

“Colour is the daily bread of the eyes.
It is not only seen but also must be felt.”

Frank Webb



A Narrative Budget for
The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
2019



Support us – the cost

“Life is about using all the colours on our palette.”
A Sister

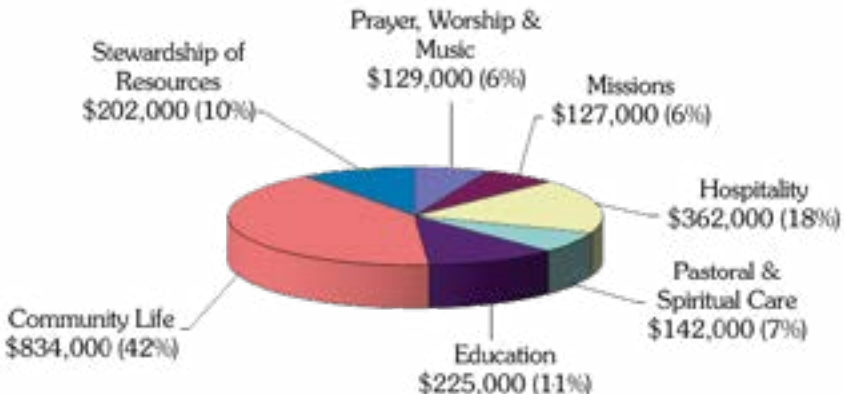
Richard Rohr wrote in a meditation, “The Gospel stories of ‘multiplication’ clearly show a world view of abundance. When Jesus feeds a crowd with very little food, he’s revealing the nature of spiritual reality more than just performing a miracle”.

We are grateful for your generosity to us in 2018! You have helped us use all the colours on our palette in a variety of ways:

- Your volunteer service, prayer for our Community, presence with us from time to time, and your love, friendship and belief in our life and ministry;
- Your support for our contingency fund which has helped us meet several maintenance and upgrade issue;
- Your support of our education fund which provides for our Sisters’ formation (five in the Novitiate and one in First Profession), our Companions and Women at a Crossroads programs;
- Your ongoing donations towards our operational expenses.

Our annual expense budget is allocated to seven ministry areas and includes all operation expenses as well as salaries for our employees.

2019 Investment in Ministries **Total: \$2,021,000**





The Sisterhood

"Painting is a mosaic of colours weaved into a seamless whole." Igor Babailov



The marks of a vibrant, life-giving Christian community include the values of thankfulness, congruence of both inner and outer lives, and respect for all God's creatures and God's creation. Since our community was founded in Toronto in 1884 by our Mother Foundress, Hannah Grier Coome, we have striven to live by those values as exemplified by our lives of love, prayer, and service. We express our values in our daily worship and our many different areas of ministry. By intentionally weaving an awareness of the sacred through our daily lives we are able to respond and welcome people of all faiths and none, both at St. John's Convent in Toronto, and St. John's House in Victoria, B.C. We share in the joys and difficulties of people both near and far. We remember with deep gratitude and love all those who have gone before, we embrace those who journey with us now, and we look prayerfully to the future as we live, pray and work together.





Pray with Us

"The soul becomes dyed with the colour of its thoughts." Marcus Aurelius

At both St. John's Convent in Toronto, and St. John's House in Victoria, we offer time and space to encounter the sacred. Our community life is rooted and grounded in prayer; this foundation of prayer is what gives us life. Our lives gain purpose and meaning as we seek, both corporately and



individually, to discern God's will and to faithfully live out our Mother Foundress' vision of "Do whatever he tells you". Guests can join us at both houses for the daily office and the daily celebration of the Eucharist. At the Toronto convent guests have the opportunity to pray both inside, in one of our three chapels, and outside through use of the labyrinth, the Stations of the Cross and our beautiful gardens.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$129,000



Learn with Us

“Every so often change your palette. Introduce new colours and discard others. You gain knowledge of colour mixing and your work will have added variety.” Kenneth Denton

The study of scripture reveals to us our part in God’s creation and, when we discover our faith through mutual learning, we truly experience conversion of life and are equipped to carry out God’s purpose. Each sister, from our newest member to our most senior sister, is committed to life-long learning. Some sisters lead retreats or workshops, some provide spiritual direction or pastoral care, others preach or teach; all sisters model their learning through their lived experience. Our newest members have a structured formation period during which they study Scripture, church history and liturgy, learn the history of the sisterhood, participate fully in the life of the community, and discover their gifts. We also welcome women of different ages to join the community for varying lengths of time, either a few weeks in our Women at a Crossroads program, or a year in our Companions program. Thus women have an opportunity to experience the blessings and challenges of community life as they accompany us on our journey.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$225,000



Stay with Us

“Colour speaks all languages.” Joseph Addison

Our Guest House welcomes guests from around the corner and around the world. Guests can come for a few quiet days alone, attend one of our “Food for the Soul” events or use our space to



meet with their own communities. We host many different groups including parish groups, church meetings and meditation retreats. Many of our guests, whether they experience an individual or group retreat, express their thankfulness for time and space to encounter God. Often

guests comment on our beautiful facilities and setting, and we receive many compliments on our delicious and plentiful food. We provide the gift of a quiet space for thinking, praying, reading and reflection. All guests are welcome to join the sisters for the daily prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. We are honoured to offer hospitality to all who come to our Guest House and take great joy in the relationships we have established over the years with so many different people.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$362,000



Reach out with Us

"[We] need colour to live; it's just as necessary an element as fire and water." Fernand Leger

Our Sisterhood was founded on the ideal of serving others in both practical and spiritual ways. The twofold law of love continues to be a guiding principle in our activities and outreach programs. St. John's House in Victoria, B.C. was founded to be a praying presence in the diocese; from that dedicated prayer life come many different ministries including preaching, leading quiet days and retreats, outreach to various parishes, ministry with the elderly and involvement in Indigenous Reconciliation programs throughout the diocese. A number of the Toronto sisters provide spiritual care at St. John's Rehab in Toronto. There is hardly a ministry of the sisterhood where we are not ably supported by our Associates and Oblates. In the words of St. Francis, we have discovered that "it is in giving that we receive" as we are blessed by the strong relationships we have with so many women and men who share our vision.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$127,000



Share life with Us

“Colour is born of the interpenetration of light and dark.” Sam Francis

The love that we have in Christ overflows in our relationships both inside and outside the community. Some of our relationships have deep roots and have lasted for decades while others are new and represent seeds we are planting for the future. What remains constant is our deep love and care for all who share their lives with us as Sisters, Associates, Oblates, and Companions. Through prayer, regular contact, residential visits, and volunteer opportunities we nurture our Associates, Oblates, and Companions in living out God’s call in their lives. We are blessed to have an infirmary at our Toronto convent where our sisters are cared for in a loving, prayerful environment so that they can live out their days within community.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$834,000



Serve with Us

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.”
Maya Angelou

We recognize the fearlessness and respect necessary to share ourselves and our gifts with each other and the world. We

believe that only in sharing ourselves in love can we transcend differences and divisions. God asks us to be God’s co-workers and co-creators in bringing about the kingdom. Spiritual direction, both formally and informally given, and spiritual care at St. John’s Rehab are just two of the ways in which we embody our daily prayer of ‘your kingdom come’.



Our strong community life, grounded in the twofold law of love, enables us to enter into the tears and joys of the world while demonstrating our belief in God’s transforming purpose and power. We meet people from a foundation of God’s love for us and them, build on the work of those who came ahead of us, ask bread for today, and look to the future with hope. Our hope in the future includes our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$142,000



Stewardship of Resources

Use all the colours on your palette. It will support your strengths, strengthen your weaknesses and launch your growth.

Using all the resources we have requires good stewardship of people, buildings and grounds, material things, and money. We are challenged to use it all in service to the world. We have two houses: St. John's Convent, the Mother House in Toronto, which supports our work throughout Canada, and St. John's House in B.C. with an active ministry to the Diocese of British Columbia and to Western Canada. Our life, which is grounded in simplicity, challenges us to use with reverence, responsibility and generosity all that God entrusts to us: resources, energy, talents, industry and time. Together with our staff and volunteers, and you, our Associates, Oblates, families and friends – essential partners in our ministry – we are supported in managing our resources wisely. For a sustainable future, we need to keep our donations strong and manage our investment revenue well. We make every effort to use our money wisely and to be environmentally responsible.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$202,000



Our goal – the need

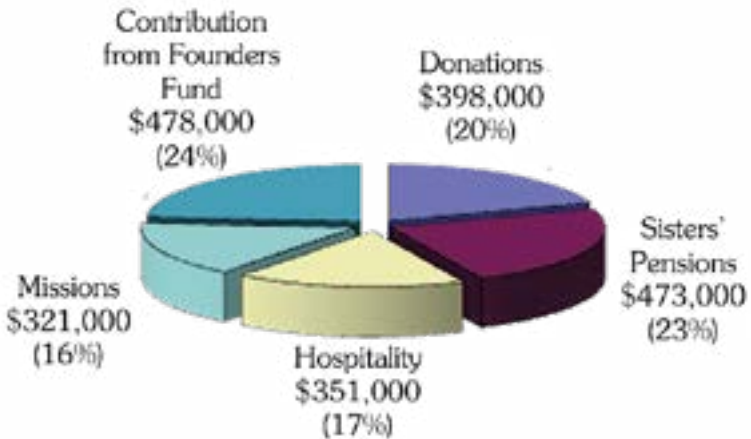
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As we go forward into 2019 we are aware of several projects that need to be dealt with. These are highlighted in the fundraising article in a recent edition of *The Eagle*.

We need your help to meet our revenue goal. Our Information Systems – computers, server and fire wall – are outdated. We are using software that is no longer supported and is not compatible with new Windows platforms. Our server which stores our data can no longer be repaired and needs replacing. We need a new and more effective firewall to protect our data and secure the privacy of our information. To address these issues we must take from the Capital of our Contingency Fund, which leaves us with the challenge of replacing that money. To do that, we need to raise \$65,000. Please help us in meeting this urgent need!

Our 2019 revenue goal gives a picture of where our revenue comes from.

2019 Revenue Goal Total: \$2,021,000



The background of the page is an abstract artwork featuring organic, cell-like patterns. The colors are primarily green, orange, and purple, with black lines defining the boundaries of the cells. The overall effect is reminiscent of a microscopic view of tissue or a complex network of interconnected nodes.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact:
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416-226-2201, ext. 303; Fax: 416-222-4442
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The art in this booklet was created by the Sisters.