
Carol Gemmet Clarke
Marc Colelli
Louise Colombatto
Maureen and Patrick Conway
Patricia Cook
Judi Cordray
Edward Corey
Yvette Cortes
John and Marilyn Blasco Craigie
Shirlee Crockett
Maryann Cronin
Mary Ann Culpeper
Sheila Cushing
Mayvernie and Peter Da Santos
Lilly D’Ambrosia
Kathy and Walter Damkohler
Norma and Gary Davenport
Deline Davis
Maureen and Richard Davis
Robin Davis
Christine De Leon
Diane Terragno De Martini
Diana and Roger De France
Roger and Ramona Delgado
St. Catherine’s Priory
Lorreii and William Dickamilo
Deidre Director
Noreen Divito
San Gabriel Mission Convent
Margaret Anne Donohue
Mary Lou Donohue
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Dowd DVM, PhD
Marie J. Driscoll
Suzy and Barret Duff
Gwen and Tom Dulley
Bill Eagan
Claire and Lloyd Eber
Olga Echiribel

Carol and Bob Ellingson
Carol and James Enright
Mary Enser
Frances Essig
Robert Faulman
Matthew Feil
Betty and James Felton
Celeste Ferrell
Arlene Fife
Andrea Finerty
Dominican Sisters
Linda and Steven Fischer
Kathleen A. Fitzpatrick
Cyndi and Charlie Fiza
Gina and Andy Fiza
Kathy Fiza
Sue and John Flahive
Lita and Gary Flinders
Geanie Flores
Jaime Flores
Fohrman & Fohrman, Inc
Eileen Forgarty
Eleanor Fox

Kevin Foy
Peggy Francis
Jason Friedman
Mary Fromwiller
Therese Funk
Carol and Michael Gabbard
Giovanni and Nina Gaetos-Estrada
Raquel Gallardo
Zeferino Gallardo
Catania Galvan
Tracey and Patrick Gannon
Karen and Richard Garcia
Kathleen and Paul Gasta
Holly and Richard Goette
Mary Golden
Dan Goldthwait
Linda Gonzales
Gloria Goyena
Margaret Grande
Susan Grant
Elizabeth Greivel
Yvette Hackworth
Olivia and Daniel Haley

Gary Hall
Helen M. Hall
Steve Hall
Lisa Hansen
Leslie Harari
Mardelle Harmuth
Joan and Robert G. Harper
Jennifer Hartz
Martha Harvey
Martha Hassenplug
Marijane Hebert
Barbara and William Hemenez
Sandra and Jeffrey Herman
Roselyn A. Hernandez
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Norma Higgins
Roseanne Hill
Janice and Frankie Ho
Nancy Decker Holland
Karen and John Holyk-Casey
Eleanor Howard
Joanne Howard
Shawn Howard
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The donors listed in this Annual Report have made gifts between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016. Pledges will be recognized as they are completed. We hope that we have correctly recognized each of our generous donors. Please notify Vision of Hope at 510-533-5768 if there are any corrections or omissions. We are tremendously grateful for your support!
The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose elected Sister Cecilia Canales, OP as their new Congregational Prioress during the congregation’s 25th General Chapter. Sister Cecilia will assume leadership in the fall, replacing Sister Gloria Marie Jones, OP who completes her tenure.

Convened every five years at the Congregational Motherhouse in Fremont, the chapter assembly elects new leaders and identifies mission priorities. The weeklong “Pilgrimage of the Heart” held July 23 – 30, 2016, included over 150 Sister delegates and participants from the U.S and Mexico.

Group discussions considered some challenges both countries face. The Sisters asked, “What is our mission in these times?” Their response, “Be women of hope in the face of violence and build bridges of love and understanding between our countries.”

Newly elected prioress, Sister Cecilia, attended Dominican elementary and secondary schools in Los Angeles. An experienced educator and retreat director, she worked as the Vicar for Women Religious in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and on the faculty of St. John’s Seminary.

Sister Cecilia affirmed her commitment “to find new and creative ways to serve the young, the poor and the vulnerable, ever responding to the signs of the times.”

The election culminates months of study, reflection and prayerful consideration of current and strategic realities. After selecting the Congregational Prioress, the assembly chose a new four member Council to advance the Sisters’ mission.

Sisters elected to the Leadership Council include, left to right in photo: S. Mary Liam Brock, S. Diane Bridenbecker, S. Cecilia Canales, S. Mary Susanna Vasquez, Hna. Veronica Esparza Ramirez.

Leadership Council
S. Cecilia Canales, Congregational Prioress, brings a rich background in education with recent ministry as Vicar for women religious, Archdiocese of Los Angeles to her newly elected ministry as Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose. S. Cecilia looks forward to “growing a sense of unity as a Congregation. I will focus on how we can use our spiritual formation to respond to a world hungering for connection.”

S. Diane Bridenbecker, Vicarress, has advanced degrees in music and religious studies. S. Diane expresses her faith through music, choral direction, religious education, and campus ministry. “I consider my sabbatical and spiritual direction invaluable ingredients to my academic education—the ‘degree’ that will not show up on a diploma but is a transformational gift continues to ground the calling in my life.”

Before stepping down this summer, S. Mary Susanna Vasquez had served as the principal of St. James Elementary School in San Francisco for the past 12 years. Prior to that, she was principal of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Fremont. “With contemplative living, we can help restore what is broken in our fragile earth, be a voice for the marginalized, strengthen unity with Mexico, welcome new members, sustain our commitment to Catholic education and keep the missionary spirit alive in all things and for all things.”

S. Mary Liam Brock has extensive experience in Catholic education with an M.A. in both education and theology. Deeply committed to urban youth, “I hope we embrace our internationality and live out of our ONENESS as we respond to Pope Francis’s call to meet at margins and serve the marginalized.”

Hna. Verónica Esparza Ramírez serves as Director of Schools in Mexico, Principal of Colegio Robert F. Kennedy and Prioress of Cristo Rey Community in Atizapan. “I hope to continue the work in uniting the two worlds (U.S. and Mexico) and promote cultural respect and raise the value of ONE.”

The chapter closed with a blessing of new leaders and sending forth celebration on July 30, 2016.
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Thank you for supporting our schools, our children and our mission.

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