

THE WORD LIVES

June 2018

Reflection from Sister Annette

The final pair to complete the fruits of the Holy Spirit could be considered twins: chastity and continence. In a sense, this pair assists in living fully the gifts that have been given us first by our human nature and next by our Baptism.

Chastity, often misunderstood as celibacy, fortifies both married and single in the proper use of our human sexuality—according to our state in life. Similarly, continence is available to all, assisting in moderate pleasing of our appetites so that we can live a healthy, free and fulfilling life in every aspect—physical, emotional, intellectual, social . . .

Since both fruits suggest self-discipline, it is easy to recognize how they can assist a disciple in living his/her commitment within the context of his/her particular vocation. Our foundress Mother de Matel observed that continence “automatically brings about in us a certain steadfastness in purity.”

Such purity calls to mind the beatitude—pure of heart, single focus and commitment to God. So the questions arise: Where do I most need purity of intention and action? What challenges my moderation in my living as a disciple of Christ? When do I need to call upon the authority of the Spirit within to maintain balance in my patterns of living? How do I rely on the power of God's grace to keep my focus in my day-to-day choices?

In answering these questions, we come to appreciate, invite and count on these twins of discipleship. May our lives bear much fruit!

SISTER MARY LUCY GARCIA JUNE 15, 1927—APRIL 30, 2018



L-R: Sr. Lucy's Jubilee, April 14, 2018; Sr. Lucy enters the Novitiate, March 15, 1947; Sr. Lucy lending a hand with dishes

“She was alive when she died.” That was how Bishop Michael Mulvey described Sr. Mary Lucy Garcia, 90, who died April 30th after a short illness.

The many friends who attended her services were an affirmation of the Bishop's view. She lived a life of loving service and a thirst for a deep relationship of love and adoration of the Incarnate Word.

In prayer Sr. Lucy understood that God's name for her was “God's Crackpot.” She offered this quote to explain: “To many our earthen vessel may seem quite cracked. But I have learned that light shines better through the cracks, and that ‘living waters’ can leak out more easily through broken containers.”

Sr. Lucy's aliveness—God's light and living waters—has blessed us and the many she served in her varied experiences of ministry in locations from Texas to Kenya, East Africa. Fully aware of the call she chose to answer, Sr. Lucy spent her life encouraging others to answer that same call to love and service as it was particularly presented to them.



L-R: Sr. Lucy directed the Sisters' choir for the Centennial celebration of the Congregation; Sr. Lucy with members of the Pokot Tribe during her ministry in Africa in the 1990's.

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

MINISTRIES CORNER



After 106 years of service, Central Catholic Elementary School closes at the end of this school year. Originally established as the parochial Sacred Heart Elementary, the school was joined with Corpus Christi Cathedral Elementary (where our Sisters also taught) to become the Central Catholic campus. A large group of Sisters who had taught on campus were able to attend the celebration acknowledging the school's history and the contributions both the school and the Incarnate Word Sisters. The school building will be turned into a Parish Activity Center.

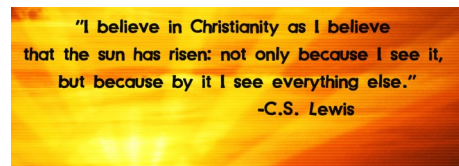
Sr. Annette Wagner has completed a 3-year formation program for spiritual directors. A recognized ministry of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, St. Peter Upon the Water program concludes Sunday, June 3, with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller's conferring certification on the 45 participants.

Sr. Rosa Ortiz directed a retreat for 8th Graders from Incarnate Word Academy, Brownsville, May 13th. The retreat was held at the La Parra assembly hall at La Parra.

The **De Matels**, under the direction of **Sr. Rosa Ortiz**, celebrated a May crowning at the motherhouse grotto on May 18th at 7:00 p.m. Afterwards, all were invited for refreshments in the dining room.

Several Sisters will make their annual retreat at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio June 3—10. The retreat, led by Sr. Lucy Zientek, CDP, will focus on allowing our faith, prayer, and new perception of the Universe, as a single web of being, to draw us to experience the Spirit of Jesus with greater depth and intensity.

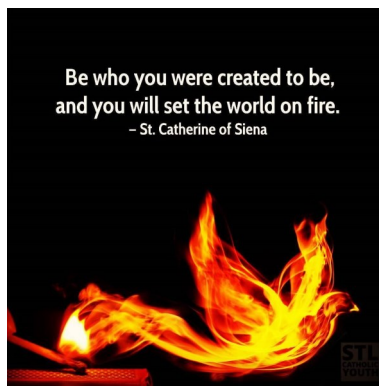
Beginning June 1st, **Sr. Anne Brigid Schlegel** begins the ministry of Sister-In-Charge of the Motherhouse, replacing **Sr. Martha O'Gara** who completed four years in the office.



July 23—28: International Reunion in Tlalpan, Mexico

Sarita House Tour

Srs. Colette Brehony and Anne Brigid Schlegel hosted a tour of the Sarita House for the Texas Tropical Tours group on May 16th. A brochure on the history of the house was given to over 100 members of the tour. This group takes a monthly trip to historic sights in the 20 "lower" counties of Texas. Many of the members expressed excitement and gratitude at being allowed to view each of the rooms in the house. A set of the Petra Vela Kenedy embossed dishes that were brought from France in the 1850s



Executions in Texas

Thursday, June 21:

Clifton Williams

Wednesday, June 27:

Danny Bible

Tuesday, July 17:

Christopher Young

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



"A church that does not provoke any crisis, preach a gospel that does not unsettle, proclaim a word of God that does not get under anyone's skin or a word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed: what kind of gospel is that?"

— Oscar A. Romero

Capital Punishment is against the better judgment of modern criminology, and, above all, against the highest expression of love in the nature of God.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What do we say to a people who have been left standing amidst the piercing cold of oppression, humiliation, hatred and indifference caused by institutionalized systemic racism in the United States for far too long?

—Sr. Anne-Louise Nadeau

"We can only build the future by standing together, including everyone."

—Pope Francis

But there is no such thing as *redemptive* violence. Violence doesn't *save*; it only destroys in both short and long term.

—Richard Rohr

The greatest honor we can give to Almighty God is to live gladly.

—Julian of Norwich

It is well past time that we enacted sensible gun violence prevention legislation. This is not about protecting the second amendment. It is about protecting the most precious resource we have, the gift of life.

—Leadership Conference of Women Religious

It is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. ...No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much.

—Dorothy Day