



# THE WORD LIVES

February 2019

## Reflection

*It is beneficial to state that this Congregation is a spiritual center for the Church.*

These words of our Mother Foundress are both comforting and challenging. Comforting in naming our place in the universal faith community we serve. Challenging in clarifying the importance of the service we offer by our existence.

Her vision of the Incarnate Word Family is becoming a reality as a microcosm of the Church. First lived by consecrated women, it is expanding into other “states of life,” other ages and patterns of living discipleship: Incarnate Word Associates, men and women living the Incarnate Word spirituality as married or single; young people similarly nurtured as “De Matels” in Corpus Christi and the “ASVEs” in Mexico. Presently the missing member is developing as the Society of the Incarnate Word for priests in Mexico and Kenya.

With these “new” members of our family and with our efforts to reunite all Incarnate Word Congregations into the original Order of Jeanne de Matel’s vision, how can we stay firmly united in one community? Mother de Matel has the answer:

*Physical separation and geographic space do not separate nor distance spirits united by holy love.*



Sr. Cynthia Mello, Superintendent, Bishop Mario Aviles, Sr. Irma Gonzalez, Michael Camarillo, IWA Principal

## SISTER IRMA GONZALEZ IS HONORED

The 22nd Annual Spirit Awards were held at Our Lady of Sorrows School in McAllen. Honorees from each of the 12 Catholic Schools were recognized. **Sr. Irma Gonzalez**, former IWA-VMLI Director, was among the honorees.

The event raises funds for the diocesan tuition assistance program.

The event kicks off the annual observance of Catholic Schools Week which runs from January 27 to February 2. The 2019 theme selected by the National Catholic Educational Association is “Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead.”



**Sisters Rosa Ortiz, Agueda Oviedo, and Maria Elizabeth Brehony** joined the Incarnate Word High School Angels for Life Club members at the State Capitol in Austin for the Texas Rally for Life, January 25<sup>th</sup>!

## SOUTHWEST LITURGICAL CONFERENCE 2019



**Srs. Jo Ann Saenz, Judith Marie Saenz, Mary Anne Pagano and Rose Miriam Gansle** attended the Southwest Liturgical Conference January 23—26. The theme was *Encountering the Sacred Beauty and the Liturgy*. Topics included art, sculpture, architecture, music, environment, and symbols. Sixty-nine Dioceses were represented.

Perhaps the message of the week can be summed up in some statements by the presenters:

- “Liturgy is encounter with Christ.”
- “Beauty makes manifest what is true and good.”
- “Beauty is that which draws us to God, to the transcendent.”
- “The beauty of God is made manifest in the Incarnate Word.”
- “The liturgy is the outpouring of the Spirit.”



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.



**MLK COMMEMORATIVE MARCH**

**Sr. Marilyn Grace Springs** participated in the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March on January 21. The march began at the Nueces County Courthouse and ended at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Sr. Marilyn gave a presentation at the church on "Life, Liberty, and Justice" in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.

**EMPLOYEE INSERVICE**

On Wednesday, January 16, **Sr. Martha O'Gara** gave an Inservice for the employees of Incarnate Word Convent, Corpus Christi. She gave a brief account of the almost 400 years of history of the Incarnate Word Order beginning with Mother Jeanne Chézard de Matel in France, the coming of the Sisters to Texas in the 1850s, and the movement toward reunification among all the Incarnate Word Sisters in the world. One employee commented: "I never knew all of that about you; I could have listened longer." Even some of the employees who have been with us almost twenty years were intrigued by the new information they received. They were given a copy of the triptych painted by Associate **Diane Peters** and one of the many books written by **Sister Kathleen McDonagh**. Many of the employees knew her and worked with her.

**February 2:** Leadership Meeting

**March 16-17:** Spring Assembly

**April 13-14:** Pre-Chapter Meeting

**June 9-16:** Annual preached retreat

**July 18-20:** Generational gatherings

**MESSAGE FROM**

**FR. FAUSTUS USETE NDENYELE**

I sincerely thank you for your generous support towards the initial foundation of the Society of Incarnate Word (Male Branch).

In December 2018 we had the first seminar of 7 young aspirants who would like to join the Society of the Incarnate Word. It was a very good and an enthusiastic group of young people. Two of them are teachers in primary school. We hope to hold another seminar in April 2019.

I work in collaboration with the Incarnate Word Sisters in Kenya. They are in full support of this project.

Every day I offer a special intention of your congregation and all your apostolates during the Eucharist celebration. May the love of the Incarnate Word continue uniting us in His service.

**PEACE AND JUSTICE CORNER**

Preventing struggling families from accessing essential services because of harmful demands over the border wall is beyond reckless governing; it is simply immoral.

-Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

We have one weapon unimpaired and it is that weapon of speech, and not to use it...is treason to the oppressed.

-Frederick Douglass

"Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization, and even destruction."

-LCWR Global Concerns Committee

Nobody's free until everybody's free.

-Fannie Lou Hamer

I wish we didn't have to own up to a policy deliberately designed to inflict suffering on people who have already been traumatized in the countries from which they've fled.

-Hugh Mackay

If you can live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust.

-Thomas Aquinas

So let's talk about what is working when it comes to race and what isn't. Let's examine why we continue to segregate along racial lines and how we can build inclusive communities. Let's confront today's shameful use of racism as a political strategy and prove we are better than this.

-Susan Goldberg

We must be willing to suffer our own brokenness and hold the brokenness of the world from a place of deep humility and we must do this together if we are to love ourselves and our world into a new way of being.

-Marie McCarthy, SP

Crabby Road 2-15-12



**EXECUTIONS IN TEXAS**

**Thursday, February 28:**

Billie Coble

**Thursday, March 28:**

Patrick Murphy, Jr.

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.