



mission

magazine

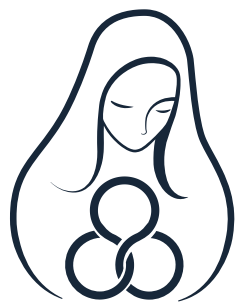
SUMMER 2021



LIFE IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF SOLT:
Fr. Dale Craig, SOLT

**TEACHING CATHOLIC CULTURE
WITH MUSIC:** Sr. Holy Hope, SOLT

CALLED, COMMITTED, SENT:
Maureen Murray



SOCIETY *of* OUR LADY
of the Most Holy Trinity

A message from the
**GENERAL
PRIEST
SERVANT**



The Common Thread

In writing the opening article for the Mission magazine, our editor Sr. Mediatrix typically sends me the articles of the issue and asks me to try and find some unifying theme to highlight. Occasionally, there is a clear theme which emerges from the submissions, but more often than not, it takes some reflection for a common thread to emerge. Take for example this issue. Enclosed you will find an article from a married SOLT lay woman serving in administration and formation for the SOLT lay association while also assisting at a small parish in Kansas City; an article from a SOLT sister with a doctorate in chemistry and a masters in organ, currently teaching music at a Catholic elementary school in Phoenix; and an article from a SOLT priest who is a former engineer, serving as Pastor in very rural New Mexico at the birthplace of the SOLT community in the Mora Valley. Each of their vocations, missions and experiences are very unique and diverse relative to one another.

That is not the norm for most religious communities. Many times, the charism of religious communities revolves around a particular ministry or apostolate like education, parishes of a certain type, or medical care, among many others. There is a clear apostolate and members are trained specifically to be able to engage in the kind of ministry the community specializes in. Obviously, there is some advantage to such uniformity of purpose in that members always know where or in what way they will be serving.

In SOLT, we are truly a very diverse group! We have practically every vocation present in our community: single, married, sisters, brothers, permanent deacons and priests. We have members from a wide variety of ethnic and educational backgrounds. We have some musicians, some athletes, some artists, some cooks, some professionals, and some handy men and women. We serve in a whole variety of missions like parishes in urban and rural settings, migrant ministry, orphanages, schools, drug rehabilitation clinics, retreat centers, colleges, medical

Teachers and sisters from Our Lady's Montessori School in Kansas City visit the SOLT mission in Belize.





Disciples of Jesus through Mary living in Marian-Trinitarian communion, serving on Ecclesial Family Teams in areas of deepest apostolic need

clinics, a radio station, and serve on a native reservation. Indeed, when looking for the common thread that unites us, it is better to not look at what we do or where we come from because you will find far more diversity there than unity!

Over my years of travel while serving as General Priest Servant, I inevitably get asked the question: What does SOLT do? As you can tell from reading the above, it isn't an easy answer to give. However, in our community, I think the more appropriate and telling question is not what we do, but rather, who we are! We are a community made up of very diverse individuals from all vocations and walks in life who serve in a diverse and broad spectrum of missions. As much as possible, we hope that we are able to match up the uniqueness of each member with the uniqueness of each mission. But more than anything, we are a community that strives to live in the communion of the Most Holy Trinity, following the example of our Blessed Mother Mary.

Living in this communion means accepting one another in our differences, forgiving one another in our failings, and encouraging one another in living our mission, which is striving to lead all those we serve to communion with the Most Holy Trinity. Indeed, the common thread that binds us together is nothing less than the love and communion of the Blessed Trinity, the intercession of our Mother Mary, and our desire to serve as Jesus served! Our unity is found not in what we do, but in who we are.

FR. PETER MARSALEK, SOLT

Fr. Peter, originally from Burlington, Ontario, is currently serving as the General Priest Servant of SOLT. He resides in Corpus Christi, TX.

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VOCATIONS

Priests & Brothers Vocations

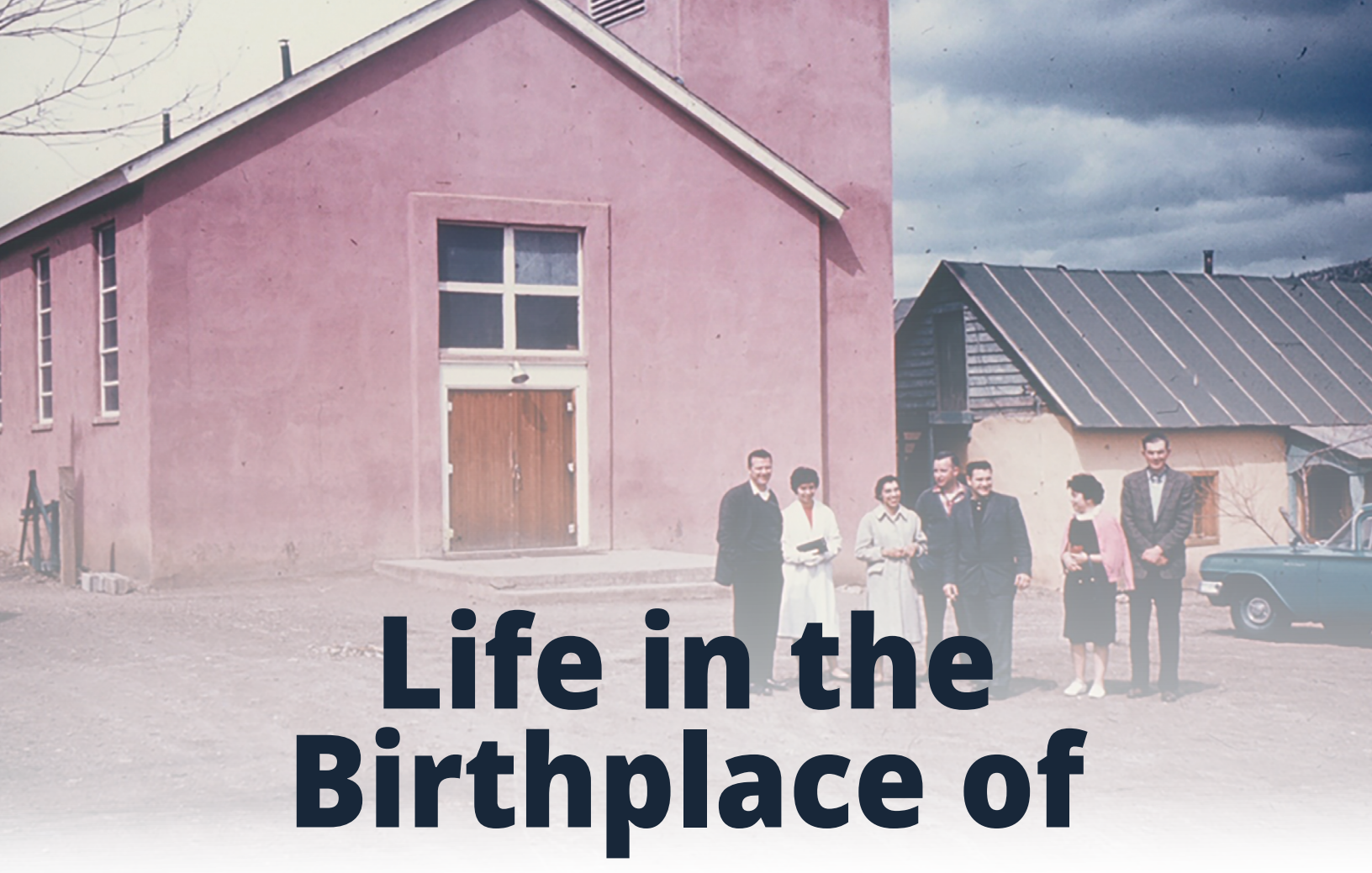
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Life in the Birthplace of

SOLT

My recent arrival in the Mora Valley of Northern New Mexico, the birthplace of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, has raised up both the new and the old. The new for me has been experiencing the welcoming, kind and friendly people of the Mora Valley. It has been a privilege to experience the life of St. Gertrude's Parish, visiting the mayordomos (the individuals who generously care for each of the sixteen Mission Churches), and coming to know many families of the Mora Valley.

The old I have wonderfully experienced through the intriguing stories of the people, who were children when Fr. Jim, our founder and Fr. John, our co-founder arrived here in the 1950's. Again and again, people joyfully want to tell their stories.

Frequently I hear, "Fr. Jim was our football coach." "Those priests were like fathers to me." Several people have told stories of Fr. Jim walking from place to place because he had lent his car to someone in need while he was then left to travel on foot. As he walked people would pick him up and take him on his way. One elderly man said to me, "Father, I have known a lot of priests in my life, but Fr. Jim and Fr. John were something very special. They came for God and to give their whole lives to serve us. They held nothing back."

Along with the love people have for our founder and co-founder, people have also shared many memories about the Sisters and the early "lay apostles." "Lay apostles" was the name given to the laity who came and served in the vision of Fr.

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Father, I have known a lot of priests in my life, but Fr. Jim and Fr. John were something very special. They came for God and to give their whole lives to serve us. They held nothing back.



Jim. We now call them SOLT lay members. I rarely go a day without someone asking when we are going to get more Sisters here. The people love the deep relationships they have shared with the Sisters through the years.

Today it seems ripe for the rejuvenation of the lay volunteers. As I visit with people and ask for ideas on how the laity can serve, the list is long. They say the laity can help with “the youth, the elderly and homebound, young families, the Legion of Mary, catechesis, assisting with the programs for the poor, food pantry, evangelization, etc.” There are a number of strong, young families who are very aware and concerned for the good of their children

due to the serious problems of our modern world. They gather frequently, support one another and grow in graced friendships. They have a great desire to be holy, Catholic families and we are working to support them and help them grow.

As a parish and ecclesial family team, we are working to build a strong foundation in this Catholic community. From there, we hope to extend the invitation to be part of the family of God. It is a blessing and joy to serve in our ecclesial family team here in the Mora Valley at this time in history. You are welcome to come and visit, and even join us!

Opposite page: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, the first parish of SOLT, in Holman, New Mexico; Above: Sr. Mary Anne Boonsawang visits the graves of Fr. Jim and Fr. John in Holman; Fr. Dale, Fr. Paul Grala, Sr. Teresa Pacheco and Matthew Moore (visiting) during family brunch



FR. DALE CRAIG, SOLT

Fr. Dale Craig was ordained to the sacred priesthood for SOLT in 1997. He began serving at St. Gertrude's in March, 2021. Previously, he was pastor at Most Holy Trinity in Phoenix, Arizona.



Teaching Catholic Culture with *Music*

In June 2020, I was reassigned to Phoenix, where I now serve at Most Holy Trinity (MHT) Catholic School as the K-8 music teacher. It was my first time as an elementary and middle school teacher. I had spent the last nine years serving at Our Lady's Montessori School in Kansas City as a preschool aide and music teacher, so I guess I finally graduated from preschool! Taking on a new role was definitely a daunting experience, especially given the challenges of hybrid teaching and all the health procedures to be incorporated. The majority of our students at MHT are on scholarship. Thankfully, the State of Arizona has

a program where tax dollars can be directed to specific schools and specific children, giving the parents much more choice as to where their children are to be educated. Without it, most of our students would not be able to afford Catholic education.

MHT has an amazing music program built by the music teachers that preceded me, and I inherited one of the most well stocked music rooms I have ever seen. I teach a Kodaly inspired K-4 program, piano in 5th and 6th grade; 7th grade learns classical guitar, and the 8th grade learns bell choir with the option of advanced guitar.



Opposite page (from left):
Sr. Holy Hope teaches classical guitar to seventh graders at MHT. She leads music during the weekly school Mass

This Page (from top):
Music students participate in the school Mass at Most Holy Trinity. A local Boy Scout will be building a new altar for the convent as his Eagle Scout project. Fr. Dale dedicates a beautiful new Sacred Heart Statue at MHT.



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Music in a Catholic school also has the broader mission of serving the liturgy in worship. Both the bell choir and a small guitar choir worked up to playing for the Wednesday school Masses in the latter part of the year, accompanying songs that were sung by their classmates.





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By teaching music, I am teaching culture. Not only am I teaching American culture through patriotic songs, folk songs, dances, and games, but I also teach Catholic culture through our hymn and chant repertoire.

Above: The students enjoy their classical guitar class; ecclesial team morning prayer at Most Holy Trinity

By teaching music, I am teaching culture. Not only am I teaching American culture through patriotic songs, folk songs, dances, and games, but I also teach Catholic culture through our hymn and chant repertoire. My younger students were really excited to learn songs in Latin while my older students were fascinated by hymns that are 800 years old, such as the Salve Regina and Godhead Here in Hiding (Adoro te Devote), which besides being old was written by St. Thomas Aquinas!

Music in a Catholic school also has the broader

mission of serving the liturgy in worship. Both the bell choir and a small guitar choir worked up to playing for the Wednesday school Masses in the latter part of the year, accompanying songs that were sung by their classmates.

I am grateful for this new experience of teaching middle school, after teaching preschool at Our Lady's Montessori School in Kansas City for the last nine years. Jesus is constantly opening my heart and understanding of His people.



SR. MARY OF HOLY HOPE CHENG

Sr. Mary of Holy Hope Cheng is originally from Calgary, Canada. She professed her first vows in 2011 and perpetual vows in 2016.

Where SOLT Serves...

AMERICAN REGION

BELIZE

BENQUE VIEJO
BELIZE CITY

GUATEMALA

APOSTOLIC VICARIATE
OF EL PETEN

MEXICO

NUEVO LAREDO*
QUERETARO*



UNITED STATES

PHOENIX, AZ*
ATLANTA, GA
SIOUX CITY, IA*
DETROIT, MI**
KANSAS CITY—
ST. JOSEPH, MO**
SANTA FE, NM**
FARGO, ND*
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX*
GALVESTON—
HOUSTON, TX**
SEATTLE, WA**

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

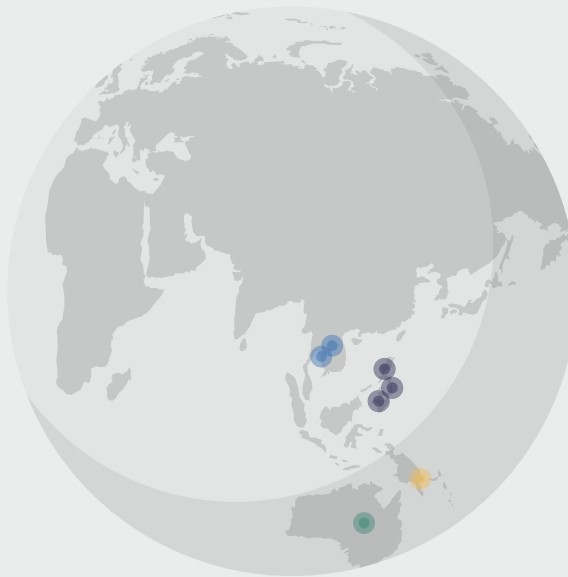
MT. HAGEN*

THAILAND

RATCHABURI*
CHANTABURI*

AUSTRALIA

BROKEN BAY*



PHILIPPINES

CACERES**
LEGAZPI*
SORSOCON*
DAET*
NOVALICHES*
LIBMANAN*
SAN JOSE IN
NUEVA ECIJA*



After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." (Luke 5:4)



I am not usually one to jump on bandwagons, but when my husband convinced me to watch an episode of *The Chosen*, I found myself hooked. The show is about Jesus calling His apostles and disciples, and their formation. In the first season, we get a glimpse of the motley group who were called by the Lord and allowed Him to form them into His image---that they might become His Body, the Church. The *Chosen* is engaging in that it brings the viewer into a plausible “backstory” of the Gospels. Jesus called Matthew by name. Peter obeyed. The woman at the well spread the message. They are called, committed, and sent on mission.

While not quite as dramatic, the vocation of SOLT lay members can be understood in this same way. In prayer, we daily are called into the heart of the Most Holy Trinity. In our apostolic work, we strive to imitate Our Lady and show our commitment by responding to that call. Through both word and action, we share the great hope that is given to us in our faith.

Called Committed Sent

In Kansas City, we have an urban mission. SOLT serves at Our Lady's Montessori School and in St. Louis Parish. Specifically, the lay members of the ecclesial family team (EFT) help on the Board for the school and in the parish through our presence, outreach, and encouragement to the community there. Our Kansas City EFT mission statement encompasses our gifts and describes our apostolic work, "to serve families." As lay members of the team, this impacts the way we are present in our jobs, whether it is teaching online or consulting with doctors in patient care. It impacts how we choose to spend our time. Several of our team members have set up an urban "medical mission" in the form of a health care screening at the parish. Some are sent into the fields of pro-life ministry, education, and outreach to people who feel marginalized. Two married deacons are lay members of our EFT. They continue employment in the world and serve uniquely as ordained ministers, bridging the gap between the secular world and the Church. Our lay vocation is fulfilled through our SOLT vocation.

If you haven't seen *The Chosen*, jump on the bandwagon and imagine yourself somewhere in the backstory. And if you don't know much about the SOLT Lay Association, reach out to me via email at Jubilate2000@gmail.com, I would love to get to know you!

Clockwise (from opposite page):

Matthew and Joanna Moore making their lay definitive commitment in Corpus Christi;

Greg and Mabelle Buergler at the baptism of their first child, James McHugh, in Mora, NM;

Mike and Melinda Pond and family at the Texas Rally for Life;

Priests, brothers, sisters and lay members during the American Regional Assembly in Corpus Christi;

A few members of the Kansas City team on Tracy Avenue

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Through both word and action, we share the great hope that is given to us in our faith.



MAUREEN MURRAY

Maureen and Michael Murray have been SOLT lay members since 2012. They have seven children and currently reside in Lawrence, Kansas.



Above: Standing up for life at the Pro-life March in Phoenix



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On the front cover: Most Holy Trinity Parish in Phoenix is hard at work on the St. Joseph Pastoral Center.

Right: The Phoenix Ecclesial Family Team enjoys a family meal.



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