



# THE WORD LIVES

November 2017

## Reflection from Sister Annette

What kind of God do you believe in? The answer to that question will determine how much real joy I have in my life. As God explained to Mother de Matel and me: *You possess joy in the center of your soul, and your heart is the dwelling-place of the God who loves you.*

The God who loves me . . . not the God who waits for me to measure up. Not the God who needs to be placated or paid back. Rather the God who—as human—would rather die than hurt or frighten into submission.

Not a God who doesn't seem to know what's going on or is at a loss for what to do. Not a God who won't be able to accomplish His will without me. Rather the God who is in charge and can clean up after any mess . . . "whose ways are not my ways . . ."

As one loved into existence, one graced with the presence of this God/Love within me, as one who understands that we are all middle management, I am invited to a deep and lasting joy. A joy that no present suffering or worry about the future can take away.

Yes! Belief and trust in the total, effective love and care of God for me and all creation will only and always nurture a deathless joy that may be muted but never totally defeated.



**Sister Colette Brehony** and **Sister Anna Marie Espinosa** participated in the HIP (Homeless Issues Partnership) Annual Resource Fair which took place at the Mother Theresa Shelter on October 20, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Approximately, twenty agencies who serve the homeless had a booth at the fair. Many people took advantage of the services offered.

HOMELESS ISSUES PARTNERSHIP, INC. (HIP) is a non-profit organization and is Corpus Christi's Homeless Coalition which meets on a monthly basis to discuss homeless issues in the area, services offered by agencies, barriers which are faced, and works towards solutions which can be achieved.

The Homeless Issues Partnership is a regional coalition of agencies, individuals, and businesses addressing and resolving issues related to homelessness in the Coastal Bend through actions, resources, and education.

The Sisters were invited to attend the Annual Resource Fair through our involvement with the monthly breakfast serving for the homeless at Catholic Worker House.



Incarnate Word Academy began their accreditation visit on Sunday, October 22, with a supper for the accreditation team, faculty and staff, and guests. **Sisters Annette Wagner, Sister Colette Brehony, Sister Barbara Netek, and Sister Vianney Uyeno** joined **Sister Irma Gonzalez** and **Sister Theresa Nguyen** for the evening supper and presentations. Sister Annette reminded the group of the Sisters' commitment to Catholic education as evidenced by our presence in Brownsville since 1853 when the first American foundation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word was made there. The committee gave great accolades to the staff and administrators especially in the areas of Catholic identity, handbooks, ESL, fundraising, and team work.

Contributions for The Word Lives may be sent to Sister Rose Miriam at [SecretaryGeneral@iwbscc.org](mailto:SecretaryGeneral@iwbscc.org) by the 20th of each month.



**Srs. Anne Brigid Schlegel and Brenda Thompson** attended the Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers on Monday, October 2, 2017, at Emerald Beach Hotel. The purpose of the event was the education and networking of volunteers to enhance the delivery of healthcare services. Fourteen hospitals were represented. The keynote speaker was Sue Fiedler, Trainer and Motivational Speaker. The theme of the event was "Be the Sunshine on Someone's Cloudy Day." It is a reminder that we need to always greet people with a smile, because we don't know what kind of dark cloud is hanging over them on any day.

Our Social Justice Committee presented a short video entitled: *Catholicism and the Reformation* by Bishop Robert Barron. Following the video, Sisters shared in groups about this year's 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, noting how Lutherans and Catholics today enjoy a growth in mutual understanding, cooperation, and

### CCVI SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston, closed their Sesquicentennial Year with a Mass in their Chapel at Villa de Matel. Most Rev. Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States presided. Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop Emeritus Fiorenza, and Bishops Mulvey and Tamayo were among the concelebrants. **Sisters Annette Wagner and Colette Brehony** attended the closing celebration.

This year, in response to the call of their Founder, Bishop Claude Dubuis, the Sisters pursued additional outreach efforts for refugees, migrants, immigrants, the homeless, the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, and other natural disasters in the world.



*Blessing, light and **thanksgiving**  
be to your Divine Majesty.*

Jeanne Chézard de Matel  
OG, o1, Ch. 37, p. 116

### PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER

You sanctify whatever you are grateful for. -Anthony de Mello

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything God has given us. -Thomas Merton

We must not forget the grave social consequences of climate change. It is the poorest who suffer the most. -Pope Francis

I hope you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you— maybe even worth dying for, something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead. -Ita Ford, MM

There is no such thing as being non-political. Jesus, the one Christians claim to follow, was radically political -Richard Rohr

Love knows no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to reach its destination full of hope. -Maya Angelou

This dramatic situation affects all of us and we must commit ourselves to globalize solidarity recognizing, respecting and defending the life dignity and rights of every person independent of their migratory condition. -Catholic Bishops Conference

**November 4:** Leadership Team Meeting

**November 5:** Commissioning of De Matels at 3:00 p.m. in Motherhouse chapel

**November 13:** Taize prayer with the De Matels at 7:00 p.m. in Motherhouse chapel

**November 20:** CC Associates meeting

**December 2:** Leadership Team Meeting

**March 17:** General Assembly

**April 14:** Jubilee Celebration

### Executions in Texas

**Wednesday, November 8**  
Ruben Cardenas

You are invited to join the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, 5201 Lipps Blvd on **Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM** to pray for **Ruben Cardenas** who is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas. We also pray for the victims and the family members of the victims.