



THE WORD LIVES

August 2017

Reflection from Sister Annette

Trusting in the transforming action of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to being faithful to the charism of our Order, living its sound traditions, transmitting them to our Sisters, and sharing our experiences among the Communities which comprise it.

These words close the Charter of Communion of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, which we share with three U.S. congregations and five congregations in Mexico.

What are these sound traditions? "That's the way we have always done it" does not address the deep roots of who we are called to be. "But we have never done that before" does not protect, might even strangle the vibrant life we are called to live together as Sisters and Associates.

As we journey toward the re-unification of the Order, the characteristics of our shared spirituality bind us to one another today and tomorrow. For we stand on the firm foundation of those who lived and transmitted them to us.

These characteristics have been proclaimed in words, in symbols, on banners. Yet the only convincing proclamation is found in their being lived by each one of the daughters and sons of Mother de Matel. Only through this media—our individual, personal lives—will our relationship be clearly recognized across continents and cultures, languages, ethnic practices and personal idiosyncrasies. For only Love is that universal and unchanging!



SR. HELGA ANSWERS A CALL TO NAIROBI

Sr. Helga Leija left her position as religion, art and music teacher at Incarnate Word Elementary (Corpus Christi) and has been missioned to Nairobi, Kenya. She traveled there on July 18th to work on translation to English of documents of the Tlalpan Sisters for the Initial Formation community and also for their Lay Associate program. She will also provide Spanish classes for the Sisters.

SR. AGNES MARIE RETIRES



Srs. Judith Marie, Catherine, and Annette assist Sr. Agnes Marie in opening gifts

After 17 years as Local Treasurer, **Sr. Agnes Marie Tengler** retired May 31st from her work with local finances and is now enjoying her leisure time. She began ministry in 1945 at IWA, Corpus Christi. Through the years she served as teacher, secretary, principal and registrar. From 1968 to 1976 she was Superior General of the Congregation. After 6 more years as IWA Principal, she served as General Treasurer, Secretary General and, until this year, as Local Treasurer of the Motherhouse. Sr. Agnes Marie's joyful and willing service as Local Treasurer has been a joy for all of us.

SR. MARY ANN TAKES OFFICE



Sr. Mary Ann Korczynski in the Treasurer's Office

Beginning in 1967, **Sr. Mary Ann Korczynski** served in various ministries as math teacher (at Villa Maria, Brownsville and IWA, Corpus Christi), school treasurer, General Treasurer of the Congregation, Finance Director and General Councilor (2000-2008). Following a year of sabbatical in 2016, she now serves as Local Treasurer of the Motherhouse. Sr. Mary Ann's expertise with accounting and the ins and outs of banking and assets and insurance are a welcome gift for the community.

MINISTRIES CORNER



Sr. Irma González joined Msgr. Bert Díaz and seminarian, Joe Hernandez, to share their vocation story at a Holy Hour for Vocations at St. Mary's Parish on Monday, June 26. The Holy Hour was hosted by the Brownsville group of Serrans. The Serrans hope to host other such Holy Hours in different Brownsville parishes. The adoration was divided into three parts which included a gospel reading, a sharing, and silent and vocal prayer.

After serving at Incarnate Word Academy, Brownsville, for 14 years, **Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs** is now serving as the principal at Holy Family Parish in Corpus Christi.

Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs has been elected to the NBSC Board. Established in August 1968, the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) is an inclusive Catholic organization of vowed Black Catholic Women Religious and Associates from many congregations of religious across the United States. The NBSC holds an annual meeting and co-sponsors a joint conference of Black Catholic women religious, clergy, brothers, seminarians, deacons and their wives.

In late July **Srs. Maria Elizabeth Brehony, Judith Marie Saenz, Elizabeth Close, Raquel Newman, Agueda Oviedo** and **Martha Ann Snapka** began preparations for a new school year at Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi. **Srs. Maria Irma Gonzalez** and **Theresa Nguyen** did the same at Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville.

As **Sr. Martha O'Gara** begins her second year as Sister-in-Charge of the Motherhouse, she will be assisted by **Srs. Rosemary Lichnovsky** and **Agueda Oviedo** as local counselors. They began their service July 1, 2017.

Do you want to speak the praise of God? Then be yourselves what you speak. If you live good lives, you are God's praise. —St. Augustine of Hippo



**August 5, September 2,
October 7, November 4,
December 2:**

2017 Leadership Team Meetings

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September 30 - October 1:
General Assembly

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December 3:
Associates Advent Retreat

EVANGELII GAUDIUM RECOGNITION



On Wednesday, June 7, **Sr. Mary Paul Hon** was surprised by Bishop Michael Mulvey with the *Evangelii Gaudium* recognition. Bishop Mulvey cited in particular Sr. Mary Paul's 10 years of ministry at the McConnell Unit in the Beeville federal prison as a snapshot of Sister's focus on evangelization.

Bishop Mulvey initiated this recognition in 2016 as a way of acknowledging those parish members whose lives radiate the joy of Gospel living. He was careful to affirm that this is not an award for a ministry, but a recognition of a way of life. Each pastor was able to nominate a parishioner to be recognized. Sr. Mary Paul is the first to be nominated by Bishop Mulvey for this recognition..

PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER



My friends, do not lose heart...please (do) not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because the fact is that we are made for these times.

—Clarissa Pinkola Estes

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"The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better. Oppositional energy only creates more of the same."

—Center for Action and Contemplation

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This is where the power of forgiveness lies – not losing sight of the humanity of the person while responding to the wrong with clarity and firmness. We stand firm against the wrong not only to protect those who are being harmed but also to protect the person who is harming others, because eventually they, too, will suffer.

—Dalai Lama

~

Forgiveness is the only way to heal ourselves and to be free from the past. Without forgiveness, we remain tethered to the person who harmed us. We are bound to the chains of bitterness, tied together, trapped.

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.

—Martin Luther King

Executions in Texas

Wednesday, August 30:
Steven Long

Thursday, September 7:
Juan Castillo

You are invited to join the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, 5201 LIPES BLVD on **Wednesday, August 30 @ 6 PM** to pray for **Stephen Long** who is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas, for the victims and the family members of the victims.

NEWS TIDBITS



• **Srs. Annette Wagner, Judith Marie Saenz and Juliane Kuntscher** renewed their vows at the Mass celebrating their Jubilee of Religious Profession at St. Philip's Church, on June 24th. Bishop Michael Mulvey presided and seven priests concelebrated, with one deacon attending. Sisters, families and friends of the jubilarians gathered for a reception following the Mass.

• On June 28th, following Mass at 4:00 p.m., **Srs. Barbara Netek, Lou Ella Hickman, Elizabeth Close, Judith Marie Saenz, and Anna Marie Espinosa** bravely challenged the St. Philips Junior Catholic Daughters of America and the De Matel girls in a volley ball game. **Srs. Rosemary Lichnovsky, Juliane Kuntscher, Mary Anne Pagano, Maria Elizabeth Brehony and Rose Miriam Gansle** rooted them on. Though the "other" team won three out of three games, it wasn't easy for them. Following the game, refreshments were enjoyed in the parish hall.

• **Srs. Anna Marie Espinosa, Mary Anne Pagano, Helga Leija, Irma Gonzalez, Colette Brehony, Martha O'Gara, Mary Ann Korczynski, Rosemary Lichnovsky, Rosa Ortiz, Judith Marie Saenz and Rose Miriam Gansle** attended the Jubilee celebrations of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria the weekend of July 15th and 16th. Congratulations to all the Jubilarians!

• On July 17th we marked the 2nd anniversary of our move to a new Motherhouse from 2930 South Alameda to 5201 Lipes Boulevard. How time flies! And how many stories are told of that experience!



Every human being is made in the image of God; therefore every human being has inherent dignity and equal worth. ...It is easy to apply this tenet when defending the dignity of an innocent, unborn child. It is not always as easy to apply it when the child has grown up,

is 40 years old and owns too many addictions and too few clothes.

-Shannon Evans in *America*, April 17, 2017

CELEBRATING 392 YEARS



St. Mary's parish in Brownsville congratulated the Sisters of the Incarnate Word on the 392nd anniversary of the founding of the Order at Mass **August 2nd**. **Srs. Vianney Uyeno and Irma Gonzalez** joined **Srs. Therese Ann Ridge and Emma Marie Stillman** for lunch and an afternoon of sharing.

The sign in our picture reads, June 22, 1625 Mother Jeanne sees Crown of thorns with the name of Jesus. . . July 2, 1625 Jeanne begins living in community with 2 companions. The extension of the Order goes on. . . July 2, 2017.



Srs. Colette Brehony, Michelle Marie Kuntscher, Raquel Newman, Mary Ann Korczynski and Juliane Kuntscher enjoy visiting on July 2nd.

The Sisters at the Motherhouse joyfully celebrated July 2nd with special music at Eucharist, with a feast at lunch, and with a special prayer, *United in Gratitude, Full of Grace We Journey with Hope*, prepared by the Reunification Committee for the anniversary of the Founding of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

In this establishment, I Who am the Incarnate Word will make an extension of my Incarnation. I will dwell with you... You will see me full of grace and truth, to accomplish in you and in My Order all the promises that I have made to you, that I now make to you, and that I will make to you.

Jeanne Chézard de Matel, OG-01, Ch. 45, p. 171