



THE WORD LIVES

2020 November

SR. ANNETTE'S REFLECTION

God's gifts are unreservedly and freely given.

This statement summarizes Mother Jeanne Chézard de Matel's attitude toward all she experienced in her life. For one who has read her biography and the annals of the houses she founded, this declaration may be surprising. These documents record the many conditions, challenges, persecutions and other difficulties she encountered in decades of struggle to offer her Beloved five foundations in honor of His five wounds.

Having also received encouragement, support and endorsement from many, she was able to advise her Sisters:

Place all your hope in God alone, but do not neglect secondary causes. Look at God, however, as the primary Mover, as the Center and End of all our plans so that He may be our love and our all.

Such an assertion came from her intense awareness of the divine Presence in every event that befell her. Totally convinced of God's care for her and the loving relationship that was the bedrock of her life, she was able to counsel:

I beg of you, look back over the various events of your life: how frequent have not been the proofs of an ever watchful and loving Providence?

As we prepare to observe our national celebration of Thanksgiving, are we able to name the proofs of God's care for us this past year? Can we affirm God as "the Center and End of all our plans"?



PRAYER NETWORK FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION DAY

Facilitated by the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a national prayer network has been formed by congregations of religious women and has blossomed into an international effort. The purpose is to pray specifically for peace in our country, for the safety of all poll workers and those who are voting. On November 3, around the nation, and around the globe (as near as Canada and distant as Mozambique), over one hundred individual congregations have committed themselves to a specific hour of prayer, continual vigil of prayer, or liturgies dedicated to these intentions.

We Incarnate Word Sisters have designated 3:00 to 4:00 PM as our focused prayer time and invited our Associates to join us. Those whose schedules are already full are invited to select their own time to pray. In fact, all who read this newsletter are invited to join in this chorus of intercession for peace and for the safety of those involved in this important responsibility of United States citizenship.

Loving Creator and Source of all Good, you constantly call us to fullness of life.

Life that you share with us,

Life that we share with each other.

We rejoice that you are with us during this difficult time in the history of all humanity and this challenging time for citizens of the United States.

During our election and transition experience, pour down upon us even more lavishly your Gift of the Spirit of Peace.

Help all of us to welcome the Holy Spirit's offering of wisdom and patience, of self-control and respect, of reverence for one another—even those with whom we disagree

Help us all to live our commitment to contribute to the common good, to build that more perfect union that was our Founders' inspiration and is our hearts' desire.

This we ask as your beloved children and through your Incarnate Word of Love and Reconciliation. Amen.



MINISTRIES
CORNER



Srs. Irma Gonzalez and Vianney Uyeno joined students and staff at Guadalupe Regional Middle School in Brownsville in a prayer and blessing for their first day on campus.

Living Our New Moment:
Unity Justice Healing and Hope!



Srs. Annette Wagner and Anna Marie Espinosa attended the virtual LCWR Region 12 meeting Oct. 27-28. A large portion of the discussion centered on the National LCWR's Resolution—which names areas of concern now being addressed by our newly formed Action Groups.

Energy is beginning to build around the Action Groups now formed from Chapter's previous Focus Groups.

The following four groups are working on their structure, goals for the year and strategy for inviting others to join the Sisters in our efforts:

Care of Creation, Human Trafficking, Immigration, Interculturality.

The members are taking steps for further formation among themselves through webinars and consultation as they prepare their plans.

Pope Francis' recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, expresses concerns addressed by our Action Groups. We offer this one thought from his message that offers a basic motivation for our efforts to come.

It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. (#8)



**2020
Dates to Remember**

November 3: Hour of Prayer for Peace, 3:00—4:00 p.m.

Leadership Team meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month.

SPECIAL INVITATION

Members of the Immigration Action Group plan to watch a webinar on racism, sponsored by the Catholic Theological Union. It will air on three Mondays, December 9, 16, and 23 7:00-8:30 p.m. An invitation to view the webinar will be sent to our local communities and posted on our website (iwbscc.org) for anyone interested in participating.

Press 53 Interview

December 10, 2020, Tom Lombardo, poetry editor for Press 53, will interview **Sr. Lou Ella Hickman** via ZOOM. The interview will begin at 6:30 PM and last an hour and a half. They will discuss her poetry, with a special focus on her book **she: robed and wordless**. If you are interested, please send Sister your email address for an invitation. The other person who will have access to this address will be Tom as he will be sending out the invitations. Sister's email address is

slehickman@iwbscc.org.

**2021 Scheduled Texas Executions
Prayer vigil gathering**

Thursday: January 21, 2021
Blaine Milam

Thursday: March 4, 2021
Ramiro Ibarra

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.



PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER
Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*,
October 3, 2020

...only when our economic and social system no longer produces even a single victim, a single person cast aside, will we be able to celebrate the feast of universal fraternity. #110

For a real and lasting peace will only be possible "on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family". #127

It is therefore crucial to establish in our societies the concept of *full citizenship* and to reject the discriminatory use of the term *minorities*, which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority. #131

...world politics needs to make the effective elimination of hunger one of its foremost and imperative goals. #189

Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other's point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns. #203

War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil. #261

Today we state clearly that "the death penalty is inadmissible" and the Church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide. #261

