

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts

United States Province

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**“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth .” John 1:14**

November 2024

Dear friends,

The brothers and priests of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts - U.S. Province, wish you much hope and peace this Advent season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas. May your Christmas be a joyful celebration of Christ’s love; and may the light of Christ guide you through the New Year. With grateful hearts we thank you for your love, prayers and financial support over the past year.

As we prepare to celebrate the 224th 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 over the years. Our mission continues by the grace of God. It also continues, in no small part, thanks to your love, prayers and generous support

As 2024 comes to a close, we count our blessings and look at the challenges in the year ahead. The U.S Province has been blessed with many new vocations over the past few years:

- 7 priests ordained since 2022 and 8th will be this December.
- 3 students complete studies in Fiji this November going on for ordinations in the next years.
- 7 students will continue studies in Fiji in 2025
- 5 pre-novices will enter the novitiate.
- 4 candidates will enter the pre-novitiate in Tonga



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Merry Christmas

And

A Blessed and Happy New Year

The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts -

United States Province

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

These blessing comes with its challenges. Many of you are aware of how expensive college and post graduate education is. In addition, each program requires two formation personnel from the province, whom the province also support. So, our educational costs continue to increase.

As all families know, the cost of caring for our elderly is ever increasing. We currently have ten retired members in our retirement residences and one in independent living. They served in the Church a combined 690 years as religious. These brothers deserve our best support in their final years. Another financial challenge for us.

Another challenge to our financial situation are the visa issues for some of our newly ordained. They are allowed to work in the United States on a 30 month R-1 visa, a nonimmigrant visa renewable for up to 60 months. When their visa expires they must leave the country for a year in order to reapply. We lose a salary from income but our expenses do not decrease.

Despite our efforts to increase income and trim expenses we continue to have great financial need. We turn again to you for your support. Please give serious consideration of a donation the U.S. Province as you draw up your Christmas giving list and/or plan your end-of-year charitable contributions for tax purposes. Any help you give, no matter how large or small is greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance.

May the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary bless you!



Rev. Edward Popish, ss.cc.
Development Director

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Again in 2024, 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**.