

The Rose

Santa Teresita's Monthly Newsletter

January 14, 2013
Volume 3, Issue 1

The Grace of the Ordinary

Each year, as the decorations come down and the Christmas music ceases to resound down the halls, many wonder if beauty can be found in the ordinary. The answer is simple: absolutely yes! It is the glory of the Christmas and Easter Seasons that indeed enhance the wonder of everyday life. In Christmas, we celebrate the birth of God into time as a man, one of us. What greater way could there be to show God's desire to be present with us than the beauty of



the manger scene? At the stable, one realizes that Jesus came to enter into the very ordinary places of our lives. He did not come to a palace or even a middle-class home. He came among the sheep and oxen, a place symbolic of both labor and rest. It is the ordinariness of life, the daily labor, noise, and even rest that Christ enters into if we let Him. We pray that you may encounter Christ amidst the daily, ordinary tasks of everyday and bask in the beauty of His Love for you!



Home, Sweet, Home!

Home at long last! With great joy, the first Cottage in our Neighborhood of Care at Santa Teresita opened its beautiful doors. Six residents moved in their last items and finally settled into their new home. Laughter and some joyful tears filled the new Living Area as an intimate group of friends and family joined us to welcome our residents home. There is something beautiful about seeing a dream come to fruition and life before one's eyes, but even more beautiful is the love and care that now extends to an even greater part of our Campus. We are so grateful to all those who have helped us to make this dream possible. May Jesus continue to bless us and fill our new home, The Good Shepherd Cottage, with His Love.



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Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 17th
10:30-11:30am

Senior University in Madonna Hall

Sunday, January 26th
1:00-3:30pm

“There is Power in Service –
Connecting with the Heart”
Madonna Hall

Open to all Teens 13-17

Free Admission

RSVP (626) 408-7823

Saturday, February 9th
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Open House

Bethany Assisted Living,
Good Shepherd Cottage and
Manor Skilled Nursing

RSVP: (626) 408-7802

Thursday, February 14th
8:00 a.m.

“Women and Heart Disease” by
Vyshali Rao, M.D.

LIFE Breakfast in Madonna Hall

RSVP: (626) 408-7802

Thursday, February 21st
10:30-11:30am

Senior University in Madonna Hall

Saturday, February 23rd
Celebrating Mother Luisita

Saturday, March 9th
Hayden 5K

Catechetical Corner

“What if faith is not enough?”

“Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below. Then we shall see God “face to face”, “as he is”. So faith is already the beginning of eternal life: When we contemplate the blessings of faith even now, as if gazing at a reflection in a mirror, it is as if we already possessed the wonderful things which our faith assures us we shall one day enjoy. ^(St. Basil) Now, however, “we walk by faith, not by sight”; we perceive God as “in a mirror, dimly” and only “in part”. Even though enlightened by him in whom one believes, faith is often lived in darkness and can be put to the test. The world we live in often seems very far from the one promised us by faith. Our experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death, seem to contradict the Good News; they can shake our faith and become a temptation against it. It is then we must turn to the *witnesses of faith*: to Abraham, who “in hope. . . believed against hope”; to the Virgin Mary, who, in “her pilgrimage of faith”, walked into the “night of faith” in sharing the darkness of her son’s suffering and death; and to so many others: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

CCC 162, 164-166

Our Mother

February marks a very special month for the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. On February 11th, we celebrate the life of our Beloved Mother Foundress, Mother Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament, affectionately known as Mother Luisita. Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Mother Luisita was the daughter of wealthy land owners. Her parents took special care that their little daughter learned the importance of virtue and charity. At the age of fifteen, a marriage was arranged for her with a gentle man named Don Pascual. Although she felt called to serve the Lord as a Religious Sister, she consented to the marriage.



(Potty) Training for Success

Each year we are able to welcome new students to Hayden Child Care Center on the grounds of Santa Teresita. The playful gardens, animal statues and a fun little outside amphitheatre all help create a vibrant atmosphere of learning. At Hayden, each child is given the care they need in order to train them for success. Not only do we focus on success in academics, but success in life as a whole. Therefore, our curriculum is designed to take a holistic approach to education. Our goal is to educate with the mind and Heart of Christ. One of the opportunities for growth that we are fortunate to offer to the children is a Potty-Training program.

Here, our youngest members learn in an encouraging environment how to discipline themselves in a very basic fashion in order to function well in society. The support of attentive staff gives each child the confidence they need in order to jump this hurdle of early childhood development. Once they graduate the potty training stage, they continue within the same familiar surrounding of love and care that is the hallmark of Santa Teresita. So, whether it is learning colors, shapes, the alphabet, or how to get to the bathroom on time, we are here to help children train for success.



Soon, she and her husband founded the Hospital of the Sacred Heart in Guadalajara to serve the poor in the community. Unable to have children of their own, the couple agreed that the poor would be their children. After only a short time of marriage, Don Pascual died, leaving Maria Luisa a widow. She continued to run the hospital they founded and eventually was given permission to form a religious community of sisters. The Carmelite Sisters of the Sacred Heart were formed and Maria Luisa became Mother Luisita. In the 1930s, however, the sisters had to flee from religious persecution and found refuge in the United States. Mother Luisita was known for her charity and zeal. She was a mother to all.

