



THE WORD LIVES

October 2018

Highlights from the 2018 Fall General Assembly

Reflection from Sister Annette

We affirm as the inspiration of our lives the spirit of the Incarnate Word revealed in Sacred Scripture, and we recognize the necessity of penetrating more and more deeply into biblical riches through continued prayer and study.

These words from our Constitution (#4) truly echo our Foundress' view of Scripture as the essential resource for those who desire intimacy with Christ. She consistently affirms the Incarnate Word as the source of the written word recorded in Sacred Scripture. In addition, she frequently expresses gratitude for His gift of her ability to grasp the truths they contain.

Today her sons and daughters follow her practice of turning to Scripture to inform, strengthen and express their relationship with Him whom she calls "my Divine Love." Like her, we enrich our prayer life through the Old Testament psalms and the New Testament canticles; we claim the stories of God's Chosen People as expressions of our desire and struggle to answer whole-heartedly God's invitation to a life of love.

However, unlike her, we do not enjoy the gift of infused understanding of Latin or of Scripture. Instead, we have available to us a multitude of resources: classes, commentaries and reflections—in printed matter, on line; in groups or through individual effort.

As we pursue a deeper understanding and appreciation for the messages of love given to us in the Word, we will discover ever more fully the truth of St. Jerome's comment: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Mother de Matel must be nodding her head in agreement!

The Sisters in the Corpus Christi Congregation gathered Saturday—Sunday, September 29-30 for their annual Fall General Assembly. The focus of the Assembly was preparing for Reunification. Following are some highlights from the weekend:

Faith Sharing: The Assembly opened with a video entitled, "Puente o Muro" — "Walls or Bridges". Then **Sr. Annette Wagner** invited us to reflect in small groups on how walls and bridges affect community and the bridges we can build to prepare for fruitful reunification.



Srs. Jo Ann Saenz, Raquel Newman and Sr. Rosa Ortiz spoke on their experience of the International Reunion in Zatonlan, Mexico in July. They reported that they were especially inspired by the joy and hospitality of the Sisters who hosted the Reunion. They felt a sense of family among the Sisters and Associates from the different groups. Meeting the Seminarians of the Society of Jesus was a high point for them. The Assembly confirmed for them our call to

Sr. Irma Gonzalez, a member of the Reunification Committee, showed the videos that each of the Congregations at the Reunion presented on how they "extend the Incarnation".

She then reported on the work of the Reunification Committee, including what has been accomplished, what is ongoing and what still needs to be done.

The Reunification Committee will meet again in



The Assembly closed Sunday morning with faith sharing on the Gospel of the day.

Through the Incarnate Word, we have everything.

MINISTRIES
CORNER



Sr. Anna Marie Espinosa attended a meeting in San Antonio, September 4-6, 2018, for the planning of A National Vocation Discernment Retreat for Hispanic Women sponsored by the National Catholic Sisters Project. The Retreat entitled *Deep Encounter: Listening with an Open Heart*, is for single Catholic women ages 21-40. It will be offered in English and Spanish and will take place at the Hilton Airport Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, March 7-10, 2019. The registration fee of \$30 covers all expenses except travel to and from San Antonio. Opportunity for registration opens September 15, 2018. Sister Marichui Bringas, CCVI of San Antonio, is the contact person.

Several Sisters attended the annual "Dialogue with the Bishop" with Bishop Michael Mulvey September 8, 2018, at St. Patrick Church in Corpus Christi. He spoke about the ongoing development of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Its goal is to move toward a "Spirituality of Communion" as presented to the Church by Pope John Paul II. Bishop Michael focused on four points: (1) promote a spirituality of communion; (2) share joy, sufferings and friendship with others; (3) see the positive in others; (4) carry each others' burdens—that we all may be one.

Srs. Mary Ann Korczynski, Martha O'Gara, Juliane Kuntscher, Anna Marie Espinosa and Annette Wagner attended the annual Ark Gala. The Ark is a state-licensed facility for the assessment and care of abused or neglected children from infants to 17 years of age. The Ark is operated by the Missionary Sisters of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Executions in Texas

Wednesday, October 10, 2018:
Juan Segundo

Wednesday, October 24, 2018:
Kwayme Rockwell



- Oct. 6: Leadership Meeting
- Oct. 9: Vocation Awareness Retreat
- Oct 17: Diocesan Vocation Retreat



**ORIENTATION DAY FOR
OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION**

In response to the enactment of Chapter 2015-2016, the first annual Incarnate Word Orientation Day for our Partners in Mission was held Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Assembly Hall in Sarita. The goal of the day was to deepen our partners' understanding of who we are as Incarnate Word Sisters and the part they play in our ministries; and to nourish their bonds with us and among themselves.

The day included presentations and processes addressing our history, charism and mission; social time and a tour of Mrs. Kenedy's home. It was concluded with an opportunity for our partners to express their commitment to the mission of the Incarnate Word.

Participants included members of boards and administrations from IWA & VMLI-Brownsville, IWA-Corpus Christi and the Spirit Center located in the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Members of the Viable Sponsorship Committee are **Sisters Colette Brehony, Anna Marie Espinosa, Anne Brigid Schlegel, Raquel Newman, Agueda Oviedo and Annette Wagner.**



PEACE AND JUSTICE
CORNER

Every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does.

-Pope Francis

The impacts of climate change are already being experienced in sea level rise, glacial melts, intensified storms, and more frequent droughts. I can only hope that the President will propose concrete ways to address global climate change and promote environmental stewardship."

-Bishop Oscar Cantu

We are facing the largest global refugee crisis in recorded history, with more than 68.5 million people displaced from their homes, 25.4 million of whom are registered refugees. Refugee resettlement saves lives, encourages other countries to keep their doors open to people needing protection, and promotes regional stability and global security. With global need at its highest, we can not allow the continued systematic dismantling of our U.S. refugee resettlement program.

-Franciscan Action Network

A polling group surveyed Americans and discovered that support for the death penalty dropped by seven points in a single year and is at the lowest point since 1972. The tide is definitely turning against capital punishment.

-Equal Justice USA

Tears unite us with those who suffer. Tears make the issues real and soften our hearts. Tears make us one with Jesus who wept for those he loved.

-Janice McLaughlin, MM

No one has the right to sit and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.

-Dorothy Day

INCARNATE WORD ASSOCIATES

The Incarnate Word Associates of Corpus Christi met Monday, September 17th for their opening meeting of 2018-2019. At the close of the Mass, Sr. Annette Wagner led a ceremony in which **Betty McLaughlin** (right), after completing three years of orientation, made her commitment as an Associate member.



Following Mass and supper, four new candidates were welcomed in a brief ceremony led by **Sr. Annette**.

Pictured below are the new Associate Candidates and their mentors. The names of the new Candidates are bolded.

L-R: Charles and Adelaida Mendoza, 3rd year Candidates; Ray and Sarah Garza, 3rd year Candidates; **Mary Lou Cadriel**, 1st year Candidate; **Merci McCoy**, 1st Year Candidate; **Amelia and Nick Adamez**, 1st Year Candidates; Gloria (seated) and Abel Adamez, 3rd year Candidates. Missing from the picture are: David Landa (2nd year Candidate) and Eddie Ortiz (3rd year Candidate)



The Associates in Brownsville also met on Wednesday, September 12th. Their Core Members are Gloria Salinas and Liz Picco. New Candidates are: Michael and Karina Camarillo, Rosa Higareda, Gabby Gonzalez, Marie Saenz.

3rd year Candidates are: Miriam and Lizzie Casarez, William and Rocio Lopez, Edward Camarillo, Lali Camarillo, and Juany Garcia.

The Upper Valley Core members are: Blanca Garza, Gloria Liscano, Mary Morin and a 3rd year candidate is Rey Garza.



NATIONAL V ENCUENTRO

Sr. Jo Ann Saenz (second from right) was a delegate to the Fifth National V Encuentro of Hispanic / Latino Ministry, Sept. 20-23rd in Grapevine, Texas.

A priority of the USCCB's Strategic Plan for 2017-2020, the V Encuentro is a 4-year process of evangelization,

pastoral discernment. In his message to the delegates, Pope Francis said: "By gathering with people from different cultures, different ways of living, of thinking, of feeling—you encounter one another and walk together in hope." There were 3000 people in attendance including 130 Bishops and many priests.

Sr. Jo Ann commented that she was struck by the words, "Fear is useless. What we need is trust". She looks forward to implementing in our Diocese what was learned at the Encuentro.