



THE WORD LIVES

August 2018

Reflection from Sister Annette

As daughters and sons of Jeanne Chezard de Matel, we have inherited characteristics that shape our spiritual legacy. The most essential elements we can name can be found in the Associates' handbook.

All of us have been gifted with five qualities that are intimately related to the Mystery of the Incarnation. The richness of our spirituality rests on our trinitarian, scriptural, liturgical, ecclesial and Marian characteristics.

Each of us lives out these characteristics in the way that best fits us, according to our personality, temperament, vocation, areas of service and the opportunities we encounter in life.

In our response to these opportunities—which we often call problems or challenges—we either discover the presence of these qualities or grow more fully into their realities.

As we grow more fully into who we are called to be, we also form the fullness of the charism of the Incarnation as willed by the Incarnate Word and given to the Church through our Foundress.

In addition to naming these five as our essential elements, Mother de Matel also calls us to live our charism as loving community members and apostles. In this call we hear the invitation to consider ourselves a community of apostles.

In the coming months we will explore these elements that most affect the way we live as members of the Incarnate Word Family.

Whether Sisters, Associates, De Matels—or now even future ordained members of the Society of the Incarnate Word—we can claim the treasures of heritage in the daily opportunities to respond with joyful love and service.

XXIII INTERNATIONAL REUNION OF THE ORDER OF THE INCARNATE WORD



The 23rd Incarnate Word International Reunion was held in Zatopan, Mexico, July 23—26. The theme of the Reunion was *Summoned by Love*. Hosted by the Congregation of Tlalpan (Mexico City), the meeting was attended by over 120 Sisters, Associates and Aspirants and members of the Society of the Incarnate Word. The Corpus Christi Congregation was represented by **Srs. Annette Wagner, María Irma Gonzalez, Anna Marie Espinosa, Rose Miriam Gansle, Jude Janecek, Mary Ann Korczyński, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Jo Ann Saenz, Raquel Newman, Judith Marie Saenz, Therese Ann Ridge, Emma Marie Stillman** and Associates **Adelaida** and **Charles Mendoza**.

Each morning began at 7:30 with Morning Prayer and Marian Devotion in the beautiful chapel. Breakfast followed. Eucharist was celebrated in the evening before supper.

Three presentations were given each day followed by group reflection.



The first was entitled “Summoned by Love.” **Fr. Jesus Reyes**, Director of the Society of the Incarnate Word in Mexico, spoke on John 21, 15 where Jesus asked, “Do you love me more than these?” This is our calling, to proclaim God Who is Love. In order to understand God, we have to love God. The Incarnate Word is a manifestation / revelation of God’s Love. Jesus’ mission is now ours: we have committed to love *more*.

Fr. Alvero Quiroz, S.J. reflected on “Religious Life: a Gift for the Church.” He remarked that our charism could enliven the whole Christian community. We are to offer ourselves generously and live the joy of the Gospel by our love of Jesus. How can we be a gift to the Church today?

Sr. Maria del Carmen Aceituno, CVI, Vice Postulator of the Cause, spoke on “The Joy of Belonging to the Incarnate Word” and to His Order. Our charism has a rich history. We belong because one day we were attracted to this charism. Our personal identity is formed by our charism. In Jesus we will find our joy. We are both saints and sinners in community. We have chosen to be here according to God’s plan. What does Jeanne Chézard de Matel want of us?

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

On Wednesday morning **Sr. Maria Elena Llamosas Hernández, CVI**, reflected on “The Contemplation of Love”. The one who contemplates is attracted by the love of the Trinity. Jeanne Chézard de Matel lived constantly in the presence of God. Love impelled her to go out of herself to enter into God. She calls us to pray ardently that God may inflame our hearts.

Sr. Gloria Josefina Vargas, CVI, presented a talk on “To Live in Love.” We learn to love by loving, listening and discerning. In communion with one another we find happiness and learn forgiveness. We must think globally and act locally. Every person is a sanctuary, a sacred place, since God is in the heart of each of us.

In the afternoon, **Sr. Maria Elena Gonzalez Galvan, CVI** spoke on “The Joy of Announcing Love”. Our joy is manifested in our face, actions and health. If we are not happy, we cannot serve. Joy is an attitude. Be grateful for joy. To be happy, we have to have a passion to serve. We create a space where people can experience the love of God.

Thursday began with Lauds, Eucharist and breakfast. Afterwards three buses took us to the Gardens of Mexico. There we walked for a few hours through many gorgeous displays of flowers and plants. You can see more online at jardinesdemexico.com.



That evening **Sr. Mary Rose Cleveland, SIW** reported on the process of reunification. She introduced the Committee members, summarized our motives for wanting to be one Order, the actions accomplished by the Committee, and some actions that are continuing. She urged us to be patient with the process which will continue.



Sr. Emma Marie Stillman, IWBS, presented a donation for the male branch of the Incarnate Word Order. She had organized a raffle that raised \$12,000. **Fr. Jesus Reyes, S.J.**, Director, and four Aspirants of the Society in Mexico gladly received the donation which will assist aspirants in both Mexico and Kenya with their education and other needs.

Sr. Maria del Carmen Aceituno Vice Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Jeanne Chézard de Matel, reported that the process is continuing. She asks that Sisters, Associates, students, alumni and friends of the Order follow the Face Book page (Canonizacion Jeanne de Matel) on the process of Canonization in order to show that there is interest in her life and spirituality. We desire and hope to be like her as she is a good model for the Church. When we venerate her it helps us to love the Incarnate Word. She encouraged us to pray for her Beatification and Canonization in our communities. She challenged us to remain united in the spirit of the Order.

Srs. Adriana Soto, CVI and **Mary Rose Kocab, SIW**, wrote a theme song for the Reunion:

Signos de tu Amor / Signs of Your Love



Thank you, Lord, for loving us,
thank you, Lord, for calling us,
to proclaim Your Incarnation.

As one single family
on this day we give You thanks
on our journey to be one in You.

In many countries,
languages and cultures,
we are the one Order that was
founded by Jeanne.

**Thank you, Lord, for calling us,
Jesus, Incarnate Word,
we are all signs of Your love. (2)**



Mexican dancers and mariachis provided joyful music during the evening. The mariachis were joined by dancers in the group of attendees.

MINISTRIES
CORNER



Srs. Jo Ann Saenz and Rosemary Lichnovsky participated in the 100th Anniversary Celebration of St. Elizabeth Parish in Alice, Texas, Saturday, June 9, 2018. Msgr. Leonard Pivonka, Pastor, was the Presider for the Eucharistic Liturgy at 5:00 p.m. The Mass was followed by a meal and entertainment, honoring those who were parishioners or had served in the parish for 30 years or more. Sr. Jo Ann shared her memories of teaching Religion and Youth Ministry. Sr. Rosemary shared her memories of coordinating the Religious Education Program, Adult Faith Formation, and Women's Bible Study. Msgr. Pivonka expressed gratitude to the Incarnate Word Sisters who served at St. Elizabeth's parish in a variety of ways over the years.

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Srs. Jo Ann Saenz, Lou Ella Hickman, and Rose Miriam Gansle attended the Diocesan Vocation Team meeting on June 26th. Plans are being made for vocation promotion activities for the coming school year.

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Srs. Annette, Barbara, Irma, Anna Marie, Mary Anne, Helga and Rose Miriam attended a Mass in solidarity with those who are impacted by the Immigration and Migration crisis at the U.S. / Mexico border. Bishop Michael Mulvey presided at the bilingual liturgy on June 26. In his homily he called for solidarity, being one in Christ, and seeing Jesus in every person.

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At the August 1 diocesan inservice for Catholic School teachers and staff, **Sr. Annette Wagner** offered a presentation assisting all faculty and staff members to recognize themselves as catechists in the endeavor of evangelization and formation within the Catholic school setting. Other presentations were provided by Fr. James Stembler, Chancellor, and Fr. Peter Martinez, President of the campus comprised of St. John Paul II High School and Bishop Garriga Middle Preparatory School.



September 8: Dialogue with the Bishop

September 28—29: Fall Assembly

November 9—11: Vocation Retreat

March 22—23: Spring Assembly

A Story to Ponder

A disciple asks his rebbe, "Why does Torah tell us to 'place these words UPON YOUR HEARTS'? Why does it not tell us to place these holy words IN our hearts?" The rebbe answers, "It is because as we are, our hearts are closed, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts. And there they stay until, one day, the heart breaks and the words fall in."

—Bella Bathurst



Mike Madden took this photo of our house following days of rain in June.

Executions in Texas

Wednesday, September 12:
Ruben Gutierrez

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipes 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



I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.

—Malala Yousafzai

In order to move forward, we need to shift the question, "How can anybody think that way?" to the question, "I wonder how someone might think that way?"

—Marie McCarthy, SP

I know that we have to speak out about the injustices publicly. If not, we are accomplices.

—Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, Mothers of the Disappeared

Wrong does not cease to be wrong because the majority share in it.

—Tolstoy

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

—Edmund Burke

Don't worry about being effective. Just concentrate on being faithful to the truth.

—Dorothy Day

Justice will not come to Athens until those who are not oppressed are as enraged about it as those who are oppressed.

—Euripides

We assert it is better to take risks for peace, even when outcomes are not assured, than perpetuate a status quo that edges us toward war.

—UCC/DOC Leaders on the US Korea Summit

If we try to notice the arrival of our highest future possibilities, I am sure we will ultimately hear a familiar voice saying to us: "I know the plans I have for you — plans for peace and not disaster. To give you a future and a hope.

—Carole Shinick, SSND

As long as we are unquestioning, we are part of the problem.

—Rosalie Bertell, RSB)



Sr. Jo Ann Saenz and the V Encuentro Team of Corpus Christi

Sr. Jo Ann Saenz accepted an invitation to serve on the V Encuentro diocesan planning team as a delegate. The V Encuentro is a four-year multicultural process of ecclesial reflection and action that invites all Catholics in the U.S. to intense missionary activity, consultation, leadership development, and identification of best ministerial practices in the spirit of the New Evangelization. The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the U.S. can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence, and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church.



Sr. Jo Ann with the new Cursillistas

Sr. Jo Ann also gave a presentation at the Cursillo #165 in the Rio Grande Valley which was held July 12—15 in Edinburg, Texas. Her talk was entitled “Life in Grace.” She was a Spiritual Companion to the 12 participants.

The Spirit Center Has a New Website!

After hard work and dedication, the new website, www.bluntzerspiritcenter.org, will be on line—hopefully within the second week of August. Visitors to the site—both prospective clientele and donors—will easily learn about the Spirit Center Youth Retreat Facility. It provides clear information, is interactive and addresses both the facility and its development, particularly the annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner. We hope you visit the new website and encourage others to do the same.

WORKS OF MERCY

[are] charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs.
(CCC #2447).



Feeding the Hungry

Casey Jones, a teacher in Green Country, Oklahoma started *The American Dream Center* last June and opened a brick-and-mortar office hoping to give a voice to the voiceless. The American Dream Center helps immigrants find jobs, housing, insurance, and lawyers and is working on getting accredited by the Department of Justice to help people navigate the citizenship process.

Many longtime groups, such as *Humane Borders*, *No More Deaths* and *Border Angels*, place water, food and other essentials along well-traveled paths that migrants use in the deserts from Texas to California.

Humane Borders, beginning in 2000, started maintaining a network of dozens of water stations - ranging from a single 250-liter barrel of water to a half-dozen barrels - in remote locations in Arizona and across the border in Mexico.

I will pray in a special way for our brothers and sisters, men, women and children who have died of thirst, hunger or from the exhaustion on the journey to find a better life. In recent days we have seen those terrible images of the desert in the newspapers. Let us all pray in silence for these brothers and sisters of ours.

-Pope Francis—*Angelus*, November 1, 2013

