



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

Summer 2010

Planning for the Year: Value of *Witness*

Planning is underway for the coming year of Associate meetings, ministries and events. Houston Associate Deborah Wynn, the new Coordinator for the St. Therese group, got this process off to a wonderful start by hosting a very enjoyable planning retreat at the Wynn Family Ranch in East Texas in June. Leaders from both groups attended, as well as Sr. Celeste, Catherine Wolfer and some other Associates who will lead committees. Those who attended enjoyed this chance to meet, eat, pray and plan in a relaxed country atmosphere. There was even time for Deborah's husband Claude to give guided tours around the property on an ATV, and a special morning time for the early risers to watch the sunrise in silence.

The Houston Associates are growing in membership and are transitioning to new leadership, so this retreat offered a good opportunity to pray and do some pre-planning for the coming year. This session will be followed up with a regular annual planning meeting August 27 at



Houston Associates enjoy supper before beginning their planning meeting.

Villa de Matel. Catherine Wolfer will facilitate this planning meeting, as well as a similar meeting in Shreveport September 18. Boise Associates held their planning meeting August 7 and Long Beach will hold theirs August 25.

The planning process includes taking a look at our long term goals as Associate communities, as well as looking at ways to implement our annual goal, which for the coming year will be to focus on our value of *Witness*. We define this value as follows:

Witness: We demonstrate our baptismal call to holiness by living exemplary Christian lives and spreading the light of Christ to others.

Planning includes discerning meeting topics, ministries and events that demonstrate or support this value. It also involves finding ways to share responsibilities for meetings, prayers, refreshments, etc.



Houston Planning group outside the ranch home of Deborah and Claude Wynn

Message from Catherine

Dear Associates,

This week I attended a one-day seminar at a local retreat center. The session was enjoyable and informative, and as often happens on these occasions, one of the side benefits was the opportunity to interact with other participants. During a break I had a chance to talk briefly with a woman who had attended the day of prayer and Associate *Come and See* and Commitment we hosted July 17. She hadn't planned on staying for the Associate events that day, but probably stayed because of the opportunity to attend Saturday evening Mass. Although she told me she is not interested in being an Associate, she shared that she was very impressed by how beautiful the Mass and Commitment were. She was particularly touched by the love and support she witnessed from our newest Associate's family members, who were there for her Commitment. She said that this was a far cry from her experiences in the Catholic Church years ago. I don't know the rest of her story, or what exactly she meant, but I was struck by the fact that she

witnessed something that day that gave her a glimpse of God's love. What touched her seemed to be a side effect of the events we were hosting. It was the actions of those we invited, not necessarily what *we* did or said that moved her. Maybe others who attended were touched or inspired by the great homily of the priest, or our words of commitment, or just the



celebration of a special Eucharist in a lovely retreat center. We don't need to know who was inspired or how. It's sufficient that we planned a meaningful celebration of who and what we are, and invited others to join us for the day.

As we begin this year with a focus on our Associate value of Witness, I hope we use every opportunity we are given to demonstrate God's love in our fragile and broken world. We may not know when or how our actions will touch others. All we have to do is shine a light in the darkness, and be confident that our Good Shepherd will take care of the rest.

Best wishes for a wonderful season of meetings and events as you start back after the summer break.

Sincerely in our Incarnate Word,

Catherine

Catherine Wolfer, Director



Associate News and Sharing

Houston Associate Rosalinda Flores, who has been the Coordinator of the morning group for the past two years, received The President's Volunteer Service Award for her volunteer work in the community. In addition to her certificate she received a letter of

congratulations from President Barack Obama and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett. Rosie works in the Teen Cert program as well as hurricane preparedness for her neighborhood community, devoting many hours to these and other community efforts. This is in addition to many ministries in her parish and with the CCVIs, and her leadership role with the Associates. She is

a wonderful example of living out Christian principles and our Associate values of Service and Witness. Congratulations Rosie!

Boise Associates wrapped up their first year on July 17 with a Day of Prayer, which they co-hosted with Nazareth Retreat Center. Peg Wuelfing with Mission Centered Education, LLC presented a workshop on personality types and related spirituality preferences, using the Myers Briggs Assessment tool. About 30 participants attended this well-received session. The Day of Prayer was followed by a CCVI Associate *Come and See* presentation and a beautiful Mass and



Volunteer Services

Commitment ceremony. This special day ended with a casual supper at the Wolfer home. We were honored to have Sr. Ruth Tiguilá Robles (below) as our guest.



Congratulations to Tracy Simkins, who made her Commitment for the first time that day! Tracy has the honor of being our first Boise Associate. With



God's help, we will have many more.

Shreveport Associates (above) met before the summer break to



plan a dinner for Grace Home. The Associates support this home, which is for people who have less than six months to live and need a peaceful place for their final days. They can come here whether they have means or not.

Transitions

The newly elected CCVI Leadership Team was installed June 19th. Effective that date, the new Liaison Sister for the Associates is Sister Ruth Tiguilá Robles (right). Sr. Ruth has moved to Houston from Guatemala, where, among her many ministries, she has played a key role with the Associates in Central America. Of course, this is a bittersweet message, because Sister Celeste Trahan (below), who has been such a wonderful leader and companion on our Associate walk,



Congratulations and Welcome, Sister Ruth! Thank you and many blessings, Sister Celeste!

is moving on to other responsibilities, while remaining on the Leadership Team. We will miss her!



There are also several changes of leadership in the Associate communities. **Houston Associates** Janet Mayorga and Rosalinda Flores, who have both done a wonderful job as Coordinators for the **Houston St. Therese** and **Houston AM** groups, respectively, are transitioning out of these roles. The new Coordinators are Deborah Wynn for the St. Therese group and Jill Ball for the Morning group. Rosie Flores will be forming a new "Saint Catherine's" Associate

group in Katy, Texas. Watch for more on this in future issues. The new leaders for the **Boise Associates** are Suzie Wolfer (Coordinator) and Monte Wolfer (Formator). **Shreveport Associate** Loyce Plumb will be changing from Co-Formator to Co-Coordinator with Cora Godfrey. Marion Helms will replace Loyce as the Co-Formator with Mickie Cowan.

Associates who volunteer to take these leadership roles share their gifts in a very special way for one to two years, or more in some cases. This is a big commitment on their part, and all of us benefit.

Thank you Janet, Rosie and Loyce for your generous service in leadership. We know you will continue to share your gifts in new ways this year. Many blessings to Deborah, Jill, Rosie, Suzie, Monte, Loyce and Marion in their new roles, and to all who will continue in leadership positions in their Associate groups this year!

CCVI Associates

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

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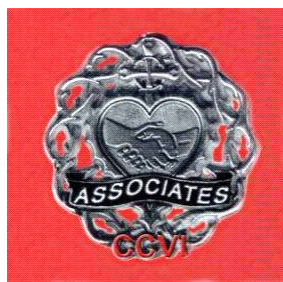
Visit our website:
www.sistersofcharity.org

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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Volume 6, Number 10

Prayer Requests:



Please pray:

- * *For the repose of the souls of **Carol Hill, Tom Hill and Max Gomez.***
- * *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, John Maher, Deloris Aycock, Barbara Allred, Jennie Gomez, Maria, Matthew and Greg Duvall, Harland Hunley, Rosemary Smith, Sheila Ivers, Jennifer Antar, Blanca Ford, Lyndon Ratcliffe, Steve Corisis, Alden Wadleigh, A.C. Gomez, Jim Sartain, Marion Helms and Pat Rinehart.*
- * *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)	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 Wolfer 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.