



THE WORD LIVES

October 2017

Reflection from Sister Annette

The Father is the source of love, the Son is the way of love, the Holy Spirit is the expression of love.

In this description of God, Mother de Matel sets the Trinitarian characteristic of our Order on the firm foundation of Love, the first of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Catechism of the Catholic Church asserts that the inner relationship of the Trinity, the unifying force of Love, is the source and model of what all humanity is created to live. Each "Person" distinct and unique, yet all sharing the dynamic that makes them One.

As envisioned by Mother de Matel, so it is to be in our community. Distinct in our individual blend of culture, temperament, personality; we are to live one life: the charism of the Order.

As mandated by Christ, so it is to be for all of humanity. Different in nationality and culture, political preference, religious and philosophical commitment, economic, legal or health status—we are to live one life: compassion for those in need no matter how "different" or fearsome they appear.

Is such a goal possible? As the Incarnate Word assured Mother de Matel—and us: *"Grace will transform you into Me, and your heart will be the home of love for both Me and your neighbor."*



TEN ASSOCIATE CANDIDATES ARE PINNED

Associate Candidates of Brownsville, (L-R above) **Mercy Colunga** and **Rosa Maria Martinez**, were pinned in a ceremony, Wednesday, September 20th after Mass. The ceremony was followed by a festive supper.

Eight Associate Candidates of Corpus Christi were pinned in a ceremony following Mass on September 18th at the Motherhouse. The new Associate members pictured above (L-R back) are: **Sylvia Davila**, **Mary Ellen Galvan**, **Angie Garza**, **Bill and Joyce Green**, (L-R front) **Guadalupe Trevino**, **Laura McCracken**, and **Cynthia Ramirez**.

During the ceremony, **Sr. Annette** called each candidate to make their commitment to "give myself to the Incarnate Word to become a sign of His living Presence among people." Then the Associates were pinned by their mentors: **Dolores Vesely**, **Sr. Elizabeth Close**, **Mary Alice** and **Amelia Amaya**, **Kay West**, **Diane Peters**, **Sr. Mary Lucy Garcia**, **Jody Kirshner**, and **Goldie Acuna**.

The first meeting of the year introduced **Sr. Kathleen McDonagh's** book, *Treasured Heritage: Ever Ancient, Ever New*, which is the source of the reflections for this year.

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF SERVICES

The IWBS Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort began August 30 with a visit to Rockport by **Srs. Jude**, **Rosa** and **Anna Marie** and a visit to Tilden by **Sr. Barbara Netek**. The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund was established to receive donations from congregations around the country and distribute them as direct aid. Following visits included Rockport, Bayside, Woodsboro, and Refugio to distribute gift cards to needy persons whose homes were devastated by the storm. Clothing and bedding donated by Notre Dame Parish in Kerrville were also distributed. Through Sister Anna Marie's connection with Sister Maria de Jesus Bringas, CCVI of San Antonio, the Sisters were able to facilitate a collaboration with **Americares** and **Project Cares International** to benefit clinics in Rockport with much needed medications and supplies.

Joined by **Sister Anne Brigid Schlegel** and Fred and Lena Helle, the Sisters visited the Schoenstatt Sisters whose buildings were greatly affected and were able to offer them a donation from the fund. A donation was also given to the Vietnamese community in Fulton to assist in rebuilding St. Peter Church, which was destroyed.

Collaboration was established with Catholic Charities. **Srs. Colette**, **Jude**, and **Anna Marie** with several **De Matels** assisted in unloading one of the many 18-wheeler trucks that brought needed supplies for people affected by the storm. To date approximately \$14,000 has been raised for the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund and \$7,000 has already been distributed to the needy. The ministry continues.

In addition, Casa de Matel has been made available to Rockport citizens displaced by Harvey. Having hosted an older couple, we are presently preparing to welcome a mother and her three children attending Catholic schools in Corpus Christi.

NEWS TIDBITS



On Thursday, September 28, 2017, **Sisters Vianney Uyeno, Irma González**, and Jane Frances Ambrose attended the 2017 Donor Appreciation event at Guadalupe Regional School. The evening included a blessing of cement benches in memory of three GRMS donors who died during the year, a tour of the campus and a light supper. GRMS is a tuition free middle school co-sponsored by the Edmond Rice Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers and ourselves.

PRAYER REQUEST

Rosie and Marcos Villarreal, parishioners of St. Philip the Apostle, Corpus Christi, TX, have requested prayers for their daughter-in-law, **Cristina Villarreal**, who is experiencing a difficult pregnancy. Cristina is about 6 months pregnant with twins, baby girls. One of the babies is normal but the other has been diagnosed with fluid in the brain. Doctors want to save both babies, but a premature delivery may also cause developmental harm to the healthy one. Please pray, that through the intercession of Venerable Jeanne Chézard De Matel, the one baby may be healed, that Cristina may have a safe delivery and that both babies may be born healthy.

A poem entitled "solidarity's question" by Sr. Lou Ella Hickman was published in *New Verse News* July 20, 2017. It has also been submitted for inclusion in the 2018 volume of Orison Books' annual publication, *The Orison Anthology*, which reprints the finest spiritually engaged writing from a broad and inclusive range of perspectives. The poem follows:

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solidarity's question: who will embrace such present sorrow

*I am only one, but still I am one . . . but I can do something.* —Edward Everett Hale

i sit here

alone in the chapel

a dark desert night

*Jesus, have mercy on me a great sinner*

i breathe in then out

*Jesus, have mercy on us*

i breathe slower

*Jesus, have mercy on me a great sinner slower into the dark*

*Jesus, have mercy on us*

the clock chimes the quarter hour

*Jesus, have mercy on me a great sinner*

i sit before All Hunger, Thirst and Longing

to plead in the silence for grace among the violences

*Jesus, have mercy*

## NEW IWBS/CC WEBSITE

**Sisters Anna Marie Espinosa, Theresa Nguyen, Anne Brigid Schlegel** and **Miss Ariel Garza** directed the design of a new website for the Corpus Christi Congregation (Website Design by [Giles-Parscale](#)). After much research, time and effort, the website was launched September \_\_\_\_\_. Highlights of the new website are individual photos and bios of each Sister, Our Story, Spirituality and Prayer, Community, our Mission, Vocations, a Gallery and News. You may view the website at: [iwbscc.org](http://iwbscc.org).



## FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Sisters gathered for their fall General Assembly on the weekend of September 30 to October 1. The theme of the weekend was "Establishing Boundaries and Clear Identities as Women Religious". Sr. Annette led the Assembly with sharing around four topics: 1) Our charism in conversational language; 2) Our charism in action; 3) Characteristics that make us different from others; 4) Steps to strengthen our IWBS identity. The weekend included faith sharing, Eucharist, Solemn Vespers, and announcements. A movie, *Inside Out*, was enjoyed Saturday evening.



## MINISTRIES CORNER



## PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER



De Matels **Nick Gallegos, Rayelynn Orona,** and **Liz Vesely** helped to clear brush in Bayside.



De Matels **Madeline Villa, Kayly Dinh,** **Theresa Salazar** helped to clear lumber in Baytown.

**November 4, December 2, 2017,  
January 6, February 3, March 3,  
April 7, May 5, June 9, 2018:**  
Leadership Team Meetings

**October 15 and 16:**  
Corpus Christi Associates  
meetings

**October 22:**  
Meeting of 2nd Year Associate  
Candidates

October 3: Adoration with the De  
Matels at 7 p.m.

### Executions in Texas in November 2017

**Thursday, October 12:**  
Robert Pruett

**Wednesday, October 18:**  
Anthony Shore

**Thursday, October 26:**  
Clinton Young

You are invited to join the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, 5201 Lipps Blvd on **Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM** to pray for **Robert Pruett** who is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas. We also pray for the victims and the family members of

Nothing living should ever be  
treated with contempt. Whatever it  
is that lives, a man, a tree, or a bird,  
should be touched gently, because  
the time is short. Civilization is  
another word for respect for life...

— Elizabeth Goudge —

AZ QUOTES

Following are excerpts from Parker J. Palmer's *Healing the Heart of Democracy*.

When we forget that politics is about weaving a fabric of compassion and justice on which everyone can depend, the first to suffer are the most vulnerable among us... As they suffer, so does the integrity of our democracy.

History has always been made by individuals doing their small parts in ways that have the potential to add up to something big.

Deformed by a divisive political culture, we're less inclined to differ with each other honestly than to demonize each other mercilessly.

If we want to "create a politics worthy of the human spirit," we must find ways to bridge our differences...then...seek patches of common ground on the issues we care most about.

...the only antidote to the power of organized money is the power of organized people. -Bill Moyers

Democracy is weakened when we only speak with those who share our views... -Loanne / Rod Shackelford

It is in the common good to hold our political differences and the conflicts they create in a way that does not unravel the civic community on which democracy depends.

How did we forget that our differences are among our most valuable assets?...When will we learn that violence in the long run creates at least as many problems as it solves? Why do we not value life, every life, no matter whose or where? Or understand that the