



year in review
**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**INSTITUTE OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
UNITED STATES REGION

September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023





Letter from Development

Dear Benefactors, Loretto Alumni, IBVM Friends and Community,

I am humbled, inspired and grateful for your generosity outlined in this year's annual report, as well as your previous years of giving. You continue to answer our call, not only through donations, but friendship and support of the IBVM Sisters.

I keep *The Little Book of Mary Ward* on my desk and at times reference it, hoping to channel Mary Ward's direction and guidance through her words. This past year, the book naturally opened to a quote on vocation. "Do not bury your talents, which God lent you to be spent in service." I reflect on our Sisters – their continuous devotion to their community – utilizing all talents they have and continuing to find new ways to be of service.

The Loretto Sisters are true pioneers, "Mary Ward Women," and your support directly impacts, strengthens and helps further their mission. Perseverance, outreach, spiritual direction and forging new paths have been themes intertwined throughout this last year/fiscal year. God asked for the heavenly talents of six of our beloved IBVM Sisters - Sisters Peg Caulfield, Marietta Brummel, Rosemary Lynch, Ellen Enright, Mary Simpkin and, as I write this, Esther O'Mara. Their legacy remains and continues on through the hands of their fellow Sisters who walked beside them on their journey home.

Each day, more of the IBVM community modifies their living arrangements, seeking assisted living and continuum of care communities to support their aging needs. 65%, over half, of our US Region Sisters are in retirement. You helped raise roughly \$171,000 designated directly for their care. Despite needing additional support, they continue weaving threads of quiet ministry, becoming lifelines of spiritual and personal support to those in the communities in which they reside. (You will read more about this in the following story.)

Ministries continue to evolve in response to need and flourish:

- Mary Ward Center (MWC) welcomed new staff member Paula Moya-Zuniga, as well as volunteers Cruz Colunga, SVD and Daniel Cruz, OFM. Marianne Solorio,

Director of MWC, develops new curriculum, classes, clubs and special programs with her team and their efforts continue to receive support from your designated ministry donations as well as this past year's fundraiser, Stepping ForWARD. Many of their class books were donated and the Sr. Rosemary Lynch Library continues to grow in her memory.

- Sr. Christa, living and working at a shelter run by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in Juarez, is ongoingly present to all who enter the shelter. Direct ministry donations as well as a grant from the Wheaton Franciscan Ministry Fund help her and other volunteers feed, clothe and support those fleeing horrific violence, poverty and climate crisis.

- Anawim Arts remains a creative outlet for artists and writers, both in-person and virtually, locally and internationally, through art shows, guest speakers and creative writing prompts.

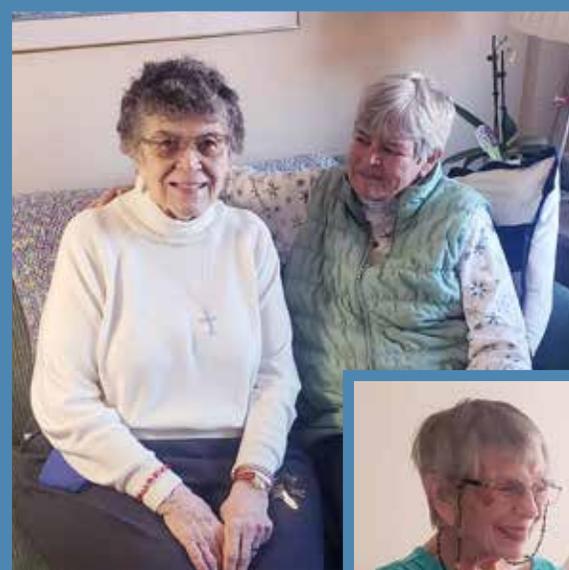
Generosity has been bountiful this past year, raising \$506,121 in general donations to use where the need is greatest. Our development office has received and been notified of legacy gifts and we have found success in our smaller, more personal efforts to allow you to financially support and reconnect. We've noticed a small shift of more benefactors utilizing tax-smart charitable giving via their donor-advised fund (DAF), as well.

This past year has truly been a gift, and I look forward to sharing with you more ways in which your gifts are being put to good use, advancing our IBVM mission. Stay tuned!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Megan Beutel

Director of Development



Sister Mary Carton with Sr. Arlene Connelly (left) and Sr. Mary Lou Wcislo (below)

Left: Suzanne Perry, Sisters Lorna Hays, Cindy Langlois and Betty Crotty



Threads of Ministry

This ministry feature is dedicated to Sister Ellen Enright, IBVM. Her “threads of ministry,” ranging from prayer to presence, inspired and comforted many. Her crocheting was not only beautiful, but a testament to the love, care, thoughtfulness, hope and joy each Loretto Sister creates in their community that we hope to capture and share with you, our readers. Look for more “threads” featuring our Sisters in future ‘Walking Together’ articles.



When there is a need, the IBVM Sisters are usually not far away from the call. “Mission is at the heart of who we are and love is the driving force that urges us on.” IBVM Constitution Vol 2.1

No matter their age or retirement status, the Loretto Sisters continue fulfilling their innate call of compassionate service. Their ministry creates a tapestry of love and support that envelops their community. Each loop and stitch represents a prayer, a listening ear and a helping hand. Like a warm embrace, the efforts of the Sisters wrap around the hearts and lives of those they serve. It is often in ways of “quiet ministry” or works that go unspoken or need not be acknowledged. They simply address the need – an act of kindness and faith in humanity restored.

At Ascension Living – Casa Scalabrini Village in Northlake, the Loretto Sisters living there are active members within their home. Sisters Arlene Connelly, Betty Crotty, Lorna Hays, Cindy Langlois and Mary Lou

Wcislo take part in various groups and social circles for their own personal enrichment as well as to connect with and support those in the community.

Mass is a very important activity to many living at Casa. Currently serving around 107 residents, many individuals like the option to attend Casa’s Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mass. The community recently lost their most widely attended Sunday mass and have been unable to find a priest with availability. As a temporary solution, some residents began attending mass at a local Catholic parish, St. John Vianney. For those unable to attend, this left them missing an important part of their life. The Sisters identified a need and rose to action. “As long as I can serve in a meaningful way – that’s what God’s asking me to do

right now. What can I, an almost 90-year-old, do to bring about the kingdom of God,” Sister Betty reflects.

In partnership with lay residents, a small liturgy service committee was formed. Members Sisters Betty, Lorna and Cindy as well as Suzanne Perry and Michael Stacy collaborate each week to put together a communion service for residents. Thus far, roughly 25-40 individuals attend. Sisters Lorna and Cindy serve as eucharistic ministers, Sister Betty, Suzanne and Michael rotate the role of reflections on the reading and Suzanne provides the music.

“It’s ours. It’s about community and communion,” Sr. Lorna explains. “We [many of our Sisters] are in this transitory phase of life, moving from ‘doing’ to ‘being’ and for me, being eucharistic minister is the being part.

I am bringing Christ to them, offering connection and presence.” The homily or reflection offers another point of connection and reflection for those in attendance. Sr. Betty states, “I prepare a homily that is personal and apropos to us. What can the people here do? How can we respond to the reading in a meaningful, purposeful way? For example, encouraging residents to introduce themselves to someone new or help a neighbor.” Suzanne agreed stating, “These reflections bring the Lord’s message to the residents in a realistic, personal way and we all truly enjoy working together to prepare the service.”

Sisters Arlene and Mary Lou regularly attend the service and expressed similar thoughts. “We all seek similar things, yet might not openly identify them,” states Sr.

Arlene. “The people here want to be listened to, feel less alone, know that others are going through similar trials and tribulations, as well as discover ways to enjoy this chapter of our lives.” For example, Sister Arlene works with a group knitting and crocheting. Sister Mary Lou, an avid reader, trades books with friends at Casa. It’s in these simple, yet graceful moments that God is at work.

Sister Betty concluded with a simple, yet profound statement. “We do what we can do!” Through their actions, the Sisters demonstrate that love, kindness, prayer and little graced moments can be woven into every aspect of life, creating a fabric that is strong, vibrant, and full of hope. It’s all about the threads of ministry...



Chapel at Ascension Living - Casa Scalabrini Village

the power of FAITH IN GOD

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“God is working around us and through us all the time. Curiosity first and when you notice God’s entrance, let go and let God because remember, God’s always on time.”

- Sr. Lorna Hays, IBVM

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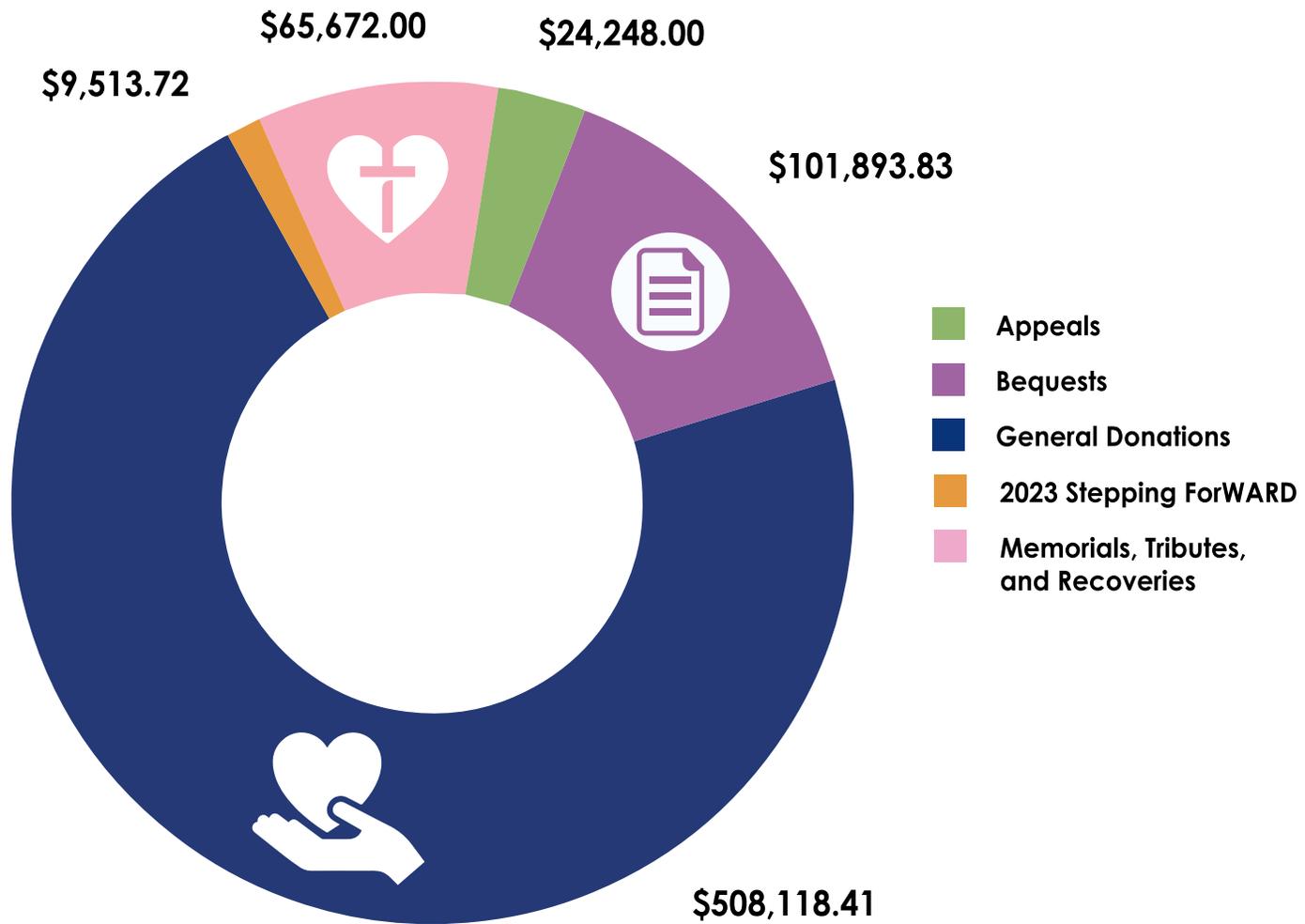
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■ Appeals	\$24,248.00
■ Bequests	\$101,893.83
■ General Donations	\$508,118.41
■ 2023 Stepping ForWARD	\$9,513.72
■ Memorials, Tributes, and Recoveries	\$65,672.00
Total \$709,445.96	

■ Where the need is greatest	\$506,121.53
■ Care of the retired and infirm sisters	\$171,350.71
■ Ministries*	\$31,973.72
Total \$709,445.96	

**Unaudited figures*



22-23
Giving
Breakdown



71.6%
Where the
need is
greatest



24%
Care of
the retired
& infirm sisters



4.4%
Ministries

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The contributions of those whose names appear on these pages have truly made our mission their own. During these times, your kindness, friendship and prayers have allowed us to continue our efforts to care for our Sisters and further the ministries of IBVM.



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the heart of **MINISTRY**



“We have no control over where we are born. We are recipients of privileges we did not earn or born into difficult circumstances we do not deserve. When we have privilege, the question is what do we do with the responsibility of this privilege.”

- Sister Christa Parra, IBVM
US/Mexico Border Ministry, Ciudad Juarez



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Sister Christa speaks at Mass prior to General Congregation departure.

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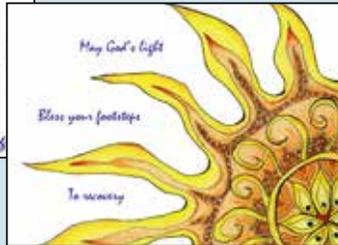
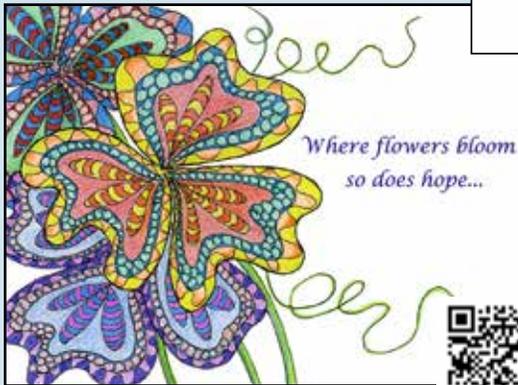
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Left: Sisters Geraldine Moktan (South Asia Province), Christa Parra, Liz Carey, Mary Thomas Fullem, Dympna Doran, Laverne Fullem, Yolanda Mendoza and Natalie Houlihan (Australia and South East Asia Province) Right: Megan Beutel and Sister Rosemary Lynch



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