

*Blessing of the New Chapel  
 Doors and Bells!*

Last Christmas, those who live in the neighborhood of Santa Teresita in Duarte, Monrovia, and Bradbury expressed interest in having Santa Teresita's St. Joseph Chapel Bells turned on again. When we found out that the pricetag would be \$10,000.00, our friends and neighbors rallied to raise the funds needed. We are happy to share that the bells will be back on for this holiday season. Just in time for Thanksgiving!

How wonderful it is that those in the community pulled together to make this a reality! In the trying times in which we live, we need symbols of hope and joy that draw us to raise our thoughts to the most precious things in life: gratitude for our family, faith, friends, and so many other blessings.

The Chapel Bells are certainly a symbol of that.

In order to say "THANK YOU" for helping us bring them back to our neighborhood, we had a gathering of about 300 people on Sunday, November 19th where Father Donald Kinney, O.C.D., celebrated a mass for all our deceased loved ones, and then prayed a special blessing over the doors and bells. The bells rang out in a celebration peal and then a couple joyful hymns played during an outdoor reception.

*One of our neighbors, Cecilia, shared beautifully about what the bells mean to her and our neighborhood*



*After Father Donald blessed the doors, all the people proceeded through them while the bells rang out!*



# The Story behind the Artwork on the Chapel

As we worked to create a vision for the new doors, we wanted them to tell the story of Santa Teresita, thus we turned to the collection of the beautiful Vargas carvings that grace many places on our campus. Ruldoph Vargas was an internationally known wood carver, and Santa Teresita possess the largest collection of his work, more than 50 original woodcarvings.

**St. Therese:** “Santa Teresita” is a French Carmelite who is the patron of our campus. She was chosen to be our patroness because she died of tuberculosis and Santa Teresita, at its founding, first served young women suffering from that disease. She is a beautiful model of childlike simplicity and deep love of God and neighbor.

**Mother Luisita:** Our beloved and saintly foundress had mission to combine the life of prayer and service to God’s people. Since 1930, our sisters have been living out her mission at Santa Teresita.

**Sacred Heart:** The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the sign of God’s infinite love for all of mankind.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel:** Carmelites are dedicated to the service of Jesus and Mary. She responded to the call of Jesus perfectly and we take her as our mother and model of Christian discipleship.

**Carmelite Shield:** This is the shield of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. The cross set atop the mountain represents our life of prayer and the stream of water flowing down represents the fruit of our prayer flowing out to the world.

**Santa Teresita Hospital Shield:** Santa Teresita was a general hospital for over 50 years. This shield combines symbols of the healthcare industry, the ‘roses’ of St. Therese, as well as the emblem ‘angel wings’ which represent that we are located in the beautiful Archdiocese of Our Lady of the Angeles.

**St. Joseph:** The patron of our chapel, we decided that he deserved a prominent place on our doors. The foster-father of Jesus teaches us how to listen to God and follow His will in steadfast trust and fidelity.

**Jesus healing the sick:** This beautiful carving conveys the truth that Jesus is the source of healing, physical and spiritual.

Here is a glimpse  
of the doors.  
Come and  
admire them  
for yourself!



## Congratulations!

**L.I.F.E Mission Awardees**  
(Living in Faith Everyday)

*September*

Hortencia Mercado (Cottage)

Grace Barragan (Manor)

Rosa Torres (Manor)

Vanessa Medinca (Manor)

Kathrine Davis (Manor)

Rosalina Virata Larino (Manor)

Vilma Donahue (Manor)

Zenaida Navarro (Manor)

At the blessing  
event, one of the  
raffle prizes was a  
nun doll holding a  
bell in her hand

