

Gentlemen's Haberdashery

Benefiting children and families through the work of the Sacred Heart Sisters

January 2021

Dear Friends of the Gentlemen's Haberdashery:

To state the obvious, 2020 was not the year that we all hoped it would be. The Haberdashery Planning Committee had a fantastic event planned for you all in 2020, but it was not to be and the event had to be called off. Back in October of 2020, the Planning Committee began meeting to get a jumpstart on the 2021 event. But as the calendar has turned to 2021, it has become increasingly obvious to all of us that many of the issues that plagued society, and the Haberdashery event, in 2020 are still with us. In reaction to this, the Committee explored planning an alternate event for 2021 (adjusting location, size, date, etc.), but the deeper we got into the planning, the more we realized that we were embarking on an exercise of futility, given the rapidly moving conditions that we were up against.

So now, as we come to the end of January 2021, it is with a heavy heart that **we reach out to inform all of you that we have made the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Gentlemen's Haberdashery.** Without going into all of the details behind the decision, please know that we had the safety and well-being of all of you, the friends and supporters of the event, at the forefront of our minds when we decided upon this path forward.

What saddens many of us the most, is that the Gentlemen's Haberdashery is a "friend-raiser" as much as a fundraiser. It is an annual party where friends, old and new alike, gather together to catch up, have a great time, and enjoy each other's company – all in support of a great cause. We will continue to think positive, continue to plan for the future, look forward to the end of the pandemic, and turn our attention to the planning for the 2022 Gentlemen's Haberdashery. It promises to be one of the best ever!

It is important to point out that in the face of this pandemic, just because the Haberdashery event does not occur, the Sisters' work does not stop. To respond to people's needs during this time, the Sisters have implemented technology to create virtual retreats and on-line programs, including the Sacred Heart Kids' Club; all in an effort to continue to dynamically share the

continued on back

love of Jesus and personally engage with the children, youth, and families who are not able to attend the Retreat Center in person. Amazingly, one unintended effect of the pandemic is that the Sisters have expanded the reach of the Retreat Center's programs beyond just Southern California to include participation nationally!

The Gentlemen's Haberdashery is the main fundraising event that generates the dollars necessary to operate the Retreat Center and all of the programs and events that occur there (and now virtually). So, we respectfully encourage all of you, when you are planning your 2021 charitable giving, please do not forget the Sisters or the Retreat Center. And if you are inclined to provide a gift, there is a response card and return envelope enclosed with this letter.

We will close by reminding you, the Sisters are still praying for all of us, every day. And they will continue to pray. In these challenging times, we need prayer more than ever! If you have any specific prayer requests, enclosed is a prayer card that you can fill out and mail back. Additionally, you can email a prayer request to haberdashery@hotmail.com or call the Sisters any time at (949) 274-1192. At the same time that they are praying for all of us, they need our prayers too, so please continue to pray for them and their ongoing ministries.

Be safe everyone, and we look forward to welcoming all of you to the 2022 Gentlemen's Haberdashery. Thank you!

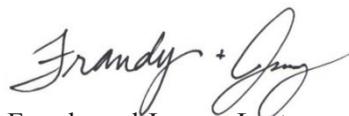
Sincerely,



Trina and Marc Lamkin



Sister Paula Sawhill



Frandy and Jeremy Laster