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

May/June 2010

2010 Associates Gathering

The 2010 annual Associate Gathering and Leaders Meeting was held at Villa de Matel the weekend of April 23-25. The theme was "Shepherd us O Lord….Make us Witnesses of Love." This was based on the Good Shepherd Sunday Eucharist for the weekend, and it launched the focus on the Associates' core value of *Witness* for the coming year.

Associates and Sisters attended from Houston, Long Beach, Shreveport and Boise. The first session was a "visit" by one of the CCVI founding Sisters, Mother Joseph Roussin (portrayed by Sister Deenan Hubbard). Sister Deenan took us back to 1866 and the early years, full of hopes, dreams, vision, dedication, perseverance and faithfulness amidst suffering and disaster. This session not only reminded us in a powerful way of our rich CCVI heritage, but it set the stage for us to envision ways to carry on the heritage and charism in our role as Associates.

The rest of the Gathering sessions moved us into a visioning process facilitated by Pat Kerwin. We looked at our unique call as lay men and women who are witnesses to Christ both through our baptism and through our CCVI Associate Mission and Values. Pat led us through interactive processes in which we discerned and shared ways to envision new possibilities as we go forward, as *Witnesses* of the Incarnate Word.

Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

As you can see from the pictures, our sixth annual Associate Gathering was a wonderful event, perhaps the best yet! It is always a pleasure to come together to share our connection to the CCVIs and one another. But this year I sensed a real change in the tone of our conversations. The growing pains we've experienced along the way seem to be taking a back seat to a sense of hopefulness and even excitement as we envision our future. Statements of concern and uncertainty that we've heard in the past just didn't seem to come up this year. I really think this is a sign of our maturity, and our growing understanding of the call God has given to us as lay men and women who embrace the CCVI charism. Some amazing and thought-provoking ideas came out of our visioning sessions. Videos and notes from the sessions will be sent to your Coordinators and Formators. I hope these will be shared at your meetings and will set the stage for continued discussions about welcoming new members and living out our CCVI charism more dynamically.

This year we have focused on our value of *Service*. Associate communities who have made a conscious effort to support a particular mission or service agency as a group have found this effort life affirming and energizing. One of the blessings of this effort is that others are seeing something in us that they want to be a part of. It also has given individual Associates new roles and responsibilities, as we have "shared our gifts" for the benefit of others. In the coming year we will focus on our value of *Witness*. We will build on the progress we have made and work to make our CCVI charism visible to others. We will go where the Holy Spirit leads us, and be unafraid if that is to a new place to which we've never gone before. We just celebrated the great feast of Pentecost, so we know that new and exciting things are in store for us if we place our trust in Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who he promised would always be with us.

I look forward to visiting each group for your annual commitment and planning meetings. I hope you will each have a relaxing and enjoyable summer, with many blessings for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

Catherine

Catherine Wolfer, Director

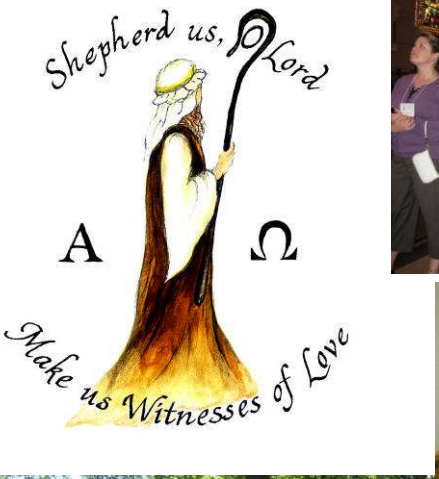
Praying Members

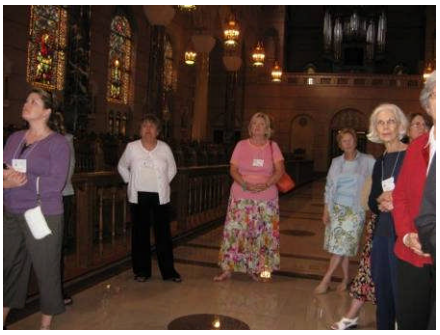
At the recent Associate Gathering, one of the ideas discussed was to more formally recognize the form of Associate membership that is available to men and women who are unable to attend monthly meetings and events due to illness, aging, distance, etc. These are our "Praying Members." We brainstormed ways to reach out to praying members, maintain our connection with them, and recognize the power of their prayers and faithfulness. Like active members, praying members have an authentic desire to live out their baptismal call to holiness, feel drawn to participate in the charism of the CCVIs, and are committed to living out the Associate mission and values. Praying membership is open to:

* CCVI Associates who have become inactive due to aging, illness, relocation or discontinuation of an Associate community
* Former CCVI Sisters who wish to be Associates but do not live in proximity to an active Associate community
* Other Christian men and women who desire to be connected to the CCVIs as Associates, but are unable to attend meetings due to location or aging/ health issues.

Praying Associates can maintain a spiritual connection to the CCVIs and Associates through prayer and communication by phone, email or other correspondence. Active Associates may call or visit praying members, fostering the bond of community. Praying Associates are welcome to attend all Associate events, to the extent possible. They are invited to participate in Associate formation to the extent possible, given their circumstances and availability of resources. They will be aided in this effort by the Associate Director and/or other active Associates.

If you know of anyone who is interested in being a praying member, please contact Catherine Wolfer or one of the Coordinators listed on the back page.





Gathering Pictures clockwise from top left: Relaxing at the pool supper, Associates from several groups, Chapel tour, Mission sale, Table sharing, Some time to relax, Sisters and Archbishop Fiorenza at pool supper, Pool buffet line, Pat Kerwin at "story board." Center: theme for the Gathering (artwork by Ann Boane)

Congratulations to the CCVI General Leadership members, who were elected at the 2010 Chapter: Congregational Leader: Sr. Lillian Anne Healy; Asst. Congregational Leader: Sr. Francesca Kearns; General Councilors: Srs. Celeste Trahan, Kathleen Howard and Ruth Nohemí Tiguilá Robles

CCVI Associates

Congregation of the
Sisters of Charity of the
Incarnate Word

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

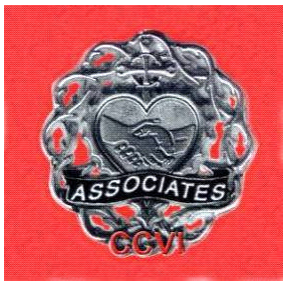
Visit our website:
www.sistersofcharity.org

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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CCVI ASSOCIATES

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Prayer Requests:

Please pray:

* *For the repose of the souls of* ***Srs. Pulcheria Flaherty, John Marie Crowley*** *and* ***Thaddeus Quinlan.***
* *For all of our active and praying Associates and family members who are ill or need our prayers, especially Isabelle Sonnier, Terri VanZelson, Rose Cox, Mickie Cowan, Charlene Gantt, Federico Reyes, Gene Antill, Yolanda Phillips, Colleen Carpenter, Jessica Maher, Deloris Aycock, Barbara Allred, Max and Jennie Gomez, Maria, Matthew and Greg Duvall, Harland Hunley, Rosemary Smith, Sheila Ivers, Jennifer Antar, Blanca Ford, Lyndon Ratcliffe, Steve Corisis* and *Alden Wadleigh.*
* *For our family members in the military who are serving in war zones.*

CCVI Associate Groups/Meeting Schedules

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