



## Hope & New Beginnings

Dear Friends,

Last Christmas Eve, the Church joyfully ushered in the Jubilee Year of 2025, a sacred time of hope and renewal. This Jubilee invites us to trust more deeply in the grace of the Holy Spirit, who stirs in our hearts a longing for heaven—our true home and ultimate happiness.

In the Old Testament, the Jubilee Year was a time of restoration, forgiveness, and new beginnings—debts were erased, broken relationships were healed, and society was renewed in mercy. Today, this call remains: to encounter God's boundless mercy and extend that mercy to others. What a gift it is to begin again, to rediscover the joy of belonging to Christ, and to walk forward in hope!

Mary, our Star of Hope, embodies this call in its fullness. Her hope was not mere wishful thinking but a firm and unshakable trust in God's promises—from the Annunciation to the Cross and beyond. She teaches us that true hope changes everything—how we see, how we live, and how we love.



Sr. Angelica, Sr. Stella Maris and Sr. Mary Claire attended Vespers with the Holy Father for the World Day of Consecrated Life.



Sr. Mary Claire gives Pope Francis a SOLT sticker.

We are deeply grateful to you, our dear friends, for walking this journey with us. Your prayers, generosity, and support enable us to continue our mission of bringing Christ's love to the world. May we fix our eyes on Jesus, our dawn and our light, and walk forward in courage and confidence, knowing that His love sustains us at every step.

Know that you are in our hearts and prayers. May this Jubilee Year be a time of abundant grace, deep renewal, and unwavering hope for you and your loved ones.

*In Christ,*

*Sister Mary Aloysius Kim, SOLT*



Energetic SOLT members and missionary volunteers attended SEEK25 in Salt Lake City.



# Sisters' Updates

## Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity: Our Motherhouse of Hope

It's hard to believe it's already been over two months since the dedication Mass of our new Motherhouse! Although we have just moved in, we are already experiencing the fruits and blessings of the construction of our new home. Numerous friends have become a part of filling these walls not only with new furniture, but with new memories.

As we pieced together each shelf and chair, relationships were being built. Our spacious dining room has hosted a rosary-making group as well as a Super Bowl party!

Our floors have seen the boots of the electricians, the work shoes of the novices and the little feet of our construction supervisor's son who loves to race up and down the halls.

Our library is the scene of many planning discussions and beautiful chant has filled our chapel in between the moving and organizing of boxes. We hope you enjoy the photos of what we've experienced so far and we again give thanks for your generosity in supporting this important and necessary endeavor!

- Sister Mary Emmanuel Schmidt, SOLT

*Sr. Mary Emmanuel Schmidt, SOLT, is originally from Minnesota and currently serves as the Regional Sister Servant for the American Region.*



Rosemarie Cronin, the sister of our Founder, Fr. James Flanagan, greets Sr. Margaret Mary after the dedication Mass.



Sisters process into the chapel to adorn the newly-consecrated altar.

**Many thanks for our friends and family who've asked about ongoing support for the sisters' Motherhouse!**

*Here are some of our monthly expenses as we plan for the year ahead.*

Nursing help: \$4,500/month

Lawn care: \$500/month

Electricity: \$1,200/month

Water: \$1,000/month

**DONATE ONLINE**

*To make a donation by check, please remit to  
SOLT Sisters  
1200 Lantana St  
Corpus Christi, TX 78407*





Back row: Sr. Mary Aloysius, Sr. Mary Shwetha, Sr. Megan Marie, Sr. Mary Joan.  
Front row: Sr. Mary Carina, Sr. Gemma Maria and Sr. Megan Mary, Novice Servant.

## A New Chapter and a Heart of Hope

New beginnings can often feel bittersweet, as the sadness of saying goodbye to the familiar can often threaten to cloud the joy and excitement of the start of a new chapter. This past December, as my postulancy year in Detroit was quickly coming to an end, my heart was torn. *I was filled with anticipation and joy in preparing to move to Texas to begin my novitiate, but at the same time grieving the loss of 'life as I knew it.'*

As I brought my fears to the Lord, I began to relate my experience to what I imagine the Apostles felt awaiting the Holy Spirit's arrival at Pentecost. Their daily lives alongside Jesus had changed dramatically—and their hearts were burdened as they grieved His departure while also striving to trust in His promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Similarly, I was filled with confidence and peace at the thought of beginning my novitiate, but knowing I would be giving up all that the Lord had given me during postulancy made it difficult to fully enter into the excitement of starting novitiate with a hope-filled heart.

In my prayer, the Lord asked, "Do you believe that I will fill you?" Suddenly, I realized that I was trying to provide for myself by holding on to what He had given me, instead of holding on to Him alone. I didn't trust He would fill me with hope, and in my worries, I had forgotten that He alone is the source of hope. *Hope is His free gift to me, and all that He asks of me is a heart open and ready to be filled by Him.*

In the case of the Apostles, after days of waiting and prayer, God's promise is fulfilled at Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit invites them to start a new chapter in their lives with the Lord. For me, the Lord's invitation to follow Him in this new year began with my entrance into the novitiate on the Feast of the Epiphany. And although my daily life as a novice looks different from my life in Detroit, like the Apostles, *my heart is filled with gratitude and hope as I continue to follow the Lord's call in this new chapter of my formation.*

- Sister Megan Marie

*Sr. Megan Marie Wilson is originally from the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA and spent several years as a missionary in Honduras before entering formation with the SOLT Sisters.*



# Hope in the Jubilee Year



Sr. Stella Maris going through the Holy Doors.



Sr. Stella Maris carries the Jubilee Cross into St. Peter's.



Sr. Mary Claire enjoying the Italian sunset.

"Sisters, at this moment we will recite the Apostle's Creed together. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth..."

These were the only words I could say out loud as my voice faded and my eyes filled with tears. I was standing next to the tomb of Saint Peter, deep beneath the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome.

I stood surrounded by 14 other Sisters from six different religious communities. I was overwhelmed with the understanding of the meaning of my faith and the gift of the Church. Did I really believe it? Would I lay down my life as Peter did out of love for the Church, the bride of Christ? My heart was so overwhelmed with gratitude for the Church that I gave my "yes" freely to these thoughts.

All fears and doubts left my mind. I recite the Creed often but at that moment the words held me in awe. These great mysteries of our faith spoken in the Creed are alive, living realities that keep me hopeful for what is to come. I knew I belonged to something so much more powerful, bigger, and beautiful than I imagined. The Church Triumphant is my home; I truly await the great glory that is to be revealed. As religious Sisters we are a sign of hope but what does it mean for me?

This experience in the catacombs helped me see that I am a member of a family that surrounds me, encourages me, fights for me, wants the best for me, and loves me deeply. For me, hope is knowing I am never alone and that I am deeply loved by the Bridegroom. The Church is a place of security, joy, and peace. With this new deepening of my sense of hope, I am filled with gratitude. In this great Jubilee year of hope may we continue to grow in our love of the Church.

- Sister Maris Stella Maris, SOLT

*Sr. Maria Stella Maris Abbott grew up in Grand Cayman and is currently assigned as the Postulant Servant.*



Sr. Stella Maris, Sr. Angelica and Sr. Mary Claire pose before St. Peter's Basilica.