

THE WORD LIVES

January 2019

Reflection

I thank you, Mother of God, . . . who are all-beautiful and immaculate. I acknowledge that this Order was born upon your knees.

In this prayer, Mother de Matel evokes imagery from an ancient practice described in the book of Genesis. Abraham's first child, Ishmael, was born (by Hagar) "upon the knees" of Sarah, who then presented the babe to his father Abraham.

This ritual action is the way a wife who could not—for whatever reason—give her husband a child from her own womb, could literally give him one by way of a surrogate.

Similarly, Mother de Matel sees herself as surrogate for Mary in giving birth to an extension of the incarnation. In placing this new Order upon Mary's knees, she acknowledges Mary to be as essential in this extension of the incarnation as she was at the Annunciation.

She consistently makes plain Mary's gift of commitment to her daughters—and us.

Do you want to know how much Mary loves you? She gives you all that she conceived in her heart.

In this acknowledgement lies the seeds of Mother de Matel's oft-repeated counsel to her children concerning devotion to Mary.

Mary, who gave her all in her Fiat; who is mother of the Order; who is mother of us all; who is mother both at Bethlehem and Calvary; whose humility is her glory; whose fidelity is our model and our guide.



Long after our move from the Motherhouse on Alameda Street, **Sr. Colette Brehony** returned to check every inch of the house, collecting items that were still on site. During one of her trips she discovered some treasured long-lost boxes of glass slide negatives with photos depicting the early life of our Congregation that belong to the Heritage Department. Our friend Msgr. Michael Howell contacted Dr. Cecile Venable, Archivist for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate in San Antonio. A meeting was held on Monday, December 10th with **Msgr. Michael, Dr. Venable, Sr. Colette, Sr. Anne Brigid** and **Sr. Brenda** to begin the process of preparing the slides for transportation to be saved digitally and made ready for processing into photos. We eagerly await the development of

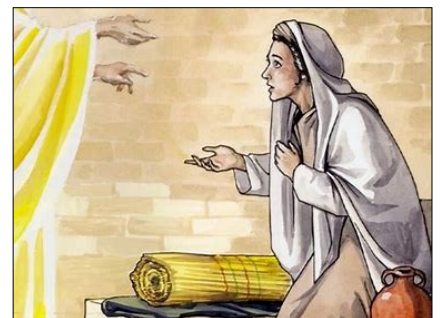
*After her consent,
the Word became Flesh.*

What admirable words of Mary!

OG-05, *Spiritual Journal II*, Ch. 20, p. 147, July 3, 1636

*May the love, joy and peace
that only He can bring be yours!*

Sister Annette and Sisters



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



Sr. Elizabeth Close set up her beautiful manger scene in the community



Sr. Marilyn Springs worked her magic again setting up the manger scene by the chapel.

O HOLY NIGHT

O indescribable charity! O incomparable love! O immense and infinite love of the Incarnate Word Who gives His whole self to His own! Let us be His, my daughters, since He is all ours. That is His desire and our eternal obligation. Amen.

OG-05, Jeanne Chézard de Matel, *Spiritual Journal II*, Ch 113, p. 779, November 26, 1638

During this joy-filled season of the birth of the Incarnate Word we are blessed with many opportunities to praise and proclaim His infinite love. We celebrated the Vigil Monday night and the Christmas morning Eucharist Tuesday. Following the Vigil, Sisters and guests enjoyed refreshments of tamales and other goodies. Christmas night the Sisters had their annual Christmas gift exchange. PRAISED BE THE INCARNATE WORD!

REUNIFICATION PROJECTS

Besides the Facebook page entitled *Orden del Verbo Encarnado*, two more projects are presently being developed to help members of the eight congregations involved in this effort to know each other better.

1. **Construction of a blog** (with Google translation available) All Sisters will be able to carry on conversations about significant topics, such as the proposed Constitution for the Order.
2. **Generational gatherings** by language. Spanish-speaking Sisters are invited to attend the assembly in Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico; English-speaking Sisters, in Victoria, Texas, USA with Sr. Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND,

THE SOCIETY OF THE INCARNATE WORD



Sr. Esther Mwaniki, Sisters'

When establishing the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, our Foundress, Mother Jeanne Chézard de Matel, envisioned a community experience that embraces not only consecrated women, but also priests and lay people. In the 1970's. Her original vision came back in focus with the establishment of Incarnate Word Associates by congregations in both the United States and Mexico.

Now the final piece of Mother de Matel's inspiration is unfolding in Mexico and Kenya with the initial steps to establish the Society of the Incarnate Word for priests. The Mexico branch has been growing since 2012 and presently has four seminarians moving toward permanent commitment. The Kenya branch has offered its first discernment retreat and is

working towards establishing its first house of discernment/formation. Presently they have an opportunity to purchase a total of three acres and the beginning of facilities that can provide such a home for these men.

Since the congregations in Mexico have been and are still assisting the Society developing in Mexico, the United States congregations (located in Cleveland, Corpus Christi and Victoria) are supporting the emerging Society in Kenya. Each U.S. congregation has agreed to contribute \$17,000 toward the purchase of this property—both land and housing. The present owner, excited about her property being used for a religious purpose, has graciously agreed to hold the property for our purchase until the end of March.



Property to be purchased



Fr. Faustus Uste Ndenyele, Director of Formation

MINISTRIES CORNER



SISTERS ROCK

Over 150 high school students attended "Sisters Rock" at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Alice on November 7th. Only 3 of the students had ever met a Sister. the Diocese of Corpus Christi. **Srs. Jo Ann Saenz, Lou Ella Hickman and Rose Miriam Gansle** were among those who told vocation stories and answered the students' questions. In conclusion, the Parish Pastor, Fr. Julian Cabrera, encouraged the students to "ask God in your prayers, 'What do you want

FAITH SHARING

Our faith-sharing theme for December was simplicity and generosity. The Motherhouse community responded to these reflection through several Christmas projects:

- Donating money for the Refugee Center in McAllen where several Sisters and Associates recently worked.

- Donating money and clothing for the Catholic Worker House, Hope House and Mother Teresa Shelter. Socks, caps and gloves are especially needed.

- Financing bagged sandwiches to be distributed among the homeless during the cool January evenings.

- Writing to the wounded vets and/or making donations to the cause.

- Agreeing to limit gifts under the tree to the one gift for the Sister drawn for "Kris Kinder" as a way of recognizing the countless blessings and non-material gifts from God in



January 19: Human Trafficking awareness

March 16-17: Spring Assembly

June 9-16: Annual preached retreat

July 18-20: Generational gatherings

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

As part of our Social Justice concerns, Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Corpus Christi, will host a guest speaker on Human Trafficking, Tiffany Fader, from New Life Ministries.

DATE: Saturday, January 19th

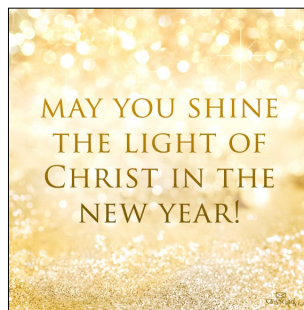
TIME: 1:00 to 2:00 PM

PLACE: Incarnate Word Convent
5201 Lipas Blvc., 78403

If you are interested in attending this presentation, please RSVP at

361-882-5413 or

saoviedo@iwbscc.org.



Executions in Texas

Tuesday, January 15:

Blaine Milam

Wednesday, January 30:

Robert Jennings

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipas 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 see life as like being attacked by a bear. You can run, you can pretend to be dead, or you can make yourself bigger.

-Amy Poehler

LCWR promotes legislation that includes family reunification, a path to earned legalization, worker protections and an effective border policy that is humane rather than punitive.

-LCWR National Board

Dripping water carves out stone, not through force but through persistence.

-Ovid

Let's examine why we continue to segregate along racial lines and how we can build inclusive communities. Let's confront today's shameful use of racism as a political strategy and prove we are better than this.

-Susan Goldberg

Delay in Justice is injustice.

-Walter Savage Landor

It always seems impossible 'til it's done.

-Nelson Mandela

Peace without justice is tyranny.

-William Allen White

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create.

-Pope John Paul II

Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.

