

Vol. I, October 18, 2008

NEWS

from around the world

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD





About this publication:

Welcome to the first edition of our Congregational Newsletter! Read all about our ministries and mission around the world.

“News from around the world” is a bilingual internal document published simultaneously online and in printed form. As an internal publication, its role is to keep all of us connected with our CCVI Sisters around the world.

We invite you to share with your CCVI Sisters stories and news from your ministry, all the stories submitted will be published on the next edition of this newsletter.

Send us news from your ministry using the ‘submit’ form inside the online newsletter, or send us an e-mail to: communications@amormeus.org, let us know if you have photos, who participated on the event, date, etc... We hope you enjoy it!



Read the newsletter on line, go to:

http://www.amormeus.org/webtest/CCVI_10_2008/CCVI_Oct2008.htm

And participate on online the survey!

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We value your participation!

We produce this newsletter from the news submitted by our Sisters.



News from you!

Send us stories or news and photos from your ministry at: communications@amormeus.org



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We produce the newsletter ‘**CCVI News from Around the World**’ to support the new Global reality of the Congregation. Visit us online at:

http://www.amormeus.org/webtest/CCVI_10_2008/CCVI_Oct2008.htm



From the General Leadership Team



**“Our hearts beat with the promise
of our common call,
and once more we confirm
what we prayed together during Chapter:
that we will need each other... we will face
the new way, the new dawn, the next day
and take each next step.”**

E-Letter, October 2008

"God Is Today":



God is today.
He is not yesterday.
He is not tomorrow.

God is the dawn,
wakening earth to life;
the first morning ever,
shining with infinite innocence;
a revelation older than all beginning,
younger than youth.

God is the noon,
blinding the eye of the mind
with the blaze of truth.

God is the sunset,
casting over creation
a color of glory as He withdraws
into mysteries of light.

God is today.
He is not yesterday.
He is not tomorrow.
He never is night.



Around the World in Mission



Submitted by:
Sister Mary Carmel
Smith, CCVI

I.W. Sisters 2008 Reunion

A CD featuring the complete works of spiritual foundress Jeanne de Matel was presented at the 2008 Incarnate Word Sisters Reunion, held July 16-20 in Cleveland, Ohio. The CD is attached.

The 2008 Incarnate Word Sisters reunion was organized by the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) of Texas, Cleveland and Mexico. The Sisters from Lyon, France presented the CD, which contains the complete works of Mother de Matel, presented in French, English and Spanish.

The CD was produced to further the Cause of Mother de Matel's Beatification. Pope John Paul II declared Mother de Matel Venerable in 1992. Her Beatification now awaits authentication of a miracle. The complete works of Mother de Matel spans more than 5,000 pages of writings, including volumes of her own spiritual journey and collections of letters and treatises, including her well-known treatises on the Beatitudes. Content of the CD is drawn from the Historical Archives of the Order of the IWBS in Lyon, and can be especially useful in presenting Incarnate Word Charism to persons interested in our Congregation, its work and our message.

Sisters attending the reunion from our Congregation included Geri Eveler, Jane Farek, Kathleen Flanagan, Marinela Flores, Norma Rosa Garcia, Joan Holden, Elia Rosas, Mary Carmel Smith and Consuelo Urrutia.



Submitted by:
Sister Martha Ann
Kirk, CCVI

Presenting Her Research

Sr. Martha Ann Kirk of the UIW will make a presentation at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. this November on the research she gathered last summer in the Kurdish section of Turkey.

Sr. Martha Ann Kirk's presentation is entitled "Seeds of Peace: Solidarity, Aid and Education Shared by the Gülan Movement in South-eastern Turkey." It is part of a larger program discussing "Islam in the Age of Global Challenges, Alternative Perspectives of the Gülan Movement," scheduled for November 14-15 at Georgetown's Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. The Gülan Movement is based on the peacemaking effort of Fethullah Gülan, a Sunni Muslim leader who teaches understanding, tolerance, dialogue and compassion.

A member of the former U.S. Province Justice and Peace Committee, Sr. Martha Ann Kirk toured eastern Turkey, where much of the country's Kurdish population is concentrated. Many of the Kurds are economically disadvantaged and discontent with Turkish culture. Clashes with the Turkish military have occurred and since 1980 more than 37,000 Kurds have died. The Gülan Movement has responded by providing economic assistance and education, particularly among women, who have a high rate of illiteracy. It has introduced the concept of "sister families," attempting to pair needy families with more prosperous families that can assist them. The Gülan Movement also presents Islam as a religion of compassion and mercy, inviting followers to seek peace through the compassion of Muslim faith.





Weathering the Storms

Submitted by:
CHRISTUS
Associates

The CHRISTUS Family responded to hurricanes Gustav and Ike with perseverance and compassion, taking in patients from other CHRISTUS hospitals that were in the path of the storms.

The rapidly changing nature of both Hurricanes Gustav and Ike called for a nimble response on behalf of the entire CHRISTUS Family, and clearly demonstrated the advantages of being part of a larger health system with a united mission to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ throughout the communities it serves. Preparation for Gustav, which at the last minute veered away from the Texas coast and targeted communities further to the east, helped set the stage for Ike. Like Gustav, Ike proved difficult to predict, forcing the CHRISTUS Family to respond with changing plans before the storm finally slammed into Galveston, Houston and the surrounding communities. Preparation for Ike began seriously on Monday, Sept. 8, when CHRISTUS Spohn Health System in Corpus Christi began discharging patients, thinking their community would bear the brunt of the storm. Patient population was dropped from 700 to 200, with the most critical being transferred to CHRISTUS Santa Rosa in San Antonio. A cadre of nurses, physicians and technician also transferred temporarily to San Antonio. In anticipation of a serious storm surge, preparations were made to evacuate CHRISTUS St. John hospital in Nassau Bay, Texas, with their most critical patients heading for CHRISTUS St. Catherine in Katy, Texas, and the Dubius Hospital in Houston.

On balance, the system performed well and recovery from the storm is nearly complete. Our CHRISTUS Health Associates performed magnificently, working hard and finding creative ways to keep the system providing the healing ministry that is our eternal mission. We can all be proud of the performance of our system and our people during the challenge of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.



Remembering Chaplain

Fr. Philip Lamberty, O.P., retired chaplain of the University of the Incarnate Word, passed away on July 17.

Submitted by:
UIW

Fr. Lamberty passed away just a month after leaving the University. A memorial service for Fr. Laberty was held in Our Lady's Chapel on the first floor of the Administration Building. For additional information contact the Campus Ministry Office at 829-3128.



Community Service Trip

Students are invited to participate in a community service and social justice trip scheduled for Oct. 17 – 19 to Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Submitted by:
Sister Martha Ann
Kirk, CCVI

Entitled "Joining Hands and Hearts Across the Border," the trip is designed to showcase the challenges of globalization, maquiladoras, border realities and Christian Social Teaching. It can be counted for 10 to 20 community service hours. Cost of the trip is \$60, but just \$20 is required to hold a place. Participants must attend a preparation meeting and have the required documents necessary to enter Mexico and return to the U.S. For additional information contact Sr. Martha Ann Kirk at kirk@uiwtx.edu or 829-3854. Food and monetary donations are welcome.



New Hospitality Coordinators

New coordinators have been named for the Hospitality Houses in San Antonio and Canyon Lake, Texas.

Submitted by:
Jane Pehl

Jane Pehl has been named coordinator for the San Antonio Hospitality House at 140 Elizabeth Rd. She can be contacted at jane.pehl@amormeus.org or at (210) 734-8310. Sr. Chris Stavinoha is the new coordinator for the Hospitality House in Canyon Lake. She can be contacted at chris.stavinoha@amormeus.org or at (830) 899-7303.



Destination Peru

Submitted by:
Sister Helena
Monahan, CCVI

A small group of senior administrators and Board members from CHRISTUS Health visited Peru in early September.

1. The names of the people who participated on the team for the CHRISTUS exploration visit to Peru were:

- Peter Maddox, Senior Vice-President
- Sister Helena Monahan, CCVI, CHRISTUS Health Board Member.
- Fernando Ferrera, Foundation "Adelaida Lafón de Muguerra", Monterrey, Mexico.
- Sr. Juanita Albracht, CCVI, Director Hospice "Santiago Apostol", Chimbote, Peru.
- Ms. Julia Hidalgo, Director "Santa Clara" Clinic, Chimbote, Peru.
- Sister Rosaleen Harold, CCVI, General Leadership Team.
- Sister Pilar Neira, CCVI, Administrator for Peru.

At the invitation of the IWBS Sisters in Peru, the delegation visited hospitals and health care professionals in Lima and Chimbote, as well as all of the CCVI missions and ministries and the IW missionaries in Peru. The purpose of the trip was to see how CHRISTUS Health can extend the healing ministry of Jesus into Peru.



Headwaters Plan

The Headwaters Coalition is completing work on the master plan for the Headwaters Sanctuary.

Submitted by:
Lacey Halstead,
Executive Director,
Headwaters
Coalition

The Headwaters Sanctuary is a 53-acre floodplain forest in the heart of San Antonio, adjacent to the University of the Incarnate Word campus. The headwaters of the San Antonio river rise from the Blue Hole, a spring located within the Headwaters Sanctuary forest.



The Congregation established the Headwaters Coalition to protect this urban forest, and to share a message of ecological stewardship beyond our boundaries, raising environmental consciousness and catalyzing ecologically responsible action.

A series of public meetings, culminating in a workshop held September 16 in the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Library on the University campus, have provided a venue to discuss the proposed layout of trails, trail markers and other visitor infrastructure in the sanctuary.

Critical to the planning for the Headwaters Sanctuary is the concept that all creation is sacred and interconnected, relying on an interdependence, not just with our single species but with all the earth. In 2002, the Sisters of Charity committed to “caring for the earth, as we care for each other.” As part of this commitment, the Sisters established the Headwaters Coalition ministry, based in San Antonio and dedicated to caring for the earth and sharing an ecological ethic with others. The Headwaters Sanctuary is an outgrowth of that commitment.

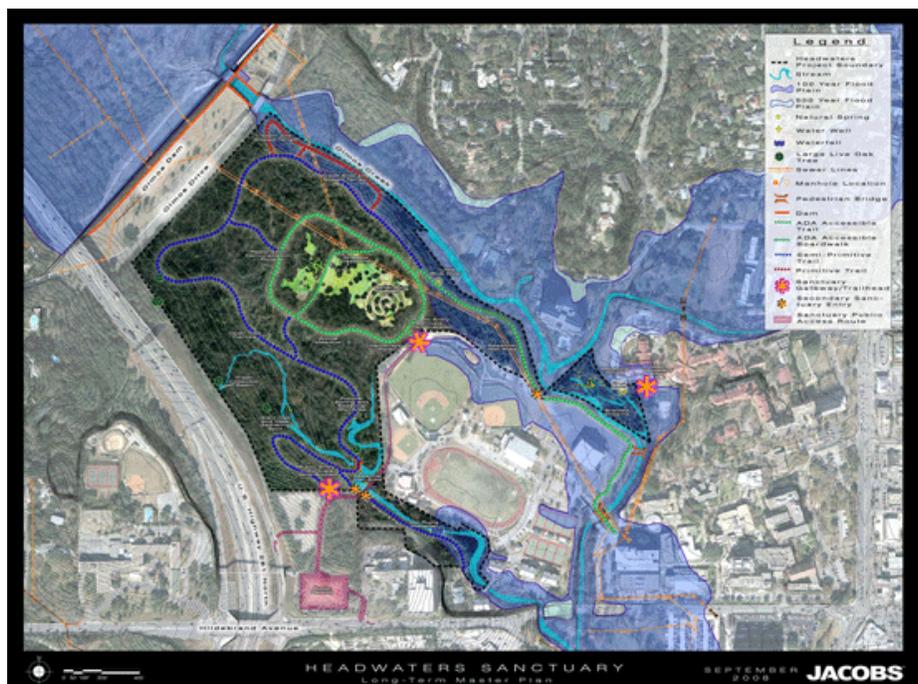


During its first year the Coalition has created a master plan for the sanctuary, mobilized volunteers to restore habitat, and engaged university students in research and data collection. Future plans include creation of walking trails and meditation spots, additional educational programs and restoration work, and the protection and exhibition of cultural artifacts from the sanctuary in the Congregation’s Heritage Museum in San Antonio. For more information and updates on the latest projects, please visit the Coalition’s web site:

www.headwaterscoalition.org

The four primary initiatives of the Coalition are to:

- Create a nature sanctuary used for education and spiritual reflection
- Restore and maintain the health of the land
- Facilitate sanctuary-based programs that promote an ecological ethic
- Reach beyond our boundaries as a catalyst for environmental responsibility





Sending Ceremony for the Incarnate Word Missionaries

Submitted by:
Tere Manon,
Director
Incarnate Word
Missionaries

The IWM celebrated a sending Mass and reception on Aug 22 to bless 12 new people who have volunteered to work for a year or two with the needy in Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Zambia and the U.S.



During the liturgy each IWM was assigned a Sister to serve as their spiritual Companion throughout his/her two-year mission.

Prior to departing on their mission, the new Incarnate Word Missionaries (IWMs) received an extensive orientation, presented by a team of sisters and UIW professors. Topics included The History of the Congregation, CCVI Spirituality and Charism, Contact with God, Contact with others, Contact with oneself, Misiology, Christology, Eccelsiology, Representing the Church, Catholic Social Teaching, Cross-Cultural Issues, Latin American Reality, Cultural Reciprocity, Social Analysis and Critical Thinking, Violence in Mission, Sexuality and Intimacy, Keeping Healthy in Mission, Missionary Community and Conflict Resolution.

At the close of the mass, each IWM pronounced the mission statement of the Incarnate Word Missionaries to state his/her recognition and acceptance as members of the Congregation.

The new IWMs also participated in a retreat, including a Missionary Mass at San Fernando Cathedral and a Mass for the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in the chapel of the Retirement Villa, "The Village." The Sisters of the Congregation also organized a series of social activities for the missionaries. The conclusion of these activities was marked by the Sending Ceremony, celebrated by the Rev. Donald S. Nesti, CSSp, in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word

Sr. Yolanda Tarango, General Coordinator of Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word recognized and accepted the IWMs in the name of the Sisters.

The 12 new IWMs and their mission locations are: Clare Murphy, San Antonio; Mary Murphy, San Antonio; Miriam Bannon, South Bend, IN; Carolyn Polinsky, Mexico; Jackie DeFilippis, Mexico; Jessica Evers, Mexico; David Deegan, Guatemala; Nicole McArdle, Guatemala; Todd Schmidt, Peru; Courtney Cranston, Peru; Jane Silcock, Peru, and Julie Ramaley, Peru.





Submitted by:
Sister Dorothy
Ettling, CCVI, WGC

Out of Africa

The second Cross Cultural Forum for Professional Development was held Sept. 27 to discuss participation and cross-cultural experiences in the Reach-Out Africa in-service and research program.



The educational forum was held in the ICC Conference Hall on the ICW campus. Its purpose was to strengthen involvement in cross-cultural experiences and research, provide learning and research opportunities for graduate students and bring new interest groups to share collaborative experiences in developing countries. The event was open to the public.



One of the topics discussed was a program that had its roots in the Tanzania. Twelve years ago, a group of women in the Tanzanian town of Bukoba started a prayer circle to help them overcome the poverty. Soon they realized they needed more than prayers; they needed money. They began a project called the Mary-Go-Round, in which each woman contributed \$10 of their meager income each month, and at the end of the month, one woman would receive the sum in order to engage in a project of some sort: starting a small business, buying poultry or a heifer, something that would increase the family income.

Thus began a micro-lending project that the Sisters of Charity at UIW have partnered with and nurtured, helping it to grow into a multifaceted educational and empowerment network throughout the region. Now these same women in Bukoba, with support from their partners in San Antonio and elsewhere, are reaching out to support women in other villages throughout the region through the Bukoba Women's Empowerment Association, and they are on the verge of making an enormous difference in the economic well being of thousands.





Submitted by:
Sister Marichui
Bringas, CCVI

New Mission

Sr. Marichui Bringas and Sr. Maria Magdalena Caballero have started a new community in the Nuevo Casas Grandes Dioceses in Chihuahua, Mexico.



Sr. María Magdalena Caballero Licón and Sr. María de Jesús Bringas A. (Marichui) arrived at the Nuevo Casas Grandes Dioceses on August 16 to start a new community which they are calling “Emaus in Casas Grandes”. They were welcomed by Bishop Gerardo de Jesús Rojas, who introduced them to the Christ the Redeemer Parish where they will help in three rural districts: Colosio, Buena Fe and Madero. Part of their mission is to train pastoral agents in the liturgy, in catechism classes and in organizing choirs. Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, is in the north of Mexico, three hours from El Paso, Texas, and three and a half hours from the Capital of Chihuahua State.

Sr. Marichui reports that after initial activity in cleaning and renovating their living quarters they began work by seeing patients and providing psychological support to in the area. Sr. Marichui says she sees patients on Wednesdays while on Tuesdays and Thursdays she teaches Spirituality at the Diocesan Seminary. In letters to the Congregation in San Antonio she says she and Sr. Maria Magdalena Caballero have a van that “is very old and needs new tires, but it takes us to the communities we are serving. One of them is the Colonia Madero which is twelve kilometers away, the other one is Buena Fe, only three kilometers away and the third one is Colosio, which is in the outskirts of town. We have already started our Evangelization tasks, our Catechism classes, the training of catechists, the choirs and the Bible groups,” she says.

Sr. Marichui says the experience they have had in the ecclesial aspect has been very favorable because by sharing their morning prayer and the Eucharist with other religious women and with the people God loves they strengthen themselves. She says members of several religious communities have come to visit and offered their assistance and support. She writes: “In sharing with you our life and our pilgrimage in this Diocese, we want to invite you to pray for us and we want to have you close to our heart, where God unites us and calls us to collaborate in His mission.”



Submitted by:
Sister Kathy
Huanuco, CCVI

The seminar closed with a Eucharistic Celebration. Monsignor Héctor Miguel Cabrejos Vidarte, OFM; Archbishop of Trujillo, sent a greeting to the attendees, calling on them to continue working together and declaring that he counts on the attendees and their colleagues to achieve the church's mission. Attendees reported that they came away from the seminar motivated to continue supporting Life and working to achieve their mission in Chimbote, Perú.

Aiding the Poor in Peru

The Religious Life Communities in the northern region of Peru held a Seminar-Workshop called "Working with the Poor in Aparecida", from September 11 to 14, in Trujillo, the city of eternal spring.

Based in the Aparecida Document, the seminar location provided spaces for reflection and gave attendees the opportunity to share experiences regarding options for the poor in Religious Life in Peru's north region. Several regional conferences attended, including Chachapoyas, Cajamarca, Chimbote and Trujillo.

The Board of Directors of CONFER LIMA attended the Seminar and also Sister Lucrecia Aliaga, SSJ, President of the Conference of Religious Men and Women in Peru. Sr. Lucretia Aliaga's message to the attendees was to share the IWBS mission and to continue working together to build harmony in the Church.

On the first day of reflection, the lecturer was Father Roberto Tomichá, OFM Conv; who presented the topic: "General Vision of Aparecida." He told the group: "We can, therefore, arrive at the conclusion that our life is based in a deep experience with Jesus, and that our mission is to be a 'Presence' testimony in different environments". He emphasized the idea of "Mission as Testimony". On Friday, the second day, Sister Eleana Salas, FMA, talked about: "Women and Religious Life in Aparecida". She said: "We need to return to the Gospel in order to discover its richness and also its feminine presence, keying on women who certainly are figures and models as disciples".

On Saturday afternoon, Daniel Vásquez, a member of CEAS, talked about "The Laity in the Church". He described the fundamental role of the laity in the Church, saying "it is important to generate synergies, to work together, because we are interested in Life" On Sunday, the closing day of the conference, Brother Douglas Ropper, SM, shared his experience in the fields of formation and mission through the lecture: "Religious Life: Afro and Indigenous". He said these topics are important because "perhaps they will be the source of transformation for women, for the laity and for the Afro-indigenous peoples".



Summer School

Submitted by:
Sister Peggy
Bonnot, CCVI.
El Puente Ministries
Newsletter Sept. 08

El Puente, in Jefferson City, MO., recently completed its second month-long summer school program for children getting ready to enter grades K-2.

El Puente is a ministry of presence and outreach to the Hispanic community, designed to promote the healing love of Jesus the Incarnate Word by promoting human dignity. El Puente's program provides a set of basic skills for children about to enter Kindergarten, including ABCs, numbers, colors, etc., as well as an exposure to the class rules children will encounter in school. A volunteer taught the program, supported by visiting CCVI Sr. Laura Rodriguez. El Puente's program for first and second graders featured volunteer mentors who helped students with reading skills.

The summer school was held three days a week throughout the month of July. During the last week of school there was a field trip to the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City, where students got to experience an encounter with Missouri's native non-venomous snakes.



Maryknoll Priests Serve in Peru

The Missionary Society of Maryknoll Priests have served for over 65 years in the Highlands of Peru.

Submitted by:
Sister Rosaleen
Harold, CCVI

For over 65 years, the Priests of the Missionary Society of Maryknoll have served in the Highlands of Peru.



Currently, four American Maryknoll Priests serve there: Fathers James Madden, Michael Briggs, Robert Hoffman and Edmond Cookson. Recently they were notified by the present bishop of the Juli Prelature, Jose Maria Ortega Trinidad, that effective on January 1, 2009, they will no longer be permitted to minister in the Prelature.

The apparent reason for this decision is the difference in their pastoral approach to ministry. The Maryknoll priests have dedicated their lives to the service of the poor indigenous people of Puno, one of the poorest areas of Peru. While living and working among the indigenous people of the highlands, they founded the Institute of Rural Education (IER), the Institute of Aymara Studies (IDEA), the Radio School, Co-ops, and they trained catechists and health promoters. They have been very respectful of the traditions of the Quechua and Aymara people, promoting respect for their human rights together with enculturation of the liturgy, reception of the sacraments and catechesis.

Our Sisters in Peru, especially the community in Huancane, are deeply saddened by this announcement. Our Congregation in Peru has been associated with the Maryknoll priests in Juli since we were invited to minister in the Prelature in 1983 by the Maryknoll bishop, Albert Koenigsknecht. However, it was not until late 1985 that our first CCVI mission was opened in Huancane. Members of the new community were: Sisters Rita Prendergast from the US Province, and Rosalina Acosta and Rosa Margarita Valdes from the Mexico Province. Since that time, our Sisters have continued to minister to the Aymara people. Sisters Maria del Carmen Monroy, Laura Soto and Sofia Mamani have also ministered in Huancane. Our present community is truly international: Sister Anne Marie Burke (Ireland), Sister Hirayda Blacida (Peru), and Sister Teresa de Jesus (Mexico).

We unite with our Huancane CCVI's in giving thanks to God for the prophetic presence of the Maryknoll priests among the Aymara and Quechua people during those 65 years. We pray that our God of Life bless each one of these faithful missionaries who gave their lives so that the indigenous people of the Highlands of Peru "...*may have life and have it in abundance*" (Jn 10: 10).



Fundraising Success

Submitted by:
Dorinda Escamilla
MICP Program
Coordinator

The fundraising event for the Sister's of Charity's Mother and Infant Care Program in Mongu, Zambia, held on July 19, was a great success.

A crowd of more than 250 people turned out for the fundraising event, which exceeded its target goal. The drum café in Mongu participated with the same enthusiasm it has shown since the event was inaugurated. The babies in the program are reportedly growing and doing well, and a sign of the program's success, the government of Zambia has claimed the program as its own. Sr. Rosa Margarita, along with the nurses and caregivers associated with the program, continue to perform at a high level, contributing to the program's success.





Submitted by:
Cihuapilli CCVI
Community

News from Ciudad Juarez

Sisters in the Cihuapilli Community in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico report they are carrying out their ministry in five western sections of the city and at the Center of Social Readaptation for Women.

The sisters report their tasks involve education, promotion and support for women in border areas. They achieve this by organizing workshops, through study and through Biblical reflection. The group has five central programs: Identity, Spirituality, Integral Health, Social Participation and Ecology. A key program is called Women and Nature: Spaces for Life and Care of the Environment. This involves local women, accompanied by Sister Petrita Peña, who work cleaning streets and ravines and planting trees in order to clean up and improve their communities. This is a permanent campaign and the participants have approached municipal authorities asking them to help them with signs, so that people won't litter the areas they have already cleaned. The activities are done on a weekly basis throughout the year. The work they have accomplished is causing people to become more aware of the importance of caring for the environment and planting trees that will help them breathe purer air and have a better health. Before the program began, ravines used to be full of undergrowth and dead animals, and it was impossible to walk through them. Now they have become a recreation place for children and young people. The Sisters say they thank God for the opportunity to improve their communities.





Visitation House Changes

Submitted by:
Visitation House

As the new academic year gets underway, Visitation House Ministries has announced the addition of new families and staff.

Sr. Cindy Stacy, former Visitation House Case Manager, is the new Director of Visitation House. Former Director Sr. Yolanda Tarango, has transitioned into her role as the General Coordinator for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Lourdes Mota has been named the new Case Manager and Katie Louma is the new Office Manager for Visitation House. In addition, two Incarnate Word Missionaries from Ireland, Clare and Mary Murphy, have joined Visitation House. Clare and Mary are sisters. Clare will be in charge of the after-school tutoring program while Mary will work at La Casita. Additional background information on these new Visitation House additions will be included in the next issue of this newsletter. Even though Sr. Yolanda has taken on new responsibilities, she will continue to live at Visitation House.





20 Year Old Village

Submitted by:
Steven Fuller, *Connections*, newsletter.

The Village at Incarnate Word is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.



Steven E. Fuller, Executive Director of The Village recently reflected on many of its key achievements over the past two decades. “Over the years we faced many challenges,” Fuller noted, “addressing each one with compassion.

Now more than ever, in these uncertain times, we can point to the certainty of our longstanding capacity to reach out to our community,” he said.



“While celebrating this anniversary,” Fuller continued, “many of us reflected on the vision, plans, decisions, and hard work of so many Sisters and lay persons over the past 20 years that saw many groundbreaking moments with far-reaching impact. One notable moment was instituting the Connections Program in 1997. This vital program remains a community hub for education, wellness, spiritual, cultural and leisure activities and programs while fostering broader outreach opportunities,” he said.

“The 2001 addition of Angelique House addressed the needs of our residents by offering specialized memory care along with a higher level of assisted living accommodations,” Fuller said, “with many successes in bridging the gaps in resident needs with the care necessary to address them. Another groundbreaking moment was the recent merger with Sisters Care, thus allowing us to provide in-home services throughout Bexar County to help individuals remain in their own homes with dignity and supportive services. We expanded our vision once again with the opening of Dubuis House in March 2008, broadening our services, responding to changing needs, and offering more individualized choices,” Fuller said.

“Today I have no doubt that these groundbreaking moments, now a part of our proud history, will be celebrated for many years to come,” Fuller concluded. “Recognizing that our crucial role has always reached well beyond meeting specific needs in our community, we will continue to seek and define, in compassionate terms, new directions for a future grounded on service to others”.



Submitted by:
Sister Cristina
Vargas, CCVI and
Sister Leticia
Rodriguez, CCVI

Good News From Mongu

Good news in the form of two inspiring success stories recently arrived from the Home Based Care Program in the Diocese of Mongu in Zambia.

Sr. Christina Vargas and Sr. Leticia Rodriguez are working to coordinate the Home Based Care Program, which is one of the first ministries that was passed to the Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word in 2002. The program currently involves taking care of chronically ill patients, most of them infected with HIV and getting AIDS as well as TB and other opportunistic infections. In the year 2005 the ARVs medication came in to Zambia free of charge and since that time up many of those infected have been able to resume living more normal and positive lives. The program has 15 local projects in Mongu. The recent success stories come from two of those sites.

The first success story involves Mobile VCT services in Lukulu, Zambia. Since November 2006 at least 335 people have tested for HIV/AIDS through using Mobile VCT. One of them was Sitali Muba, who says she started being an HBC beneficiary when she attended the mobile VCT in Mbanga, Lukulu. "In November 2007 I ... tested positive and was supported with transport from HBC who took me to Lukulu District Hospital for CD4 count. When I was there it was decided that I should start on ART. I needed to stay for two months in Lukulu. The Sisters provided me with food during this time. After that, the transport for mobile VCT took me back to Mbanga so I could get more support from the people in my village. There HBC caregivers continue visit me and gives me HEPS and other foodstuff when it is available. Mr. Simasiku, my Care Giver encourages me a lot. I'm taking my medicine very well and today I'm strong and cheerful, and not the sick, wasted person I was a year ago."

The second success story involves a support group in Mongu helping children with HIV to live positive lives. In June 2007 the HBC coordinating team advised Mrs. Lydia Mukonda to start a support group for children living with HIV virus. One of those children is Kafuti Lupasa, who writes: "I was born on November 1992. I am double orphan, my mother died in 1997 and my dad in 1999. We are 6 of us in our family, including five women and a boy. I am the last born. All of us are still alive.



I became aware of my sickness in June 2006 when I had frequent attacks of malaria and blood pressure problems; I was taken for VCT at Home Based Care centre, I tested HIV positive and received a referral letter to go to the ART clinic where my CD4 count was checked and started being in Septrim medication. My feelings at that time were very bad because of the results I got but thank God my elder sister gave me all the support that I needed; she encouraged me to live on because “there are others who have the same virus”.

I have also great support from Home Based Care in St. John’s site from the Site coordinator Lydia Mukonda, from the caregivers and from my support group for children. I am now fine and continuing with School doing grade 9. I joined the support group for children at St. John’s site last year in September 2007. I feel very happy to be part of the group because of meeting other children with the same status.” The above story was provided by Mrs. Lydia Mukonda, site coordinator at St. John’s Site in Mongu, Zambia.



Women’s Retreat

Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park MO held a Women’s Retreat on Sept. 13.

Submitted by:
Sister Cathy
Vetter, CCVI

Sr. Cathy Vetter, pastoral associate at Sacred Heart planned and presented the day-long event, entitled “Red Tent,” which was attended by 45 women of a wide range of ages. The attendees exchanged stories of women in scripture and stories of their own lives. They also discussed the importance of women supporting women and passing along wisdom from one generation to the next.





Blessing at IMA de Occidente

Submitted by:
Sister Elva Leticia
Gracián, CCVI

“What makes life interesting is making a dream come true”
...September 11, 2008, a dream came true, with the blessing of the High School building, with which the construction project in our institute is complete.



We joyfully praised the Incarnate Word for permitting us to finish the construction of the building which will receive many young people who will be able to complete their High School education.

At 11:00 a.m. everything was ready to start the celebration. The Sisters, directors, teachers and guests met at the *Claude Dubuis Auditorium*. A special mention was made of our benefactors, Don Fernando and Doña Lucita. After that, we listened to the text from Saint Matthew's Gospel which says: “*You are the light of the world*”, and after a brief reflection, the blessing ceremony began. Then we sang the *Hymn to the Incarnate Word*, and to close the ceremony, the sixth grade students played *The Ode to Joy* on their flutes. Then the attendants remembered all the Sisters who started this project, with special congratulations to Sister Gloria Eugenia Ortiz Villalón, who has been responsible for the project and has shown a great commitment to her Mission to provide fruitful education through this institution, and thus train good citizens who will be productive as individuals and who will serve their country well.

With the psalmist we say:

“*The Lord has done great things for us and we are joyful*”.





CCVI
ASSOCIATES
ASOCIADOS

My Experience as Associate

Submitted by:
Maria Isabel Cruz
Fontes, Associate
Apostle of the
Incarnate Word,
Chihuahua, Mexico

“I feel blessed for the time I have been a member of the Association of Incarnate Word Apostles...”

Through these lines, I want to tell you that I feel blessed for the time I have been a member of the Association of Incarnate Word Apostles. First of all, I feel blessed for the invitation I received to be part of this Association and also for the privilege of making my personal commitment as an Apostle in March, 2007, with my companions Olaya Salazar de Arana and María del Pilar Salazar de Chávez.

We were welcomed affectionately by Sister Luz María Aguilar, who was the Sister in charge of the Mary Queen of Peace community at that time, and by Ana Ma. Gamboa de Hernández, Ma. Alejandra López de Aguirre, Carmen Isela Hernández de Navejas de Parra y Ma. de Lourdes Prieto Álvarez de Rodríguez. We were also welcomed by the Sisters whose Mission is to work in the fields of education and health at Instituto América, Hospital Central and Hospital Christus Muguerza del Parque.

These have been happy times, times of shared struggles through our ministry in the fields of Pastoral Work and Education. We meet every Thursday in the Tarahumara settlement “Padre Carlos Díaz Infante”, where we have group activities from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Then we work with a group of Raramuri women in activities covering Gospel Study, reading, writing and arithmetic classes, cooking classes and training in the fields of hygiene and health. This is how we share the life and presence of the Incarnate Word in this settlement where there are so many needs.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity He gave me to study medicine, so another apostolate I do in the afternoons is to serve in a medical office giving consultation to the needy, mostly free of charge.

I feel very happy to be an Associate Apostle of the Incarnate Word in the “Mary Queen of Peace Community”, where we try to give love and service, always guided and blessed by the love of the Incarnate Word.



Submitted by:
Adriana Barrios
Hernández
and Ana Rosa
Hernández
Antonio,
CCVI Postulants

Postulant Experience in Cihuapilli

“The experiences we have lived within the Congregation have been very beautiful, so much so that from that moment on we understood that we were starting a new life close to God...”

The experiences we have lived within the Congregation since our arrival have been very beautiful, so much so that from that moment on we understood that we were starting a new life close to God.

The Sisters welcomed us when we arrived and offered us their friendship, which helped us a lot at that time. We felt odd and fearful, far away from home, and we did not imagine that on that very day we would have the opportunity to meet and share the activities of the group at the “Pánfilo Natera” District, which we visited with Sister Petrita. In this community, we met a small group of women who meet to listen to Biblical Readings and meditate on them, relating them to their daily life. Then we were invited to share in their reflections, which were very interesting because of all the things they do. We were impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm they showed toward their project to create a better and cleaner community, and this motivated us to help them in cleaning and child care tasks. We also met the different groups they have, and learned about the projects they have developed in these districts: green houses, ecological baths and tree planting campaigns. We learn something from each one of the experiences we live, and the faith that vibrates in our hearts is strengthened more and more.



What We Said in 2002

“Six years ago: “we commit ourselves to better communication by becoming bi-lingual and taking full advantage of advances in technology in order to foster relations and strengthen congregational unity.”

Six years ago we said: “we commit ourselves to better communication by becoming bi-lingual and taking full advantage of advances in technology in order to foster relations and strengthen congregational unity.” *(as quoted in General Council Report, April, 2008, p. 29).* I want to address the bilingual commitment we made here. Chapter 2002 was not the first time we spoke about our need to become bilingual.



What have we done about it? I suggest that Congregation-wise and wide, not much, maybe nothing. I believe we need a plan, a program for education in Spanish and English that includes a policy and a budget. We have policies with budgets on many facets of our life, all with directives in our Province Handbook: annals, travel, studies, retreats and more, but nothing on language study. What does that say about our commitment? to study the two languages?

The Councils, General, Provincial, Regional (and now the new structure) and the CLT, who make the decisions, need to facilitate the setting-up of such a program. Imagine Chapter 2014! No translators! All CCVIs are bilingual! What a dream! What a vision! We did what we said we would! Milagro! Alleluia!

Adelantamonos, pues! Now! Ahora!



Making a Difference to a Child

For Sister Florence Zdeb, a retired teacher at the Village at the Incarnate Word, crocheting is not only a pastime but an enjoyable endeavor and gift.

Submitted by:
Sister Elia
Rosas, CCVI

For Sister Florence Zdeb, a retired teacher at the Village at the Incarnate Word, crocheting is not only a pastime but an enjoyable endeavor and gift. A nurse friend of Sister Florence saw her beautiful crochet work and was moved to ask her if she would make some caps for the children on the oncology unit at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital. Immediately Sister set out to respond to her request. Wherever Sister goes with her walker, you see Sister Florence sitting with her needle and wool never wasting a minute. The crochet needle goes rapidly in her fingers and she can complete a cap in two days in a variety of colors.



To date she has completed twenty-three caps and has given them to her friend to take to the children at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa. "You should see the smile and light in the children's eyes when they see the caps and are able to choose the color that they like and want," says Sister. They are so happy to have their own little cap. She has a photo to prove it.



This is one way and a good example of how one person can make a difference in a child's life, by sharing the love of the Incarnate Word with a child having a terminal illness.



God bless you, Sister Florence. We take our hats off to you.



CCVI Heritage

News from the Archives and Heritage Museum

By Eva Sankey



October is Archives Month! The Archives and Museum team are trying very hard to share our wonderful Heritage with the people of San Antonio. This month we are participating in two events. 'Founders Day' and 'Changing the Face of Medicine' exhibits.

Founders Day

Founders Day is a celebration of the history of San Antonio and the groups and people who shaped that history.

The Archives are setting up a display table which will highlight our historical collections as well as promote our archives and museum to the public. I also plan on promoting our Congregation and all of its ministries.

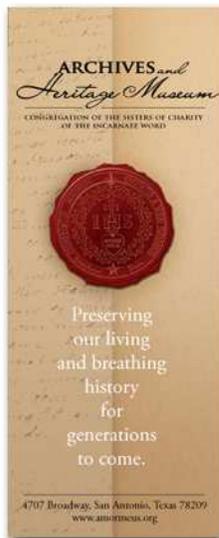


Beautiful CCVI display on UT Health Science Center, in San Antonio, Texas

The Archives has contributed to another public display, this time featuring the hospital and nursing history of our Sisters in San Antonio. The beautiful display is in the main entrance to the Briscoe Library on the campus of the UT Health Science Center in the Medical Center. It is the local part of a national online exhibit and lecture series called 'Changing the Face of Medicine – Celebrating America's Women Physicians'.

Download our new brochure

To promote our mission, we have developed a new brochure. Go to www.amormeus.org





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