



Sisters of the Holy Family

NOVEMBER 2011

To seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially families, for the Kingdom of God.

Do You Feel Called to Religious Life?

We are bonded to each other by spirituality, community life, shared vision and ministry. For more information, please contact Sister Mary Lange at maryl@holyfamilysisters.org about our "Come and See" day to be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE December 1

Have you returned your raffle tickets! If you need more tickets, call Mary at 510-624-4580 and we will send them to you!

Ministry in Profile:

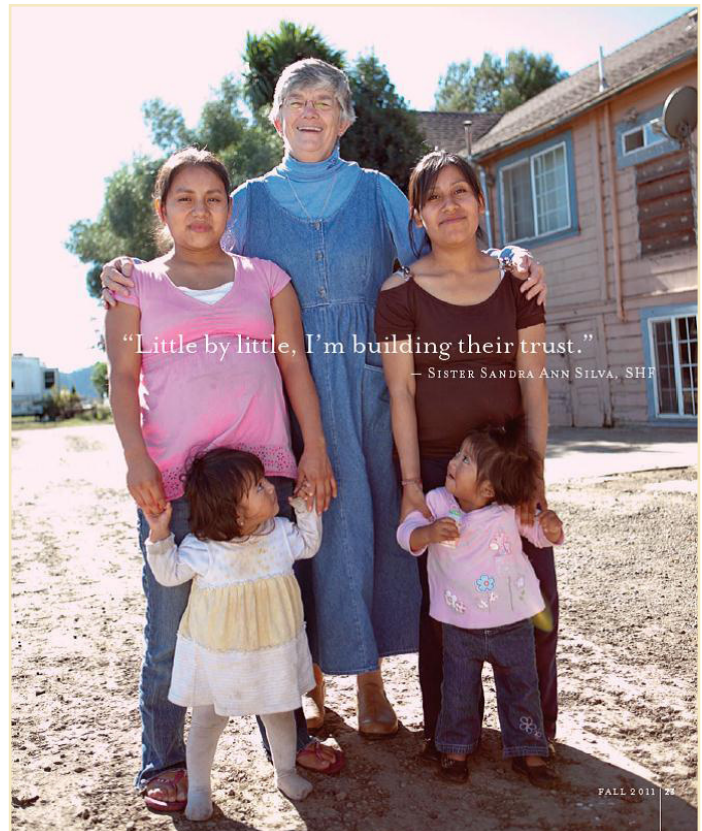
"Little by little, I'm building their trust."

~Sister Sandra Ann Silva, SHF

Nicknamed "America's Salad Bowl," the fertile soil of this famous valley produces bountiful harvests of lettuce, spinach, strawberries and more, all destined for dinner tables across the nation.

Imagine the disparity then, of the field hands who work these vast agricultural tracts. Despite the abundance of food surrounding them, they have barely enough to eat. Most have emigrated from Mexico and make less than \$10,000 per year, which they often send to needy relatives back home. It is against this backdrop in the land of plenty that Sister Sandra Ann Silva, SHF, pastoral coordinator of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Watsonville, California, has dedicated the latest chapter in her life's work.

Sr. Sandra's ministry is an oasis to the hundreds of people she serves. In addition to rampant poverty, illiteracy, a lack of health insurance and substandard housing, these immigrants, who are from Oaxaca, Mexico, struggle with greater disadvantages than fellow migrants. This is due in large part to their ability to speak only their indigenous language and discrimination by both Mexicans and Americans. Sister works as their advocate, teacher, community leader and spiritual companion. The people Sr. Sandra visits often live with four or five families in a



Sister Sandra Ann has a small group of loyal volunteers from *Compañeros de la Sagrada Familia* who help her minister to families.

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WOMEN & spirit

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Join Us on a Trip to The California Museum in Sacramento on Thursday, March 15, 2012

Departing from the Sisters of the Holy Family Motherhouse, 159 Washington Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539

Cost: \$45.00 per person (includes round trip bus fare, lunch, and admission to the museum.)

All reservations are first come, first serve.

For more information about this exhibit, please visit womenandspirit.com

For more information about the bus trip, please write womenandspirit@gmail.com

Call Sr. Angela at 510-624-4592 to make reservations.



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single dilapidated house or in garages or trailers with no plumbing. Although many were baptized Catholic, they have had virtually no faith formation. "So I go knocking on doors," said Sr. Sandra. On her home visits, she brings beans, rice, toothbrushes and blankets, along with a Bible and some basic catechism for the children. "For many of them, it's the first time they've touched a Bible," she said. "But little by little, I'm building their trust."

Sr. Sandra also is building the faith one family at a time. She provides Bible classes and religious education for children, teens, young adults and adults. She trains catechists to help prepare children and adults to receive the sacraments. What's more, she's advocating to make their lives better within the legal, health care and social services arenas. She even hosts weekly sewing classes to offer an opportunity for women to find support and friendship. Because of Sr. Sandra's ministry, an often forgotten group of people is being made to feel welcome in the Diocese of Monterey and, more importantly, in the church.

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Thank you! Because of you and other benefactors, this year's auction did very well, and we have almost reached our goal! You can continue to participate by going to our web site and making an online contribution, or send a check or credit card number to the Sisters of the Holy Family, PO Box 3248, Fremont, CA 94539.

Proceeds from our Online Auction benefits the Mission Fund of the Sisters of the Holy Family. The Mission Fund supports the ministries you are dedicated to, such as anti-trafficking, immigrant justice, and the Day Homes.

You helped make this Auction more successful than ever!

THANK YOU!

2011 Mission Campaign Online Auction

