



# Merry Christmas!

## Children of The Immaculate Heart



*The Adoration of the Shepherds* by Gerrit van Honthorst

**December 2021 Newsletter**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is born! On behalf of all of us at Children of the Immaculate Heart, we would like to wish you a most blessed Christmas time!

During the Advent, when the days continue to grow darker, we look towards the light of Christ, "which enlightens every man." Here at Children of the Immaculate Heart, we see the darkness that sex trafficking creates in people's lives every day, and we await the dawn of Christ's life in their souls. We pray for God's grace to touch the hearts of the women and girls we serve, so they can discover that there is a new way to live – that there is a God who loves them, that they belong in a loving spiritual family, and that the Church (and eventually heaven) is their home.

The nativity of our Lord is always a reminder of God making Himself small for us. He took on human nature, so we would not be afraid of Him. Our sin and unworthiness make it difficult for us to approach God. All of our inner fears of being unworthy and rejected begin to surface. But the Eternal Father wants us to know His unconditional love. He wants us to see, in time, the eternal love that our eyes of flesh cannot see. Thus, He sent His Son – the Bridegroom of humanity – as an infant in the arms of a Virgin. Who is more vulnerable? Who can be afraid of a small child?

**Continued on page 3** 



You're

To

## 8th Annual Gala

February 19, 2022 a

---

### St. Bakhita's Survivors

Get to know the women  
in our Adult Program!



**"My name is Sarah, I am 29 years old.** I came from a messed-up background. My mum was a drug addict. She could not give me a lot of support, and I had to learn to do things myself. At the age of fifteen, I had to find ways to make ends meet and to pay rent, because my mum could not sustain the family and feed my brother and sister – so they would go to people's houses asking for food and stuff. And I found that embarrassing: that was how I was trafficked and abused. I ended up having four children along the line.

I shared my story with someone who referred me to CIH. And coming to CIH, they listened to

my story, heard my cry and felt my pains. They journeyed with me, which included counseling, therapy, education, and [they] provided me with shelter. I am safe and secure with my children. I now live a dignified life. Presently, I go to school to study to become a Nurse Assistant. My advice to the ladies out there is that there is hope and faith. And do not give up, because God is working through organization like CIH.

Thank You CIH for being there when I needed you the most!"

# Invited!

## Our and Silent Auction

**Our Mother of Confidence  
Catholic Church, San Diego**

→ **Continued from page 1**

This Christmas tide and Epiphany, let us open our hearts more to Christ, to Him who brings light into our darkness, to Him who made Himself small and vulnerable for us. Do not be afraid! These are the words the Angel spoke to Mary, and these are the words Jesus wants us to hear. As Pope Benedict XVI said, "Do not be afraid to open wide the doors to Jesus Christ! He takes away nothing and He gives everything."

We humbly ask your prayers at this time for those we serve – that they will not be afraid of new beginnings, of opening their hearts to receive the love of God. And since God most often chooses to mediate His love through creatures, please pray for our staff – that we will be instruments of His grace and reservoirs of His love, overflowing and spilling into the lives of the women and girls we serve. We also thank you for your year-end financial gifts that make this work possible!

**Yours in Christ,**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace Williams Lionello".

**Grace Williams Lionello**

*Executive Director / President*



**C.A.R.S. ("Charitable Adults Rides and Services)** will accept any car donation. First select CIH as the non-profit of choice, call or donate online, and schedule your pick up. Please call them at (855)500-7433.



### Keep The Refuge Capital Campaign

Help us keep The Refuge! To donate to our cause, please visit our website at [www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org).



CIH has partnered with the **Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego (CCFSD)** to accept Stocks, Bonds, Life Insurance, Real Estate, Retirement Accounts and more. It is of particular benefit to donate appreciated assets (prior to their sale) for your income tax return. The designation at CCFSD for us is "chil" For more details, please email Ryan Douglas at [rdouglas@ccfsd.org](mailto:rdouglas@ccfsd.org) or call him at 858-397-9703.

## Contact Information

### Donations

[www.ciheart.org/donate](http://www.ciheart.org/donate)

Keep the Refuge Capital Campaign

[www.ciheart.org/keeptherefuge](http://www.ciheart.org/keeptherefuge)

St. Bakhita's Adult Program

[www.ciheart.org/adultprogramspecialappeal](http://www.ciheart.org/adultprogramspecialappeal)

### General Queries

[info@ciheart.org](mailto:info@ciheart.org)

619-431-5537

### Mailing Address

Children of the Immaculate Heart  
P.O. Box 13954, San Diego, CA 92170

### Social Media

Instagram:

@childrenoftheimmaculateheart

Facebook:

Children of The Immaculate Heart