

# Congregation of the Sacred Hearts

## United States Province

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*"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope ..." (1Thes. 1:2-3)*

November 2023

Dear friends,

May the coming holy season of Advent be a time of hope, joy, peace and love for you. May it be a quiet and reflective time to prepare a room in your hearts for Christ this Christmas. As you rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, may the blessings of Christ be upon you and your loved ones this season and throughout the new year.

As we prepare to celebrate the 223<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, on December 24, we are mindful of the blessings we have received from God. We also acknowledge the many challenges, setbacks, and difficulties we have faced. The next few years mark many milestones in the mission of the U.S. Province:

- ◇ 2024 The 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission in Massachusetts
- ◇ 2025 The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission in India
- ◇ 2027 The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission in South Texas
- ◇ 2027 The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission in Hawaii

Our mission continues by the grace of God. It also continues, in no small part, thanks to your love, prayers and generous support. We are very grateful to you.



*The members of the U. S. Province of the  
Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
wish you a peace-filled Advent and  
very joyous celebration of Christmas!*

**Our Mission: To contemplate, live and proclaim God's love in the world.**

We have much to be grateful for and celebrate in these many years of service. We are especially grateful that God has blessed us with a good number of vocations in recent years. Since September 2022 we have ordained six new priests. However, in spite of these blessings the province continues to face serious financial challenges that threaten the future of its mission. Because of health and other circumstances, and a planned retirement in 2024, we have only gained 2 full-time salaries. With growth in numbers and inflation, our expenses continue to increase.

Those of you with children or grandchildren pursuing degrees know how expensive it is to send someone to college. Our formation team is planning for **13 students** in our Fiji formation program in 2024. The total cost for a student is **\$24,000 per year** for seven years.

As many of our seminarians are not U.S. citizens, there is an expense associated with bringing members to the U.S. for their pastoral year and then to work in parishes as ordained priests. Application and legal fees for the immigration process leading to a green card cost **\$10,000** per member.

Many of you have first-hand knowledge of the cost and difficulty of caring for an elderly and infirm relative. Eleven of our members now fall into this category. They served in the Church a combined 697 years as religious. These brothers deserve our best support in their final years. Our Province currently spends **\$12,130 per year** for each retired member.

We are in great need. Please help us. We ask for your serious consideration in drawing up your Christmas giving list and/or planning your end-of-year charitable contributions for tax purposes.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance.

Yours in the hearts of Jesus and Mary,



Rev. Edward Popish, ss.cc.  
Development Director

#### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Again in 2023, you may have the trustee of your traditional IRA make a nontaxable distribution directly to the **Congregation of the Sacred Hearts—U.S. Province**, which is a 501 (c) 3 religious charitable organization. If you are at least 70½ years old you can make a gift to the Sacred Hearts using funds transferred directly from an IRA without having to count the transfers as income for federal income tax purposes.

Gifts from your retirement account made directly to the Sacred Hearts don't add to your taxable income, and allow you to meet your required minimum withdrawal for the year. Be sure to plan your gift with your financial or tax advisor.

Please contact your IRA provider to make your gift. You may need to provide them with our **Tax ID number, EIN 611656878**.