

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord ...  
Come into God's presence with singing*  
– Psalm 100: 1-2



A Narrative Budget for  
The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine  
2020

# Support us – the cost

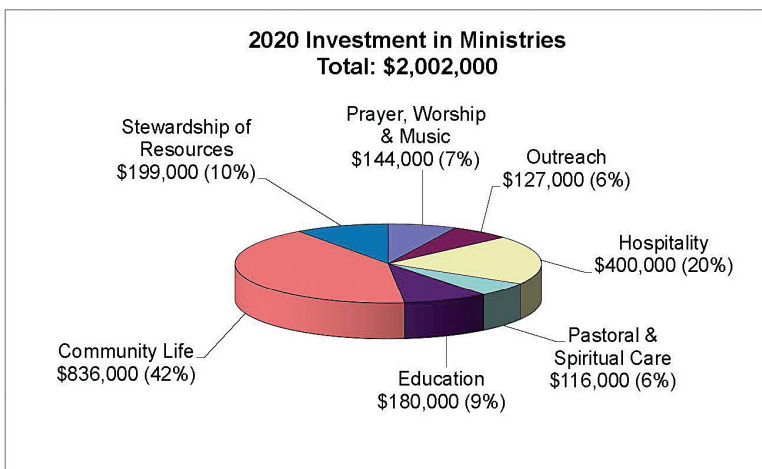
*“Music is the greatest communication in the world.” - Lou Rawls*

From the beginning our community has made a commitment to live a life of prayer in intentional community which enables us to reach out to others in love and compassion. This would not be possible without the strong relationships of mutual support, love and gratitude we have with our benefactors, friends, Associates and Oblates who walk alongside us.

In the past year your support has helped us in a variety of ways:

- Our technology upgrade has enabled us to improve our information security, develop new software for our guest house and be more effective in our communication;
- Your support of our community life provides for our Sisters' ongoing formation and the Companions program;
- Your prayers, volunteer hours, belief in our ministries, and financial support enable us to focus on our ministries of hospitality and do far more than we could do without your help.

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



# The Sisterhood

*“Teamwork is vital. One cannot make harmony alone. It takes the help of others to make beautiful music.” – Kaitlyn Sleyster*



The marks of a vibrant life-giving Christian community include deep gratitude, congruence of our inner and outer lives, and respect for all God’s creation. Since our community was founded in Toronto in 1884 by our Mother Foundress, Hannah Grier Coome, we have strived to live those values through our lives of love, prayer, and service. A rhythm of celebration lies at the heart of our community. The harmony of our life together relies on our ability to respond to each other with honesty, trust, gentleness and compassion. Through our daily rhythm of prayer, we lean in to listen to the heart-beat of God. When we join our voices in songs of praise with sacred pauses of silence it gives depth to the music of life around us.







# Prayer, Music & Worship

*"When sung with soul a song carries you to another world, to a place where no matter how much pain you feel, you are never alone." – Clay Aiken*

**A**s a symphony seeks harmony within its many parts, we celebrate our worship through many ecumenical voices and liturgies. Our prayer life lends a vibrant voice of praise and hope for



our communities and homes. In prayer we reflect our desire to feel the creative and dynamic breath of God blowing through us, bringing us to life in a renewed momentum of hope. We welcome our guests to be part of our communal worship. Our prayers of intercession unite us with our families, friends and neighbors enabling us to see everybody as a relation. Our music and chants are more than just celebration and praise. They add meaning to all that we do.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$144,000





# Education

*“Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit, and never dies.” – Edward Bulwer-Lytton*

Every sister of SSJD is committed to life-long learning. We learn with and from each other and share that learning with others. Some sisters lead retreats or workshops, some provide spiritual direction or pastoral care, others preach or teach; they seek to model their learning through their lived experience. Our newest members have a structured formation period during which both they and the community listen for God’s voice in their lives. We welcome women of different ages to join the community for either a few weeks in our Women at a Crossroads program, or a year in our Companions program. These women have an opportunity to experience the blessings and challenges of community life as they accompany us on our journey. Learning to listen and be in tune with God’s call helps us remain relevant within our ever-changing culture and society and to bring harmony to a world torn by discord and anxiety.



Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$180,000



# Hospitality

*"I love music. For me, music is morning coffee... A good song is like a good meal. I just want to inhale it and then share a bit with someone else." – Anon*

**O**ur 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 gratitude for time and space to encounter God.

**G**uests frequently comment on our beautiful facilities, gardens, and delicious food. We provide the gift of a quiet space for thinking, praying, reading and reflection. 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.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$400,000



# Outreach

*"Music ... will help dissolve your perplexities ... and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you." -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

The twofold law of love is the guiding principle of our activities and outreach programs. St. John's House in Victoria, B.C. was called to be a praying presence in the diocese; from that prayer life come many different ministries including preaching, leading quiet days, outreach to various parishes, and ministry with the elderly. A number of the Toronto sisters provide spiritual care at St. John's Rehab in Toronto. Others preach, lead retreats or assist with our special programs. In our ministries we are ably supported by our many Associates and Oblates. We are truly blessed by the strong relationships we have with so many people. God frequently chooses the little acts of love to change the world. We lend our voices to this call for change by helping others in ways that give them hope and restore their faith.



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





# Community Life

*"You don't get harmony when everyone sings the same note" – George Couros.*

Sharing the gifts we have received is at the heart of our participation in God's ongoing creativity in the



world. We are all called to enter the sanctuary of God's heart through our prayers, music and life together. It is in sharing ourselves in love that we transcend differences and divisions. We are God's co-workers in bringing about the Reign of God. Our strong community life 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 all of us, build on the work of those who came before us, ask bread for today, and look to the future with hope.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$836,000



# Pastoral & Spiritual Care

*"I think music in itself is healing... It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." -- Billy Joel*



**W**e seek to be God's instruments of healing love in the world through opening our hearts to others. Only through shar-

ing ourselves in love and compassion can we transcend differences and divisions. Through informal conversation, letters and e-mails as well as through more formal spiritual direction and spiritual care at St. John's Rehab, we seek to embody our daily prayer of 'your kingdom come'. Our strong community life enables us to enter into the tears and joys of the world while demonstrating our belief in God's transforming purpose and power.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$116,000

# Stewardship of Resources

*“Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm. Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music. Embrace your blessings. Make today worth remembering.” – Steve Maraboli*

Using all our resources wisely requires good stewardship of people, buildings and grounds, and money. St. John’s Convent in Toronto supports our work throughout Canada, and St. John’s House

in B.C. has an active ministry in the Diocese of British Columbia and 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. In 2020 and in the following 5 years, we will be planting at least 25 trees native to Canada on our property to improve the local environment.



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Resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$199,000



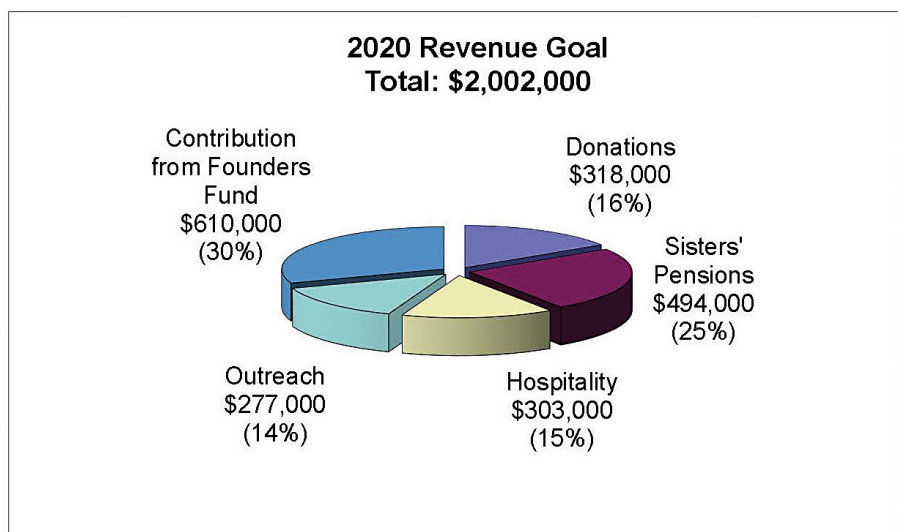
# Our goal – the need

*“Sing, then. Sing, indeed, with shoulders back, and head up so that song might go to the roof and beyond to the sky.” – Richard Llewellyn*

**I**n 2020 we want to continue offering hospitality and encouragement to others on their faith journeys as they share in our rhythm of life and find an oasis of peace in our Guest House and BC House.

Your financial help enables us to continue offering retreats and workshops for those seeking a place of quiet and spiritual nourishment in the midst of their busy lives. It provides continuing education for our sisters who give spiritual care at St. John’s Rehab; it enables us to develop and support our Companion program and Women at a Crossroads, allowing women to experience monastic life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and learn the spiritual disciplines. And we hope to plant more trees on our property and become even better stewards of creation.

Our 2020 revenue goal gives a picture of where our revenue comes from.



*"Music... gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." – Plato*



If you would like to make a donation, please contact:

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