



Villa Maria del Mar



Meet the New Director

Introducing

JOANNA POLLOCK

Joanna was born and raised in London, England where she graduated from Thames Valley University with a BA in Hospitality Management. Following her move to California in 1994, Joanna has held various management positions within the Santa Cruz hospitality industry, including front desk, housekeeping and most recently Hotel General Manager. In her spare time Joanna enjoys baking, taking walks and working in the garden. Joanna lives locally with her husband of 28 years, along with her two pets Bentley (dog) and Maggie (cat). Joanna is looking forward to bringing her years of experience to her new role at the Villa.



"What a blessing it has been to join the Sisters and Staff at Villa Maria del Mar!

The past 5 months have been a whirlwind of activity and I am so grateful for the warm welcome and for the training and support I have received. I am enjoying meeting so many of the Sisters and learning more about the SNJM community.

I am excited for the new year and I hope that many of you will have an opportunity to visit us at Villa Maria del Mar in 2023".

*We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.
But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.
Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

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Villa Maria del Mar is a house of hospitality for individuals and groups seeking a beautiful and serene space for prayer, planning, and healing

Highlights Summer 2022

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

This past summer we hosted a total of four Sponsored Summer Retreats. In June, Sister Carol Quinlivan, CSJ invited participants to enter into the process of "soul birthing" through the lens of Celtic spirituality. Guests were led to experience the "wonder of presence". Later in June, Brother Don Bisson, FMS guided participants in a silent retreat providing an in depth look at both Jungian and Christian spirituality and discovering one's True Self.

This quiet reflective retreat invited guests to experience a new spiritual awakening. In the month of July, we began with a self directed silent week extending an opportunity for personal prayer and meditation.

This was followed by a unique video retreat led by Father Michael Fish, OSB, Cam. Through engaging and inspirational storytelling, born from his fourth Camino across Spain, Michael shared how simple everyday events can hold valuable lessons for life in the "here and now".



Notes from the Sisters

BY SISTERS MICHELLE GARLINSKI AND MARY ONDREYCO

After an extended time of surgery and recuperation, we are looking forward to the return of Sr. Mimi Maloney to our resident Sister community in January 2023. As resident Sisters engaged in ministry at VMDM, it is a gift to accompany groups and individuals who come to the Villa for retreats, meetings or a time of renewal. The graces that we receive from our ministry occur everyday in the casual conversations, acts of kindness, and profound beauty that is reflected in the people we meet. We are all so thankful to serve at the Villa.

We continue to be grateful to our local, regular volunteer hostesses who generously and faithfully serve our guests. We were saddened by the sudden death of a local volunteer hostess, Sr. Paulette T SSND. Her unexpected passing was a shock to us and the many guests who remember her kind and welcoming spirit. We are also grateful to have welcomed Sisters Linda Riggers (Seattle) in September and Mary Ellen Holohan (Portland) in October to Villa Maria Del Mar. During their stay with us, Sr. Linda and Sr. Mary Ellen also experienced the abundant blessings of this ministry and enriched our community living. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Epicurean - New Chef

JEFF HEICKSEN

Jeff joined Villa Maria del Mar in September 2022, having worked locally with Epicurean for the past five years. Jeff has a long history of working in Food Service and since his arrival, we have been receiving rave reviews. Jeff loves cooking and along with his team, prepares fresh locally sourced menu items which are both creative and delicious! Jeff lives in Santa Cruz with his wife and son.



DONATION REQUESTS:

Please consider making a year end donation to Villa Maria del Mar.

A list of specific donation needs is available on request; including a new kitchen exhaust, replacement guestroom furnishings and more.

For further information please contact:
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