



# CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART



## *Dear Friends in Christ,*

On February 18, 2023, CIH supporters gathered at St. Therese of Carmel Catholic Church in San Diego for the 10th Annual Gala and Silent Auction where our keynote speaker, Deacon Marvin Threatt, motivated guests to do everything they can to help CIH seek out and bring survivors of trafficking out of the darkness and into the marvelous light of Christ's freedom. Deacon Marvin, of Christ the King Catholic Church, celebrated an "Awakening in the Holy Spirit" as he reminded us that "because we are created in the image of God, we are spirit and that spirit will never die; that spirit gives us our dignity and our purpose and the divine spark that makes us who we are."

Excitement was in the air as many monthly donors came early to celebrate the launch of the new Circle of the Redeemer monthly donor club in appreciation for their consistent and vital role in the CIH Mission. Magical bubbles appeared to be floating above the beautifully set white and gold tables as St. Joseph's Academy students greeted guests with trays of scrumptious appetizers created by Marty Franklin. Marty has generously made appetizers for every single CIH Gala for over 10 years. Old and new friends connected as they listened to The Blue Zone Combo, setting the 1920's tone with their popular swing tunes. Our much-loved Emcee, Cy Kellett of Catholic Answers, greeted everyone and introduced the Canticle Jubilate Deo Choir



who has a special devotion to praying for CIH clients and staff. The Choir sang several glorious prayers before Father Chris Tozzi, our host and pastor of St. Therese, blessed the event and the delicious meal provided by Ranch Events.

CIH President, Grace Williams Lionello explained how God has ordained a purpose for each of us, and everyone has different gifts to fulfill that purpose. By responding “yes” to our calls, we bring joy to God just as Our Lady’s “yes” at the Annunciation did. By bringing out the gifts these women and girls possess, they are better able to respond to what God asks of them.

Both the Live Auction and the Silent Auction contained many special experiences, hand crafted and religious items. Donors were able to contribute directly to specific client needs such as groceries, rent and therapy.

Thank you to the Event Planning Committee and volunteers for their generosity of time, talent, and strength. Thank you to the St. Therese Knights of Columbus Council #13124 who made light work of set-up and tear-down and to all the staff at St. Therese who helped to make our Gala possible in their beautiful Hall. We are grateful for all of the support, prayers, and friendship over the last ten years. Because of this encouragement, CIH can be your voice, your hands, and your feet to help thrust those in darkness into the marvelous light of freedom in Our Lord.

*In Corde Mariae,*

*The CIH Team*

*Thank you*

to our thoughtfully generous sponsor!



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