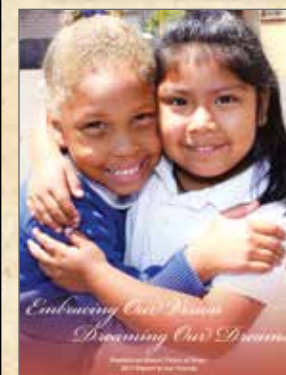
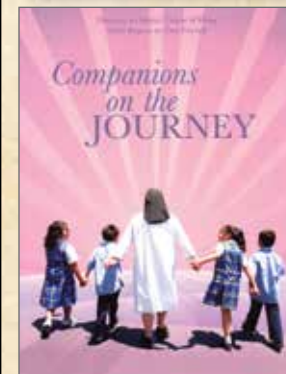
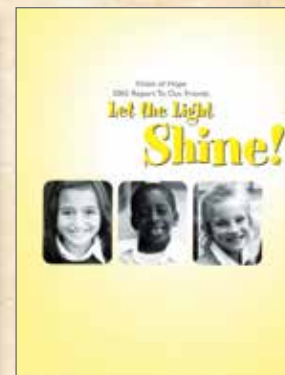


30 YEARS of HOPE



Dominican Sisters
VISION OF **HOPE**

2025 Annual Report to our Friends





Dear Friends,

Thirty years ago, a dream was born—a dream that would change the lives of thousands of children in underserved communities. During their 1995 General Chapter, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose gave birth to a vision for ensuring the future of eight of their most at-risk schools. Recognizing the dire needs of these schools, the Sisters presented the Chapter with a proposal. After great discussion, planning and discernment, 180 Sisters raised their green cards in unanimous support of this bold new initiative. The room erupted in applause, and that overwhelming show of unity marked the birth of Vision of Hope.

The seeds of this vision were originally planted when urban Catholic school principals voiced concerns about affordability and sustainability. The Sisters responded by appointing a development consultant—not just a fundraiser, but a “friend-raiser”—to communicate the mission and secure the future of these schools. That person was Sister John Martin Fixa O.P., whose passionate leadership would guide Vision of Hope for decades. By 1996, development directors were hired, school boards were formed, and “friend-raising” began in earnest. Under Sister Johnnie’s guidance, Vision of Hope raised \$3.5 million by 2002. Then came an ambitious goal: to create an \$8 million endowment—\$1 million per school. That goal was triumphantly met in 2005.

Over the years, Vision of Hope has grown tremendously, raising millions to support tuition assistance, student success, and parent engagement. What began with a simple vote has become a powerful force for equity in Catholic education. As we celebrate thirty years of Vision of Hope, we honor the visionary leadership of the Dominican Sisters, the legacy of Sister John Martin, and the enduring generosity of all who have supported our students, families, and schools.

The vision of the Dominican Sisters continues today—bringing opportunity, faith, and HOPE to the most vulnerable among us, a commitment we intend to carry into the next thirty years and beyond.

Gratefully,

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope
Executive Director and Board Chairs



Denise Bacall
Board Co-Chair



Lori Hawkins
Board Co-Chair

Our Schools

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

St. Frances X. Cabrini



St. Frances X. Cabrini proudly celebrated Jadden H., who earned a 90% scholarship to Loyola High School.

TK–2nd grade students demonstrated 87% growth in reading through the CAPIT ELA Program, showing strong academic progress.

The school is also expanding its STEM program with hands-on activities like Solar Bots and Robotics, supported by the Antonia Isabel Navarro STEM Academy.

Thanks to a \$68,000 grant from Shea Family Charities and a successful multicultural fundraiser, the school now features an upgraded Interactive Board and sound system.

St. Ignatius of Loyola



St. Ignatius of Loyola School welcomes Raquel Cagigas as their new principal. With over 20 years in parish and Dominican Catholic education ministry, Principal Cagigas has served as a youth minister, catechist, teacher, campus minister, dean of discipline, assistant principal, and principal. For the past seven years, she has been the principal at San Gabriel Mission High School where she focused on maintaining and growing enrollment, school board development, facility upgrades, and new educational programs. Her passion lies in creating nurturing communities that pray, play, and study together.

St. Michael



St. Michael celebrated Esteban, recipient of the Onward Scholars Program at Cathedral High School. With a scholarship covering 75% of tuition.

Congratulations also went to Hailie Gatica and Amber Sufle, 4th graders who won the Hannon Foundation Essay Contest and earned \$1,000 scholarships. Their thoughtful writing on Saint Junípero Serra was outstanding.

Early literacy growth among TK–2nd graders has been remarkable, with none in the red zone, thanks to the CAPIT program and the dedication of teachers.

Sacred Heart



Sacred Heart recognized Vanessa G., recipient of the Onward Scholars Award at Sacred Heart High School. Vanessa joined the school mid-year after the closure of St. Teresa of Avila and quickly rose to the challenge, excelling in her new environment.

Kinder and 3rd-grade students completed Dual Language Seal of Biliteracy projects, earning recognition from LMU's DLI Network. These projects were celebrated at the *Language & Literacy Night*.

BAY AREA SCHOOLS

Santa Teresita



St. Teresita celebrated Jahan, an 8th-grade leader headed to Sacred Heart High School. She served on Student Council, played volleyball, and embodied the school's values in both word and deed.

Two teachers received the "Keeping History Alive" grant, enabling students to visit the Museum of Tolerance and enhancing STEM education for grades 1-2. A partnership with USC brought hands-on science experiences to 3rd and 4th grades.

The school community deepened its Catholic identity through morning faith-centered affirmations and assemblies.

St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception (SAIC)



Congratulations to Seth R. awarded St. Francis Scholar with Honors English Program at Archbishop Riordan High School. Seth's father, a graduate of Archbishop Riordan High School stands proud with his son.

Ana Sophia Lopez received the Sister Renilde Cade Award and Juan Pablo Rosales the Sister John Martin Fixa scholarship. These students demonstrate great service, leadership and scholarship in the SAIC community.

In 2025-2026, 56% of SAIC graduates will attend Catholic High School. This is an increase of 3% from 2024-2025.

St. Elizabeth



St. Elizabeth welcomes Jennifer Packard as their new Principal. Principal Packard brings over thirty years of experience in education and community service in various leadership roles, including principal and teacher in the Diocese of San Jose, vice principal and teacher within the Nativity Schools of the Jesuit Schools Network, and Performing Arts Director at St. Francis High School, a Salesian institution. Principal Packard lives in San Jose with her husband and is the mother of three.

St. James



St. James celebrated 100 years of service in San Francisco this year. Staff and students honored Mother Maria Pia Backes legacy and Sister John Martin's spirit.

The graduating 8th-grade class became the first to complete all nine years in the school's blended learning program, supported by Vision of Hope.

Congratulations to Gemma Reyes, a 7th grader awarded the Veritas Award for her academic excellence.

The school community celebrates the 14 of 17 graduates accepted into Catholic high schools and others for completing all nine years at St. James.

Friend-raising

This past year, Vision of Hope held several joyful friendraising events that brought our community together in support of Catholic education.

On May 3, 2025, we launched a new tradition with our *Day with the Giants* at Oracle Park in San Francisco. Nearly 150 friends, families, students, and Dominican Sisters joined us for a sun-filled day of connection and celebration. Guests enjoyed a visit from mascot Lou Seal, a GIANT cash raffle, silent auction, and classic ballpark treats before our group received a VIP escort across the field to our seats. The excitement peaked with a Grand Slam that brought the Giants to a 6–3 victory over the Rockies!

Our *Giving Matters Fall Luncheon*, held on November 22, 2024, at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles, was a heartfelt afternoon of friendship and gratitude. Sister Celeste Marie Botello, O.P., opened the program with prayer, followed by Sister Johnellen Turner, O.P., who presented the inaugural *Partners in Mission* award to Shea Family Charities for their decades of support. Guest speaker and Sacred Heart Elementary alumna, Anita Ron, President of BriteWorks, Inc., shared her inspiring journey. Additionally, Yeny Villicana, a parent and Family Liaison at St. Frances X. Cabrini, offered a moving testimony about the impact of tuition assistance for her family.

Thanks to your generous support of these events, Vision of Hope raised over \$200,000 in critically needed tuition assistance funds for our schools and students!



“The luncheon was a highlight this year with friends, both new and not so new to Vision of Hope, who sat together at our luncheon table. Seeing the enthusiasm of our friends as they learned more about the impact of Vision of Hope made for a great day!

We look forward to this year's luncheon.”

—Maggie Byrne



S. Georgette Coulombe, O.P., S. Dulce Aguilar Rodriguez, O.P., S. Laurence Marie Diaz, O.P., S. Donna Marie Nicholas, O.P., and S. Johnellen Turner, O.P. enjoying Vision of Hope's *Day with the Giants*, May 3, 2025, at Oracle Park in San Francisco.



Scan this QR code to view a great video from *Day with the Giants* by St. James Development Director, Fracess Santos!



Sister Maria Elena Gutierrez, O.P. and Vision of Hope Students at our Fall Luncheon, November 24, 2024, at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.



This past Fall, on October 26, 2024, supporters gathered for a memorable Sunset Cruise around the San Francisco Bay aboard Mike Heffernan's boat, the *Nokomis*. It was a relaxed and joyful evening that deepened friendships and celebrated our shared mission.

Thank you, Bill Masterson, for 25 years of Service



Bill Masterson, a valued member of our Board of Directors, has made the decision to step down from his position, effective July 31, 2025.

Over the last 25 years, Bill was involved with Vision of Hope in a variety of capacities, serving on the Bay Area Advisory Board, the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. He also generously offered his time and talents in the Vision of Hope office supporting our fundraising and outreach initiatives. Bill faithfully served on the Board since 2018, and we are incredibly grateful to him for contributing his time, expertise, and leadership throughout his tenure.

2024 Vision of Hope *Partners in Mission* Award

Sister Johnellen Turner, O.P., presented our inaugural 2024 Vision of Hope *Partners in Mission* Award to Shea Family Charities for their service to our eight Vision of Hope schools.

The *Partners in Mission* Award honors individuals or organizations that exhibit selfless generosity and philanthropic contributions that align with the mission of the Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope.

Vision of Hope is thrilled to present the 2025 *Partners in Mission* Award to Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P. and the Founding Members at our Fall Luncheon on Friday, November 21st. We hope that you can join us!



Nicole Johnson, Dorothy Shea,
and Sister Johnellen Turner, O.P.

Grants Received 2024-2025

Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope receives support from our *friends* at foundations whose missions of helping the vulnerable and investing in quality Catholic education align with our own.

Below is a list of just some of the grants awarded during our fiscal year of August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Dan Murphy Foundation
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Foundation
Gene Haas Foundation
George and Mary Ann Leal Foundation
Green Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Howard and Kathleen Anderson Charitable Fund
Irene S. Scully Fund of the Marin County Foundation
KLM Foundation
The Joseph and Mercedes McMicking Foundation
Robert Stewart Odell and Helen Pfeiffer Odell Fund
Shea Family Charities
Specialty Family Foundation
The Fred and June MacMurray Foundation
The O'Brien Family Foundation
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation
Trust Funds Inc.
Y&H Soda Foundation
The Zip Foundation

Friend-raising

This past August, Vision of Hope marked thirty years of serving our eight networked urban schools and students. Celebrating friends—old and new—is at the core of who we are. With this important anniversary milestone in mind, we asked a few of our supporters to share their thoughts on Vision of Hope.



Chris McLain is a member of the Vision of Hope Bay Area Advisory Board, and he attended our inaugural *Day with the Giants* event at Oracle Park this past May. A lifelong Californian, Chris has lived in the Bay Area since 1963. He graduated from UC Berkeley (undergraduate and law school) and had a career as a business lawyer. Now retired, Chris works as a consultant and also shares his time and treasure with the Oakland Museum of California and Vision of Hope.

How did you first become involved with Vision of Hope?

I was introduced to Vision of Hope's Executive Director Nicole Johnson in January 2024. Shortly thereafter I started to tutor English and Math to the students at St. Elizabeth Elementary School in Oakland, which I continue to this day.

What does supporting Vision of Hope mean to you?

For me, it's all about the students. In my connection with them as a tutor, it is so special to see them light up and smile once something is explained to them.

How was your experience attending the Day with the Giants event?

What was the highlight of the event for you?

It was a very satisfying experience, from entry and seeing the silent auction items prominently displayed, to bidding and winning two of the items, to interacting with other guests (including a couple of my students). It was very impressive to be able to walk on the field right by a few of the Giants players as we headed to our seats to watch the exciting game—and the Giants pulled it out! The highlight for me was interacting with the other guests in Triples Alley prior to the start of the game. There were lots of great interactions and conversations!

After all the positive feedback we received, we are planning another Day with the Giants event for 2026. Would you be excited to attend again?

Absolutely, I would plan to attend in 2026. Not only will it be another memorable experience, I'm sure there will be some great silent auction items that I could bid on (and win!) to further support the good work of Vision of Hope!

Joanne and Rob Smith

were members of the founding Advisory Board first gathered by Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P. Buoyed by Sister Johnnie's 'friendraising' enthusiasm, the board was tasked with creating the Vision of Hope Endowment, ensuring support for our schools would remain in perpetuity. While raising their six children in La Cañada, they also made time to serve a multitude of Catholic organizations, including their parish, St. Bede the Venerable, the Doheny Foundation, Catholic Education Foundation and many others. In addition to cherished time spent with their 20 grandchildren and five great grandchildren, they remain faithful friends of Vision of Hope, our schools and students.



How did you and Joanne first become involved with Vision of Hope?

We met Sister Johnnie over 30 years ago and she shared with us her vision for the Dominican schools in our inner cities. Her enthusiasm was SO contagious!

Can you share a memory from being on the founding Advisory Board in those early years?

After one of our Board meetings we visited the classrooms, greeting the teachers and the students. They were all delightful and sang for us. This memory still stands out.

Why have you continued your support of Vision of Hope after all these years?

The early impact of the Board was truly awesome. All of us were touched with a desire to see Vision of Hope's work continue. The boards have grown, and so has the financial support.

You and Joanne have championed and attended nearly every Southern California fundraising event VOH has ever held. What makes you return to our events year after year?

Seeing old friends, new friends, the Dominicans Sisters and staff is always special. It is a gift that has graced so many lives (And we all know Sister Johnnie is smiling down on all of us!).

What is your wish for the students of our Vision of Hope schools?

Our wish for our students is that they will want Vision of Hope to continue, and that one day they will return to serve the next generation. AMEN!

Giving Matters

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, November 21
2025

Fall Luncheon

Jonathan Club, Los Angeles

Honoring

2025 Partners in Mission Award Recipient
Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P.
and Founding Members

and

Featuring Guest Speaker

Bishop Matthew G. Elshoff, OFM Cap.

Parents in Action

Francisco Gonzalez and the “Magic” of Parents in Action



The Gonzalez family celebrates Tracy's "Sweet Sixteen," August 2018. From left to right is Victor, Maggie, Francisco, Francisco III, Tracy, Lilly, Frankie, Jacqueline, and Christy.

For Francisco Gonzalez, the word “magic” best captures his experience with the Parents in Action (PiA) Program by the Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope. As a father of seven and a longtime supporter of Santa Teresita School (STS), Francisco's deep commitment to faith, family, and education is clear.

With his youngest child currently enrolled, the Gonzalez family proudly celebrates 25 consecutive years at STS. Francisco and his wife, Lilly, both products of public education, made a deliberate decision to seek something more meaningful for their children. “We wanted better,” Francisco shared.

“In Catholic school... it's the sense of morals that are instilled. We like that it's a small community. In public school, everyone's just out on their own—a fend-for-yourself kind of thing. At Santa Teresita, they don't let them fail. They push them to excel.”

Their children—Jacqueline (Sacred Heart High School, Cal State LA), Maggie (Sacred Heart, ELAC, now Head of HR at Amergis), Christy (Sacred Heart, Mount St. Mary's, University of San Francisco, Grand Canyon University), Victor (Cathedral College Prep, LACC, CSULB), Tracy (Sacred Heart, Mount St. Mary's), Frankie (Sacred Heart), and Francisco III (currently at STS)—are a testament to that decision.

Francisco was introduced to PiA by Program Director Danny Diaz at a “Coffee with the Principal” event and soon enrolled in parenting and computer literacy workshops. “They help you grow,” he says, noting how the parenting class reshaped the way he communicates with his children. “Instead of yelling, I learned to listen. And that changed everything.”

Francisco has witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the Parents in Action Program. Committed to becoming a more thoughtful and engaged parent, he encourages others—especially fellow fathers—to get involved. As he puts it simply and powerfully, “Our children need us.”

(2) Catholic High School Fairs



LMU Training for Teachers and Staff



Cyberbullying Parenting Classes



Family Engagement Culmination at St. Elizabeth



Digital Skills Workshops





In the 2024/2025 school year, the Parents in Action (PiA) Program continued to foster strong parent engagement across our eight Vision of Hope schools. It empowered parents and caregivers to make informed decisions about their children's education while promoting leadership, faith formation, and a deep sense of community. PiA workshops along with faith formation activities led by our Dominican Sisters highlighted the importance of collective support in personal growth, showing how faith, community, and shared experiences strengthen resilience and parenting confidence.

In Southern California, PiA Program Director Danny Diaz, with support from Family Liaisons, organized a wide range of workshops and events for the Los Angeles schools. These included Catholic High School Information sessions, a Know Your Rights immigration presentation, retreats, and parenting classes on Cyberbullying, Financial Literacy, ESL, STEM, and Social-Emotional Health. In partnership with Loyola Marymount University, PiA also hosted a parent engagement training for teachers and staff to strengthen home-school connections.

At our three Bay Area schools, PiA Program Coordinator Jacquie Hernandez led workshops on Financial Literacy and Family Engagement, helping caregivers develop budgeting and parenting skills. Spiritual gatherings provided emotional support and a renewed sense of hope during uncertain times. Together, these experiences brought over 100 participants into a supportive network committed to mutual learning and encouragement.

Looking ahead, we aim to build on the success of the past four years. Our next step is expanding the Family Liaison model to the Bay Area to support Jacquie and further develop the PiA Program, continuing to inspire, engage, and empower more families.



Sister Laurence Marie Diaz, O.P.

"For the past five years I have been engaged as a team member of the PiA family faith formation component at Sacred Heart School. The PiA Program helps parents embrace and internalize their Catholic culture, providing them with new spiritual strength and confidence to encourage their families to live as faith-filled Catholics."

Financial Literacy Workshop



Parenting Workshop Culmination at SAIC



Dominican Sisters Outreach Team Retreat for Eaton Fire Impacted Staff



Parenting Workshop Culmination at St. James



Thirty Years of FRIENDSHIP

Making friends, and celebrating them is at the very heart of Vision of Hope's continued success. With this in mind, we asked some of our friends to share both their memories and their motivation for supporting our students and schools, whether over the past few years, or the past few decades!

What is your earliest Vision of Hope memory?



Sister Georgette Coulombe, O.P.
Los Angeles Liaison, Vision of Hope

"During the Chapter of 1995, as a principal of a struggling inner-city elementary school, I received a "GIFT OF HOPE," as I saw the voting cards form a "SEA OF GREEN" before us! 200 sisters united and voted YES to work together to establish a financial process to support our struggling schools and prevent them from closing. I felt immediate relief, gratitude, strength, support and love for our children and their futures."

Why has supporting Vision of Hope been important to you?



"I attended Sacred Heart Elementary School along with my two siblings. I feel blessed that I have the opportunity to give back to the school that helped shape me into the person that I am today. I still have that sense of love, belonging and community when I visit Sacred Heart as I did when I was a student there in the 1970's."

Denise Bacall
Co-Chair, Vision of Hope Board of Directors



"Building unique relationships with new friends and sharing our Mission for the children—spiritually and educationally—has always been our number ONE objective. We can and will continue to grow, helping these individuals from each of our inner-city schools, watching them blossom and develop into strong adults."

Loretta Holstein
Advisory Board Member since 1995,
Vision of Hope



"Navigating Catholic education at the elementary school level has always been challenging. Combine those regular rigors with the pandemic, a fragile financial market at times, and changing demographics for schools, the consistency and generous funding from Vision of Hope for the past thirty years is essential."

Edward Corey
Chair 2021-2024, Vision of Hope
Board of Directors

Do you have a favorite memory of the Dominican Sisters?

"My favorite memory was seeing Sr. Johnnie at the 2013 dedication of the Sr. Johnnie Soccer Field at St. Francis X. Cabrini School, made possible by the generous support of the Shea Family Foundation and St. Sebastian Sports Project. This was Sr. Johnnie in her element, surrounded by students, faculty, staff and donors."

William F. Masterson
Member, Vision of Hope Board of Directors



"Being able to visit the Mother House in 7th grade for our Confirmation Retreat was such a great experience. Being there and doing activities with the sisters was truly special and I felt as if it helped our class focus fully on our Confirmation journey."

Nicolas Soto Juarez
St. James Alum (Class of 2009), St. James Classroom Aide and Extended Care Assistant Director

What is something you take away with you when you visit a Vision of Hope school?

"I am ALWAYS struck by how happy and confident the children are."

Lori Hawkins
Co-Chair, Vision of Hope Board of Directors



Carol Gabrielli
Member, Vision of Hope Board of Directors

"I was a classroom angel for St. James and had an opportunity to visit the school and the students two years ago. It was moving to me to witness the community of St. James. Students were known by their teacher, other teachers, the staff, the principal, etc. The circle of care, love, and attention was noteworthy."

What is your hope for the children of our schools?

"Vision of Hope does marvelous work for underserved children by providing them with a Catholic education. Our wish is that they move on to Catholic high school, attend college and EXCEL!"

Yvonne and Sam Navarro
Co-Chairs, Santa Teresita School Development Board

"My hope for the children of our Vision of Hope schools is the same hope I had over 30 years ago--to give our children the same educational opportunities that our students in more affluent schools had. Education is the key to help children to learn to live a better life by seeing what opportunities are before them."



Sister Celeste Marie Botello, O.P.
Congregational Prioress,
Dominican Sisters Mission San Jose

"My hope is that the students will use this opportunity, go on to college and a noble profession that fits each individual and will think of those in need once they earn a living and "pay it forward"--give others an opportunity to receive a Catholic Education."

Sister Jane Rudolph, O.P.
Dominican Sisters Mission San Jose

Thirty Years of TRADITION

So much has changed in our schools over the last thirty years, but many traditions remain the same—flag raising and morning assemblies, Christmas pageants, annual fundraisers, and students receiving a personalized and immersive learning experience. Through it all, our schools have remained grounded in the four pillars of the Dominican Order: Prayer, Community, Study and Service.



St. Ignatius of Loyola, 2003



St. Michael, 2024



St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception, 2018



2000



Sacred Heart, 2018



St. Michael, 1999



St. Elizabeth, 2022



1999

2024



Santa Teresita, 2024



Santa Teresita, 1999



St. Ignatius of Loyola, 2024



St. Ignatius of Loyola, 2024



2001

St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception



2024



Santa Teresita, 2001



circa 1990s

2025 Day with the Giants



Dominican Sisters
OF MISSION SAN JOSE

2025 JUBILARIANS

Triple Diamond

75th Jubilee

Sister Mary Christopher Miller
Sister Stella Marie Goodpasture

Double Diamond

70th Jubilee

Sister Patricia Layman

Diamond

60th Jubilee

Sister Francis Clare Fischer
Sister Sharon Dempsey
Sister Annunciata Auletta

Ruby

40th Jubilee

Hermana Carmelina Castaneda Segura



Lynne M. Hook

August 20, 1969 - May 11, 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce Lynne Hook, a member of our Los Angeles Advisory Board, passed away in May 2025. Lynne was a cornerstone of our Advisory Board, and left a remarkable impact on Vision of Hope, on her parish, American Martyrs Church, and on the wider Catholic community through her faithful dedication to numerous ministries and organizations. Lynne chaired the St. Frances X. Cabrini School Development Board for several years, and was instrumental in its great successes.

The school held a special place in Lynne's heart, and its students were always at the center. Lynne worked tirelessly to ensure the students had equal opportunities and sufficient support, no matter their financial circumstances. Her commitment to the school spanned a decade, as she spearheaded numerous school programs and projects.

At the St. Frances X. Cabrini school memorial mass, Lynne's friend and development board colleague, Peggy Grant shared, "There is a quote from scripture engraved on the ambo at Lynne's home parish of American Martyrs Church. It reads: 'Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only.' This message, engraved in the marble of the ambo, was surely also engraved on Lynne's heart."

"Lynne was more than just a friend to us—she was a passionate advocate for our students, a constant supporter of our teachers, and a beloved presence in the life of our school."

Principal Carmen Hart,
St. Frances X. Cabrini



Doris Pregonzer, Lynne M. Hook, and Vision of Hope students celebrate the blessing of *Sister Johnnie's Field* at St. Frances X. Cabrini school in 2022.

Cris Warner

March 4, 1961 - August 6, 2025



Cris Warner, Mopy Locker, Lori Hawkins, Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P., Shannon McDonald, and Joanne Hawkins at *Day at the Races* at Santa Anita Park in 2012.

"I am sure when Cris walked through those Golden Heavenly Gates, Sister Johnnie was there to greet her as our loving God was saying, 'Well, done, good and faithful servant.'"

Sister Celeste Botello, O.P.

Our Vision of Hope family is greatly saddened by the passing of Cris Warner in August 2025. Cris served for nearly a decade as a member of the Los Angeles Advisory Board. In 2011, Sister Celeste Marie Botello, O.P., was principal at Flintridge Sacred Heart High School and shared with Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P. ("Sister Johnnie"), then Executive Director of Hope, the names of three women who had been faithful volunteers. Those women, Cris Warner, Mopy Locker, and Sandra Herman, all became dedicated and enthusiastic members of the Vision of Hope Los Angeles Advisory Board. Mopy recalls, "Sister Johnnie called us again and again to talk about Vision of Hope – she was so persistent! She invited us to Santa Teresita school for a tour and lunch. By the end of the day, we were so impressed by the students and understood the need. We were all in!"

In 2012, when Vision of Hope held its inaugural Southern California *Day at the Races* at Santa Anita Park, Cris, an accomplished equestrian, jumped right in to volunteer on the event committee. *Day at the Races* grew bigger and better each year raising much-needed funds for our schools while creating lasting friendships and fond memories.



In Remembrance 2024-2025

†

Dominican Sisters *Vision of Hope* remembers the following individuals who have recently passed away.



Maricel Ala Orinoco

Aurora Bacall

Pauline Bilafer

Steven Blackburn

Sister Carol Marie Brown, O.P.

Sister Noreen Coleman, O.P.

Sister Sylvia Conant, O.P.

Albert Joseph Coulombe

Bishop John S. Cummins

John Driscoll

Mary Elizabeth Driscoll

Akira Endo

Lynne M. Hook

Sister Rosaleen Stoiber Kubitzki, O.P.

Helene Mahboub

Sister Rose Martin, O.P.

Marion McCarthy

Thomas Joseph Mellon Jr.

Bill Menningatti

Bill O'Connell

Rita Pauli

Katy Sadler

Sister Mary Louis Seal, O.P.

Norman Slaught

Patricia Smith

Cris Warner

Sister Giulii Zobelein, O.P.

Memorial Scholarships

Christian Parenting Scholarship

In Memory of George and Evelyn Smith, each year a \$2,000 award is given to two families at Santa Teresita School and two families at St. Ignatius of Loyola School. It honors parents who raise their children with Catholic values and work hard to be good parents living out their Catholic faith in their home and in their community.

Donors

Joan and Eugene Bock
Claire and Patrick Bonacci

Julia Sierra Memorial Scholarship

In memory of Julia Sierra, whose sons both attended St. Anthony's School, this scholarship is awarded at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School to a student(s) of an immigrant single parent, as Julia Sierra was, and exemplifies great need.

Donors

Maria Dolores Chapa Clark
Jorge Sierra and Frederick G. Miller
Raymond Souza

Levy-Smith Family Scholarship

Established by Laurie and Jeff Smith, this scholarship was established in memory of Laurie Smith's mother and supports new students in grades K-2 at Santa Teresita School and St. Michael School whose families might not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education. Each recipient receives \$3,000 annually for two years.

Donors

Laurie and Jeff Smith
Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

Holy Family Scholarship

A scholarship(s) restricted to St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School is awarded to a student(s) who demonstrates character and perseverance.

Donors

Susan and Albert Alioto
Bernadette Crnich
Carol and Bob Ellingson
Nina Gaetos-Estrada
Reverend Stephen Howell
Patricia Stachowiak
Caroline Stiggins
Jan and John Stiggins

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. Two families at each school in the Bay Area are awarded \$3,000 in tuition assistance for extraordinary service to the school.

Donors

Elaine Carpenter
Mary and John Hanlon
Patricia Stachowiak

Robert M. Holstein Jr. Memorial Scholarship

A \$1,700 scholarship is awarded in the fall to three eighth grade students from each of the eight Vision of Hope schools who carry on Bob's legacy of being "a person for others."

Donors

Kevin Gerber
Jeanette Glidewell
Jay Navarro

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 \$1,500 scholarship.

Donors

Bridenbecker Family Foundation
Barbara Wixson



Sister John Martin Fixa Memorial Scholarship

This year, one student at each of the eight schools received a \$1,875 scholarship. The students exemplify Sister John Martin's extraordinary kindness, humility, dedication, joy, and commitment to academic excellence.

Donors

Kathy Ault
Stephanie Capodanno
Don Casper
Loadia Golden
Janet Goodwin McNiff
Lauri and Donald Kaefer
Annely and John Kelleher
Kathleen and Kenneth Leytem
Julie Lyons
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Petronella Selders
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Veritas Scholarship Sister Mary Dominic and Sister Mary Thomas

Through this tribute, two incoming eighth grade students receive a \$2,500 scholarship award for Courageous and Compassionate Leadership, a hallmark of the two outstanding Congregational leaders.

Donors

Teresa Cabrera
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Patty and James Grass
Roseanne and Paul Lyon

McKenna Family Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the McKenna family to support students at their alma mater St. James School.

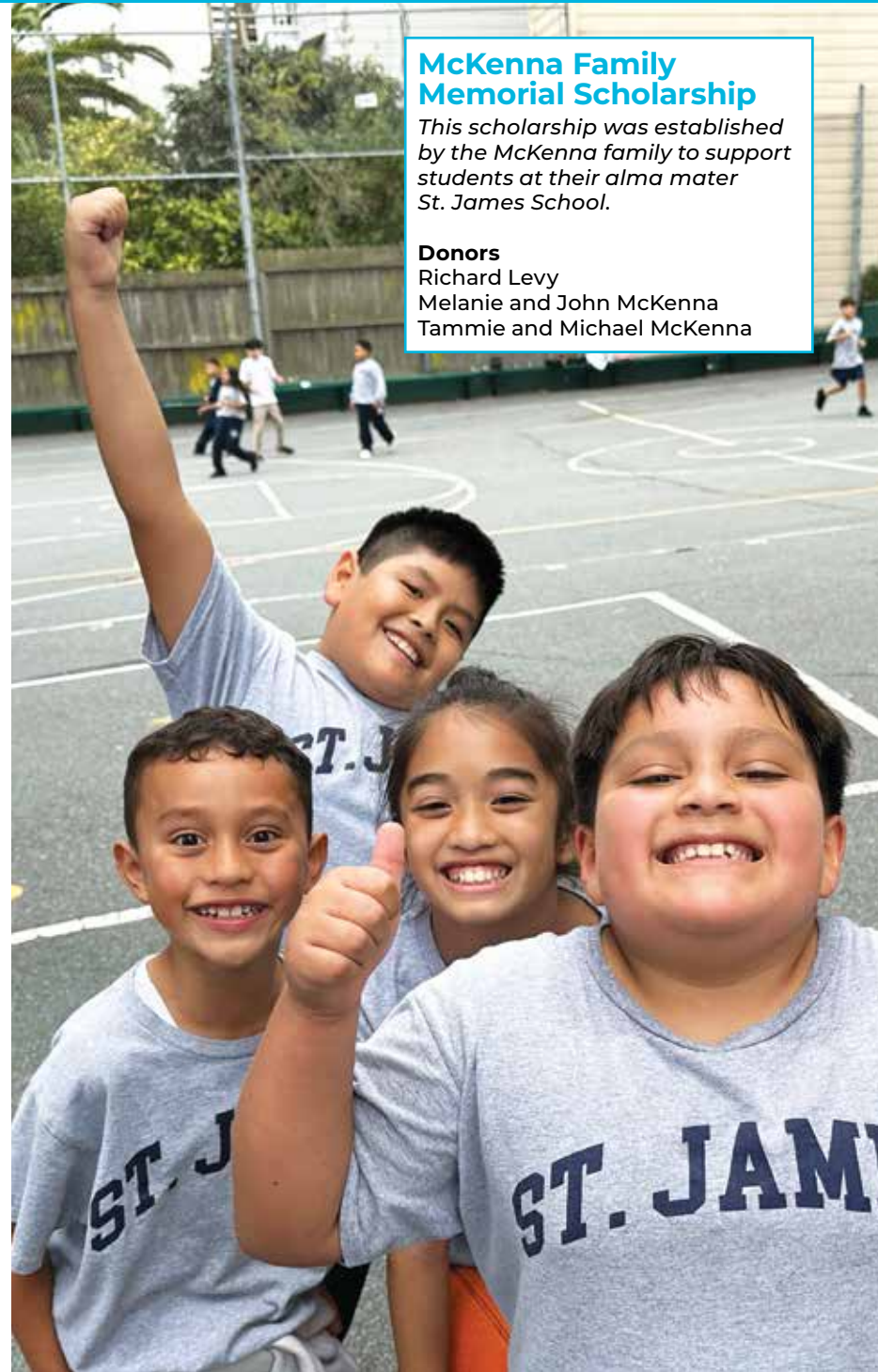
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Richard Levy
Melanie and John McKenna
Tammie and Michael McKenna



Francess Santos
Development Director
St. James School

"St. James built the foundation of my faith. It taught me compassion, service, and resilience rooted in strong spiritual values that continue to guide me personally and professionally."





Sister JoAnn Ashburn, O.P.

“Every day, I walk around with the collection bottle jingling in my hand. Sometimes they drop in a penny, sometimes a twenty. What’s neat is hearing them say, “This is from my own money.”

Koins for Kids

by Bridget Ronan, Principal at St. Catherine’s Academy

Koins for Kids connects deeply with how we try to help our boys live the Dominican Charism and practice the pillar of service. It provides our boys a meaningful way to live out the values that we try to instill in them. One of the major facets of our military tradition is teaching the boys to take care of each other and put others first. This a perfect opportunity for them to put this into practice. Teachers often tie the fundraiser into lessons about generosity, justice, and community, making it a powerful educational opportunity as well. Most importantly, students can see the impact of their giving, which encourages a spirit of compassion and service that lasts beyond the fundraiser itself. The fundraiser is also accessible to everyone—students can bring in even a few coins and still feel like they are making a difference. Adding friendly class competitions and visual elements like coin jars makes participation fun and engaging. The only prize is the coveted Mother Pia penguin that resides in the classroom with the highest percentage of donations. This year, our youngest boys in TK - 1st grade took first place! One day two brothers from this class walked in each holding \$100 bills. It’s clear that our teaching of the pillar of ministry is reaching the ears and hearts of our parents as well.

**Koins for Kids
Raises \$22,926.05
in 2025!**

Top School Contributions:

St. Catherine Academy

\$4,000.00

St. Michael

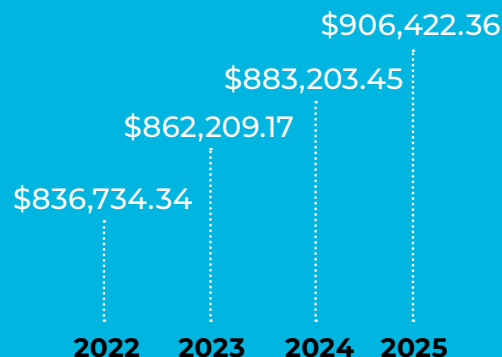
\$2,917.25

Sacred Heart ES

\$2,800.00

**\$1,000,000
GOAL**

Koins for Kids are determined!



A Vision of Hope student from 2003.



2024 St. Catherine’s Academy TK students Marc R. and Clint R.

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Julianne and Jim Bancroft

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Claire Wildman

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Lauri and Donald Kaefer

Giovanni Gaetos Estrada

Nina Gaetos-Estrada

Ezequiel's First Birthday

Nina Gaetos-Estrada

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Keepers of the Sleepover House**

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Lori Hawkins

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Lori and Patrick Imburgia

**Ann Magovern and Kate Carter and their
commitment to Catholic Education**

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Vision of Hope Staff

Ann Magovern and Kate Carter

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2024-2025**

*In honor of those who have included
Vision of Hope in their estate plans
through a charitable bequest,
charitable trust or other means.*

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Mary Canobbio Colias

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Eric Choi

Toni and Mike Gillespie

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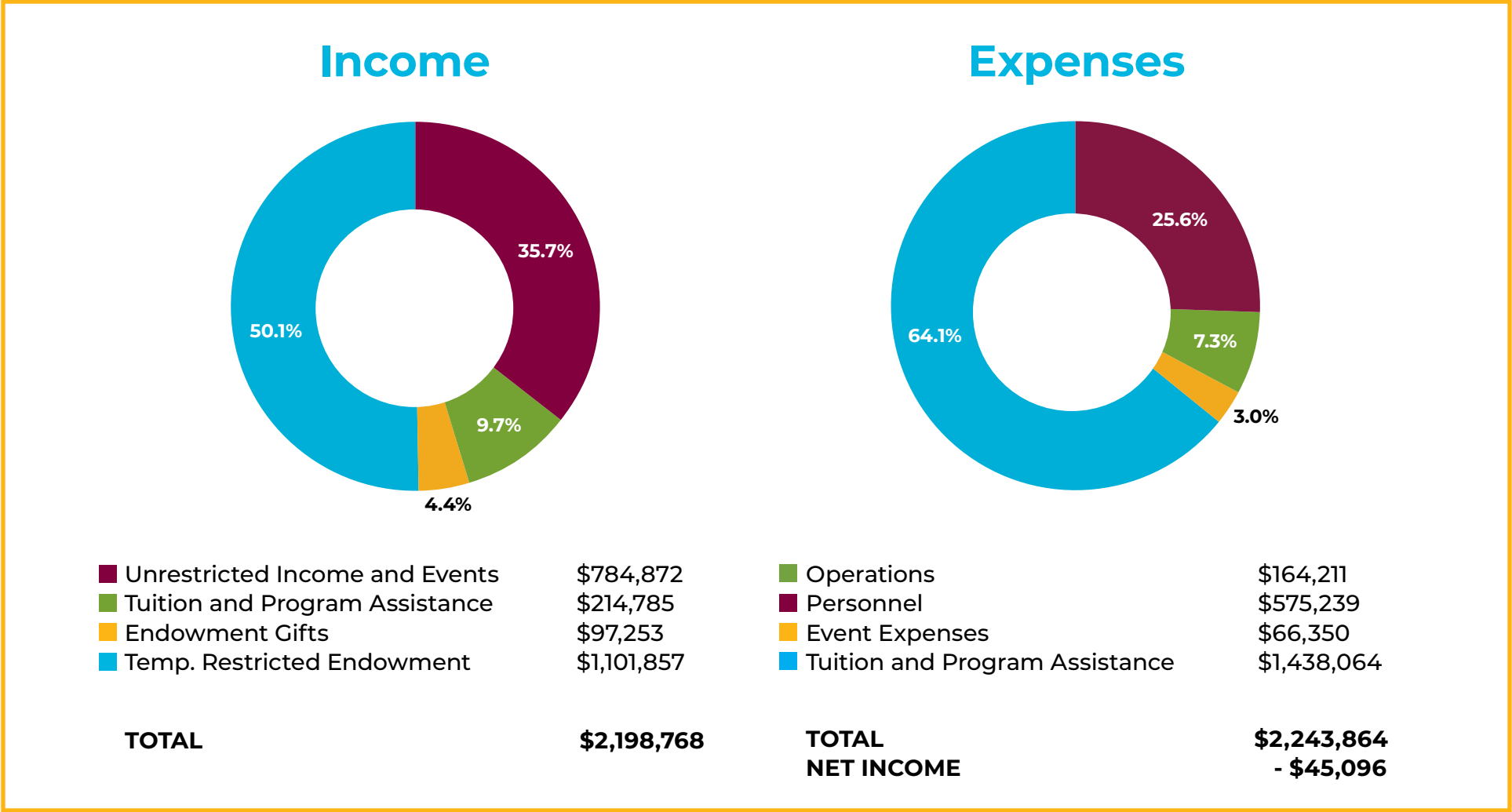
Tom and Joe Welsh

Patricia Ann Welsh

Financial Highlights of Fiscal Year 2024-25

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the friends, families and organizations who continue to support Vision of Hope. This year, our total income was \$2,198,768; this revenue was generated from our annual fundraising, grants, memorial scholarships, gifts and proceeds from the endowment. From this, schools received \$1,438,064 in tuition and program assistance. As of July 31, 2025, Vision of Hope’s total assets remained strong and were valued at \$15,984,144. Our investments gained 8.67% net of all fees.

Financial Highlights are presented using accrual accounting. Audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2025, will be available in December 2025.



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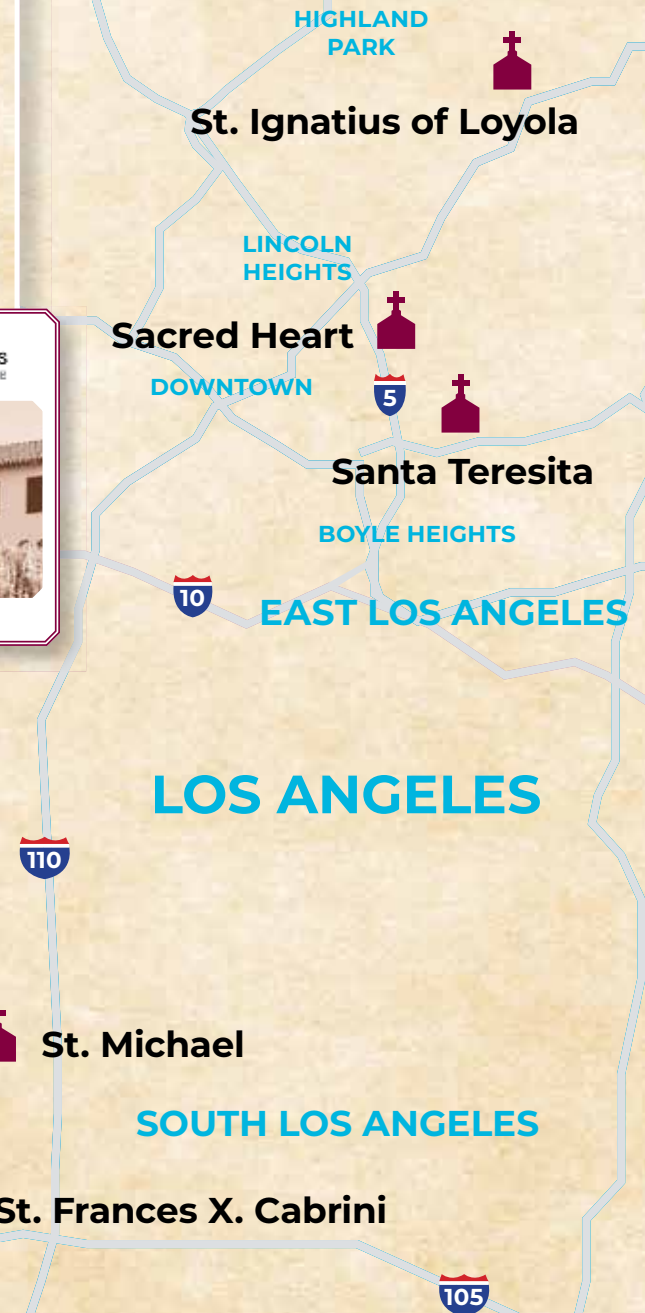
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Motherhouse



Dominican Sisters
VISION OF **HOPE**



Dominican Sisters Vision of Hope traces its roots to 1876, when three Sisters, led by foundress Mother Maria Pia Backes, arrived in San Francisco to teach. Over the next century, the Dominican Sisters of Mission San José opened over 40 schools across California, Oregon, Arizona, Mexico, and Germany. In 1995, recognizing the financial risks facing eight inner-city schools, the Dominican Sisters launched Vision of Hope. Sister John Martin Fixa, O.P. became the first Executive Director. By 2005, Vision of Hope raised an \$8 million endowment, ensuring long-term support and a quality Catholic education for the students of these eight schools.