

Mission Trip to Mississippi April 11-19, 2026

Dear Sisters and Associates,

We are happy to tell you that we are again making plans for a mission trip to Holly Springs, Mississippi in 2026.

Sacred Heart Southern Missions has been a safety net for individuals and families since 1942. They serve 5 counties in northwestern Mississippi with 6 social services offices providing emergency assistance, skill development, advocacy and counseling for people living in poverty within their service area.

The School Sisters of St. Francis have ministered in Mississippi along with the Sacred Heart Fathers since 1940 in both Walls and Holly Springs! Sisters Ramona Schmidtknecht and Julene Stromberg both currently live in Holly Springs. Sr. Ramona has ministered there for 61 years and Sr. Julene for 46 years. Sister Margaret Sue Broker works for the Sacred Heart School in South Haven about an hour from Holly Springs. She has been in ministry there for 63 years!

The 2019 and 2025 mission trip participants returned inspired by their experiences and with a better understanding of the work of the School Sisters of St. Francis in that part of the country.

Mission participants for this year's trip will again stay at the Sacred Heart Southern Missions Gregory House in Holly Springs.

This mission trip is open to Sisters, Associates and others who are interested.

Cost

- Food: Approximately \$20.00/day
- Accommodations: Rooms at Holly Springs Volunteer House have 2 beds, a toilet, and a shower. Housing is provided by the Sacred Heart Fathers at no cost but you are welcome to leave a free will donation.
- Transportation: The cost of transportation is additional and on your own. You may choose to fly or drive.

If you choose to fly, Memphis is the closest airport and is about a 45-minute drive from our accommodations in Holly Springs.

If you choose to drive, the trip is approximately 700 miles from Milwaukee. You may drive your own vehicle or sign up to ride in a carpool. Driving expenses will be shared.

If a group decides to make the trip in two days, overnight accommodations would be an extra expense for that group.

Actual workdays will be April 13 – 17th. Travel days would be April 11 and April 19th. This would leave us a couple of extra days to plan mass and a community meal with the Mississippi Associates and personal time for site seeing.

Volunteer opportunities are assigned to us by the Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

Opportunities may include:

- o Unloading and sorting cans for the food pantry
- o Sorting, hanging, and sizing clothes at the thrift store
- o Landscaping: planting trees, flowers, trimming, replenish mulch, cutting grass, and picking up trash
- o Sorting school supplies
- o Interior cleaning
- o Outside building projects
- o Cooking meals and serving at the Garden Café
- o Home repairs and painting
- o Other

Reservations will be filled on a first come/ first serve basis. If the Mississippi Trip is not in the cards for you this time, the Mission Committee urges you to watch for future missions they are planning TBA.

To reserve your space please contact Associate Mary Ann Wiznerowicz at (815) 529-6833, maryannwiznerowicz@gmail.com by November 30th.

Partial scholarships are available. Please contact Catherine or Rosaura to request an application.