



## Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

A little girl named Megan touched my heart on Christmas Eve. As part of my duties as a Hospitality Minister at Midnight Mass, I asked her family to be Offertory gift bearers. I didn't know them, but their daughter, who looked about seven, caught my eye when they came into church. She was beautifully dressed and seemed excited to be at Mass that special night. After Mass the mother came up to me and thanked me profusely for asking them to be the gift bearers. She said her daughter, Megan, had been wanting to do this for a long time, so she was thrilled to be asked, especially for Midnight Mass. She said Megan was terminally ill with cancer, and she may not be with us next Christmas.

Needless to say, I was shocked and saddened by this news. Megan and her family have been in my thoughts and prayers many times since that night. I can only guess at the pain, sorrow and

fear they live with each day. But all I saw that Christmas Eve was a sense of joy and gratitude at being honored to bring up the gifts that would become the Body and Blood of Christ. What a beautiful example they were to me of lives offered to God with open hands and hearts.

Thoughts of Megan have impacted the way I look at this New Year. This year is a big one for her and her family. She might go to be with Jesus. Or she might survive, or even be miraculously healed.

Actually, this is a big year for all of us. Every year is! This year some of us may get engaged or married, have a



new child or grandchild, retire or lose a loved one. Maybe we'll change a bad habit, win a prize or travel to new places. Or this might be the year God calls us home.

There is a lot we don't know about this year, which is a good reason to focus on the present and live each day to the fullest. We can and should make plans and resolutions, but always with openness to whatever God's Plan is for us.

My hope and prayer for each of you in this New Year is that you and your loved ones will be blessed in new ways every day!

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

*Catherine*

Catherine Wolfer, Director

## Associate News and Sharing

**Shreveport** Associates enjoyed a very good presentation by Father Gloriso, who spoke on spirituality and piety. Several visitors attended. Formation meetings for interested prospective Associates are underway, and a letter has been sent out to invite newcomers to begin the formation process.

**Houston Morning** Associates had a nice meeting in December, after which they made rosaries to be sent to the Guatemalan missions. So far 300 of the planned 600 rosaries have been sent to the missions. The group also held an Advent day of prayer in Ruah Center on December 18.

Hugh Rafferty, one of the Associ-

ates from this group, was recently the recipient of a special honor. For 31 years he has served on the Congregational Financial Advisory Board (13 of those years as Chairman) for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Houston. For his long and dedicated service, the Sisters named a plaza of the renovated Incarnate Word Academy after him. Pictured here are Hugh and his wife

*Hugh J. Rafferty Plaza*



Cathy, in the newly named "Rafferty Plaza."

**Salt Lake City** Associates enjoyed an interesting talk by Father Anastasia, the Chaplain at CHRISTUS

St. Joseph Villa. He is from Nigeria, and he shared about his vocation from his earliest days, living with his family and going to school. The discussion that followed included ideas for encouraging religious vocations among young people.

Guess what the **Houston Evening** Associates did—

***They changed their name!!***

From now on they will be called the **St. Therese** Associates, in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (the "Little Flower"). This decision followed a period of discernment, based on suggestions from members. The group's faith sharing in January was on Forgiveness and Love. Sister Celeste Trahan attended and gave an update on the problems in Kenya.

The planning team has formed for the **2008 Associates Gathering**, which will be held **April 25-27** at Villa de Matel. The team, led by Catherine Wolfer, includes Houston Associates Jill Ball, Ann Boane, Rosie Flores, Nita Feemster, Maria Martinez, Janet Mayorga, Shirley Talley and Suzie Wolfer. Non-Houston Associate groups are invited to participate in the planning process through their Coordinator or designated contact person. Planning meetings will begin January 26.

If you have ideas for the Gathering or would like to join the planning team, contact Catherine (cwolfer@ccvi-vdm.org).

This will be the fourth annual CCVI Associates Gathering. Please begin making plans to attend, if at all possible. Associates and Sisters who have attended the previous Gatherings have been renewed and energized by the spiritual and social aspects of the weekend, as well as by the experience

of being at Villa de Matel.

Associate Coordinators and Formators will be asked to come in a day before the Gathering for the **2008 Associates Leaders Meeting**, which will be held **April 24** at Villa de Matel. If you are currently a Coordinator or Formator, or are considering becoming one in the next year, you should come to this meeting. More information about this will be sent to leaders in the near future.

## Guatemalan Profession

Monte and Catherine Wolfer represented the CCVI Associates at the Perpetual Profession of Sister Ana Julia Granados Ulloa in Guatemala City on January 5, 2008. Sr. Ana Julia has had a special connection with the Associates, as she was the Coordinator of the Central American Associates before coming to Houston for the final period of her formation.

Her Profession was within a beautiful Eucharistic celebration, and was followed by a

festive and delicious meal. Attendees included her family, her CCVI Sisters, CCVI Associates and many friends from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and the United States.

*Pictured bottom left: Sr. Ana Julia with her parents, carrying up the Offertory Gifts; top right, Sr. Lillian Anne Healy*

*and Sr. Ana Julia, preparing for the recitation of perpetual vows; bottom right, a group of CCVI Associates from Huehuetenango, Guatemala, who traveled by bus to be at Sr. Ana Julia's Profession.*



## 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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[www.sistersofcharity.org](http://www.sistersofcharity.org)

## Mark Your Calendars:



**Spirit and Life Conference** Villa de Matel, March 15, 2008

**Associate Leaders Meeting** Villa de Matel, April 24, 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 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 and Jose Gerardo.**
- \* 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
St. Therese (Houston)	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	Feb 6 "Free to Love"	Francis Garcia 281-486-8678 Frances.garcia@dads.state.tx.us
Houston (Morning)	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 10 a.m.	Feb 7 "History of the Mass" (video)	Anne Saxon 281-486-5569 vthompson111@juno.com
Shreveport	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9:30 a.m.	Feb 16 "Love" (film)	Deloris Aycock 318-795-4508 daycock@wright-percy.com
Long Beach	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7 p.m.	Feb 27	Roger and Mary Ellen Faubert 714-799-4500 rfaubert70@hotmail.com
Salt Lake City	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7 p.m.	Feb 12 "Eucharistic Adoration" Fr. Mike Sciumbato	Nora Mancuso 801-313-9101 noramary@mindspring.com