



# THE WORD LIVES

February 2018

## Reflection from Sister Annette

Our Pentecost Novena to the Holy Spirit prays for the fruit of “benignity,” which today is usually called kindness. In her writings Mother de Matel consistently encourages us to be gentle, thoughtful, helpful, selfless. She counsels her Incarnate Word family:

*To gain the inheritance of our King and Heavenly Father, it is imperative to be kind. This is the inheritance He wished for all mortals for whom He offered his life and blood to the last drop.*

Thus our Foundress calls us to a life more concerned about the other than our convenience or comfort.

Perhaps we simply need to be aware of those around us. But what about those outside our own familiar setting? A strong imagination may help us past these boundaries.

However, it usually takes a personal experience before we are moved to help others in situations not present in our own “world.” Even then, when we hear a testimonial or see a report, our reflex may simply be, “I am not as qualified as..... They will do something.” Or “How terrible! I will pray for them.”

Whatever the reasons for distancing ourselves from an active response to suffering or need, surely Mother de Matel would invite us to consider this prayer by St. Thomas More:

*The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labour for. Amen!*



## SISTER ESTHER DUNEGAN HONORED

Along with Msgr. Jerry McGrath, **Sister Esther Dunegan** was honored at the 15th Annual Harvest of Hope, January 23rd in the Diocese of Beaumont. The event benefits the many programs of the Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas - “providing help, promoting hope.”

In 1989 in the Diocese of Brownsville, Sister Esther became one of the first women in the United States to be appointed to the Office of Chancellor. In 1995 she began to serve in that Office in the Diocese of Beaumont.

Since 2002 she has been coordinating the implementation of the U. S. Bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

From January 2006 to the end of August 2017 she served as Associate Director of Diaconate Formation.

She was honored for her distinguished service by Pope Pope Benedict XVI when she received the *Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*.

Sr. Esther stated that “It has been a privilege to serve the Church in the Diocese of Beaumont these past 22 years.” In April this year she will celebrate the 50th anniversary of vows as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



## INCARNATE WORD EMBLEM GIFT

Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent, Corpus Christi, were happily surprised with a Christmas gift of a large wood carving of our Incarnate Word emblem. CNA, Maria Ayala, her husband, Medardo, and family, drew, carved, stained, and painted it. Maria was inspired by a small carving she noticed that several Sisters used for community presentations.

“In August of 2017, I invited my family to work on a special Christmas project for the Sisters,” Maria explained. Maria presented the emblem to **Sister Martha O’Gara**, the Sister-in-Charge of the Motherhouse, on Christmas morning.

The traditional emblem signifies Jesus’ crown of thorns, the cross, and the three nails of the crucifixion. These symbols are placed above the abbreviation for the name of Jesus— IHS—and above a heart enclosing the words, AMOR MEUS, meaning MY LOVE, expressing Jesus’ love for us and our desire to give our lives for Jesus.

This emblem now hangs in the Convent Community Room above the doorway of the Reading Room, a daily reminder for us for Whom we live.

Contributions for The Word Lives may be sent to Sister Rose Miriam at SecretaryGeneral@iwbssc.org by the 20th of each month.

MINISTRIES  
CORNER



32ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING  
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**Sr. Marilyn Springs** was one of the guest speakers for the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Celebration. The opening event took place at the Brooks AME Worship Center in Corpus Christi on Sunday, January 14th. The program included an interfaith Prayer Service with local dignitaries attending.

*...grant that we will always reach out for that which is high, realizing that we are made for the stars, created for the everlasting, born for eternity.*  
-Prayer of Dr. Martin Luther King

GULF COAST FAITH FORMATION  
CONFERENCE

**Sr. Rosa Ortiz** attended the Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference in New Orleans January 11<sup>th</sup>—13<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the Conference was *Focus is Go! Build a Future of Hope*. The gathering offers opportunities for professional and personal formation networking and fellowship for those who minister in parishes, schools and diocesan offices.

PRAYER FOR GOOD HUMOR  
BY ST. THOMAS MORE

Grant me oh Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest. Grant me a healthy body, and the necessary good humor to maintain it. Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place. Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumbles, sighs, and laments, nor excess of stress, because of that obstructing thing called "I." Grant me O Lord, a good sense of humor, Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others.



February 10: Meeting of the Social Justice Committee with Sisters at 12:45 p.m.

February 25: CC Associates Lenten Retreat

March 17—18: Spring General Assembly

April 14— Congregational Jubilee Celebration in CC

April 22-29: Motherhouse Retreat

July 23—28: International Reunion in Tlalpan, Mexico



*It may be winter when luxurious foliage no longer clothes the trees of piety. But the bare branches enable us to see deeper into the woods.* -Elizabeth Johnson

Executions in Texas

**Friday, February 1:**  
John Battaglia

**Thursday, February 22:**  
Thomas Whitaker

You are invited to join in prayer with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, 5201 Lipes 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

Our unhealthy economics and politics persist because even Christians largely operate out of a worldview of scarcity: there is not enough land, water, money, and housing for all of us; and in America there are never enough guns to keep us safe. A saint always knows that *there is more than enough for our need but never enough for our greed.*

Richard Rohr

The more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. If you don't, your power will ruin you, and you will ruin the other.

Pope Francis

"I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth.

Sr. Joan Chittister

Violence brings only temporary victories; violence, by creating many more social problems than it solves, never brings permanent peace."

Martin Luther King

"We have a moral responsibility to care for our neighbors, across the street and across the world," said Patrick Carolan, executive director of Franciscan Action Network. "By eliminating the Clean Power Plan, the administration is showing that they value profits over human beings, many of whom are suffering now from our selfish decisions."

Patrick Carolan, Franciscan Action Network

Give light and the darkness will disappear of itself.

Erasmus