



# Children of the Immaculate Heart

## February 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lent is upon us! As the years go on each Lent is much more of a welcomed season than it used to seem. In the early days after I came into the Church, Lent was daunting and a little scary – there was much to be conquered! But now I see Lent in a much gentler light, where the words of Our Lord to His apostles as they boarded their little ship on the Sea of Galilee, “Come away by yourselves, and rest a while” as the theme. Jesus is inviting us to solitude, to hear His voice, hear the voice of the Father. And what does the Father wish to speak to us?

Jesus tells the church of Pergamum: “Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying ... I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it” (Rev. 2:17). He wants to give us a new name. In Scripture, God calls people to radical conversion – the point of Lent – and then giving a new name, that often signifies an understanding of their vocation and identity: Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul. Are we so important that Christ wants to bestow a new name? Yes! Speaking through Isaiah, God exclaims “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands...” (Is. 49:16). At the crucifixion it was not the nails that marked His hands per se, but the love of us! It is we who are inscribed on His hands and He wants us to understand who we are – sons and daughters of God in the Son of God. He wants us to understand our dignity, vocation, and identity. This is typically a struggle for us – there are many lies the evil one tells us and has perhaps told us for years. **But knowing and believing the truth of who we are is the most crucial battle we can fight in the interior life.** In the film *The Passion of the Christ* when Satan tempts Our Lord in the Garden of Olives, one of the things Mel Gibson put on his lips is, “Who is your Father?” He questions Christ’s identity, and he tempts us in the same way.



Ghent Altarpiece by Van Eyck

This struggle we face is certainly the struggle of our clients at Children of the Immaculate Heart. Often from a young age they were not given the loving attention every child needs to develop a healthy sense of identity and belonging. At some point, a trafficker told them what every person needs and longs to hear – that they are loved, beautiful, belong, wanted, and good. They believe him, and he exploits that. **The work we want to do in Our Lord’s vineyard for these women and girls entrusted to us is to help them heal, to develop their gifts and talents, and ultimately, to help them understand who they are in Christ.** Thank you so much— you who make this work possible. Be assured of my prayers and profound gratitude for all you do for us!

Yours in Christ,  
*Grace Williams*

Grace Williams  
Executive Director/President

# Keep The Refuge Capital Campaign

## Matching Gift Met! CIH Secures Loan!

We are thrilled to share that we reached a lending agreement to finance the purchase, closed escrow with the bank, and have the title to The Refuge. Realizing the full value of the \$50,000 matching gift initiative was critical towards this phase of the Keep The Refuge Capital Campaign. We are grateful to the donor who offered that gift and all of those who gave and prayed towards the success of this stage of the campaign. We are truly excited, grateful, and amazed at God's continued providence for this work.

The loan on this property is not an ordinary commercial property loan, but a short-term loan given from a lender that specializes in non-profit lending. This is a blessing, as commercial lenders rarely finance 501(c)(3) non-profits. The loan has a balloon payment due in 3 years. **To provide long-term stability to the Minors Program, Children of the Immaculate Heart has launched the Keep The Refuge Capital Campaign Pledge Drive requesting donors to prayerfully consider committing to pay off the loan thereby making an impact on the girls in our care. Please prayerfully consider making your tax-deductible pledge today.**



The pledge is not in any way a debt you enter, but a self-sacrifice that you make towards this work of Our Lord. Should your circumstances not allow you to complete the pledge, there is no obligation as God knows your means and your heart. Nevertheless, having stated pledges allows us to prepare a stable financial future for the Minors Program. Many donors pledging what God puts on their hearts can accumulate to a mighty amount to pay off our loan!

We are grateful for the donations that have come in to make the down payment on The Refuge. May Our Lord bless and protect all CIH donors that have so far pledged towards the purchase of The Refuge, and for all those that donate toward all the work of this apostolate including the St. Bakhita's Adult Program which includes mothers and children as well as the Minors Program at The Refuge.

Please review the enclosed envelope. Join our apostolate or go online to [www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/keeptherefugepledgedrive](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/keeptherefugepledgedrive) to learn more. Thank you so much for coming along side of our apostolate of CIH by your prayers, donations and encouraging other people of good will to join in the work of eradicating human trafficking.



Yours in Christ,

CIH Board of Directors and Staff



## KEEP THE REFUGE PLEDGE DRIVE CONCERT SERIES



**When: Weekly February-March**

**Where: CIH Facebook Page**

**To RSVP for this FREE Event, please visit**

**[www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/events](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/events)**

### **Event Features:**

- **Live Music**
- **Keep The Refuge Pledge Drive Update**
- **Prayer for those trafficked, the survivors in our care, the work of our staff, and supporters**



# “Where is Our Mary?!”

The work to “Restore All Things in Christ” -especially in the service which Children of the Immaculate Heart commits to- is often seen as either a drunk optimism, or a wall-hitting pessimism. Both opposing views are somewhat natural reactions to doing work like this, but neither of which truly embody the “supernatural” dispositions of the heart the Church would ask of her children. The former, which we may observe in many a budding social worker, is superficial humanitarianism where there are no failures, no costs, and no weaknesses for ourselves. The latter is like the former, but after being hit by the gravity of the work they’ve taken on, they are tempted to become bitter and pessimistic, where work, people, and they themselves all seem to be viewable only in the dismal haze they now call “reality.”

The question is often asked: “Where is our Mary?!” In one sense: “Where is the Mary Magdalene I’ve worked and loved so hard for? Where is the Saint whose conversion I’ve been working toward? I’m still waiting for their ‘come to Jesus moment’!” Rather than criticize our sincere sentiments, the problem lies in using secular expectations in an entirely spiritual work. In the secular approach, the person’s worth lies in the future result, and the person as they are now is secondary. St. John Paul II cautions against this in his famous *Love & Responsibility*, where he critiques when loving the person is put outside the context of the person as they are now and put into a future ideal.

Sometimes such a thought crosses our minds for people we’ve had a mind to convert. There’s no doubt we look forward to the day of their great holiness; their freedom to love through, with, and in Christ. However, many of us have learned to be weary of love given only *after* performing well.

I’ll ask the question in another sense too: “Where is Mother Mary? Is this not her work? Where is she in all of this? Why do the falls seem to be so many, and trials so intense? Things shouldn’t be this way with her involved, right?” We wonder why our work doesn’t bear the romantic fruit we envisioned. We think Mother Mary must be too practical and that our expectations of her are too high or too fast, and we have to rely on our own efforts, resolutions, and approach! What a horrible idea! Our spiritual optimism is exchanged for spiritual pessimism. We become discouraged, as expected when we place optimism in things of this world; money, power, fame, etc. We change our outlook from dreamy to dismal.

When we refuse to accept the reality of the hardship, or instead resent or become numb to that reality, we lose something of which the Abbot of Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey illustrates:

*“Our formerly Christian world has become a living illustration of the parable of the blind leading the blind. Life, even on this poor earth, does not have to be the dismal existence it has too often become, the blind life of people grasping after the mirage of money and of health (those ever fading things...). We can and must, on the contrary, enter into the spiritual adventure lived so fully by the legions of Saints, and thereby escape the fatalism and despair that come with a secular view of the universe closed in on all sides like a prison. The thought of serving the Queen of Heaven raises souls to a freedom unknown among the materialists of our time and of other ages.” (Abbot Philip Anderson, O.S.B., Feast of the Annunciation 2020 homily)*

Do not lose the opportunity for a spiritual adventure! In honor of the Mary Magdalene in our lives and for Our Lady, we must enter into this adventure with them saying *fiat* to the present moment. We must accept the person with their hardship and be cognizant of our own limitations! In a sense, conversion can be a difficult feat. The women and girls are worthy of love right here, right now. They are worthy of *our fiat*! We are serving the Queen of Heaven who gave her complete fiat to us! Every spiritual work is hers by the fact that it’s *Christ’s* work! What better way to do it than echo her great acceptance of the Will of God! That simple assent to the world’s fallenness, to our weakness, and God’s Goodness is all God asks of us! In it, we find everything we need as Christians: sacrifice, adoration, and love! God will do the rest through her! So where is our Mary? Right in front of us, ready to be seen and called upon with love! Let us be sincere in our *fiat* and let the adventure begin!



**Christian Lovetere, Refuge Facility Manager**

# Career Opportunities at The Refuge



## Day / Night Childcare Staff (PT/FT)



Child Care Worker (CCW) assists residents with daily scheduling and routines; provides encouragement and motivation; facilitates personal development and maturation by modeling mature behavior, appropriate social skills, and problem solving skills; and implements behavior modification techniques as warranted. Bachelors Degree required or other education / experience requirements can be found on our website.



## Maintenance Manager (PT)

The Maintenance Manager is responsible for all maintenance issues at our Minors Program Residence ensuring that all grounds, buildings, vehicles, and equipment are well maintained. Maintenance projects must be accomplished in a timely and cost effective manner. The Maintenance Manager requires previous experience as a maintenance technician.

## Teacher's Assistant (FT)



The TA assists with classroom instruction and management. They assist residents with their wake-up, breakfast, and school preparation routines. The TA also helps with intake and educational assessments, as well as a balance of instruction and behavioral modification techniques. Bachelors Degree required or other education / experience requirements can be found on our website.

To apply, please visit [www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/careers](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/careers).



## Appreciated Assets

### Contact:

Ryan Douglas  
Finance & Operations Director  
Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego  
[rdouglas@ccfsd.org](mailto:rdouglas@ccfsd.org)  
(858) 397-9703

### What:

Stocks, Life Insurance, Real Estate,  
Retirement Accounts, Bonds, and more.

### Visit:

[ccfsd.org/giving/what-to-give/](http://ccfsd.org/giving/what-to-give/)  
("chil" is our account)

## Contact Information



### General Contact

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[www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org)  
[facebook.com/childrenoftheimmaculate](https://facebook.com/childrenoftheimmaculate)

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