



# WordLife

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A Newsletter for the Friends of the Congregation of  
the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Corpus Christi, Texas

Spring, 2011

## Easter: See "Something New" In New Light

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.*

*(John 20:1)*

*Jesus said to him (Thomas), "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

*(John 20:29)*

*For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

*(Isaiah 65:17)*

*Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things. (Psalm 129:18)*

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." (Revelations 21:5)*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8)*

*Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord. (Luke 1:45)*

*Sing, O heavens, for God has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! (Isaiah 44:23)*



*We can be awake and watchful for resurrections, for the creative ways that new life streams into our lives even in the midst of death. (Judy Cannato)*

*My soul sings and my spirit delights and rejoices, O Faithful God, because you have removed the stone which was rolled over our hearts and we are risen! (Maryam of Nazareth)*

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### Associates Mark 25 Years

Incarnate Word Associates and Sisters participated in the 25th Jubilee celebration at La Parra Assembly Hall in Sarita on September 5, 2010. Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey celebrated the opening Mass with Fr. James Stembler, Fr. Poitr Koziel and Fr. Joseph Lopez. Charter members Rosa Hickey, Alejandra Perez, Ed and Jerry Russek, Gerry Thomson and Delia Tucker received special recognition and crystal plaques for their 25 years in the Associates. After the Mass, the group enjoyed a barbecue meal, prepared and served by the Knights of Columbus of Kingsville.

### Formation Symposium Meets

The thirty-eighth Incarnate Word Formation Symposium was held in Corpus Christi Feb. 11-13. The theme, "Word of God: The Heart of Community," was carried out in prayerful reflection, reading of Scripture, creative activities, and presentations by Sister Annette Wagner. Participants were from Houston, Mexico, Victoria and Corpus Christi Initial Formation communities. The next Symposium, Feb. 10-12, 2012, will be hosted by the community of Talpan, Mexico, D.F.

### Religious of Area Study Vows

In the study of the vows mandated by the last General Chapter, other Incarnate Word Sisters and Sisters of the area attended the following sessions at the Motherhouse in Corpus Christi:

"Our Table of Plenty: Intimacy and Celibacy" by Sister Dorothy Heiderscheit, OSF, on March 27, 2010.

"We Hold A Treasure Not Made of Gold—Seeing the Vow of Poverty in a New Light" by Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND, on October 16, 2010.

"Vow of Obedience," by Sister Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND, on February 26, 2011.

### Montessori Celebrates 45 Years

Sister Christina Bradley and founding parents were recognized at the Mass on October 18, 2010, opening the celebration of 45 years of Montessori classes at IWA. In 1963 Jean Adams, Ellen Flood, and Irene Meaney brought the idea of a Catholic Montessori School at IWA to Superior Sister Benedict May, who sent Sister Christina and Sister Stanislaus Pena for training, and they began classes in 1965.

## Victoria To Host National Reunion in July

The 2011 National Reunion of Incarnate Word congregations will be hosted by the Victoria Sisters and Associates at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria on July 22-24, 2011.

The theme of the eighth National Reunion is "On the Cutting Edge of New Vision--Where Are We Standing?" In an effort to share our Incarnational Spirituality with one another, each congregation will be asked to make a presentation of 20-30 minutes on what is going on in the congregation at this time: re-configuration, refounding, revitalization,

expansion, current and new ministries. Groups will be asked to explain why the congregation chose this avenue to carry out the founding charism and mission of Incarnate Word Sisters, and how Associates are involved in the vision and mission.

During the Reunion, Bishop David Fellhauer will celebrate the Eucharist on Saturday, and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo will celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday.

Twenty six Sisters and eighteen Associates from the Corpus Christi IWBS community will attend.

*From Sister Michelle Marie Kuntscher*  
***Behold, I Am Doing Something New!***  
***Now It Springs Forth, Do You Not Perceive It?***  
*(Isaiah 43:19)*

Sister Michelle Marie visits with Sister Anselm Till.



*During our time of preparation for the General Chapter, we commit ourselves, through prayer and reflection, to be Easter people, to perceive the “new” that the Holy Spirit is doing, that we Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament may “proclaim and make present the grace of the Incarnation at this time in history.”*

*In the Scripture reading of Samuel’s anointing of David, we heard that we “see the appearance, but God looks into the heart.” Samuel anointed Jesse’s youngest son, “and from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.”<sup>(1Samuel 16:13)</sup>*

*We, too, are anointed. The Spirit of God is with each one of us, and with all of us together. We are chosen by God, and through Baptism, anointed priest, prophet and king—to give a blessing; to be a voice for those in need; and to be a servant leader to the people—to be “new.”*

*How do we welcome the “new” and address it?*

*How do we contemplatively welcome the future—the plans God has in store for us—plans of peace, not disaster? How do we quiet ourselves to listen to the voice of God within us and among us, and respond to what we hear?*

*With the guidance of our facilitator, Sister Barbara Valuckas, SSND, we will engage in a communal discernment Chapter. Through communal discernment, we prayerfully come to one mind and heart about what we can say and do together, believing that this is the way God’s will is revealed. We will creatively cooperate with what is emerging, by claiming the “new” gifts the Spirit has ready for us to meet God’s call to follow his plan. We will gather in our assembly, conscious that the Spirit of Wisdom moves in each of us, as it has moved in all people since the beginning.*

*May we be wise in our sharing, opening the eyes of our hearts that we might see the “new,” that we might be the “new.” As we see the wisdom shining through the eyes of our beloved elder Sisters, let us draw on the wisdom that stands the test of time. In the spirit of our elders, let us be courageous enough to let go of what no longer leads us into a future filled with hope, and be willing to surrender to Jesus, our Risen Savior, who purifies and blesses our hearts to live out our charism of extending the Incarnation in loving compassion.*

*May the work we do together be of benefit to all those we serve and may it enliven and refresh our spirits and our commitment to be Gospels of Love.*

*The more faithfully you listen to the voice within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside. Only the one who listens can speak. (Dag Hammarskjöld)*

*The future enters into us, in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens. (Rainer Maria Rilke)*

*“I will provide you with what is required...”*

*“To bring to completion the work of your Lord and your God.”  
 (Jesus to Jeanne, Autobiography)*



**2011 Calendar**

- May 1-8 Motherhouse Retreat—Rev. Donald Halpin, OFM
- June 5-12 Oblate Retreat Center—Rev. Daniel Renaud, OMI
- Victoria Retreat—Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI
- July 22-24 National Reunion in Victoria
- July 30 Final Profession of Sister Helga Leija, Brownsville
- Sept. 23-25 General Assembly; Chapter Preparation

# In Memory of...In Honor of.....



## IN MEMORY OF:

**Sister Noreen Begley**- Margaret Sciantarelli and Theresa Kainer and family, Dolores Vesely and family, LCDR Fred and Lena Helle, Marie S. Habeeb and family, Rolando and Mary Longoria, Roy and Rose King, Dorothy Krause, Art and Mary Salinas, Willie Mae Shirley, Penny Dunne Pacheco, Jackie W. Connolly, Colette Oldmixon, Steve and Mary Ellen Galvan, The LeMaire family, Msgr. William Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. M.T. Carter, Jarlath B. Hoffman

**Rev. Gregory Boensch** - Leonel and Mary Anne Durbin

**William and Vivian Clark** - Mark and Kathy Clark

**Celia Cruse** - Margaret Rose Pacheco, M.T. and Elaine Longoria-Carter, Maya G. White

**Virginia Pfeifer Davis** - M.T. and Elaine Longoria-Carter

**Col. Charles Dockery** - Kathleen Delaune, Joe & Linda Saig, D. J. & Barbara Jordan, Robert & Lynn Wilson, Jesse Sparks & Bible students, Kevin Reed, DDS Dentistry staff, A. G. and Pamela Shinosky, Pete and Ida Martinez, John & Deborah Reno, Gregory & Linda Haynes, Mark, Kathy and Kelli Kent, Jephtha Stark, Al and Drudy Green, R. O. Stringer, Ed and Brenda Stringer, Bob & Beverly Stringer, Twin Oaks Home Association in TN (Lee Dunn), Bill & Dolly Smith, Ted & Rose Bruton

**Cyril, Opal, Kevin, and Danny Durbin, John Frontera, Sister Mary Clement Kuntscher** - Vincent and Margaret Durbin

**Lewis & Ottillia Durbin, Hope Durbin** - Vincent & Margaret Durbin, Leo & Mary Anne Durbin, Brian and Tara Durbin

**Sister William Francis Garcia** - Francisco V. Garcia, Cecilio and Silvina Garcia family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Ellard, LCDR Fred and Elena Helle, Gil Garcia and family, Dolores Vesely, Andres and Sylvia Flores, Penny Dunne Pacheco, CDR John J. and Margaret Foley, Colette Oldmixon, Steve and Mary Ellen Galvan, Msgr. William Thompson, Adele Quillin, Erin Hazlewood, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Allen, Carla Ellard, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Carter, Jarlath Hoffman, Helene Gibson

**Helen Gesting** - Judy Keehan Schramm; **Sister Nancy Johnson** - Merle and Patricia Lindsey; **"Tad" Kelly** -Henry Heese; **Paul H. Laudadio**- Pete and Mae Haney, M.T. and Elaine Longoria-Carter, George and Ellen Flood, James M. & Cynthia Catron, Dolores Vesely;

**Phil Lenken** - Dorothy Krause

**Corando V. and Dolores Longoria, Theodosa Chapa Longoria** -M.T. and Elaine Longoria-Carter

**Nan McGloin**- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Huuy, Margaret Young

**Irene Meaney**- Margaret Sciantarelli

**Victor and Mary Netek** -Wayne and Theresa Vincent

**Sister Mary Damian Ordener** - Vincent and Margaret Durbin

**George and John Peters** - Diane P. Peters

**Ramsey Rodriguez** - Enriqueta, Mary Jane (Hill) and Rene Rodriguez

**Geraldine Russek** - Ed Russek, Terry and Mary Ann Reed, Daniel and Rose Ann Cernoch, George and Mary Beth Huntley, Bryan and Danielle Osterhaus, Dolores Vesely, John David and Kathryn A. Weed, Donald and Helen Skrovan, David and Karen Williams

**Msgr. Alvin Tengler** - CDR and Mrs. John J. Foley

**Albert "Jimmy" Till** - Marion and Loraine Underbrink; Andrew Busker; Mr. and Mrs. Randall Gardner; Kim Schnackenberg; Sabrina Schackenberg and family; Dennis McCarthy; George E. and Barbara Kain; Andrew and Mary Scott; May Jeanette Kollaja; Toufic and Anna T. Nicolas; James and Toni Caldwell; Herb and Lorraine Schott; Geraldine Thomson; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Dreyer

**Vincent and Olivia May Vrooman**- Mark and Kathy Clark

**Sister Adrian Clare Wolfe** -Carlos Canales, MD

## IN HONOR OF:

**Jim & Jeannine Weisman, Joe & Geri Kuntscher** Golden Wedding Anniversary- Leo and Mary Anne Durbin

**Sisters of the Incarnate Word** - Terry and Judy Temple, Peter and Carole Main, Genevieve C. Thoene, Mary Guerra, Mary Lou Krenek, Maria Diaz, John and Mary Majek, Mildred Christian Elam, Emilio and Norma Sanchez, Fred and Mary Rosin, Ernest and Madeline Auer, Jesus Abel and Gloria Adamez, John and Rosie Oneto, Rolando and Mary Longoria, Mrs. Lawrence Vrazel, Joanne Lawry, Sam and Bea Aldrich, Wayne and Theresa Vincent, Frank and Jean Murakawa, Nora and Stanley Ginoza, Francisco V. Garcia, Michael E. Colwell, Laudadio family, M. H. and Sue Harrison, Susan Meurer, Irene and Larry Robinson, Joe and Blanche Pater, Mary Meyer, Joseph and Patty Mueller, LCDR Fred and Lena Helle

**Sister Brigid O'Neill** -Connie Cueva; Suzanne Friedmann, SFCC

**Sister Mary Paul Hon** - Bryan Nguyen; Helene Gibson; Suzanne Friedmann, Sam and Magan Alfred; Connie Cueva, Duc Nguyen, Rolando Ramirez

**Sister Theresa Nguyen** - Duc Nguyen

**2011 Jubilarians, Sister Martha O'Gara & Sister Beatrice Cruz** - Msgr. Seamus McGowan, Connie Cueva, Alicia Montes

**Sister Beatrice Cruz** - Robert and Carolyn Brueggerhoff



Below: Sister Noreen Begley greets Bishop Michael Mulvey at his Mass at Incarnate Word Convent as Associate Jody Kirshner assists her. She attended meetings faithfully up until the time of her death in December, 2010.

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# Sister Beatrice Cruz Begins Life Anew After Transplant

By Sister Juliane Kuntscher

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**Sister Beatrice Cruz, after successful bone marrow transplant at MD Anderson, has found new life and new meaning in entering into the pain and suffering of Jesus to experience resurrection.**

Sister Beatrice, baptized Micaela Cruz, daughter of the late Jose Cruz, Sr. and Ignacia Molina Cruz, was born in Encinal, Texas. She and her brother Joe grew up in Beeville, Texas and attended Our Lady of

Victory School, which was staffed by Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Sister entered Incarnate Word Convent, Corpus Christi, on May 30, 1949. She professed first vows on April 21, 1951 and perpetual vows July 31, 1954. Sister Beatrice earned her B. A. degree from St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, and her Masters in School Administration from Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio. At the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Sister took classes in Ministry in Religious Education in preparation for work in that area of ministry. Sister, along with many other candidates, was designated as extraordinary minister of Holy Communion in the Brownsville Diocese in October 1975.

Ministry in Catholic schools included thirty years as a teacher/administrator in middle and elementary levels. She returned to Beeville, her native city, in 1968, to work at Our Lady of Victory School. Other schools in which Sister ministered were St. Rose of Lima, Benavides, Incarnate Word Academy and Immaculate Conception Schools, Brownsville, Corpus Christi Cathedral and Sacred Heart Schools— now Central Catholic Elementary School in Corpus Christi. During the summers of 1974 and 1975, Sister taught in the Upward Bound Program at Bee County College in Beeville.

Sister Beatrice ministered as principal at Our Lady of Victory, Sacred Heart, Incarnate Word Academy and Immaculate Conception Schools in Brownsville. For a time, she served as a member of the Corpus Christi Area School Board.

In 1981, she was named Coordinator of Religious Education for the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Sister Beatrice also worked in parish ministry and collaborated with others in the training of coordinators and directors of religious education in the Diocese of Brownsville. She directed choirs and music clubs, served in Migrant Ministry in Minnesota, and has been an active member of congregational committees. A member of the Vocation Committee, Sister has brought several participants to vocation retreats.

In 1991, Sister Beatrice entered into diocesan ministry as Religious Education Coordinator for the Corpus Christi Deanery. She served as religious education director at St. Joseph in Donna and at St. Mary, Mother of the Church in Brownsville. From 1989 to 1993, Sister was the Associate Director of Continuing Education and Catechetics for Hispanics in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

Sister Beatrice has been a member of the Catholic Chaplain Corp in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston from 1993 to 2009. As Cath-

olic Sister Chaplain, she served at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Ben Taub Trauma Center, and LBJ Hospital where, in her words "there are patients who have taught me how to die in hope."

Sister Beatrice has aided countless persons and their families, including Sisters of her own religious community and their families, as they experienced pain, suffering and challenges involved in living with cancer. For many years, Sister has generously shared her special talent of teaching, giving retreats for adults and junior/senior high school students. In the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, she served as teacher, retreat/mission director for several years.

On the occasion of her golden jubilee celebration, Sister Beatrice stated: "The highlight of my life has been the awareness of God's love for me. I entered the convent, thinking I could do many wonderful things for the Lord. Fifty years later, I realized that, instead, God has done all the wonderful things for me. I had it all wrong."

This year, as she celebrates her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession of vows, Sister adds: "As I extend the healing ministry of Jesus, I experience in the patients and their families, a strong witness of the faith which give them courage and perseverance in difficult moments.

Through chaplaincy ministry at MDA, I have been inspired with a great desire to strive continually to become a better religious. In my personal experience of dealing with cancer, I am blessed with the opportunity to live in solidarity with other cancer patients. Common experience and prayer draws us ever closer to one another and to Jesus, our Healer."

Presently I am recuperating from bone marrow transplant treatment. I am grateful to God, to my religious community, and for the opportunity to have served God's people in the suffering, broken Body of Christ."



**Sister Beatrice Cruz, standing, visits with Sister Juliane Kuntscher, Sister Dymrna Lyons, and Sister Christina Bradley at a congregational celebration.**

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# Sister Martha O’Gara Exhibits Irish Missionary Spirit

*By Sister Juliane Kuntscher*

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**Sister Martha O’Gara**

Sister Martha, baptized Mary Selina O’Gara, a native of Sligo, Ireland, is the daughter of the late John Joseph and Catherine Shannon O’Gara, and the eldest of six children.

She entered the Congregation of Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent and Blessed Sacrament on July 2, 1949. An alumnus of Incarnate Word Academy, Sister holds a bachelor’s degree

with a major in English from

St. Edward’s University in Austin, and a master’s degree with certification in School Administration and a minor in English from Texas A&I, Kingsville.

Sister’s ministry experience in schools includes Our Lady of Consolation School in Vattmann, St. Patrick School, Incarnate Word Academy and Sacred Heart School in Corpus Christi, St. Gertrude School in Kingsville, Incarnate Word Academy and Villa Maria High School in Brownsville, and St. Xavier High School in Kenya, East Africa. Sister served as principal at St. Patrick’s, and at Incarnate Word Elementary and Incarnate Word Academies in both Corpus Christi and Brownsville. She also served as registrar, teacher, class and club sponsor.

Sister sponsored and directed the Incarnate Word Academy (Corpus Christi) Mission Team in its early years. Her wisdom and teaching experience, her mediation skills, sense of humor, respect and rapport with her students are outstanding qualities which make Sister Martha a valued member of the school faculty. She served on development and advisory boards of Incarnate Word Academy in Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Sister Martha’s experience in administration of the Congregation includes terms as Superior General, General Councilor, and of local superior in Corpus Christi and in Brownsville communities. As Superior General, Sister Martha was instrumental in developing a renewal program to implement the Constitution, approved by the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes in Rome on July 2, 1986. During that time, Sister Martha challenged her community to become women empowered by the Spirit, to evaluate ministry and set priorities, to continue collaborative efforts with Church and society; and to increase global awareness.

In the Congregation, Sister Martha’s accomplishments

are evident in her work in the following Commissions or Committees: Constitution Committee for General Chapter, Education, Community Life, Apostolic, Formation, Public Relations, On-going Formation. She has participated in the Congregation’s General Chapters, either as an elected delegate or as an ex-officio member.

Sister Martha’s skills in English have been assets, as she contributed expertise in the Constitution Rewriting Committee and is currently serving on the International Incarnate Word Reconfiguration Committee. She is working with the group revising and editing the common constitution prepared by six congregations looking at uniting as one.

Sister Martha has had mediation training at the Nueces County Dispute Resolution Center; was a Board member and Finance Committee member for Corpus Christi Metro Ministries; served as a committee member on Consecrated Life (Synod); was a national and regional member (and secretary) of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; served on the Joint Committee of Major Superiors and Bishops of Texas; was a board member of the Diocesan Mediation for Religious and served on the Council of Religious in both Brownsville and Corpus Christi; and served on the Area School Board for Catholic Schools in Corpus Christi for three years. Sister’s interests and hobbies are needlework, listening to music, reading, travel and sight seeing, museum and antique shop browsing.

Summarizing sixty years of vowed life, Sister Martha states, “Looking back over the years, I realize that “all is gift” and I am profoundly grateful for all who have been part of my journey – my family, my Incarnate Word Sisters, my friends, my colleagues, as well as students, past and present.”



**Sister Martha receives communion from Bishop Mulvey.**

# Pray For Deceased Incarnate Word Associates

By Sister Juliane Kuntscher

Geraldine Ann "Jerry" Osterhaus Russek, an Incarnate Word Associate for 25 years, was a woman of deep faith and relentless courage. Her life exemplified what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, a Catholic Christian in action!

Born August 23, 1925, in Paul's Valley, OK, she was the daughter of Ted and Agnes Osterhaus. Her siblings were three brothers, Ted, Jr., Harold and James Osterhaus, and three sisters, Agnes, Helen and Barbara. Jerry received her formal education at All Saints Elementary School and Reagan High School in Houston.

Jerry worked as a dental assistant in Houston before her marriage to Ed Russek on August 28, 1948. They raised five children, Bob, Mark, Anne, Mary Janet and Frances. Prior to moving to Round Rock, Texas in the summer of 2010, Ed and Jerry had been devoted and active members of St. Patrick Parish in Corpus Christi since 1959. At St. Patrick's, Jerry belonged to the Altar and Rosary Society, Caring Friends, and St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry; she also volunteered at Christus Spohn Hospital.

## Jerry and Ed Reached Associates Silver Jubilee

Jerry and Ed were founding members of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates. On September 5, 2010, they and other charter members received special recognition during Mass and a luncheon in their honor at the La Parra Assembly Hall in Sarita, Texas.

Incarnate Word Associate co-director Jody Kirshner characterized Jerry as being "positive and looking forward all the time...she gave such joy....She and Ed always jumped in with both feet to help with Associate meetings and gatherings."

Sister Juliane Kuntscher remarked, "Jerry was an inspiration to me in many ways - her faith, her determination and courage were outstanding! Even when Jerry's health condition prevented her from doing the volume of work she always did, Jerry volunteered to help out, contributing as much as she was able to do."

Five weeks after her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, a month after Ed and she celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary, Jerry bade her family farewell as they prayed at her bedside. Having lived faithfully and courageously, battling cancer for several years, she surrendered her spirit into the welcoming arms of her Creator on September 27, 2010 in Round Rock, Texas.

Preceding Jerry in death are her parents, Ted and Agnes Osterhaus, her brothers T.J. and Harold. She is survived by her beloved husband Ed, and their children, Bob (Cathy) Russek, Mark (Dee) Russek, Anne Byers, Mary Janet Lloyd, and Frances Russek; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Also surviving Jerry are her brother, Deacon James Osterhaus, and her sisters, Agnes McGray, Helen Matula and Sister Barbara Ann, CVI.

Jerry's wake service was held at Memorial Chapel of Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home, on September 30, 2010, led by her brother-in-law, Deacon Frank Matula.

The funeral Mass was celebrated October 1, at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in Pflugerville, Texas. Rev. Steve Sauser, Rev. Edwin Kagoo and Msgr. Roger Smith were celebrants of the Mass of Resurrection. Jerry's brother, Deacon James Osterhaus, assisted at the altar and gave Jerry's eulogy. Representing the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word were Sister Barbara Netek, Sister Annette Wagner and Jody Kirshner. Interment took place at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville.

On October 9, 2010, a Memorial Mass was celebrated for Jerry at St. Patrick Church in Corpus Christi, with Msgr. Roger Smith as main celebrant. Father Dennis Zerr concelebrated. Bob Russek, Ed and Jerry's son, was cantor. Following the Mass, a meal was served in the parish hall where Jerry's family and the many friends who attended the event visited and shared memories. Jerry's memory will live on in the hearts of us all.



**Jerry and Ed Russek were Charter Members of the Incarnate Word Associates who celebrated 25 years in September, 2010.**

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# Associates Shared Incarnate Word In Love of Family

By Sister Juliane Kuntscher

Dr. James (Jim) Edward Hoban, a retired veterinarian, having lived a full, productive and happy life, was called to his eternal home on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, in Corpus Christi, Texas, with his beloved wife, Dorothy at his side.

Jim was born May 25, 1924, in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, and spent his early childhood in Corpus Christi, where he attended elementary school at Incarnate Word Academy. He graduated from Waco High School, and enrolled at Texas A&M. Jim served as a fighter pilot in the Air Force. After duty in the Air Force, he returned to Texas A&M and received a BS degree in Animal Husbandry and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1950. Jim retired after practicing veterinary medicine for 43 years.

Dr. Hoban was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, a past Grand Knight of Council 1202 Knights of Columbus, a member of the Baza Caravan Order of Alhambra, and of St. Robert Bellarmine Holy Family Guild for over 40 years; Spohn Hospital Auxiliary; an Incarnate Word Associate, and the only remaining charter member of the Serra Club of Corpus Christi.

For many years Jim was a lector and Eucharistic Minister, and he took Holy Communion to the sick at Shoreline Spohn Hospital. Jim received the papal honor of investiture as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He and Dorothy were members of St. Patrick Parish, Most Precious Blood Parish, and in more recent years, of St. Philip the Apostle Parish.

Jim is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Ellen, three daughters, Susan Hoban, Ann (Donald) Montgonery, Janet (Mark) Glaser, and one son, Richard Hoban. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and many other relatives. The vigil service and Mass of resurrection were celebrated at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Corpus Christi. Jim was laid to rest at Seaside Memorial Park.

Jim's daughter Janet wrote the following tribute to her father—in Dorothy's words, "the essence of Jim."

*I remember my father whistling while he worked in his vegetable garden; listening to an Aggie football game while he refinshed my piano or his father's desk; listening to on opera on PBS radio while he cooked a gourmet meal for his family with recipes from Life magazine. He played board games with us (and was ruthless during a Monopoly game) and card games, but could never get any of his children to enjoy the game of bridge.*

*His faith and his friends were very important to him. The Holy Family Guild with the Foelkers, Wetegroves, Reicherts, and Nicholsons combined both. Together, over many years,*



**Dorothy and Jim Hoban witnessed Catholic family values.**

*they studied and strengthened their faith along with their friendships.*

*For family vacations and 'together' time, we drove to Port Aransas to our beach house. He taught his children how to catch the waves, how to dribble wet sand through our fingers to make sand castles, and to appreciate a lovely sunset. He loved to travel.*

*He and Mother went on several trips together in the United States and in Europe with tour groups and various family members. Highlights were probably Ireland to meet his cousins, or Rome to be blessed by Pope John Paul II, or the Holy Land to walk where Christ had walked*

*He didn't talk much about his part in WWII until we children were all grown. But we all knew it was a huge part of his life. He loved flying his P-47. And being trained at the facility in Waco, TX allowed him to begin wooing Mother. In 2004 he was able to attend the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC.*

*I can still see my father reading a novel in the evenings; looking at the stars through his telescope; writing to trace his and Mother's family histories; listening to his classical music; wearing his camera around his neck to be ready to photograph the splendors of Europe, an accomplishment of a child, or the antics of a grandchild; working crossword puzzles; practicing dancing lessons in the garage with Mother and dancing at his grandchildren's weddings; "whooping" it when he heard the Aggie War Hymn begin.*

*He loved being a veterinarian and always said how thankful he was that he could make a living doing something he loved. He was a wonderful husband, father and friend. He is missed.*

# Brownsville Incarnate Word Associates Leave Legacy

By Sister Juliane Kuntscher

Beatrice Garcia Perez, devoted mother and friend, was called to her eternal home, joining her deceased husband, Frank, on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Bea passed away at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Brownsville, Texas, surrounded by her loving family.

Actively involved in the life of her family, her parish and the Brownsville community, Bea belonged to a number of religious and social activity groups.

She and Frank became Incarnate Word Associates in 1987, joining the Sisters and other Associates in the study of church documents, Incarnate Word spirituality, and the charism of the Order. Bea also participated in apostolic and spiritual works at St. Luke Parish, thus extending the Incarnation, in word and action, among her family, her friends and the church and civic community.

Bea Perez was preceded in death by her husband, Frank, who died in 2001; her parents, Carlos and Braulia Garcia, siblings Gilberto Garcia, Reverend Pablo Garcia, OMI, and Maria Inez Martinez.

Surviving Bea, to cherish her memory are her children, Richard (Katrina) Perez, Carlos (Dawn) Perez, Patricia (Xavier) Carmona, and Amelia Perez; and nine grandchildren.

Also surviving her are her brother Carlos Garcia and sisters, Mercedes Herrera, Teresa Garcia, Sister Margarita Garcia, JMJ, and Enriqueta Garcia; numerous nephews and nieces. Beatrice's Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Luke Catholic Church in Brownsville. She was laid to rest at Rose Lawn Memorial Garden in Brownsville, Texas.



Bea Perez



Daughter of Jose De Leon and Rosa Vasquez De Leon, Aida De Leon Uribe was born in Brownsville, Texas, on June 26, 1923.

Aida received her formal education at Immaculate Conception School and at Villa Maria Academy. Following graduation from Villa Maria Academy, Aida studied at Draughan's Business College in San Antonio. There she met Blas Uribe III.

Blas and Aida married and raised three children. When the children reached school age, Aida and Blas, "firmly believing that the path to personal success lay in education, and knowing that a social conscience is best developed in a nurturing spiritual environment", sent their three children to Catholic schools until they graduated from high school.

Aida, solidly grounded in her Catholic faith, had developed strong moral character. In her obituary, she was characterized as a "tough, socially and politically conscious, modern woman before the advent of women's rights."

Blas, Aida and their family relocated in Miami, Florida, in the early 1960s, and Aida worked at the University of Miami Library. She eventually served in various capacities there, including business manager of a medical research project. Being tri-lingual - Spanish, English and Portuguese - she was named circulation editor of the Inter-American Studies Journal at the university.

The Uribe family returned to Brownsville upon the couple's retirement. Blas and Aida re-engaged in the struggle to help others and to reconnect with their extended family. Aida, having been a Brownsville Housing Authority project manager in the past, served as director of Cameron County Finance Corporation. She was also a passionate member of Valley Interfaith. Since 1993, Aida was an Associate of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Aida De Leon Uribe died in Brownsville on May 6, 2010. Preceding her in death was her husband, Blas Uribe III. She is survived by her children, Blas, Hector and Aida; eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Alfonso Guevara officiated at Aida's Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Brownsville on Tuesday, May 11, 2010. She is buried in the Mausoleum at Buena Vista Burial Park in Brownsville.

# Sisters Were To Celebrate Jubilee of Profession of Vows

Sister Noreen Begley, 98, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, died peacefully at Incarnate Word Convent on Friday, December 3, 2010. Sister would have celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> year of religious profession in the spring of 2011.

Sister Noreen, formerly known as Sister Aquinas, was born Nora Begley on June 3, 1912, in London, England, the daughter of Daniel Begley and Margaret Egan Begley. Coming to Texas in 1929, she entered Incarnate Word Convent November 9 that year, made her first profession of vows May 30, 1931, and professed perpetual vows May 29, 1937. Sister Noreen received her B.A. degree from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, and her M. A. degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.



**Sister Noreen Begley**

Her years of ministry included teaching at Incarnate Word Academy, St. Patrick School, Cathedral School, and Sacred Heart School in Corpus Christi; Incarnate Word Academy and Villa Maria High School in Brownsville; Immaculate Conception School, Goliad; Our Lady of Victory School, Beeville; Immaculate Conception School, Gregory; at Christopher College in Corpus Christi; and at religious education programs in various parishes in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Sister Noreen also worked in the archives of the Diocese of Corpus Christi and supervised the infirmary at Incarnate Word Convent.

Sister had great success in coaching students for the Regional Spelling Bee and sent six students to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. After her retirement from teaching, she was active in the Literacy Program, tutoring many in English as a second language; she also worked on the translation of the works of the foundress of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Adept at needlework, Sister Noreen contributed many items to the Sisters' Arts and Crafts collection and taught a needlecraft elective class at Incarnate Word Middle School. She participated in the activities of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Corpus Christi. Sister Noreen always showed great interest in the life and activities of her religious community, as well as in the community at large.

Sister Noreen is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, including Sister Mary Camelia Herlihy, Sister Margaret Patrice Bradley, Sister Christina Bradley and Sister Marian Bradley of Corpus Christi.

Reception of the body and Evening Prayer, followed by visitation, was held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at Incarnate Word Convent and the Mass of Resurrection at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2010. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery in Corpus Christi.

Sister William Francis Garcia, 91, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, died peacefully at Incarnate Word Convent on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Her jubilee of 60 years of religious profession was set for 2011 with Sister Martha O'Gara and Sister Beatrice Cruz.

Sister William Francis, born Maria Teresa Garcia on October 16, 1919, in Harlingen, Texas, was the daughter of Cecilio Garcia and Silvina Vela Garcia. She spent her early years in Harlingen, where she was very active at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, serving as organist for many years. Entering Incarnate Word Convent, Corpus Christi, on December 8, 1949, Sister made her first profession of vows July 31, 1951, and professed perpetual vows July 31.



**Sr. William Francis with Frances Russek**

Her many years of ministry included teaching at Incarnate Word Academy, Corpus Christi Cathedral School, and St. Patrick School, Corpus Christi. An accomplished musician, Sister was organist at Incarnate Word Convent for years; she also taught organ lessons. Recognized for her competence, professionalism, dedication and selfless giving, Sister William Francis was named Catholic School Teacher of the Year at the annual Diocesan Educators' Conference in 1990.

After her retirement in the spring of 2001, Sister continued to instruct and to guide, tutoring elementary students on the Incarnate Word campus and adults who wished to learn the English language. Sisters and priests who were new to the Diocese and needed tutoring in English found her to be dedicated and thorough in her teaching.

Sister William Francis was faithful in supporting the IWA Missions group. In March, 2010, at the Mission Team's fund-raising concert, Sister William Francis was honored for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a named scholarship presented by Mayor Joe Adame, her former student. Sister Anna Marie Espinosa, IWA president, described the event:



**Sr. William Francis Garcia**

*Tonight we have a special presentation to make to a person who has been a significant part of the IWA community for many years. Her contributions as master teacher and musician have affected the lives of hundreds of students as she motivated them to read, to sing and to learn new things by her creative teaching. In recognition of her 90th birthday and in appreciation for her devotion to her students, a scholarship in her honor has been initiated by the IWA community.*

Visitation for the public was held at Incarnate Word Convent on Sunday, December 19. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on December 20, 2010, at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery.

# Incarinate Word Feastday Celebrates 140 Years in City,

Jesus communicated to Jeanne Chezard de Matel in prayer: "Thank me for what I have been pleased to do from all eternity in choosing you to give birth in the Church to an Order that is an extension of My Incarnation. Through you, I am once more introduced into the world..." (Complete Works 1)

The March 25th celebration of the Incarnation of the second person of the Trinity, God the Son, was a resounding "Thank you" to the Incarnate Word from the Sisters, the Incarnate Word Academy family, and Bishop Michael Mulvey and the Diocese of Corpus Christi, for the 140 years of the congregation and school in the city of Corpus Christi.

On March 2, 1871, the Incarnate Word Sisters arrived to establish a convent and school. Mother Ignatius McKeon of Brownsville, Sister Mary of the Cross Murray of Victoria, and Sister Mary Stanislaus of Lyons, France, became the third foundation in Texas, since the first Incarnate Word Sisters came to Brownsville, Texas, in 1853. Just two weeks after their arrival in the city, Incarnate Word Academy opened.

On March 2, 2011, the Sisters were honored with a festive meal commemorating the 140th anniversary of arrival, and the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence, with the eyes of the Incarnate Word and the eyes of Texas upon the Sisters gathered at the Motherhouse. The delicious meal was a gift of Joe and Margot Coco, who had bid for a meal for the Sisters at the 2010 IWA Gala Auction. Coordinating the meal with Hester's catering were Auction Committee members Stephanie Bottom and Monica Ellison, and Courtney McLain, Gala Coordinator, provided the wine. Music during the meal was performed by Mike Perez from Latin Talk. Sister Dorothy Anhauser and Lena Helle decorated tables with Texas flags, bluebonnets, and the Incarnate Word emblem and placemats, and Sister Patrice Floyd prepared the anniversary banner.

Sister Brenda Thompson, archivist, displayed an exhibit of the 140 years in Corpus Christi. Her display boards and scrapbooks were changed out periodically during the month of March. Sisters, priests, and IWA classes enjoyed the timeline and captured memories in pictures and in power point presentations on the convent shared drive.



IWA Missions Team reports and Student Council makes presentation of Spiritual Bouquet Box to Sisters at the luncheon March 25.



Mr. Adolfo Garza, Middle Level Principal visits with his aunt, Sister Mary Stella Barrientes. (Rt.) Sisters Marian Bradley, and Catherine Brehony visit Monsignor Seamus McGowan.



Sisters and guests gather in the dining room for lunch after the Mass for the feastday.



Bishop Mulvey discovered St. Edward's alums Janice and Fred Johnson and autographed his picture in the St. Edwards's yearbook they brought to show him.



Sister Agnes Marie Tengler greets Monsignor Rory Deane in the dining room, Slides of Sisters, priests, and Bishops of the Diocese were projected on the wall during lunch.



Photos for 140th Anniversary by Lori Cruz



Sisters Barbara Marie Netek, Rosa Ortiz, Jude Janecek, and Annette Wagner wait for Mass to begin in the gym. After Mass, Sister Marian Bradley poses with students she taught in Montessori before her retirement in May, 2010.



# Bishop Michael Mulvey's First Anniversary in Diocese

Bishop Michael Mulvey celebrated his first anniversary of Episcopal ordination and installation as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, 2011, with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the IWA Mother Patricia Gunning Gymnasium.

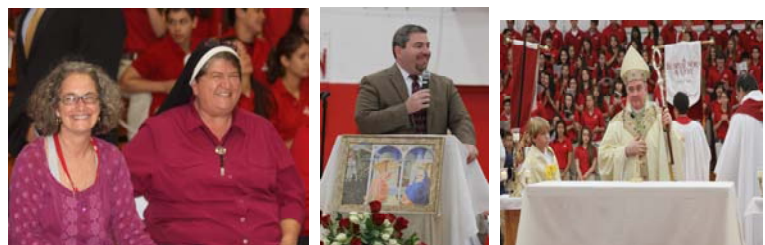
Students, faculty, administration and staff, and Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament joined Bishop Mulvey, Monsignor Louis Kihneman, Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas Feeney, chaplain to the Sisters, Fr. Joseph Lopez, chancellor, Fr. James Stembler, Vocation Director, and Fr. Pete Elizardo, master of ceremonies, in honoring Jesus, the Incarnate Word, and Mary, who gave her consent to being Mother of God's Son.

During the Mass, Sisters renewed their vows before the assembly, and Bishop Mulvey thanked them for their witness to the Church and service to the people of South Texas. IWA President, Charles Imbergamo, spoke in tribute to the Sisters, and students presented roses to the Sisters for their dedication and service. He also gave tribute to the Bishop on his anniversary, and gave him a ceramic tile cross depicting the Good Shepherd as a gift from Incarnate Word Academy.

After the Mass, the concelebrants, administration, other priests, and Sisters gathered in the Motherhouse dining room for a meal and program. Jody Kirshner, Associate's Co-Director, and Associates Dolores Vessely, Debbie Tamez, and Helene Gibson served the guests.

Sister Michelle Marie Kuntscher welcomed the group, presented the Bishop with an anniversary gift of a banner of the Incarnate Word and the book, *Petra's Legacy*. During the meal, guests enjoyed a slide show, prepared by Sister Raquel Newman, of pictures through the years, and pictures of the Bishop's ordination and installation at Corpus Christi Cathedral on March 25, 2010.

Sister Rosa Ortiz and members of the IWA Missions Team spoke of their mission week in New Orleans, helping the people of the Ninth Ward improve their homes and property. Student Council members from the high school presented a Spiritual Bouquet Box for the Sisters, containing prayers in gratitude for the service of the Sisters from individual students.



Above: Sr. Nary Ann Korczynski, Fr. Joseph Lopez, Msgr. Louis Kihneman, and IWA President Charles Imbergamo wait to accompany Bishop Mulvey to the luncheon.

Right: Scenes from the Mass show Sisters celebrating the Feastday of the Incarnate Word with Bishop Mulvey, priests, and school administration, faculty and students of IWA.

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