

Chestnut Center

Inspiring Women in the Bay Area

October 15, 2025

Dear Friends and Cooperators,

On October 2, [Opus Dei](#) celebrated 97 years of service to the Catholic Church in the pursuit of sanctity and apostolate in the midst of the world. We are grateful that you wish to share this mission by fostering the programs offered at Chestnut Center. With your prayers and support, we can offer the message of St. Josemaria Escriva to even more girls, women and families in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

This summer, [Camp Monte Stella](#) offered formation in faith, friendship and service to 77 girls from 5th to 9th grades. Over 20 high school counselors mentored and served the campers on a one-on-one basis.

We have started our school-year events, beginning with the [Montemare Leadership Series](#) for college women. Please contact Chestnut Center, center.chestnut@gmail.com if you wish to refer someone.

The **Bay Area Service Experience (BASE)** program is also restarting. Preteens and teens will share the fruits of their home arts activities with deserving persons in the community. If you would like to be a mentor or guide the talks and discussions that are given, or you wish to refer a high school student, please contact center.chestnut@gmail.com. BASE also includes talks for women on themes that link our faith to real-life concerns such as our priorities, personal friendships and practical virtues.

The [Centennial of Opus Dei](#) is approaching and some events that illustrate how the Church benefits from Opus Dei will be held at Chestnut on Saturday, October 25, 10:30 -11:30 AM. Fr. Peter Armenio, former Opus Dei Vicar of Chicago, will be our speaker. He will address the deep and timely need for celibate and married vocations to come from the laity of the Church in our times. This is a vital and serious call to each of us. Fr. Peter will expound how we can contribute within our families and friends.

We count on your prayers to foster and extend the spiritual fruits that come from our apostolate in and from Chestnut Center, your homes and offices. Please offer prayers for the [Regional Monthly Intention](#) that comes from [Msgr. Fernando Ocariz](#), Opus Dei's Prelate, in union with the desire of Pope Leo XIV: "Let us ask the Lord that, in a world so often marked by tension and division, we may with God's grace, become bridge-builders, strive to understand others, value pluralism and cultivate the virtues of living together in harmony." This Special Intention will extend until October 2, 2026.

We continue praying for you and your loved ones every day; thank you for praying for us as well. We need your generosity to support our programs and maintain Chestnut for all who come here for spiritual enrichment. We hope to see many of you this year; we are equally close to anyone who is homebound. For your own spiritual enrichment, please consider attending any of the [Recollections](#).

Lastly, you and your family are cordially invited to **Chestnut's Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 13, 3:30-5:30 pm. We hope you can join us!

Best regards,

Percy Sison

Director, [Chestnut Center](#)