



Connections

C C V I A S S O C I A T E S

Newsletter of the Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston, Texas

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2008

Service

In the November issue of *Connections* the Associate core value of **Service** was explained. To refresh your memory, we define this value as follows:

We spread the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by participating in ministries of service within our parish, community and global environment.

Associates were asked to tell how they actually live out this value. Some were hesitant to list their ministries, for fear it might sound boastful, but the humble responses received to this question are worth summarizing for all to see. They not only confirm that Associates “get it” regarding our responsibility to live out our baptismal call to ministry; they serve as an example for one another and all who cross our paths.

Several Associate communities are

Connections is a monthly newsletter of the Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), Houston, Texas. If you know someone who would like to receive *Connections* please contact Catherine Wolfer (see back page).

Note that *Connections* is also available in Spanish.

participating in one or more ministry as a group. Long Beach Associates prepare and serve the dinner for about 60 homeless people one day a month at Project Achieve, a Catholic Charities agency that serves the homeless. They

buy a tabernacle for one of the missions in Central America.

Responses from Associates about their individual ministries fell into several categories:

Parish, Diocese and Broader Church

Liturgical (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, music ministry, Mass Coordinator, hospitality ministry, sacristan duties)

Leadership (Parish/Diocesan Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Religious Congregation Board member)

Catechetical, Faith Formation (RCIA, Religious Education, FTCM, Lay Ecclesial Ministry, Virtus, Retreats, Small Church Communities, Adoration, Funerals, prayer hotline, spiritual direction)

Parish Life and other (Youth and Young Adult ministries, Gatherings, visits to sick and homebound, fundraising events, various parish/diocesan organizations, office assistance)

Participate in parish outreach ministries



Associates preparing Valentine's goody bags for homeless clients of Our Daily Bread

also collect money and cereal at their monthly meetings for this agency. Houston Associates collect money and food at their monthly meetings for Our Daily Bread, a CHRISTUS agency that feeds about 60 homeless people in Galveston. They also provide gifts, treats and needed items for special occasions, such as Christmas, Valentines, etc. Some Associates make rosaries to benefit the CCVI missions. Currently the morning Associates are collecting money at their monthly meetings to

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Connections can be viewed online in the Associates section of the Congregational Website:
<http://www.sistersofcharity.org/ccvi-associates.html>

Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

On February 8th CCVI Associates were invited by Sisters Kim-Phuong Tran and Mary Patricia Driscoll to a celebration of TET, the Vietnamese New Year and the Year of the Rat. This very enjoyable event began with a beautiful concelebrated Eucharist in the Villa Chapel, followed by entertainment and a delicious Vietnamese meal in the Villa dining room.

Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza and many diocesan priests concelebrated the Mass, assisted by several deacons. The liturgy was celebrated in English and Vietnamese, and a choir from a local Vietnamese parish led the music. The Chapel was full, and the congregation included many members of the Vietnamese community. Before leaving the Chapel we were treated to an amazing Lion Dance, which was put on by a Buddhist group.

You just had to be there to get the full impact of that! Of the many uplifting and joyous events celebrated in the Villa Chapel, this had to be one of the most unique! It must have been pleasing to the Incarnate Word, who calls us to be community with people of diverse cultures and traditions.



How ironic that this celebration fell right after Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It brings to mind the great mixture of experiences and emotions that are part of our human journey. During this time of Lent, we are given the opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives, through more intense prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Whatever practices or offerings we have decided to undertake, we are always reminded that this is not for the sake of our individual souls, but for enhancing our ability to receive and spread the light of Christ. The ashes we received at the beginning of Lent reminded us that we come from and will return to dust. The celebrations we participate in, such as the Vietnamese New Year, remind us that death and life are constantly intertwined. Every new day gives us a chance to turn both inward and outward, and to be renewed for our ongoing journey.

I hope this Lent is a time of personal and communal renewal for all of us, and I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Easter!

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

Catherine

Catherine Wolfer, Director



The lion is accepting a gift of "money" from Archbishop Fiorenza.

Associate News and Sharing

Long Beach Associates had to cancel their January meeting due to bad weather, including a tornado! As a group they have decided to support *Project Achieve*, a Catholic Charities agency that provides meals to about 60 homeless people in Long Beach. Associates donate boxes of cereal or money for food at their monthly meetings, and every third Wednesday of the month, several of the Associates prepare and serve the evening meal. The Associates have teamed up with St. Matthew Parish in this effort.

At their January meeting **Shreveport** Associates had a speaker from Rachel's Vineyard, a ministry for women who have had abortions. The presentation was excellent, and very informative. At their February meeting they watched a video on Mother Theresa, which everyone enjoyed.

The **Salt Lake City** Associates' February meeting was a night of catechesis and adoration. Father Mike Sciumbato gave a presentation on the history of the tradition of Eucharistic Adoration. He explained the sacred

vessels and vestments and their origin. This was followed by a period of prayer and adoration, Benediction and social time. Everyone enjoyed the evening and learned many new things.

Houston Associates were invited to a Mass and Anointing of the Sick at Villa de Matel February 11. For the Anointing, everyone was invited to come to the rail and receive a blessing, and many did. The three priests prayed over everyone first and then

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2008 Associates Gathering: April 25-27, 2008

The theme for the fourth annual CCVI Associates Gathering is "Let Your light



Shine," based on Matthew 5:16. The planning committee has come up with a full agenda, starting at 3 p.m Friday, April 25 and ending Sunday after lunch. One of the highlights of the weekend will be a trip to Houston's new Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral for a tour and Mass on Saturday evening. Registration packets will be mailed out soon. We hope to have many Associates and Sisters attending. Please watch for your invitation in the mail and plan to join us for this very special weekend event.

Associate Leader Workshop

Associate Coordinators and Formators (and anyone discerning one of these roles in the near future) have been invited to attend the **2008 Associates Leaders Workshop April 24-25** at Villa de Matel. If you have questions or have not yet made arrangements to attend this please contact Catherine Wolfer as soon as possible. The goal of this workshop is to enhance leadership skills and share ideas with one another.

Associate News and Sharing (cont'd)

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anointed them with oil. The sisters' hospitality was great, and about 20 Associates and their guests attended.

Houston St Therese Associates had a reflection and sharing on being

"Free to Love" and also participated in a moving prayer service on "Forgiveness" in February. Prior to the meeting the group assembled Valentine's bags with cookies, candy and many other goodies to be given out at

Our Daily Bread.

Houston AM Associates watched and discussed a very interesting and informative video on the History of the Mass in February.

Service (cont'd)

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CCVI

Volunteer in CHRISTUS facility (St. Placidus and St. Anne, St. Catherine Hospital, Southwest Clinic (ESL), St. Joseph Villa (Salt Lake City)

Volunteer leadership of CCVI Associates (Coordinator, Formator, event planning teams)

Make rosaries to benefit CCVI missions (or contribute funds for this)

Assist with spiritual ministry to Spanish speakers (Ruah programs)

Neighborhood/ Community/ Environment

Work or volunteer for nonprofit agency that serves the poor,

sick or needy

Active in neighborhood/ community (Civic Club, voting polls, Community Emergency Response

Please continue praying for peace in Kenya:

Oh, Lord, We bring before you the pain and suffering of the people of Kenya. We know that with you and through you all things are possible. Send your spirit to defuse the tensions, comfort those who hurt, give wisdom to government leaders and compassion to those who seek power. We pray for the safety of all Kenyans and for a swift and permanent peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Team)

Teach or mentor (tutoring children, teaching ESL, educating adults and students about human trafficking)

Ministry to the homeless (Serve meals, prepare and deliver lunch bags)

Support various charitable organizations (donate money, clothing and other items, and help with fundraising events)

Helping family members or others in need (babysitting grandchildren, rides for elderly, etc.)

Advocate for social justice via letters to Congress, etc.

Recycle paper, plastic, cans, glass, etc.

VOTE!

CCVI Associates

Our Mission:

We, the CCVI Associates, enjoy coming together in faith and friendship, and are inspired by the history and spirit of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to spread the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to those in need.

Along with the CCVI Sisters, Associates feel drawn by the words of the Congregation's founder, Bishop Claude Dubuis:

"Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering in the persons of a multitude of sick and infirm of every kind seeks relief at your hands."



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Congregation of the
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Visit our website:
www.sistersofcharity.org

Mark Your Calendars:



Spirit and Life Conference Villa de Matel, March 15, 2008
Associate Leaders Meeting Villa de Matel, April 24-25, 2008
2008 Associates Gathering Villa de Matel, April 25-27, 2008
2008 NACAR Conference, Vienna, Virginia, May 30-June 1, 2008

Prayer Requests:

Please pray:

- * For the repose of the soul of **Jeanette Lyons**, and for the consolation of her loved ones.
- * For Associates and family members who are ill, especially **Isabelle Sonnier, Terri VanZelson, Rose Cox, Mel Sarrat, Mickie Cowan, Doris Fenlon, Susie Critchfield, Charlene Gantt, Federico Reyes, Gene Antill, Millee Taggart, Joe Flores, Jerrie Ivory, Yolanda Phillips, Deacon Edward Thompson, Colleen Carpenter, Jose Gerardo, Jessica Maher, Grace Kappelow and Deloris Aycock.**
- * For our family members in the military who are serving in war zones, especially **Daniel T. Abeln.**



CCVI Associate Groups/Meeting Schedules

Group	Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule	Next Meeting	Coordinator
Houston (St. Therese)	1 st Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	Mar 5 "In Silence in the Presence"	Francis Garcia 281-486-8678 Frances.garcia@dads.state.tx.us
Houston (Morning)	1 st Thursday 10 a.m.	Mar 6 Pat Kerwin Presentation	Anne Saxon 281-486-5569 vthompson111@juno.com
Shreveport	3 rd Saturday 9:30 a.m.	Mar 15 Social Justice	Deloris Aycock 318-795-4508 daycock@wright-percy.com
Long Beach	4 th Wednesday 7 p.m.	Feb 27	Roger and Mary Ellen Faubert 714-799-4500 rfaubert70@hotmail.com
Salt Lake City	2 nd Tuesday 7 p.m.	Mar 11 Linda Macdonald: Story of Galveston Storm	Nora Mancuso 801-313-9101 noramary@mindspring.com