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Sisters' Spotlight

Spring 2025

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A Mother's Heart: The Gift of Spiritual Motherhood



Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, I was blessed with the extraordinary opportunity to be in Rome during the time of the conclave — a moment of profound significance for our Holy Mother Church. As the cardinals gathered in prayer and discernment, I too joined with the universal Church in lifting up our hearts to the Holy Spirit, asking for wisdom, unity, and a shepherd after God's own heart. It was a moving reminder of the depth and beauty of our faith, and the maternal care of the Church that guides us all.

In the heart of the Church, I was especially drawn to reflect on Mary, the Mother of God — our model of faithful love and spiritual motherhood. In her, we see the fullness of motherhood lived in complete surrender to God's will. She carried Christ not only in her womb, but also in her heart — loving, nurturing, and suffering with Him from Bethlehem to Calvary. Her maternal care did not end with Jesus, but continues for each of us, as she intercedes with steadfast love for her children.

As religious women, we are called to follow in her footsteps — to live spiritual motherhood in all its depth and beauty. Our lives are poured out in love for others, often in quiet and unseen ways.

This motherhood is expressed in prayer, in presence, and in the daily offering of our lives for the good of souls.

Each of you, our beloved friends, shares in this mission. Through your prayers, support, and encouragement, you help make our life of service and love possible. You are part of the spiritual family we nurture — a family that spans continents and cultures, held together by the love of Christ and the maternal care of Mary.

Thank you for walking with us, praying with us, and believing in the mission God has entrusted to us.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Sister Mary Aloysius Kim, **SOLT**
GENERAL SISTER SERVANT





“Are You Mary?”

Every girl dreams of growing up, getting married and having children. My dream was just that; but I never dreamed God was calling me to be a spiritual mother, of loving like Our Blessed Mother loves.

While discerning my religious vocation, I visited the Sisters of the Eucharist in Indiana. During my time there, one of the Sisters and I went grocery shopping. As we walked through the aisles, a mom came up to us with her little four-year old girl seated in their shopping cart. The little one looked up at Sister with big blue eyes and asked, “Are you Mary?” In that moment peace filled my heart and the thought hit me: I want to be like that; I want to hear someone say that to me one day.

I remember the words of my postulant servant, Sr. Megan Mary, shortly before I received my religious habit, “Remember,” she said, “when you receive your habit, you become an icon of the Church, like Mary.”

I pray for people all the time, even at gas pumps. When people ask for prayer, I lovingly respond to them. I’m sure Mother Mary was like that. At times I’m asked, “Are you a Sister that hits with rulers?” I tell them, “Would Our Blessed Mother hit Jesus with a ruler? No, she would love Him, comfort Him.” That’s what a spiritual mother does. You just have to be there for the people, when they need you - mostly when they ask for prayer. They won’t even necessarily be Catholic. We never know who God will put in our path.

**Spiritual Maternity:
Showing Up at the Airport**

My first experience of being a spiritual mother began during a vocation retreat in Corpus Christi, with a young lady whom we know today as Sr. Maria of Merciful Love Medina, SOLT. Retreatants were given the opportunity to sign up to speak with a Sister on an “Emmaus Walk.” Sr. Maria was the first to sign up to talk with me. I never got to the others below her name, because when she began to cry and tell her story, it was like my story, too.

A spiritual mother is also someone who mentors, and I did just that with Sr. Maria - going to her youth group, meeting her friends, seeing her off at the airport when she left for aspirancy. That really surprised her, that I would show up there. I said to her, “You’re my spiritual daughter; of course I’m gonna be here.” It’s the little things you do to show your love; this is what Mother Mary would do.

Spiritual Maternity: in Sickness and in Health

One morning in 2023, a young man walked into Most Holy Trinity Church with his missal and breviary. I introduced myself, gave him my profession card and asked “Are you a seminarian for the Diocese?” He laughed and answered “No, I’m engaged to be married.”

Our friendship grew from that encounter, typically when a group of us parishioners would go out for coffee after Mass. Little did I know Morgan would soon go through deep trials, and that God had put him in my path to help him.

Morgan and Makenna were married later that year. What a beautiful couple! Becoming part of their lives has been such a joy. Before the wedding, I gave Morgan’s mother, Terra, my wedding gift (a crucifix), knowing it would be in good hands. She accepted my gift joyfully.

When Morgan and Makenna returned from their honeymoon, I learned that Terra had terminal cancer. One day when she came into the MHT bookstore I said “I’ve adopted Morgan as my spiritual son; is that o.k?” She said joyfully “Absolutely!” Unfortunately, Terra passed into eternal life on Sept 3, 2024.

**Sr. Margaret Mary,
Replica of Mary**

The main spiritual mother in my life has been Sr. Margaret Mary, SOLT, my House Servant for seven years in Robstown, TX. She used to say to me “Remember, when you go out in public, you should be a replica of Mary.” Today Sister is 84 years old, and probably not up to going grocery shopping; but if she did, and a little four year-old girl in a cart saw her, I bet that child would ask, “Are you Mary?”



Sr. Maria Giovanni Paolo Orsini **SOLT**,



Mothering Through Mission

What are your day to day activities that you do to care for the boys?

Day to day activities that I do to care for children include: doing homework with them, helping them to fold clothes and prepare their uniforms, bathing them, playing cards with them, playing board games with them, playing guessing games with them, doing taekwondo with them, taking them fishing, taking them swimming, watching movies with them, participating in team-building games with them, taking them to participate in activities organized by college students, charity organizations, and church groups, preparing food for them, getting them ready for bed, and helping them to get ready for school.

Where do you find the strength to do such work?

I find the strength to do this work first from God. I also get inspiration from the boys. Each boy has something unique that brings me joy. Their joy gives me joy. Their life stories also inspire me in many ways. The beauty of the mission helps and inspires me to serve with love and joy.

How do you live your call to spiritual motherhood?

I live my call to spiritual motherhood through prayer and teaching them. Most of the boys who come here don't know God. But once they are here, they come to know God. I teach them catechism to prepare them for their sacraments, such as Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. That is how I live out my spiritual motherhood, grow in my vocation, and stay firm in my vocation.



“I find the strength to do this work first from God. I also get inspiration from the boys. Each boy has something unique that brings me joy. Their joy gives me joy. Their life stories also inspire me in many ways.”

HOW DO YOU MAKE SANTA MARIA A HOME FOR THE BOYS?

I make Santa Maria a home for the boys by making sure they feel happy, safe, and protected. I try to give them a nice, decent home where they feel like we are a joyful family. I try to teach them values such as respect, trustworthiness, and other virtues. I want to create an environment where they can express themselves freely and where they feel loved.

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Pilgrims of Hope



In a time that needs the witness of Christian hope more than ever, our Pope Francis said the following of hope: it is a gift of God and a task for every Christian. He explained that it is more than just “a mere act of optimism.” Rather, it is “waiting for something that has already been given to us” (salvation and full communion with the Lord.) What might that look like in the world of today? Let’s look at two very different stories from the recent historical fires in California.

On January 5 of this year, the Golden Globes Award ceremony was held amidst a gathering of excited contenders and attendees. The host, Nikki Glaser, summarized the awards by highlighting a certain detail in the winners’ acceptance speeches. She noted that teams and assistants were thanked 11 times. Three winners mentioned mothers. Then, she said: “And God, the Creator of the Universe, wasn’t thanked a single time.” Everyone laughed at this, to which she remarked, “Well, what did you expect? This is a godless city.” There was more laughter.

Two days later, the fires broke out in the LA area, and many of the stars experienced how fleeting joy can be when they lost their homes in what was described as an apocalyptic firestorm that left massive tracts of land and residences in complete ashes. Many people were left with shaky hopes for the future, uncertain if they would be able to rebuild again.

One family who lost their home of 35 years had a different response. They gathered around the rubble that had once been their home and sang songs of praise, most notably the Regina Caeli, which is a hymn to Our Blessed Mother calling her to rejoice in the Resurrection of her Son, Jesus Christ. The family was inspired by Mary’s example, who even after the incomparable trauma of Jesus’ sufferings and death, believed what He had told her, that He would rise from the ashes of death and nothing would be able to separate her from Him again. In Jesus her hope was secure. This is what the family above understood, and this is what the apostles learned. That Jesus and the salvation He won for us, is the gift that has already been given us, and that in hope, we travel through our life here to fully receive it. Nothing, not even death, can take this from us. This is the witness the world today needs almost more than any other.



Sr. Anne Marie Walsh, SOLT



Sr. MaryAnn Richwald,
Aspirant Formator,
pictured with the current
group of aspirants.

Meet the Aspirants

An aspirant is a woman who feels called to explore a deeper relationship with Jesus through religious life and enters the first stage of formation with the Sisters of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT). This initial period, known as aspirancy, is a time of prayer, community living, and service. During this year, aspirants live alongside our Sisters, sharing in daily life and apostolic work, while discerning God’s will for their vocation. It’s a sacred time to listen to the Lord’s call and to grow in love and understanding of our charism, which seeks to bring all peoples into union with the Most Holy Trinity through discipleship with Mary.

Therese McGinnis



Hometown: Bowling Green, Kentucky
A favorite Scripture verse: Psalm 23
What did you do before entering aspirancy? I was a social worker.
What gives you hope? Our Lord gives me hope and He makes me feel loved through that. I feel so loved and hopeful that He is letting me discern with SOLT.

Lindsay Baxter



Hometown: Laguna Niguel, California
A favorite Scripture verse: Romans 8:28
What did you do before entering aspirancy? I supervised volunteers at a charity that supported kids in the dependency system.
What gives you hope?
“And behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”
-Jesus

Madison Lapke



Hometown: LaMotte, Iowa
A favorite Scripture verse: John 14:2
What did you do before entering aspirancy? I was a FOCUS missionary in Kingsville, Texas.
What gives you hope? What gives me hope is that Jesus chose to die and stay on the cross for me and by doing so, transformed all suffering and my heart.

Claire McElroy



Hometown: Kasilof, Alaska
A favorite Scripture verse: Jeremiah 1:4
What did you do before entering aspirancy? I was a SOLT Missionary Volunteer in Detroit
What gives you hope? “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”
- Jesus, as quoted in John 14:3

Maria Santos Rodezno



Hometown: San Jose Succotz, Belize
A favorite Scripture verse: John 14:21
What did you do before entering aspirancy? I served as a SOLT Missionary volunteer and entered the convent in Benque as a pre-aspirant.
What gives you hope? To be chosen and called not because of me but because of the goodness and love of God.

A Father's Hands, A Mother's Home

Spring has arrived at the Motherhouse, bringing renewed joy and many beautiful updates. Our chapel has been especially blessed. A larger crucifix now graces the space, lovingly installed by our friend Joe Glynn. A new corpus of Jesus was added to our outdoor wooden cross, thanks to Joe, David Williams, and his son Thomas, who rose early on a Saturday to help with the installation—their generosity and love moved us deeply.



“ In that same spirit, we invite you to consider joining our St. Joseph the Protector Fund. Inspired by the faithful care and provision of St. Joseph, this fund supports the needs of our Sisters now and for generations to come. ”



Br. Adam Schmitzer, SOLT, also offered his craftsmanship in the spirit of St. Joseph, the humble carpenter and guardian of the Holy Family. With great care and devotion, he built a new ambo by hand to complement the altar he previously constructed. Just as St. Joseph provided for Jesus and Mary through the work of his hands, so too does Br. Adam use his God-given gifts to serve the Lord and build up His house.

In that same spirit, we invite you to consider joining our St. Joseph the Protector Fund. Inspired by the faithful care and provision of St. Joseph, this fund supports the needs of our Sisters now and for generations to come. Through a planned gift—whether a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset—you can continue St. Joseph’s legacy of selfless service and spiritual fatherhood, becoming a protector and provider for those consecrated to Christ and His Church.

Each improvement reflects your love and support, and we thank God for you daily. Please know you remain in our prayers.

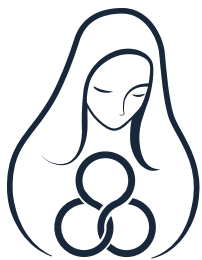


With heartfelt gratitude,
SR. MARY EMMANUEL SCHMIDT, SOLT

Support our Sisters

The SOLT Sisters invite donors to follow in St. Joseph’s footsteps by creating a lasting legacy as a provider and protector. Scan the QR code to donate to the St. Joseph Fund.





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