



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

January/ February 2010

Spreading the Healing Ministry

According to our mission statement, CCVI Associates are involved in spreading the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways, both as Associate communities and individuals. An updated list of Associate ministries is shown here.

Associate Community Ministries

Houston St. Therese:

- Support Our Daily Bread (Galveston), an agency for homeless people, with food, cash donations, clothing, toiletry items and seasonal gifts
- Support The Gabriel Project (Queen of Peace Parish) with cash for car seats and other needed items
- Make rosaries and jewelry to benefit CCVI missions
- Help with Search Project (see Houston AM below)

Houston AM:

- Collect money for CCVI missions in Central America
- Prepare and serve meals at Search Project (Houston), an agency for homeless people

Shreveport:

Support Cara, an agency for abused children

Long Beach:

Support Project Achieve (Long Beach),

an agency for homeless people (prepare/serve meals and/or provide cash and needed items)

Associate Individual Ministries

Parish, Diocese and Broader Church

- Serve on Parish and Diocesan Leadership Committees and Councils (Parish Council, Finance Council, Education Boards, various Core Committees, Diocesan Pastoral Council, etc.)
- Liturgical Ministries (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, music ministries, liturgy planning, etc.)
- Financial and Housekeeping services, including cleaning and decorating the church, counting money, assisting with annual festivals and fundraisers, tithing/ supporting the parish financially
- RCIA, Religious education (adults and children), Virtus training, etc.
- Various parish life ministries, including Funeral, Hospitality, Young Adults, Youth, etc.
- Spiritual ministries, including retreat and prayer ministries, spiritual direction, mentoring, chaplain services, communion/visitations to the



sick, devotions, Eucharistic Adoration, Small Faith Communities

- Parish social/ service groups (Men's club, Women's club, Legion of Mary, Serra Club, etc.)
- Parish outreach ministries

CCVI Specific

- Volunteer at St. Placidus/ St. Anne's (CCVI Retirement facilities in Houston)
- Volunteer at Christus St. Catherine Hospital (Katy, TX)
- Volunteer at St. Mary Medical Center (Long Beach)
- Provide transportation to Sisters for events, conferences, appointments, etc.

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Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

I recently attended a half-day retreat entitled "God is Love," which was hosted by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This title is from the first letter of John: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." (1 Jn 4:16). Pope Benedict chose this passage as the basis for his first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est," (Latin for "God is Love"). The presenter summarized the major points of this beautiful encyclical, which I have to admit I haven't read. His brief summary definitely stirred my interest, so I plan to put this on my spiritual reading list for Lent. If you are interested in downloading it from the Internet, you can find it at the following website: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html

Lent will probably be here by the time you read this. This six week period before Easter is always an opportunity to enter more deeply into

the real meaning of our existence. We turn our focus both inward through prayer and fasting, and outward through almsgiving. Everywhere we turn these days we see signs of suffering, poverty, economic uncertainty, natural disasters, political strife, and the list goes on. Stories of people who reach out with open hearts and hands to relieve suffering and work for peace and justice touch our hearts and spirits. Many people are sharing their gifts and shining the light of God's love, regardless of the obstacles. The question each of us needs to ask is, "How am I being one of the people who show the world that God is love?" That is really what it means to be a Christian, and an Associate of the Sisters of **Charity** of the **Incarnate Word**.

Preparations are underway for our sixth annual CCVI Associate Gathering, which will be held at Villa de Matel April 23-25. You



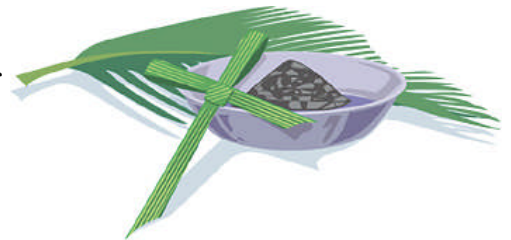
should be receiving registration information soon. I hope many of you will attend, as we continue to look at how we, as lay men and women attracted to the CCVI charism, are to be witnesses of God's love in the world.

May God grant you special graces during this Lenten season.

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

Catherine

Catherine Wolfer, Director



Associate News and Sharing

Houston St. Therese Associates coordinated an annual "Support Our Missions Day," which brought in over \$3400 in donations! Both Houston groups supported this January event, which was open to Villa employees, volunteers and Associates. Nita Feemster reported that a check for \$504.50 had been delivered to Our Daily Bread, as well as 90 sweatshirts and a few other items. "The Children of God Orphanage in Africa will receive \$951.50 and \$128.50 will be sent to the orphanage in Guatemala from donations received." Items set out for donations included mission crafts as well as jewelry and other items made by Associates."

This group's January meeting focused on the African missions. The speaker was Sr. Clotilde Hegarty, who shared her experiences of serving in Kenya.

St. Therese Associates are using Thomas Merton's works as the basis for their spiritual/prayer focus this year, and January's topic was "Exploring Life's Questions."

Houston AM Associates had Sr. Margaret Bulmer as a presenter at their February meeting. Sister updated the group on immigration reform issues and provided an opportunity for the attendees to write postcards to their senators and congresspersons related to needed legislation. She also

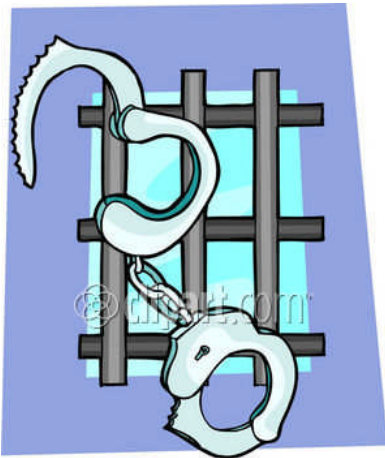
spoke about the upcoming CCVI Chapter and asked Associates to keep praying for this special event, when the leadership team is elected and major congregational goals are discerned. Associates continued to collect money to support the Central American missions.

The new Associate group in **Boise** is continuing with initial formation meetings. Four prospective Associates are going through the formation process. Pat Kerwin was our special guest in February, and the group enjoyed her presentation about the early CCVI history and founders, showing pictures from her trip to Lyons, France.

Spreading the Healing Ministry cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

- Volunteer for CCVI Associate leadership roles (Coordinator, Formator, planning committees, etc.)
 - Organize and manage the Villa de Matel annual "Support Our Missions" Day (donation collections, restocking items, etc.)
 - Provide hospitality for CCVI visitors from out of town and out of the country
- Neighborhood/Community and Global Environment**
- Volunteer in outreach programs (food bank, meals for homeless, Habitat for Humanity, other nonprofit agencies serving the needy)
 - Participate in neighborhood Civic Club
 - Tutoring and mentoring (elementary and high school children, adults, ESL classes, etc.)
 - Coordinate Jesse Tree and Sub for Santa Outreach programs



- Volunteer at juvenile detention center
- VOTE and participate in advocacy efforts for justice via letters, emails, etc.; work at voting polls
- Coordinate programs for Widows Club
- Serve on Board/ Executive Committee for nonprofit agencies
- Contribute money, clothing, household and other items to various charitable organizations
- Lead prayer, spiritual sharing and retreats for Spanish speakers
- Serve in Child Advocacy cases
- Work to educate schools/ community on human trafficking, including legislative issues, available services, etc.
- Assist with running or other events to benefit cancer research
- Assist with CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- Conduct presentations on nutrition and health to area retirement communities
- Participate in blood drives
- Recycle paper, plastic, cans, glass, etc.

Upcoming Events

March 13-14, 2010

Spirit & Life Conference (Mexico City) *Living the Paschal Mystery in Life*

April 23-25, 2010

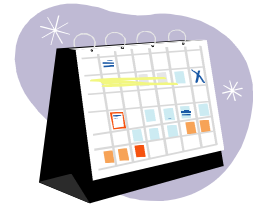
Annual CCVI Associate Leaders Meeting and Gathering (Houston)

May 15, 2010

**Spirit & Life Conference (Houston)
*The Bible in the Life of the Church and the World***

June 4-6, 2010

**NACAR Conference (St. Louis)
More information in the next issue**



Please pray for the CCVIs as they prepare for Chapter March 28-April 10, 2010. Chapter members elect the General Leadership and set the direction of the Congregation for the next four years.

CCVI Associates

Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

Villa de Matel
6510 Lawndale Ave.
Houston, TX 77023
713-928-6053

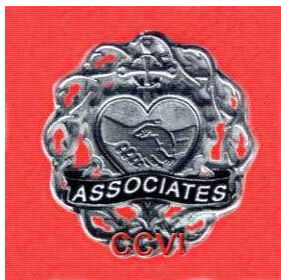
Visit our website:
www.sistersofcharity.org

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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Prayer Requests:



Please pray:

- * *For the repose of the souls of **Jose de los Reyes and Marc Edwards.***
- * *For Associates and family members who are ill or need our prayers, especially **Isabelle Sonnier, Terri VanZelson, Rose Cox, Joe and Mel Sarrat, Mickie Cowan, Charlene Gantt, Federico Reyes, Gene Antill, Jerrie Ivory, Yolanda Phillips, Colleen Carpenter, Jessica Maher, Deloris Aycok, Barbara Allred, Max and Jennie Gomez, Maria, Matthew and Greg Duvall, Harland Hunley, Nita Feemster, Maria Martinez, Rosemary Smith, Sheila Ivers, Jennifer Antar, Blanca Ford, Suzi Price, Deborah Wynn, Lyndon Ratcliffe, Marcene St. Clair, Flinn Cremin, Susan Crtchfield, David Niles, Steve Corisis and Anne Saxon.***
- * *For our family members in the military who are serving in war zones, especially **Daniel T. Abeln and David Bowles.***

CCVI Associate Groups/Meeting Schedules

Group	Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule	Contact
Houston (St. Therese)	1 st Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	Janet Mayorga 713-975-1124 mayorgajnet@sbcglobal.net
Houston (Morning)	1 st Thursday 10 a.m.	Rosalinda Flores 281-859-8936 rflores34@gmail.com
Shreveport	3 rd Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Cora Godfrey 318-868-2528 lacorman@bellsouth.net
Long Beach	4 th Wednesday 7 p.m.	Jim Sartain 562-598-4354 jsartain@socal.rr.com
Salt Lake City	2 nd Tuesday Bimonthly 7 p.m.	Sheila Ivers 801-350-3535 sheila.ivers@yahoo.com
Boise	1 st Tuesday 7 p.m.	Suzie Wolfer 208-867-7231 swolfer@hotmail.com

If you know of someone who would like to receive *Connections* please contact Katherine Pyle (713-928-6053 or kpyle@ccvi-vdm.org). It is also available in Spanish, and on our website: www.sistersofcharity.org.