



# THE WORD LIVES

January 2018

## Reflection from Sister Annette

*Longanimity* is the ancient term used in our novena prayer to the Holy Spirit in preparing for Pentecost. Another venerable term for this virtue is *longsuffering*.

Longsuffering in Scripture comes from two Greek words, "long" and "temper." One blessed with this fruit of the Spirit is literally "long-tempered" or simply has a "long fuse." In other words, this virtue does not retaliate insult or frustration.

Longanimity, longsuffering, endurance, fortitude, self-restraint, perseverance, patience—terms circling the reality. Some seem to come from personal effort; others from an innate temperament. Some suggest lack of will, while others acknowledge an unflinching strength.

This fruit has deep roots: belief in the innate goodness of creation, and unflinching hope in a benevolent God. It is nurtured by compassion and a deep understanding of human nature.

Met with indifference and hostility by Church authority; persecuted with contempt by those who seized her position in the Order—in all circumstances, Mother de Matel pursued the Incarnate Word's goal with gentleness and calmness.

Surely our world needs fewer venomous remarks and hostile attitudes, more gentle responses and tranquil temperaments. Let us carry this fruit of the Holy Spirit into the new year, offering it as gift to those we meet.

Pope Francis' message on Christmas holds a special meaning for those called to be extensions of the Incarnation.



"Christmas is usually a noisy party: we could use a bit of silence, to hear the voice of Love."

Christmas is you, when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul. The Christmas **pine** is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. The Christmas **decorations** are you, when your virtues are colors that adorn your life. The Christmas **bell** is you,

when you call, gather and seek to unite. You are also a Christmas **light**, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity. The Christmas **angels** are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love. The Christmas **star** is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord. You are also the **wise men**, when you give the best you have no matter who. Christmas **music** is you when you conquer the harmony within you. The Christmas **gift** is you, when you are truly friend and brother/Sister of every human being. The Christmas **card** is you, when kindness is written in your hands. The Christmas **greeting** is you, when you forgive and reestablish peace, even when you suffer. The Christmas **dinner** is you, when you sated bread and hope to the poor person who is by your side. You are, yes, Christmas **night**, when humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Savior of the world without noise or great celebrations; you are a smile of trust and tenderness, in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you. A very Merry Christmas for all those who look like Christmas.



Contributions for The Word Lives may be sent to Sister Rose Miriam at [SecretaryGeneral@iwbscc.org](mailto:SecretaryGeneral@iwbscc.org) by the 20th of each month.



**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION WALK**

On December 3, 2017, **Srs. Anne Brigid Schlegel** and **Brenda Thompson** participated in the Alzheimer's Walk as part of the Christus Spohn South Volunteer Team. This is a world-wide event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. The event began in Cole Park with a two-mile walk along Shoreline Drive. Sr. Anne Brigid hosted the water and fruit station, while Sr. Brenda joined the walk with over 300 families, most carrying photos of loved ones who were Alzheimer's patients and had passed or are now suffering from the disease. This year the event raised \$33,947.00 from the Corpus Christi participants.

Since she has completed her ministry with the formation community in Molo and Nairobi, **Sr. Helga Leija** leaves Kenya for Spain, where she will continue her translation efforts.



- January 6: Leadership Meeting
- January 15: CC Associates meeting
- January 22—24: Driver Awareness Seminar for all Sisters who drive
- April 14: Jubilee Celebration
- March 17—18: Spring General Assembly
- July 23—28: International Reunion

**CLEVELAND VISIT**

**Sr. Annette Wagner** visited the Cleveland Incarnate Word community December 5 through December 12. Invited to present the annual Advent Retreat for the Associates, she had time during her visit for several other opportunities. She met with Sisters to give them a fuller picture of the Corpus Christi congregation and consider their shared concern for service to others through individual and community efforts. Warmly received in true Incarnate Word fashion, she had the opportunity to visit the Sisters at Regina Health Center, enjoyed a tour of Cleveland including the Cathedral and Lake Erie shore, visited the prayer opportunities on the convent grounds, and spent time with the Sisters during other social events. Even the weather cooperated and sent some snow before she left.

**Executions in Texas**

- Thursday, January 18:**  
Anthony Shore
- Tuesday, January 30:**  
William Rayford
- Friday, February 1:**  
John Battaglia

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.

Like all false gods, money and its trappings require the sacrifice of victims. Whether the poor are offered up indirectly through the economic conditions necessary to produce profit, or directly through the violence necessary to sustain these conditions, their lives are the sacrifice.

Elizabeth Johnson

~

"The world is drenched in mutual slaughter. . . . Held to be a crime when committed by individuals, homicide is called a virtue when committed by the state."

St. Cyprian

~

We humans are inflicting deadly damage on our planet at an accelerating pace, compromising its identity as a dwelling place for life.

Elizabeth Johnson

~

When you are grateful, you are not fearful, and when you are not fearful, you are not violent...If you are grateful, you are enjoying the differences between people and respectful to all people.

Brother Steindl-Rast

~

"How wonderful would it be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation would come along with more equality and social inclusion?" the pope questioned. "How wonderful would it be, while we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us?"

Pope Francis

~

I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free...so other people would be also free.

Rosa Parks

## NEWS TIDBITS



### ASSOCIATES ADVENT RETREAT

Sr. Annette was the presenter at the Associates annual Advent retreat. She spoke on the Three Comings of Jesus and invited all present to quiet reflection and some group sharing. The day also included Eucharistic Celebration and lunch. It was a good day to walk outside and enjoy the nature of the grounds.



Mrs. Sirenia Mejia Flores stands in front of her house which was almost demolished by Hurricane Harvey. Behind Mrs. Flores home can be seen the roof of the parish which also suffered damage. Each of these received \$250 from our donation.



## GROTTO BLESSING



The new Grotto of the Immaculate Conception at the Motherhouse was blessed by Bishop Michael Mulvey, Bishop of Corpus Christi, assisted by Fr. James Stembler. Sisters, Associates and friends, were present. During the prayer, Sr. Annette read a message from Mother De Matel to her Sisters on the place of Mary as Mother of the Order of the Incarnate Word.



Associate Dolores Vesely and her daughter, Liz, presented the Sisters with a vestment which she made for her brother, Jim, for his ordination. All of the embroidery and piecing of the roses were done by hand by Dolores. Sr. Barbara Cashell, who died in 1970, painted Our Lady on the front. The roses and lily are symbolic of our Lady as is the white lettering, an "A" and "M" for "Ave Maria." Since no other family member now uses it, Dolores has donated it to the convent.

