



Sisters of the Holy Family

MARCH 2011

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



Women's History is Alive and Expanding

Our History is Our Strength is the theme for Women's History Month March 2011. During these difficult times, it seems like a fitting theme for our nation to consider and embrace. This year, rather than highlighting national figures, you are encouraged to discover stories about the women in your families and communities. Knowing the challenges these women faced, grappled with, and overcame can be an enormous source of strength to all of us.

March is
National
Women's
History
Month 2011

creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Until relatively recently, this sphere of women's history was overlooked and undervalued. Women's achievements were often distorted, disdained, and denied. But, knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone.



*Sister Ann Marie Gelles
and Noelani*

In addition to the hundreds of wonderful engaging books illuminating women's lives, new resources and women's history sites are growing and expanding. Women's history also comes alive with the expertise of authors and presenters as well as with talented costumed performers who portray both famous and infamous women from our history with relish and panache.



Sister Michaela O'Connor

Women's shared history unites families, communities, and nations. Although our history is intertwined with that of men, several factors—social, religious, economic, and biological—have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history.

The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of all our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and

*From the
National
Women's
History
Project. Visit
the website
www.nwhp.org
for more
information.*

**Join us at our
Motherhouse to
celebrate Women's
History Month.**

The Motherhouse has two hallway exhibits this month. One honors women for their strength and the other honors our Sisters. Gracing the hallway is art by photographer Kelly Easting.

Sisters' Prayers and Devotions for March 2011

March 9 was Ash Wednesday The Sisters began the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40-day period of preparing our renewal baptismal promises at Easter. Ashes are blessed, mixed with either holy oil or water, and imposed on the head with the sign of the cross, or sprinkled on the forehead. The ashes are made from burning palm branches blessed the previous year on Palm Sunday.

Lent is the season before Easter. The traditional Lenten fast is observed, starting on Ash Wednesday, going through Holy Week, excluding Sundays. Lent celebrates and symbolizes Jesus' wilderness fast and is a preparation for Easter. Three vital and primary actions of Lent are prayer, fasting and alms giving. The Sisters pray for those who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Join the Sisters for Eucharistic Masses in the month of March:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 4:00 p.m.
- Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- No Mass on Friday, March 25 or Saturdays.

March 17 celebrate St. Patrick who was an active missionary in Ireland during the latter half of the fifth century. He was born to a high ranking family in Roman Britain. At 16, Patrick was captured by Irish raiders, and was taken to Ireland as a slave. While there, he learned the Celtic language. He escaped and returned to his family in Britain, where he entered the Church, became a bishop and later returned to Ireland as a missionary. Patrick baptized thousands, ordained priests, and converted many.

March 19, Saint Joseph's Day St. Joseph was betrothed to the Virgin Mary and the angel of the Lord appeared to him, telling him that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and that Joseph should take Mary as his wife. The angel instructed Joseph to

name the child Jesus. Joseph, being a humble man, obeyed the angel. St. Joseph is a model of humility and holiness, and is a model for fathers everywhere. He cared for the Son of God; his devotion to Mary and his willingness to listen to the angel of God demonstrate his humility. He is the patron saint of the universal Church for a happy death, workers, carpenters, expectant mothers, families, and more. This feast has always been celebrated by the Sisters of the Holy Family as St. Joseph is one of our patron saints.

March 25, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive a Son, and his name will be Jesus. His greeting, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you" has echoed down through the ages in many prayers, and is known as the "Hail Mary." The Feast of the Annunciation is the beginning of Jesus' miraculous life.



Mother's Day

Brunch

Save the morning of Sunday, May 8 for brunch with the Sisters of the Holy Family at our annual Champagne Mother's Day Brunch. This year, in addition to your long-time brunch favorites, we are adding a bit of southern flavor.

Although the Sisters have been celebrating Mass on Sundays, there will be a Eucharistic Liturgy on Saturday May 7.

Raffle

Keep an eye out for the invitation and raffle tickets.

Proceeds from the Spring Raffle and the Mother's Day event go toward keeping the home of the Sisters safe and comfortable.

Southern



Hospitality