



2019 August THE WORD LIVES

Sister Annette's Reflection

What is so significant about August 15? This is the day Catholics celebrate the “happy ending” to the life of Mary on earth. Or, in other words, her birth into heaven. Mary, acknowledged by the Fathers of Vatican Council II as both mother and model of the Church—of us!

We claim Mary as our mother. Literally the mother of the body of Jesus the Christ, she is therefore the mother of all those who make up the Body of Christ today. A gift from her crucified Son—the mother given to John, beloved disciple, and therefore to us, also beloved disciples.

We acknowledge Mary as our model in discipleship. Obedient in embracing her vocation. Faithful in her facing fear. Hopeful in her experiencing confusion. Steadfast in her enduring desolation. Resilient in her joy. Attentive to others. Supportive of the Mission.

We could say that her commitment to following her call in Christ brought her all the way to heaven.

Knowing these elements of her life so well, we forget to look at the end of her story. Her end is the model of what is waiting for all of us who seek to be an obedient, faithful, hopeful, steadfast, attentive and supportive disciple. Her being taken into heaven guarantees for us that we who are purely and “only” human have a warm, eternal welcome awaiting us.

About the Assumption, Mother de Matel exclaims,

*This is an eternal venture,
not just a venture in time...
Today she takes possession
of an outpouring of glory.*

What an amazing venture we have to look forward to!

2019 GENERATIONAL GATHERINGS

International Generational Gatherings for the Incarnate Word Sisters were held in Victoria, Texas and Gómez Palacio, Mexico, July 18—21. These Gatherings were designed by the Reunification Committee to help our Sisters get to know each other personally in preparation for the Reunification of the Order.

Communities represented in Victoria were Cleveland, Corpus Christi, Kenya and Victoria. Sr. Addie Walker, SSND, was the Facilitator and Presenter. Communities represented in Gomez Palacio were Cleveland, Corpus Christi, Gómez Palacio, Guadalajara, Mixcoac, Teziutlán, Talpan and Victoria.

The days in Victoria included Morning and Evening Prayer, daily Eucharist, quiet prayer time, table sharing, and presentations by Sr. Addie Walker. In the evenings there were opportunities for fun time together including bunco, Incarnate Word trivia, and optional conversation starters. Colored tickets helped the Sisters to share meals with different companions each day. Activities in Gómez Palacio included a presentation by Dr. Leticia Garcia, a psychologist, break out sessions in generational groups conducted by Sisters, evening recreation, daily Eucharist, Morning and Evening Prayer, and an outing to a vineyard.



A highlight of the week was a video conference between the Sisters in Victoria and those in Gómez Palacio. As they shared greetings, the excitement between the groups was palpable.



Dr. Leticia Garcia (above) and Sr. Addie Walker, SSND (bottom right) reflected with the Sisters.



Group picture of the Sisters from California, Cleveland, Corpus Christi, Kenya and Victoria who participated in the Generational Gathering in Victoria, July 18-20, 2019



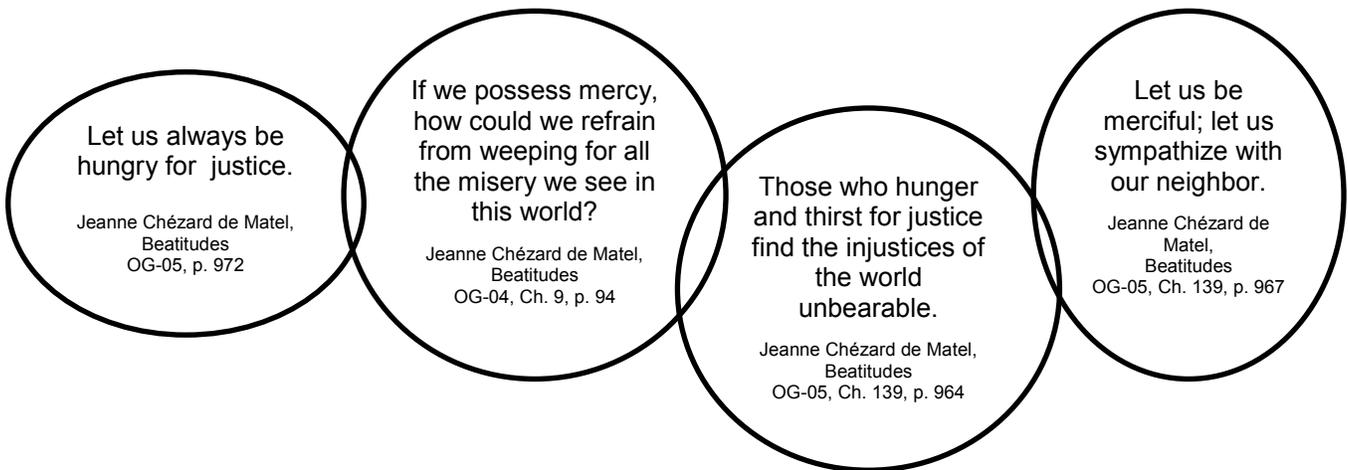
Group picture of the Sisters from Cleveland, Corpus Christi, Gómez Palacio, Guadalajara, Teziutlan, Tlalpan and Victoria who participated in the Generational Gathering in Gómez Palacio, July 18-20, 2019



Sisters enjoying a break in Gómez Palacio



A rally to protest migrant camps on the US/Mexico border was held in Corpus Christi on July 12th. A local group decided to respond with non-partisan, peaceful protests to raise awareness for the issue locally. Srs. Maria Elizabeth Brehony, Elizabeth Close and Rose Miriam Gansle attended the protest in Water Street Village. On the following day, Srs. Elizabeth and Rose Miriam attended another protest on the Corpus Christi Bayfront (pictured above).



"We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community" (Message for the 2014 World Day of Migrants and Refugees).—Pope Francis

Civil obligations call each of us to participate out of a concern and commitment for the whole. Civil obligations call us to vote, to inform ourselves about the issues of the day, to engage in serious conversation about our nation's future and learn to listen to various perspectives.

—Sister Simone Campbell

God takes the side of the defenseless. And, thus, therefore, must the true contemplative, otherwise that contemplation is not real. . . . The true contemplative, the truly spiritual person, then, must do justice, speak justice, insist on justice.

—Sister Joan Chittister



BLACK SISTERS' CONFERENCE

Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs attended the National Black Sisters' Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland July 21st - July 24th. The Conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the conference for African American Catholic Priests, Deacons, and Associates from various parts of the United States. The theme of the conference was, "Walking in Faith with God". Sister Marilyn was elected as the Secretary for the National Black Sisters' Conference.

ADVISORY BOARD FOR CATECHESIS

Sr. Marilyn Grace has also been recommended to serve on Bishop Mulvey's Advisory Board for Catechesis. The Advisory Board meets three times a year for the school year and is a two-year commitment.

BOKENKAMP

Sr. Jo Ann Saenz participated in a Bokenkamp Children's Shelter training in Corpus Christi. The participants are trained to work with immigrant children from South America. This Corpus Christi shelter temporarily houses hundreds of unaccompanied children who find rest and safety while surrounded by its walls. While the Shelter is state licensed to care for children ages 0-17, it currently serves children between the ages of 12 and 17.

MOVES FOR THE MISSION

Sr. Raquel Newman has completed her move to Brownsville, ready to serve in the middle level of IWA. **Sr. Theresa Nguyen** is settled at the motherhouse and preparing for service at Holy Family School.

2019

September 27-29:
General Assembly /
Pre-Chapter Meeting

October 19: Community Jubilee

December 20-23:
Chapter of Elections

2020

February 21-23:
Pre-Chapter Meeting

April 24-26: Pre-Chapter Meeting

June 13: Leadership Installation

June 14-21: Chapter Retreat

June 22-29: Chapter of Affairs



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

EXECUTIONS IN TEXAS

Wednesday, October 2:
Stephen Barbee

Wednesday, October 16:
Randall Mays

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipps Blvd., at 6:00 p.m. on days when prisoners are scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas, and for the victims and the family members of the victims.

PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER

A spiritual path that does not lead to a living commitment to . . . the Kingdom of God within and around us everywhere for everyone, is no path at all. . . . It is a dead end on the way to God. . . .

-Joan Chittister

The United States and many other nations need courageous prophets as today's world leaders show little or no ability to criticize their own duplicitous power games.

-Fr. Richard Rohr

You shall not violate the rights of the alien or of the orphan, nor take the clothing of a widow as a pledge.

-Deuteronomy 24, 17

You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt.

-Leviticus 19:34

Our nation is blessed with great diversity that struggles to be appreciated, respected and welcomed into our multicultural reality. What richness we would come to know if we took the time to listen to each other, to experience another's culture and values and to witness the beauty of their spirit towards all of life!

-Sr. Barbara Smith, Global Sisters Report

We must admit if we are insensible to the sufferings of a single person, whoever it may be, it is in vain that we flatter ourselves on possessing the charity that we owe them, and consequently the charity that we owe God, for the one cannot exist without the other. They are in reality but one and the same.

-Jeanne Chézard de Matel

The church's role is to accompany those who suffer the most.

-Maura Clarke