

Community of St. Francis Report 2013

The Community of St. Francis has witnessed to the Franciscan Religious Life in the Diocese of California since 1974. The sisters live at St. Francis House in the Mission District of San Francisco. The chapel at St. Francis House is the center of their worship life, which includes the Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline), Eucharist Tuesday through Friday, and times of private prayer and meditation. Guests are welcome to join the sisters for morning Eucharist (7:45-8:15 a.m.) and breakfast.

St. Francis House has a guest apartment available for people looking for a place of retreat and quiet, or in need of accommodations for a time of rest, recreation or education in the San Francisco area. The sisters go out from St. Francis House into the city of San Francisco where they have engaged in many types of ministries over the years, but with special concern for the poor, the marginalized, and the sick. Currently the sisters are involved with ministry at three congregations in San Francisco (Holy Innocents, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Francis) as well as Open Cathedral, and the Night Ministry's outdoor Sunday afternoon Eucharist at Civic Center.

In addition to congregational involvements, Sr. Pamela Clare serves on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, teaches at the School for Deacons and for CDSP's CALL program. Srs. Maggie and Pamela Clare are co-facilitators for the annual Advent Quiet Days at the Bishop's Ranch. Sr. Ruth is the founder and resident director of The Family Link, a hospitality ministry that provides affordable accommodations and support for families visiting loved ones with life-threatening medical conditions. The work began during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and now welcomes families of people with AIDS and cancer, people in need of organ transplants, as well as those who have suffered serious injuries from accidents.

The sisters are also engaged in ministry with Martin de Porres House of Hospitality (a soup kitchen) and the Care Through Touch Institute (which offers free healing massage for homeless and marginalized people) and participate regularly in peace and justice work.