



Sisters of the Holy Family

July 2011

To seek out and advocate
for the poor and needy,
especially families,
for the Kingdom of God.

New Leadership Team



The Sisters of the Holy Family, during Chapter June 2011, elected a new Leadership Team to serve for the period 2011-2015. Installation took place on Sunday, June 19, 2011. We are pleased to introduce you to the members of our new Leadership Team:

Gladys Guenther, Congregational President
Judeana Davidson, Congregational Vice President
Marietta Fahey, Congregational Councilor
Mary Lange, Congregational Councilor
Carolyn Whited, Congregational Councilor



The Sisters of the Holy Family are grateful to the Sisters who served on the Leadership Team from 2007 to 2011: Gladys Guenther, Congregational President; Judeana Davidson, Congregational Vice President; Marietta Fahey, Congregational Councilor; Guadalupe Partida, Congregational Councilor, RIP March 18, 2010; Sharon Flannigan, Congregational Councilor, 2010 – 2011.

*During the printing of our June 2011 issue of **Family of Friends** there was a technical glitch. This resulted in the omission of a portion of the story appearing on pages 6-7. Below is the full text of that story.*

A Fond Farewell to Las Vegas

After nearly 79 years of service by the Sisters of the Holy Family in Las Vegas, the three remaining Sisters in the Diocese of Las Vegas, Diane Maguire, Barbara Sheahan and Marie Julie Casattas, have returned to their Motherhouse in Fremont, California.

The Sisters of the Holy Family arrived in Las Vegas towards the end of 1932 from San Francisco, at the request of Bishop Thomas P. Gorman, to minister to the families and teach religion to the children whose families were building Hoover Dam, also known as Boulder Dam. At that time Las Vegas had only one Catholic Church, St. Joan of Arc. The four Sisters who started out in 1932 grew to 11 Sisters as the work increased and the city grew.

Because there was only one parish at that time, the Sisters ministered to all Catholics of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Sloan, and Blue Diamond. When the Sisters first came to Las Vegas, they lived in a small two bedroom rented house across the street from the kindergarten building of the Fifth Street Grammar School. As the city grew, the Sisters moved to the historical Whitehead House on 7th and Mesquite where they lived for the next 45 years. As the city was growing in population, so did the number of Sisters caring for the Catholic families in the parishes as they were being built. When the Catholic schools were built, the Holy Family Sisters continued their work with public school children and their families. In later years, the Sisters of the Holy Family served the towns of Henderson, Pittman, Whitney, Indian Springs, Moapa, Overton and Nellis Air Force Base.

The Sisters have performed many other works besides operating and directing Religious Education Programs in the parishes, such as developing and hosting Teacher Training Courses; Pastoral Care Training for parish ministers and visitations to the sick in hospitals and to the homebound.

In 1954, The Variety Club of Southern Nevada asked for the Sisters of the Holy Family to operate their nonprofit Day Home for the little children of low income families on the "West Side" while their parents were working. Divine Providence Variety Day Home began. The Day Home was staffed by four Holy Family Sisters and served daily over 100 children, two years old through kindergarten.

With time the program grew. In the 1980s the services of the Day Home expanded to include serving infants through kindergarten, and by that time the Day Home was caring for over 200 children, five days a week, while their parents worked. Later, the Day Home became Variety Day Home and expanded their services to become a neighborhood Family Resource Center, conducted English classes for immigrant parents, served as a Family to Family Center, became a United Way Teacher Training Center, and hosted the State of Nevada Even Start Program in that part of the city. Needless to say, the staff grew to over 50 thereby training and employing many residents from the local community. The Sisters of the Holy Family continued to administer the program until the end of 2000 at which time the leadership of the Day Home was turned over to the employees from the local West Side Community. One of our Sisters continued to work at the Day Home as Receptionist.

The Sisters are so proud also to have a dedicated group of people (our Associates) who are committed to the same charism and works as the Sisters. While living with their own families, these wonderful and holy people have enriched the lives of the Sisters in innumerable ways. Their ministries to serve those in need will continue.

Throughout these 79 years the one constant and fabulous gift has been the presence, hard work, dedication and support of all the wonderful people who have helped the Sisters and walked beside them every step of the way. The work of the Sisters of the Holy Family could not have been done without them, thanks be to God. Our love and prayer-filled gratitude will always be with them!