



THE WORD LIVES

May 2019

2019-2020 PRE-CHAPTER MEETING

Reflection

Throughout her writings, Mother de Matel addresses the members of the Incarnate Word houses as both her daughters and sisters. Having given birth to them in the founding of this Order, she understood clearly and took seriously her call to guide, nurture and strengthen them in their mutual vocation.

In her words to the first members of the Incarnate Word family, we hear that guidance, encouragement and strengthening for us to live the characteristics that mark our shared charism.

We are gifted with a spirituality that is Trinitarian, Scriptural, Ecclesial, Marian and Liturgical.

We are called to a life focused by both community and service.

Her letters to the members of the infant Order carry consistent themes from which we can also benefit.

“Take courage, daughters!” is a familiar phrase in her letters. Certainly we can benefit from this encouragement as we grapple with the challenges of living out the answer to “What would Jesus do?”

Equally consistent is her call to live a life of love. “. . .let us practice and teach for his love . . .”

Called to love consistently and universally? Yes, such love requires courage. Such courage must be rooted in love.



The 2019-2020 General Chapter of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Corpus Christi, was opened on April 13-14, 2019. Sr. Anne Munley, IHM, Chapter Facilitator, led the meetings. The theme of the weekend was *The Significance of Culture*.

The April 13th session opened with prayer prepared by Sr. Anne Munley entitled, “We Are All One Body”. She proposed the question, “What is God calling us to together?” as we reflect on our various cultures. We were invited to take a long, loving look at the significance of culture.



After the prayer Sr. Anne presented a PowerPoint and handout on *The Significance of Culture*. Table groups were invited to share on what was challenging and a blessing in their own cultures. Then Sr. Anne presented a PowerPoint and handout on *Diversity and Civility*. Table sharing followed.



In the afternoon five Sisters participated in a *Fish Bowl* during which they shared cultural challenges and blessings they experienced before and during their life in community. They were **Sisters Martha O’Gara, Barbara Netek, Marilyn Grace Springs, Agueda Oviedo and Theresa Nguyen**.

During the April 14th session, Chapter Committees were chosen. The Planning Committee members are **Sisters Anna Marie Espinosa, Anne Brigid Schlegel, Agueda Oviedo and Rosa Maria Ortiz**. **Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs** will be the liaison from the Leadership Team. **Sr. Michelle Marie Kuntscher** was elected as the Secretary of the Chapter.



- +We may have underlying prejudices which we need to uncover and heal and forgive.
- +There are many blessings in diversity.
- +We are called beyond tolerance to tenderness.
- +We are called to enter into the reality of others.
- +We need communication with the possibility of transformation.

Contributions for The Word Lives may be sent to Sister Rose Miriam at SecretaryGeneral@jwbscc.org by the 20th of each month.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER

Srs. Anne Brigid Schlegel, Anna Marie Epinosa, Agueda Oviedo and Rosa Ortiz attended the Annual Education Event, April 24th, of the SRIC (Socially Responsible Investment Coalition) in San Antonio. The SRIC is a group of religious organizations or their affiliates working together to monitor corporate social responsibility and to empower its members to use their economic power (as shareholders and consumers) to promote social and environmental justice for all people. The theme of the event was *Housing Justice: Dream or Reality?* - Investing in affordable housing so that everyone has a place to call home.

Srs. Maria Elizabeth Brehony and Michelle Marie Kuntscher, along with teachers and parents, helped with the IWA Second Graders' First Holy Communion Retreat at the Spirit Center on Easter Tuesday. Deacon Ron Martinez of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish gave talks and led discussions on the Eucharist.



Sister Kathleen McDonagh, IWBS, Corpus Christi
Sister Carmelita Casso, IWBS, Victoria,
Sister Carmen Maria Gonzales, CVI, Mexico City

This International Team of Incarnate Word Sisters was commissioned in 1982 to dig out the roots and uncover the Charism of the Order and at the same time to prepare materials for the Cause of Jeanne Chézard de Matel.

[Photo courtesy of Sr. Amata Hollas, IWBS, Victoria]

2019

June 9-16: Annual preached retreat

July 18-20: Generational gatherings

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



It is her prerogative to be the Mother, not only of the living, but the Mother of life, for she is the Mother of the Incarnate Word.

OG-05, Jeanne Chézard de Matel, *Spiritual Journal II*, Ch. 167, p. 1188, September 8, 1646

EXECUTIONS IN TEXAS

Thursday, May 2:
Dexter Johnson

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.

U.S. policies — such as limiting the number of migrants who are processed at ports of entry each day, forcing asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases are processed, or failing to address root causes or create alternatives to detention — have contributed to a situation that is overwhelming nonprofits and government agencies alike and creating a humanitarian crisis.

—National Catholic Reporter 4.2.19

The rate of imprisonment in the United States more than quadrupled during the last four decades. The U.S. penal population of 2.2 million adults is by far the largest in the world. Just under one-quarter of the world's prisoners are held in American prisons. The U.S. rate of incarceration, with nearly 1 out of every 100 adults in prison or jail, is 5 to 10 times higher than the rates in Western Europe and other democracies.

—The National Academies Press

Builders of walls, be they of razor wire or bricks, will end up becoming prisoners of their own walls.

—Pope Francis

The U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition is responsible for two-thirds of civilian deaths during the war in Yemen. The U.S. should not be sending bombs to Saudi Arabia that will be used for carpet bombing schools, hospitals and other civilian centers.

—Friends Committee on National Legislation

SOCIETY OF THE INCARNATE WORD



Father Faustus

In Kenya, Father Faustus held another Discernment Retreat from April 22 - 27, 2019 at a Carmelite Retreat House near the Sisters of the Incarnate Word in Langata. After the first candidates for the Society of the Incarnate Word in Africa have been discerned, it is hoped that they will begin formation in August, 2019.

Sr. Mary Rose Kocab, SIW Cleveland, wrote to the United States congregations supporting this effort: Again, thank you for your investment in this work! And I ask for your continued prayers, that the dream of Jeanne Chézard de Matel, which has waited 400 years to come to birth, will, by God's grace, come to fruition in our time. The work of God takes time, and all things are in God's time, not ours! *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor."* (1 Corinthians 3, 6 - 8)

AFRICA

Father Faustus Ndenyele
 Jacques Kilulu
 Wafula Enos
 Oswald Manirankunda
 Francis Kamau
 Josephat Kamau
 Peter Onyancha Julius
 Nicodemus Mokuwa



MEXICO

Father Jesús Antonio Weisensee
 Brayan Eduardo Mendza Zárate
 Carmen Antonio Tique Sánchez
 Juan Carranza Oliva
 Francisco Israel Ybarra Añorve
 Antonio Jiménez Bautista
 Javier Esteban Domínguez
 Ascencio



THE SPIRIT CENTER



Main sign to the Spirit Center Facility on the corner of 3088 and FM666.

Exciting things are happening at the Retreat Facility. Two more signs were installed. One on the corner of 3088 and FM666 and one at the Florence Mahoney Knolle Pavilion.



Sign to the Florence Mahoney Knolle Pavilion.



The Spirit Center now has large TV monitors available to be used with groups, such as the Second Graders of IWA who had a First Communion Retreat there on Easter Tuesday.



BEATITUDES OF THE MIGRANTS

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ON THE MOVE, transforming exodus and flight into energy for a new search. From the victims will come the protagonists of history.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO, forced to wander without direction, **WITH WISDOM LEARN AND TEACH LESSONS OF THE ROAD**. They will be the architects of a new time.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO SUFFER PAIN, NOSTALGIA AND LONELINESS, yet know how to make every new arrival a new beginning. They shall act with faith, hope and life.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO OPEN BORDERS and mix the anthems, flags, races and creeds. Without discrimination, they make the world everyone's home.

BLESSED ARE THE WAYFARERS OF ALL ROADS in the tears, sweat and work of their hands. They prepare a tomorrow of justice and right.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO OPEN DOORS TO OTHERS, making solidarity the passport to our common homeland. They are constructing a new citizenship.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FOMENT ENCOUNTERS AND RE-ENCOUNTERS, sowing peace. They will harvest flowers and stars in the new heaven and the new earth.

BLESSED ARE THE EXCLUDED, without opportunities and without voice. They will be the first guests in the great banquet, where bread will not be lacking to anyone's table.

José Gocalves (Brazil)