



Villa Maria del Mar



60 Years of Ministry

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

In October 1963, the Sisters of the Holy Names purchased the Santa Maria Hotel from the Catholic Ladies Aid Society. Since that time, Sisters have welcomed thousands of guests to Villa Maria del Mar, to enrich their personal and communal spiritual journeys. Guests of different religious traditions, educators, spiritual directors, women and men religious, community organizations and church groups, along with individuals, have all found rest and renewal in this serene space. In October 2023, Villa Maria del Mar celebrated 60 years of retreat ministry. SNJM Sisters from California were invited to a special celebration luncheon at the Villa with an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the past 60 years.

On Sunday October 1st, we welcomed friends of the Villa to our 60th Anniversary Fundraising Gala. Guests enjoyed a fun evening with delicious food, beverages, music, and a short presentation. This event raised a total of \$14,000. Prior to this event, we received an additional 95 donations by mail, that totaled over \$20,000. Combined, this equals a total of \$35,000! *Thank you to our generous donors for sponsoring these events, and to all those who volunteered, participated and donated to our fundraising campaign.* The story of Villa Maria del Mar belongs to all Sisters (past and present), to dedicated Staff, and to generous guests who have been part of the Villa's life and ministry through the years. *Here's to the next 60 years!*



Past Sister Directors



Sisters 60th Celebration

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SAVE THE DATE

'24 SPONSORED RETREATS



July 8-14
Terry Hershey



July 22-25
Vallimar Jansen



August 1-4
Luisa (Gringa) Orbegoso



60th Anniversary Gala

From the fullness of God's grace we have all received one blessing after another... John 1:16

For more information please visit our website:

villamariadelmar.org/events

Summer 2023 Highlights

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

We are grateful that over 100 people participated in our sponsored retreats this summer, either in person or virtually. The participants shared with us wonderful reflections. Here are some of the highlights:

In June, Simone Campbell, SSS joined us in the midst of her busy summer and shared insights on maintaining an active hope in the face of world challenges and personal aging. She stressed the importance of consistent contemplative practice, a sense of humor, perseverance and action in connection with a community.

In July, SNJM Sisters Mary Boys and Miriam Malone, presented reflections on the theme "Wisdom for Embracing our Full Humanity." Following the facilitators' presentations on Lady Wisdom and Jesus of Nazareth, retreatants meditated on aspects of Jesus as Wisdom personified and also shared stories of wisdom figures they had encountered in their own lives.

Also in July, Fr. Radmar Jao, SJ and Teresa Nygard shared their personal experiences of "Glimpsing God in the Midst of Change". A contemplative, quiet spirit surrounded this retreat with daily liturgies, beautiful music and times of sharing. Retreatants were blessed each day through stories, videos, and other creative activities.



Notes from the Sisters

BY SISTERS MICHELLE GARLINSKI, MIMI MALONEY AND MARY ONDREYCO

The Sisters of the Holy Names have owned Villa Maria del Mar since 1963 and many sisters have lived, ministered, and been responsible for the leadership and operation of the Villa and Villa Maria Chapel. Their service and contribution to the life and ministry at Villa Maria del Mar have been a blessing. Sr. Mimi Maloney, SNJM moved from Washington State in 2010 to join the Villa Maria Community. She has been an integral part of the Villa Chapel Community and Villa Maria del Mar Hostess Ministry. Sr. Mimi shares this special message:

"I wanted to say thank you and good-bye to all the wonderful people that I have met at the Villa during the last 13 years. It has been wonderful getting to know you, and I have loved my time here. In early spring 2024, I will be moving back to Spokane, Washington, my home, where five of my siblings are now living. It will be a wonderful homecoming, but I will truly miss all of you. I have felt so "at home" and loved by our Villa community, it will be hard for me to leave. I will miss you. Thank you for my wonderful years here."
Sister Mimi

We send you north, Mimi, with much gratitude for your service and leadership. Your lively spirit, humor, prayer and care for others have enriched the lives of many, and your presence has been a blessing among us.

As we look forward to the New Year, we hope to see many familiar faces, to welcome new friends, and to share the blessing of Villa Maria del Mar with you all.



Epicurean News - What's Cooking?

"The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table"

On Sunday October 1st, Villa guests gathered around the tables and not only shared memories, but made new memories, in celebration of 60 years of Villa Maria del Mar.

The selection of appetizers and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the kitchen team were delectable and delicious. There was a gourmet antipasti display, colorful caprese skewers, artisan flatbread, deep fried coconut shrimp, Corralitos sausage bites, homemade ceviche and beef tenderloin sliders, to name just a few.

Dessert was also a show stopper: Mud Pie - a specialty of Marianne's of Santa Cruz, fresh strawberries and homemade slices of both apricot coconut and chocolate caramel shortbread. Delicious!



Our thanks to the wonderful Epicurean team for all their hard work and for making our 60th Anniversary Gala truly memorable!

