



# THE WORD LIVES

2020 August

## SR. ANNETTE'S REFLECTION

Several decades ago our congregation invited a speaker to assist us in plumbing the richness of our Incarnational spirituality. After reading documents central to our heritage, this Dominican Sister began her first presentation with these words: "I believe your charism is *intimacy with the Incarnate Word.*"

Her statement has echoed through my life journey. During a recent review of brief statements culled from our Foundress' writings, I learned to put aside the somewhat romantic and flowery style of the seventeenth century and retrieve timeless treasure present in her words. For the charism offered to our Foundress is the invitation/charism offered to us.

Mother de Matel describes this invitation in the words she attributes to the Incarnate Word.

*Does your heart belong entirely to Me, as Mine is wholly yours? +++ See I have waited much longer for you than you have for Me. +++ Be at peace now, and listen to Me . . . when you are at peace, you know very well that your heart belongs to Me. +++ Deepen your hope, spare nothing, always keep a great heart, trust Me.*

Her experience of this charism, is evident in her words addressed to the Incarnate Word.

*You told me that Your Love impels You to reveal Yourself. +++ Your love for me showed that Your bounty has no other motive . . . You wanted to give Yourself to me. +++ It is Your Heart that gives life to mine, for this life of Your Heart within me is my only life.*

Do we hear this same invitation/charism echoed in our hearts, the center of our twenty-first century being? And what part of her response can we—do we—echo in the vocabulary of 2020?

*O my Love, I want You to be engraved on my heart. +++ I loved only You in every-thing and everything in You. +++ . . . it is Your heart that beats in my breast. I have no other heart but Yours. In You, I want to love all those whom You want me to love. +++ Created for You my heart cannot find perfect rest unless it is blissfully immersed in You.*

As we celebrate gratefully the gift of her life to the world on the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, may we—her spiritual children—live fully the richness that is our legacy. In fact, may all who have received the vocation to love through their Baptism respond with enthusiasm and joy.

## AN HISTORIC EVENT



On Saturday, August 15, feast of the Assumption of Mary, a dream of Jeanne Chézard de Matel, Foundress of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, became a reality. The event was the first profession of religious vows of Brother Francisco Israel Ybarra Añorve, the first member of the Society of the Incarnate Word, the male branch of the Order. Many of us were privileged to "be present" via ZOOM as the Sisters in Tlalpan celebrated with Eucharist, music, and ritual.

Jeanne Chézard de Matel wrote the Statutes of the Confraternity of the Incarnate Word which was officially established on April 25, 1669. The first Article of the Statues is as follows:

*Art. 1. The end of this Confraternity is to meet the zeal of some people of either sex who wish to give special recognition to the Most August Person of the Incarnate Word, our Redeemer and our All, and who wish to consecrate themselves to Him by a special dedication. They have learned that there is a particular Order instituted to contribute, in accord with its limitations, to the glory of the Holy Name of Jesus Christ and the mysteries He accomplished for our Redemption, and to recognize the special love which causes Him to live among us in the Most holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, and they make the solemn vows of religious life. According to their condition and state in life, they wish to consecrate and dedicate themselves by special worship and love to testify that they wish to belong to Him. They invest themselves with this livery in imitation of the religious Order which is specially consecrated to Him, and they wear the little habit of the said Order which consists of an embroidered Name of Jesus and a crown of thorns, and the names of Mary and of Joseph on the reverse side so that the love of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph will be forever imprinted on*



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF THE EARTH

In 2015 Pope Francis named September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of the Earth. It is a time for contemplation and reflection that ushers in the entire Season of Creation that begins September 1st and concludes October 4th on the Feast Day of St. Francis.



*O Lord, our Lord,*

*how glorious is your name over all the earth (Ps 8:1)!*



**Sr. Anna Marie Espinosa** completed her six year term on the NRVC (National Religious Vocation Conference) Board. She, and the two other Board members who concluded their terms, were given a beautiful plaque of appreciation. "I am so blessed to have met and worked with many deeply committed men and women in religious life for the advancement of the vision of the NRVC. "NRVC brings joy and vitality to its members as they strive to grow professionally and spiritually in their vocation ministry."

**Srs. Annette Wagner, Rosa Ortiz, Anna Marie Espinosa** participated in the first virtual National Assembly of LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious). On August 12-14, approximately, 900 participants from across the United States and at least 13 other countries gathered virtually in a three-day meeting.

Centered on the topic of "God's Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond," the participants explored the impact of COVID-19 and new understandings of racism on the mission and lives of Catholic Sisters. Recognizing that the world has been irrevocably changed through the experiences of recent months, the Assembly provided an opportunity for LCWR members to explore how they may individually and collectively respond to the needs of these times. Through presentations, prayer, and small group conversations, the members shared insights on how to lead in such an uncertain time and how they might learn from and support one another as leaders.



**2020**  
Dates to Remember:  
Leadership Team meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month.  
**September 11:** Venerable Jeanne Chézard de Matel's 350th anniversary of death

*Sometimes the smallest things*



*take up the most room  
in your heart.*

**2020 Scheduled Texas Executions  
Prayer vigil gathering**

Monday: January 13  
**Travis Runnels**

Wednesday: January 15  
**John Gardner**

Thursday: February 6  
**Abel Ochoa**

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**

+ + + + +

Wednesday: September 9  
**John Ramirez**

Wednesday: September 30  
**Carlos Trevino**

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 Lipps Blvd., at 6:00 p.m. on days when prisoners are scheduled to be executed by the State of



**PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER**

The blessing of COVID-19 may be that it allows us to see beyond our own wants and needs to those of others less fortunate.

-Sean Callahan

+

We are called by our faith to bring Gospel values to our political system, by participating as voters and by encouraging others to do the same.

Christopher Kerr, executive director of the Ignatian Solidarity Network.

+

Estimates indicate that there are at least 40 million victims of human trafficking globally.

-Jeanne Christensen, RSM  
Justice Advocate

+

A good Catholic meddles in politics.

-Pope Francis

+

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war.

-John Lewis

+

Experts warn that the danger of nuclear annihilation is greater than ever, citing the dismantling of the global arms control regime, as world leaders walk away from agreements and multilateral structures which reduce the nuclear threat with no plans for how to replace them.

-Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

+

The Vatican's peace and justice office is inviting Catholic communities across the world to join a grassroots movement to gradually work toward "total sustainability" in the coming decade, a path that would