



THE WORD LIVES

2020 MARCH

SR. ANNETTE'S REFLECTION

With two statements Mother de Matel fully captures the essence and meaning of the Annunciation, often referred to as the Incarnation.

Through weakness, God manifests his strength. This challenge to human competency, strength and control lies in the willingness to leave room for God's power—equated in Scripture with the Holy Spirit. Recognized as blessings, talents can mistakenly be relied on to the exclusion of trust in God's providence. Countless stories in Scripture and in the lives around us affirm that only when we open ourselves to the Power beyond our human selves can God show us Unconditional-Love-in-action.

Had Mary not spoken, the Word would not have become incarnate. What an affirmation of the first statement! God awaits the decision of a peasant girl in an insignificant, village. This "nobody" must agree to open herself unconditionally to the divine will before Unconditional Love can become one with the beloved.

Here is our lesson for life. First, an annunciation—invitation from within life's realities to welcome divine action into our life situation. Second, an incarnation—a divine presence that is a saving action within the human condition.

As we celebrate this great Mystery of Unconditional Love, let us hear the challenge: Can we recognize our "annunciations"? If so, can we echo Mary's "Let it be done according to your will"?



2019—2020 PRE-CHAPTER MEETING

Living Our New Moment: *Unity Justice Healing and Hope!*



The Chapter 2019-2020 Chapter Delegates met February 21-23 to continue preparations for the Chapter of Affairs scheduled for June 22-29.

Sr. Anne Munley, IHM, guided the Sisters in exploring the theme of new wine and new wineskins. What is the new wine? What are the new wineskins where is the Spirit calling us at this time of rapid change?

On Saturday the Sisters' table groups brainstormed on topics that would set the context for the Chapter of Affairs. After group reflection and reporting, the Planning Committee summarized the topics into four groups: immigration, youth (hunger, homelessness, trafficking), ecology, ongoing formation (transcultural considerations). Each Sister chose a group to which she wants to commit herself for visioning and action. The groups met, dialogued and reported on possible resources, research and a future meeting date.

The next pre-Chapter meeting is set for April 24—26.

The Chapter logo above reflects the theme of the Chapter in response to the question, "What is God calling us to together in this time of rapid change?"

Sr. Anne Munley orients the Sisters on the Essential Dimensions of Religious Life Leadership.



L-R: **Srs. Dorothy Anhaizer, Maria Elizabeth Brehony, Mary Anne Pagano** (in the middle), **Patrice Floyd and Martha O'Gara** admire the quilt which Sr. Mary Anne completed of all the States in the U.S. Each is done in counted cross stitch. This was a 20-year project for her. So there was much rejoicing when she finally was able to display it. She plans to donate the quilt to the IWA Gala for its silent auction.



WEAVING CULTURES



R-L: Srs. Marilyn Grace Springs, Theresa Nguyen, Rosa Ortiz and Agueda Oviedo at the Weaving Cultures Workshop

The Sisters above participated in the third Weaving Cultures workshop February 4 - 6 in San Antonio. Dr. Arturo Chavez, the Presenter, spoke on the countries of origin of newer entrants in consecrated life and the locations of perpetually professed members. Other Presenters were Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI and Sr. Deborah Marie, SSCM.



On Tuesday, February 11, **Sister Brenda Thompson** was awarded the 10,000 hour service pin from the administrators of Christus Spohn South. The pin is in recognition of her devoted service to patients and visitors at the hospital.

2020

- March 1:** Associates Lenten Retreat
- April 24-26:** Pre-Chapter Meeting
- June 13:** Leadership Installation
- June 14-21:** Chapter Retreat

ELAN MEMORY CARE UNIT

Sr. Anne Brigid Schlegel answered a request from our Elan Assisted Living neighbors to visit and share Scripture. She goes once a week and has lunch with the residents.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER

Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection.

-Pope Francis, *Gaudate et Exultate*

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CMEP's Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, says, "If the United States truly wants to be a constructive broker of peace, government officials must stop making unilateral decisions in favor of Israel while relegating the Palestinians to an afterthought.

-Churches for Middle East Peace

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We must fix our eyes on the future, on forging new relationships of love that include the earth, all peoples, all religions, all planets and all galaxies.

—Ilia Delio

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A country's regulation of borders and control of immigration must be governed by concern for all people and by mercy and justice. A nation may not simply decide that it wants to provide for its own people and no others. A sincere commitment to the needs of all must prevail.

-Fr. Thomas Betz, OFC

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Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's needs but not everyone's greed.

—Gandhi

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**2020 Scheduled Texas Executions
Prayer vigil gathering**

- Monday: January 13
Travis Rannels
- Wednesday: January 15
John Gardner
- Thursday: February 6
Abel Ochoa
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- Wednesday: March 11
Carlos Trevino
- Wednesday: March 18
John Hummel
- Wednesday: March 25
Tracy Beatty
- Wednesday: April 29
Billy Wardlo
- Wednesday: May 13
Randal Mays

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipas Blvd., at 6:00 p.m. on days when prisoners are scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas, and for the victims and the family members of the victims.