



# 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

September 2010

## Witness: Our Vocation

*The following excerpt is from the first chapter of the Vatican II Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People.*

### THE VOCATION OF THE LAITY TO THE APOSTOLATE

The Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all people to share in His saving redemption,(1) and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ. All activity of the Mystical Body directed to the attainment of this goal is called the apostolate, which the Church carries on in various ways through all her members. For the Christian vocation by its very nature is also a vocation to the apostolate. No part of the structure of a living body is merely passive but has a share in the functions as well as life of the body: so, too, in the body of Christ, which is the Church, "the whole body . . . in keeping with the proper activity of each part, derives its increase from its own internal development" (Eph. 4:16).

Indeed, the organic union in this body and the structure of the members are so compact that the member who fails to make his proper contribution to the development of the Church must be said to be useful neither to the Church nor to himself.

In the Church there is a diversity of

ministry but a oneness of mission. Christ conferred on the Apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. But the laity likewise share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have their own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world.

They exercise the apostolate in fact by their activity directed to the evangelization and sanctification of people and to the penetrating and perfecting of the temporal order through the spirit of the Gospel. In this way, their temporal activity openly bears witness to Christ and promotes the salvation of people. Since the laity, in accordance with their state of life, live in the midst of the world and its concerns, they are called by God to exercise their apostolate in the world like leaven, with the ardor of the spirit of Christ.

The laity derive the right and duty to the apostolate from their union with Christ the head; incorporated into Christ's Mystical Body through Baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, they are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself. They are consecrated for the royal priesthood and the holy people (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-10) not only that they may offer spiritual sacrifices in everything they do but also that they may witness to Christ throughout the world. The sacraments, however, especially the



most holy Eucharist, communicate and nourish that charity which is the soul of the entire apostolate.

One engages in the apostolate through the faith, hope, and charity which the Holy Spirit diffuses in the hearts of all members of the Church. Indeed, by the precept of charity, which is the Lord's greatest commandment, all the faithful are impelled to promote the glory of God through the coming of His kingdom and to obtain eternal life for all people—that they may know the only true God and Him whom He sent, Jesus Christ (cf. John 17:3). On all Christians therefore is laid the preeminent responsibility of working to make the divine message of salvation known and accepted by all people throughout the world.

*A Question: How are we individually and as an Associate community responding to our vocation to be apostles?*

## Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

The big event coming up in our family is my daughter Suzie's wedding. Those of you who have planned for a wedding can guess how exciting and chaotic a time this is for us. The weeks are flying by. Although many items have been crossed off the 'to do' list, there are still more tasks to be done and decisions to be made. Of course, Suzie and her fiancé, John, are responsible for most of this, but I can't help being a hovering mom, and I think it's my job to worry- and pray!

I walk most mornings, and often pray the rosary at this time, sort of killing two birds with one stone. One of the many gifts of Pope John Paul II was a whole new set of mysteries, the "Luminous" mysteries of the rosary. The second of these is the Miracle at Cana (my personal favorite lately!). When I get to this one my thoughts and prayers are on the wedding we're planning. I try to balance my prayers so that the logistics of the wedding and reception don't get more focus than blessings on the marriage. Then I

remember that at Cana, even Mary was concerned about the logistics of the wedding reception. Her worries about things being just right led her to prompt Jesus to do something about the wine, which was running out. She didn't want the hosts to be embarrassed, or the guests to feel dissatisfied. Jesus, realizing that he was being asked or expected to do something about the problem, used his

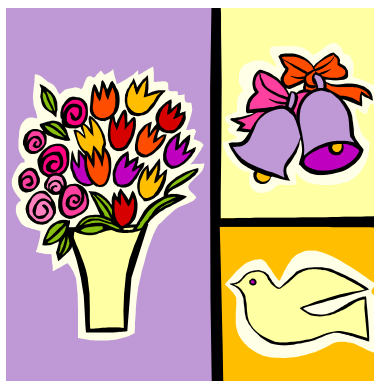


amazing gifts to work an unplanned and unexpected miracle. This, his first miracle, and the one that launched his public ministry, was not a healing, a calming of a mighty storm, or a resurrection. It was a simple but profound act of hospitality. He made sure the wine didn't run out at the wedding reception. Now that really calms me! I think if he did that at Cana, he surely won't let anything spoil our wedding in Boise (or any that you might be planning). Not only that, but I know his mother will be watching out for us too. And after the last dance and the last sip of wine, I trust that the memories of this day will be the first of many blessings in the marriage of these two special people in our lives.

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

*Catherine*

Catherine Wolfer, Director



## Associate News and Sharing

**Houston** Associates held their annual planning meeting August 27th and their Commitment Mass and supper August 28th. Both groups joined for these events.. Pictured (below left) are

the outgoing and new Coordinators and Formators for the two groups: Deborah Wynn, Janet Mayorga, Rosie Flores, Eileen Bach, Jill Ball and Ann Boane. Four new Associates (below right):

second, third, fifth and sixth) made commitment for the first time **Congratulations Roy Palermo, Linda Macdonald, Olga Perez and Stella Casarez!** About 100 Sisters



and guests attended the Mass in the Villa Chapel, which was celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza and a visiting priest, Fr. Roy Farrell. A festive meal was served in Dubuis Center afterward. Associates took this opportunity

## Associate News and Sharing (cont'd)



**Shreveport** Associates held their annual planning meeting and Commitment September 18th. Two new Associates made commitment for the first time and others renewed their commitment in a prayer and Communion service led by Mickie Cowan in the Schumpert hospital chapel. ***Congratulations Marie Rinaudo and Janet McDermott*** (pictured below making their commitment).

broken wrist and other injuries from a fall. Marion (pictured with Catherine Wolfer, Loyce Plumb and Cora Godfrey) renewed her commitment during the visit.



to recognize and thank Sister Celeste Trahan for her support and leadership over the past four years as the CCVI Liaison Sister to the Associates.

**Boise** Associates met August 7th to plan for this year. The first meeting on September 7th set the stage for an



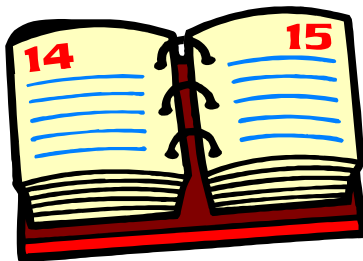
**Long Beach** Associates (pictured below) renewed their annual commitment in a Mass in St. Mary's Hospital Chapel on September 22. This was followed by a very enjoyable pot luck supper, reflection and sharing on the Associate value of Witness and planning for the year.



interesting and exciting year. Linda Macdonald (pictured above) visited from Houston and told the story of the 1900 Storm. Several guests attended, as well as a married couple who plan to begin formation to be Associates.



The group of Shreveport Associates are shown above. They enjoyed lunch together after the Commitment, and then several Associates went to visit Marion Helms, who is in a nursing home while she recovers from a badly



### Save the Date:

The next Associate Gathering will be **April 29 - May 1, 2011.**

A very interesting agenda is already being planned, including a **Group Field Trip to Galveston** on Saturday, April 30th. Led by Linda Macdonald, our day will include a tour to some of the CCVI historical sites as well as Mass in Galveston.

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

## CCVI Associates

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

Villa de Matel  
6510 Lawndale Ave.  
Houston, TX 77023  
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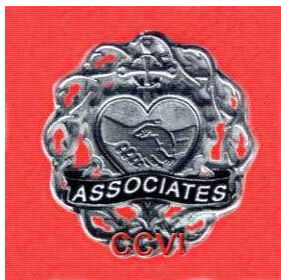
Visit our website:  
[www.sistersofcharity.org](http://www.sistersofcharity.org)

### 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;*
- \* *For all of our active and praying Associates and family members who are ill or need our prayers, especially Marion Helms and Pat Rinehart;*
- \* *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
<b>Houston (St. Therese)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	Deborah Wynn 713-524-6832 <a href="mailto:dbwynn@att.net">dbwynn@att.net</a>
<b>Houston (Morning)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 10 a.m.	Jill Ball 281-412-5438 <a href="mailto:jillaneball@gmail.com">jillaneball@gmail.com</a>
<b>Shreveport</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10:30 a.m.	Cora Godfrey, Loyce Plumb 318-868-2528, 318-868-7319 <a href="mailto:lacorman@bellsouth.net">lacorman@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Long Beach</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7 p.m.	Jim Sartain 562-598-4354 <a href="mailto:jsartain@socal.rr.com">jsartain@socal.rr.com</a>
<b>Salt Lake City</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Bimonthly 7 p.m.	Nora Mancuso <a href="mailto:nora@mancusos.net">nora@mancusos.net</a> 801-313-9101
<b>Boise</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7 p.m.	Suzie Wolfer 208-867-7231 <a href="mailto:swolfer@hotmail.com">swolfer@hotmail.com</a>

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