



Villa Maria del Mar



Surviving the Storms *Winter 2022-23*

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

This Winter, along with the rest of California, Villa Maria experienced an unprecedented barrage of rain, wind and cold; followed by more rain, wind and cold! The fence encircling our icon Cypress Tree was completely wiped out and waves crashed up into the garden from all sides. In the month of January, we experienced a power outage, which resulted in a unique retreat experience for our onsite group. Despite the challenge, our kitchen team still managed to prepare a hot meal for the guests - using gas stoves and battery operated lanterns! Once the rain stopped, Alex, our maintenance manager, was able to install a replacement wooden fence and put things back in order in the garden. We are so thankful to all of you who wrote expressing concern for the Sisters and the Villa in the midst of the storms. The ocean waves were raging, and the wind was howling, but in faith, having been built on a firm foundation....(we) can withstand whatever comes our way. Matthew 7:24-29



Cypress Tree in a Storm



Before



After



Calm after the Storm

IN THIS ISSUE

Surviving the Storms

Save the Date

Epicurean News

Note from the Sisters

Donation Requests



Mission Statement

In the welcoming spirit of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the staff of Villa Maria del Mar serves the people of society who seek God in a prayerful environment of peace and beauty.

We serve a diversity of groups in a spirit of openness, reverence and respect.

Through a mutual sharing with our guests and neighbors, we assist in the full development of each unique person



You rule the raging of the seas; when its waves rise, you still them....Psalm 89:9

Save the Date

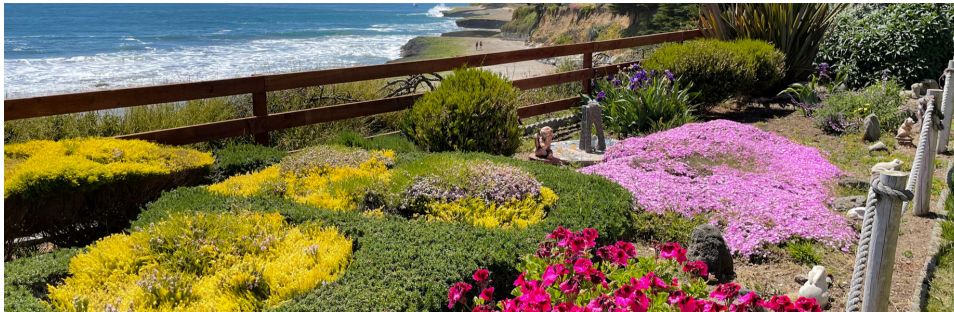
BY JOANNA POLLOCK

In October 1963, the sale of Santa Maria del Mar Hotel by the Catholic Ladies Aid Society launched the start of the ministry of Villa Maria del Mar retreat center. Following the purchase of the property, it was decided that expanded use of the facility would assist in meeting the annual mortgage payments and allow for others to experience the beauty and serenity of the oceanfront setting. In October 2023, the Sisters will mark 60 years in the ministry of hospitality at Villa Maria del Mar.

Mark your calendars for our 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration on Sunday October 1st.

60 years

We hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone in Villa history. Thank you to all of you who support the ministry at Villa Maria and for helping the Sisters and Staff provide a peaceful environment where guests can be welcomed, restored and renewed.



Notes from the Sisters

BY SISTERS MICHELLE GARLINSKI, MIMI MALONEY AND MARY ONDREYCO

Many times, in the past weeks and months, we have commented on what a privilege it is for us to be living and ministering at Villa Maria del Mar. We have welcomed groups and individuals of diverse cultures, faith traditions, life experiences, and gifts. This variety offers a beautiful reflection of our world.

We marvel at the spiritual conversations that emerge among our guests, and the strengthened bonds of support and solidarity between people in healing and recovery work. We enjoy the delightful music that is heard when groups gather. We admire the compassionate mentoring and the skill development required for service and leadership in schools, healthcare, churches, and other ministry areas. We also witness the lasting friendships that individual guests form in this serene and peaceful setting.

As our guests pause for renewal and relaxation, we appreciate their recommitment to serve and heal in our wounded, broken world.

For 60 years, Holy Names Sisters have welcomed Villa guests. We have lived the ministry of hospitality and presence in varied and evolving ways. This sacred space and ministry is a gift which has enriched the lives of Sisters, Villa staff, and guests over these many years.

Epicurean News - What's Cooking?

Chef Jeff has been busy the last few months hiring new staff, trying out new recipes, and keeping Villa guests well fed, with healthy, locally sourced menu items.

One recently introduced item has already proved a big hit. Partnering with Hope's Cookies, Epicurean now serves freshly baked Gluten Free chocolate chip cookies. Available most days at the Villa, and perfect for an afternoon treat!

Other popular new menu items include stuffed red peppers, puff pastry parcels stuffed with herbed sausage or mixed vegetables, Mediterranean chicken and fire roasted tomato soup. Whatever is being served on the menu, you can guarantee it is served with love ❤️



DONATION REQUESTS:

We are seeking donations towards our guestroom upgrades.

For further information please contact:
jpollock@snjmuson.org

Villa Maria del Mar
21918 East Cliff Drive
Santa Cruz
CA 95062
Tel. 831 475 1236