



Connections

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

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

November 2010

Garage/Yard Fundraiser- a Crowd Pleaser



Houston CCVI Associates pitched in for a successful fund raising event on Saturday, October 9, 2010, at the home of Mission Committee chair person, Colette Brasfield. Over \$1,100 was raised and donations continue to be received, all of which will be allocated to help achieve the committee's goals. Among other recipients, included on the list is The Catholic School Mission Project. At the end of the day, donated clothing and items remaining were apportioned for and delivered to Purple Heart, Angela House and Our Daily Bread. All of those who made this event possible agree that it is such a joy to be able to partner with God and each other with the purpose in mind to fulfill the needs of others. Pulling together as a Christian group, we were able to *Witness* another *Mission Accomplished*.

St. Therese Historian Committee

"Our call as disciples is not to drag unwilling people screaming into the kingdom. Rather, God asks us to plant seeds of love and the good news of Christ in those around us, gently drawing them into the warmth and light of the presence of Jesus."

(Steve Givens in *Living Faith, Daily Catholic Devotions*)



Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

We're getting back to a normal pace now, after our daughter Suzie's wedding. We really appreciate all of the prayers and good wishes for the newlyweds and for all of us as we prepared for this big event. The wedding and reception were beautiful and memorable, and were truly worth all of the planning and work that led up to them.

In my September message I talked about the wedding feast at Cana, and I have to share a small incident from our reception that brought me full circle with that story. We had made arrangements to host wine, beer and soft drinks at the cash bar, so guests could have those free and pay cash for any other mixed drinks. At one point I noticed the couple ahead of me at the bar being asked to pay for their glasses of wine. I reminded the bartender that these were supposed to be free. She said she had used up the number of

bottles of red wine we had ordered. I authorized her to open more as needed for the rest of the evening. Granted, this was not a "water into wine" miracle, but when I think back on it I feel a close connection to Mary, who noticed the wine running out at that wedding at Cana and asked Jesus to do something about it. I am full of gratitude to God and our Blessed Mother, who were the real wedding planners! They heard all of our prayers and pleas and let us know they had it all under control.

On a sadder note, we have just lost one of our long time Associates, Emelda (Mel) Sarrat. Mel and her husband Joe have been volunteers at St. Placidus and members of the Houston AM Associates. More recently they have become praying members, due to health issues and moving out of



town. I enjoyed seeing both of them at the Houston Commitment celebration in September. Our faith tells us Mel, and our other dear Sisters, Associates and family members who have died, are just completing their journey back to God. This month of All Saints and All Souls is a perfect time to be thinking about them and praying for them. I hope Mel is already enjoying her new life in heaven. I will personally miss seeing her next time I go to Houston. Life is full of laughter and tears, births, weddings and deaths. May we each enjoy every day and live it to the full, knowing we're made for God, who blesses us along the way and will some day welcome us home.

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

Catherine

Catherine Wolfer, Director

Associate News and Sharing

The following was submitted by Houston St. Therese Associate John Talley.



On October 16 the sixth annual NUN RUN took place. There were 370 bikers participating in this event. After breakfast Cardinal Daniel Dinardo and

Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza blessed the bikers and their bikes. The group then proceeded to Galveston escorted by the Houston Police Blue Knights



ended at Moody Gardens, where a wonderful buffet was enjoyed by all: Sisters, riders, and sponsors. Many door prizes were given out. The Lord blessed the endeavor with fantastic weather and a wonderful time was enjoyed by all. This event brought in over \$82,000, which will benefit the children and families of CHRISTUS school-based clinics.

Houston St. Therese Coordinator Deborah Wynn submitted this report:

The **Houston St. Therese** Associates met for their regular first Wednesday of the month meeting on October 6. About 31 members enjoyed the time of

motorcycle fellowship and refreshment prior to the meeting and welcomed our two new Prospective Associates, Jim and Brian, to their first meeting with the group. Shirley and John Talley did the Reflection for the Month on the history and significance of the rosary; and there were several reports of answered prayer and ways that God has impacted lives through the Holy Spirit and prayer during the past month. One particularly dear story shared by Shirley Talley was that she had wanted to prepare a special altar for the meeting to include a fresh rose from her garden; however there were none blooming on the day of the meeting. During the time she had allotted to go to a florist to purchase a rose, her daughter phoned with a need to discuss a situation with her mother. Of course, being the kind of mother that Shirley is, she would never turn a child in need away (which was poignant in itself, given our focus on



Associate News and Sharing (cont'd)

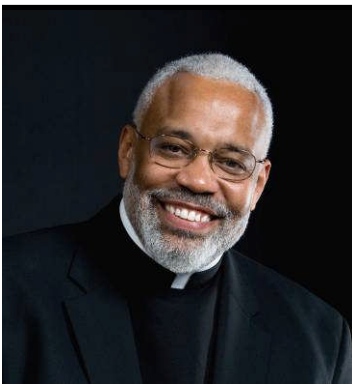
the Memorare...”never has one gone unaided...”). By the time they got off the call, there was no time left for going to the florist; but as Shirley prepared to go to the meeting, she noticed a beautiful red rose on one of her bushes, in full bloom and perfect for the occasion. God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. What has happened to you in the last month that let you know that God was leaving one of His little “calling cards” in your life? As our focus this year is on our value of “witness,” think about who you can share your story of hope with that would benefit from the inspiration of your witness to God’s grace and goodness. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather, and determine to live with an attitude of gratitude. God is good...all the time. Blessings and hugs from the St. Therese group.

At their October meeting, **Long Beach** Associates heard from guest speaker, Mark Davis, D.D.S. Dr. Davis told those

present about St. Mary Medical Center's CARE Program, one of the largest of its kind for the treatment of those infected with HIV/Aids and their families. Established in the 1980's with a significant grant from the CCVIs, the Program today offers medical, dental, mental health, and case management services to its many clients. Federal and state grants currently offer support to a large extent, and local fundraising events, particularly a popular triathlon, also help to offset expenses.

Boise Associates had a presentation by Women’s & Children’s Alliance (WCA) at their November 2 meeting. This nonprofit organization provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence. Shown to the right are Executive Director Bea Black (seated) and Development Director Susan Kelley, who explained the cycle of

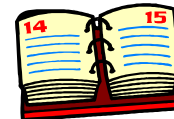
violence that participants learn to end. The most moving part of the presentation was an actual recording of a 911 call by a six year old whose father was beating her mother while she and a four year old and baby cried and screamed. WCA’s mission is to provide safety, healing and freedom from domestic abuse and sexual assault. After the presentation the group decided to support this very worthwhile organization as their ministry focus area, and discussed ways to help as a group and individuals.



The next Spirit and Life seminar, entitled “We Wait in Joyful Hope,” will be **Friday, December 3, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas**. Reverend J-Glenn Murray, SJ will be the speaker. With our Advent focus on the season of hope, Father Murray will use three biblical examples, Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptist, to help us look at ways to build up the Church, the human family, and all of the earth– all to God’s greater glory. Father Murray resides in Washington DC, and holds degrees in Philosophy and Communications, a Masters in Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry with a concentration in Liturgy. He was the principal drafter of the US Bishops’ document, *Plenty Good Room: the Spirit and Truth of African American Catholic Worship*. He lectures widely in the areas of Liturgy and Culture.

Save the Date:

**Annual Associate Gathering at Villa de Matel, Houston:
April 29 - May 1, 2011.**



Our weekend will include a **Field Trip to Galveston** on Saturday, April 30th. Led by Linda Macdonald, we will tour some of the CCVI historical sites as well as attend Mass in Galveston.

Coordinators and Formators, please plan to attend the **Annual Leaders Meeting: Friday, April 29, 8am-2pm., Villa de Matel**

CCVI Associates

Congregation of the
Sisters of Charity of the
Incarnate Word, Houston, Texas

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

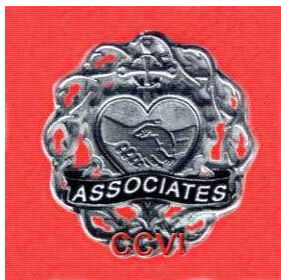
Visit our website:
www.sistersofcharity.org

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 Sisters, Associates and family members who have died, especially Emelda Sarrat;*
- * *For all of our active and praying Associates and family members who are ill or need our prayers, especially Jessica and John Maher, Stephanie Warpness, Lauretta Mancuso, AC Gomez, Jim Sartain and Josie Mayorga Kaplow;*
- * *For our family members in the military who are serving in war zones;*
- * *For all those for whom we have been asked or have promised to pray.*

If you have names to be added to these prayers please contact Catherine Wolfer. Names will be listed for a limited time to make room for new prayer requests.

CCVI Associate Groups/Meeting Schedules

Group	Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule	Contact
Houston (St. Therese)	1 st Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	Deborah Wynn 713-524-6832 dbwynn@att.net
Houston (Morning)	1 st Thursday 10 a.m.	Jill Ball 281-412-5438 jillaneball@gmail.com
Shreveport	3 rd Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Cora Godfrey, Loyce Plumb 318-868-2528, 318-868-7319 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.	Nora Mancuso nora@mancusos.net 801-313-9101
Boise	1 st Tuesday 7 p.m.	Suzie Hartz 208-867-7231 swolfer@hotmail.com

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