



Heart of Jesus RETREAT CENTER

2927 S Greenville Street, Santa Ana, CA 92704

714-557-4538

retreatcenter@sacredheartsisters.com

July 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

This has been quite a year for all of us in our families and ministries. The Heart of Jesus Retreat Center was not exempt from the hardships of the unknown and constant waiting and adapting but still God is good, and He blesses us with His love and grace. In March 2020, we closed the Retreat Center and embarked on a journey of trust and prayer seeing where God would lead us. At the start of the last school year, we made the difficult decision to focus our resources on virtual retreats and our after-school program Sacred Heart Kids' Club. All along our goal has been to provide what would best support our Schools and Religious Education Programs.

It was truly a blessing to see God's work and inspiration in these efforts as He brought forth great fruit in the lives of those we reached virtually. We never imagined the sense of community and belonging that formed amongst our Sacred Heart Kid's Club members physically scattered across the country; or the freedom of the children on our Virtual Retreats to ask questions and express excitement in sharing about their faith; or the depth of personal and spiritual sharing during our Adult meetings. Although the gates of the Retreat Center were closed, gratefully the work and mission never stopped. God overcame digital barriers and continues to move hearts.

The pandemic was also an opportunity for us to deepen in our prayer life as we sought to support the heroic efforts of those serving on the front lines with an increase in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the end of the Pandemic. We were blessed to be able to support you with our prayers especially through all the prayer intentions that we received and included in our chapel prayer boxes and daily intentions.

It is now time to look to the future with optimism and hope to follow where God is leading us. He renewed us in profound trust in Him and encouraged us by all that He formed both spiritually and in technology for the building up of the Kingdom.

As we proceed toward the 2021-2022 school year, we would like to announce with immense joy that we are starting to open the Retreat Center for in-person retreats once again. To provide safe, enriching, and joyful retreat experiences our plan to reopen will be gradual, beginning this summer with an **in-person Day Camp for children, July 26-30, 2021**. More information will be coming shortly. We are also taking registrations for the 2021-2022 school year and look forward to our Sacred Heart Kids' Club returning onto our grounds for events. Our Virtual Retreats for First Holy Communion and Vocations will still be available for online use.

We look forward to broadening our ability to serve you and your programs. To slowly return to a fully open status in accordance with State and Church regulations. Thank you for your understanding and patience. As we continue to develop our retreat possibilities step by step, we will keep you up to date.

Please know of our continued prayers and desire to be able to serve you.

In the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Sister Gabrielle Vogl, SDSH

Director of the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center