



WordLife

Spring 2009

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A Newsletter for the Friends of the Congregation of
the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Corpus Christi, Texas

National Reunion



Incarnate Word Sisters and Associates will gather in Corpus Christi for the seventh Incarnate Word National Reunion on Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19, 2009. Six congregations, including Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, have been invited to celebrate the gift of the Incarnate Word Charism to the Church and the spirituality of Jeanne Chezard de Matel, foundress of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Registration at the Incarnate Word Campus is scheduled for 4:15–5:15 p.m. on Friday evening. It will be followed by an opening session, a welcome to the campus, Vespers, and the evening meal in the Dougherty Center. During the Friday evening social, participants will tour the new IWA Middle Level patio and Kenedy Center for Math and Science, with a view of the tower clock and chimes. They will also see the mural depicting the archangels Gabriel at the Annunciation, Raphael and Michael, as well as the Guardian Angel escorting Middle Level students.

On Saturday, Sister Annette Wagner will present the theme of the Reunion, “Incarnate Word Witnesses and Artisans.” Topics to be addressed include: the call to share the Good News; Incarnation, core of the Good News; crafting our response in evangelization, and the call to confidence.

In her preliminary notes, Sister Annette writes: “In the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, the Fathers of Vatican Council II advised today’s believers to use any modern discipline that can help us come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Divine Revelation. We can use this advice in coming to fuller appreciation of the guidance provided for us by Jeanne de Matel. What appears in seed form in her writings can come to fuller fruition within our hearts by nurturing her message with today’s insights for today’s needs.”

Participants will reflect on and discuss living the Beatitudes as our means for continuing Christ’s mission; mutual, communal support of discipleship to bring the blessings of the Beatitudes to fruition; and faithfulness in enduring the tension, while pursuing the mission as witness to the revelations present in the Incarnation.



National Reunion VII

Afternoon sessions are designed to focus on creative ways of expressing the spirituality of the Incarnation and the charism of the Order in art forms. Participants will have the opportunity to meet in clusters, according to their interests, in the labs and classrooms of the Math and Science Center. Group pictures of Sisters and Associates from Cleveland, Houston, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Victoria are scheduled for Saturday afternoon, the exact time to be announced during the day.

The celebration of the Eucharist will be held each day in the Convent Chapel. On Sunday morning, before the Mass and the closing ceremony, meetings of Sisters and of Associates in leadership roles will be held.

Incarnate Word Sisters in Guadalajara are preparing for the National Reunion of the Incarnate Word congregations of Mexico, which they will host during the weekend of July 24–26, 2009. International Reunions are scheduled in the even-numbered years, with eleven groups from the U.S. and Mexico participating.



Sister Patrice Floyd sews pockets on the registration bag for National Reunion participants. Six U.S. congregations are invited to participate.

Sisters Renew Vows on Feastday



Sisters of the Incarnate Word in Brownsville, (left to right) Sr. Mary Lelia Aguilar, Sr. Teresita Rodriguez, Sr. Evelyn Morales, Sr. Vianney Uyeno, and Sr. Marilyn Springs, renewed their vows during the Incarnate Word Academy Mass on March 25, 2009.

Spirit Center Journey Continues



Luncheon meetings have been held to explain the progress of the Fannie Bluntzer Nason Renewal Center project. Guests were given placemats with the site plan of the future renewal center and a description of the mission, site amenities and opportunities for enkindling the fire of love at the Spirit Center.

Just a half hour west of Corpus Christi in the community of Bluntzer, peace-filled acres await the hearts and hands ready to enrich the land for a harvest of renewed spirit and life. The development of the Spirit Center is a wonderful journey for establishing a site destined for spiritual education and social development of youth and adult groups.

Since the Spring of 2008, plans have continued to move forward steadily toward making the Spirit Center a reality. Architectural site plans have been revised to position the conference hall, meeting rooms and sleeping quarters in closer proximity, providing easier access and lowering the cost of construction. Lodging for 96 guests in 48 rooms will be available in the two-story bedroom section. A fully functional kitchen, a dining hall with seating for 200, large and medium sized meeting rooms, a chapel, ample storage space, and an expansive courtyard are other features of the center.

A business plan has been developed to include a proposed budget for operations and maintenance. A website, bluntzerspiritcenter.org, features the mission and purpose, the logo, the case statement and updates on plans and progress of the Spirit Center. A series of articles in the South Texas Catholic, written by Deacon Bob Allen, FBNRC Board member, feature the blessings and benefits of retreats in a quiet, peaceful setting, as well as progress and plans for the Spirit Center.

A strategic planning process, facilitated by Rick and Melanie Richardson of Richardson Philanthropy Consulting Services, was initiated by the Board in February. Input gained on strengths, concerns and issues from participants who represented retreat groups and interested people in the community, was gathered for the Board's strategic planning meeting March 26, 2009. Directors identified and prioritized critical issues and areas after having studied the results of surveys and responses received in February. Key strengths and weaknesses and key opportunities and threats were identified and addressed in the action plan to be carried out over the next months.

Currently, the Board is in the process of hiring a Chief Development Officer and a fundraising consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study and a capital campaign for construction of the center. In the meantime, Directors continue to strengthen relationships and cultivate potential donors to support the development of the Spirit Center.

Among the many groups the Spirit Center hopes to serve are Marriage and Engaged Encounter, Walk to Emmaus, Journey to Damascus, Rachel's Vineyard, Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, ACTS Retreats, Search, Chrysalis, Church groups, Youth groups and corporate retreats or meetings.

The Spirit Center welcomes individuals and groups to renew their inner spirits as they enjoy peaceful meditation and activities within a beautiful natural environment. Check the website for more information on the mission, history, site plans, and opportunities for participation in the development of this ecumenical renewal center.

Sesquicentennial of the First New World Vocation to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament 1859–2009



The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were founded in France in 1625. From their foundation, until the middle of the 19th century, all of the Sisters were French. Then, the only Catholic Bishop in Texas, French Bishop Odin, returned to his home country and to other European countries looking for priests and Sisters who were willing to work with him in the missions of Texas. Among those who went with him on his return were four French Sisters of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Upon arriving in Texas, these Sisters—Mother Sainte-Claire Valentine, Mother Sainte-Ange Barre, Sister Saint-Efrem Satin, and Sister Mary Dominic Ravier—first studied both English and Spanish in Galveston for approximately nine months. Then they traveled down the coast, under the care of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, to Port Isabel, and then inland to Brownsville where they opened the first Incarnate Word Academy almost immediately.

It must have been difficult for them to teach in both English and Spanish after such a brief period of study of these languages, but eight months after their arrival, three more Sisters came from Europe, two French and one Irish. Mother Ignatius McKeon, the Irish Sister, spoke English, and with relief, the French Sisters turned the direction of the English-speaking school over to her.

Among the first students in the first Incarnate Word Academy was a twelve-year-old Mexican girl named Rosa Solis. Rosa had been born of a Spanish-speaking family in Matamoros, Mexico, on December 7, 1840. When she was very small, her family moved to Port Isabel, Texas. There Rosa learned English so she was already bilingual when she came to Incarnate Word Academy. She studied at the school until January, 1859, and then, on January 16, 1859, one month after her eighteenth birthday, Rosa entered the Monastery of the Incarnate Word in Brownsville.

This might not have seemed to be too momentous a happening—an 18-year-old girl entering the convent. In Rosa's case, however, it was extremely important (although she and the community might not have realized that at the time) because it meant that the Monastery now had the first native daughter of the New World among its members. A religious community of women or men coming from a foreign country will survive in a particular region or country only if, ultimately, it begins to receive native vocations from that area. Sometimes that does



not happen for many years, but in Rosa's case, it happened just six years after the first Sisters arrived from France.

And although Rosa knew the Sisters well, she found that, as a member of the community, she had to make many adjustments. The Sisters spoke to each other in French, prayed in French, and followed a Rule and Constitution written in French. (The Rule and Constitution were not translated into English until 1893, forty years after the first Sisters arrived from France.) But very gradually, other natives of Texas and Mexico entered the Monastery of Brownsville, and gradually, the culture of the Monastery changed.

Since Brownsville is a border town located on the Rio Grande River, the Sisters of the Brownsville Monastery were always at least bi-cultural, receiving vocations from both the United States and Mexico. They also continued to receive Sisters from France, from Ireland, and from other European countries.

In 1872, Mother Saint-Ange, one of the first French Sisters, completed eleven years as Superior of the Monastery of Brownsville and did not wish to serve in that office any longer. To her shock, 32-year-old Rosa, now Sister Teresa Solis, was elected Superior of the Monastery of Brownsville. She was now Mother Teresa, the first New World Superior of a Monastery of the Incarnate Word. At that time, she served one three-year term as Superior, but it was a momentous beginning. Over the years, Mother Teresa served as Superior in several places in Mexico: in Tabasco, in Chilapa, and then, at the age of 78, in Puebla. There she was not officially a member of the Monastery but she had gone there to help because of difficulties the Puebla community was experiencing. But her health was failing, and on January 16, 1920, she died in Puebla, far from her own Monastery of Chilapa.

In this year, 2009, we recall the faith life and contributions of Mother Teresa Solis to the Church and to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word in the United States and Mexico. The year 2009 is the sesquicentennial of the entrance of this first native of the New World into the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. We thank the Incarnate Word for bringing Mother Teresa Solis into our midst 150 years ago, and for all the Sisters, native and foreign born, whom He has called to His Order since then. May He continue to send vocations to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament throughout the world.

Sisters Honored on World Day for Consecrated Life



A Mass was celebrated to observe the annual World Day for Consecrated Life at Corpus Christi Cathedral on February 1, 2009. Incarnate Word Sisters who were honored in commemoration of the anniversary of their first profession of vows are the following: Sister Mary Anselm Till (seventy years), Sister Catherine Brehony (sixty years), Sister Kathleen McDonagh (sixty years), Sister Jude Janecek (fifty years), and Sister Anna Marie Espinosa (forty years).



Sister Colette Brehony celebrates with her sister, Jubilarian Sister Catherine Brehony.

Bishop Edmond Carmody honors those Jubilarians serving the Corpus Christi Diocese.

INDEED! HE IS RISEN!

Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

—Mark 16:2-6

Yes, indeed! He is Risen! Now where is He? I am sure there was a bit of consternation and concern when there was no body and no one seemed to know anything about what had happened. Yes, they had been told that He would rise on the third day. They had been with Jesus and had listened to His words telling them of God's plan. But seeing the empty tomb they seemed to forget.

Today, we know the story, we have read the Scriptures concerning the Resurrection, and we know where Jesus is. Or do we? Each day is a day for us to celebrate the Resurrection, to celebrate Life! Let us look away from the empty tomb and KNOW that Jesus is in our midst. Let us KNOW that Jesus is alive in the world around us, in the people we know and meet each day, in our very selves.

Let us recognize, let us KNOW that Jesus is present in the little child, in the elderly woman or man, in our family members, in that woman or man or child who is homeless, yes even in that woman or man who stands on the street corner asking for food. That is the Risen Jesus we are called to know and to celebrate. Do we recognize Him? Let us KNOW that we are called to incarnate this Risen Jesus to the world, to one another! He is Risen, He is truly Risen—are we aware of the Resurrection each moment of each day? We must continually ask ourselves if we act as those who believe that Jesus is the Risen Christ. As we celebrate this, the feast of all feasts, Easter, let us become more aware of "where He is" in our lives so that we can truly celebrate the great love He has for us through His passion, His death and His rising to new life! The Lord is Risen, He is truly Risen, Alleluia!



Sister Mary Anselm Till Celebrates 70th Year



Sister Mary Anselm Till

HOMETOWN

Corpus Christi

ENTERED IWBS CONVENT

August 1937

EDUCATION

B. A. Education,
Incarnate Word College

MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

Incarnate Word Academy 1939-1949
St. Patrick
Sacred Heart
Immaculate Conception 1953-1965
St. Gertrude's 1967-1974, 1975-1979
St. Elizabeth School
Our Lady of Victory 1979-1983
St. Theresa School
CCD instruction St. Theresa's
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
St. Gertrude School

As a religious, Sister Mary Anselm has been a very happy and committed Sister, ever ready to serve. Wherever she was stationed in ministry, she served wholeheartedly, doing all for the Lord. Sister Anselm has always been faithful to her prayer life, community life, and Church/civic responsibilities. She has enjoyed card games, gardening, and making jams and jellies with Sister Raphael Bartosch for their famous sales.

The Sisters and those to whom Sister Mary Anselm ministered enjoyed her loving presence, concern and joy. For fifty-three years she taught and served as Sister-in-charge in the various convents and parishes throughout South Texas. She was responsible for driving Sisters to appointments, helping with banking, paper work, preparing meals and meeting transportation needs.

After her retirement in 1985, Sister Mary Anselm continued teaching CCD, gardening, and rosary making. Now, nineteen years into her retirement, her ministry at the Motherhouse is prayer, community involvement and hospitality. Sister is able to bring two precious gifts of her ministry: prayer and presence. Her smile and presence are wonderful witnesses to the Incarnate Word charism of extending Jesus to others.

During the community Mass, her angelic smile as she extends the sign of peace is a true sign of her inner peacefulness of spirit. Sister Mary Ann Korczynski, one of her human guardian angels, finds Sister Mary Anselm ever ready to intercede for her special intentions. "Now what do you want me to pray for?" she will ask. "I'll go to chapel right now to pray." At any time of the day Sister Anselm may be found in the chapel praying for those special intentions or rain for the farmers.

Sister Mary Lucy Garcia speaks of Sister Mary Anselm with admiration and gratitude. She commented, "Sister Mary Anselm and I founded St. Patrick School and Convent in Corpus Christi. For the community meals, Sister Mary Anselm allowed the three other Sisters to make only the salad! It was obvious she preferred to do all the cooking. In Brownsville, when Sister Mary Anselm was sacristan, she could clear the altar after Mass in one sweep, so I nicknamed her 'Jet.,' a pet name she still recognizes."

In the garden, Sister Mary Anselm wore a highly-starched old-time red and white checkered sunbonnet. Now, in her senior years, her expressions are priceless. Once, in the elevator, when Sister Mary Lucy said something silly to her, Sister chided, "Stop talking like that! They are going to think that we are idiots!" Sister's sense of humor has not dimmed. When she is asked a question at the dinner table, she may reply, "What do you want to know that for?" or "I won't even bother to answer that." When Sister is invited to return to her room after the meal, she often asks, "What am I going to do up there?" or "You go ahead; I'm not ready to go yet." When Sister is told that she is needed to assist Sister Brigid, she will stand to push the wheel chair with the infirmarian.

Sister Mary Anselm has brought many blessings to those whom she served; now she is served in an atmosphere conducive to private prayer, with ample opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of her Sisters in community.



Sr. Kathleen McDonagh Celebrates 60 Years of Vows



Sister Kathleen McDonagh

HOMETOWN / FAMILY

Dublin, Ireland

Parents: Frank and May McDonagh

ENTERED IWBS CONVENT

August 1947

EDUCATION

M.A. Theology, St. Mary's University

M.S. Mathematics, Marquette University

B.A. Mathematics,

Incarnate Word University

Religious Studies, Loras College,

Saint Alban's Certification for Spiritual

Formation

MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

IWA, Villa Maria, Brownsville

IWA, St. Patrick, Cathedral,

Corpus Christi

Blessed Sacrament, Laredo

Teacher, Pastoral Institute,

Extension Courses:

St. Mary's, University of the

Incarnate Word

Research, Translation, Writings of

Foundress

Writer of books, pamphlets, articles,

Retreat Director, Presenter on

Incarnational Spirituality

Composer, Organist, Choir Director

Formation, General Administration,

Vocation Council

Director of Consecrated Life Office

Sister Kathleen McDonagh's passport offers a view of her interaction with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament throughout the world. Sister Kathleen was born in Ireland, and came with her cousin, Sister Catherine, to the United States to join aunts and other cousins in religious life. Sisters Margaret Mary and Anna Marie McDonagh, Sister John Baptist Lyons, and Sister Philomena McCormick welcomed the two new postulants to Texas.

During her thirty years of teaching in Catholic schools, Sister Kathleen taught on all levels from primary through college, and served as registrar or principal in several assignments.

Creative in music, writing, and teaching, Sister Kathleen has shared her talents with Sisters, priests, and Associates through many years of writing for Catholic periodicals, giving retreats and presentations on spirituality, history, and works of Jeanne de Matel, and composing lyrics and music for congregational liturgies.

Her work in the summers from 1981-1986 in France and Rome on the Cause of Beatification of the foundress was the basis of her many classes and presentations on the life and works of Jeanne de Matel to Sisters and Associates in the U.S. and in other countries. In her travels and interaction with the different groups, she gained new insight into the teaching of Jeanne de Matel for the 20th and 21st century Sisters of the Incarnate Word in the United States, Mexico, Central and South American countries and Kenya, East Africa.

In a vocation article for the parish bulletin of St. Columba's, her home parish in Ireland, Sister Kathleen wrote: "Everything I ever learned in Iona School or in Glasnevin, I have used in some way throughout my years of ministry. When I look back, I can only thank God for the happy family into which I was born, for the fine education I received in Holy Faith schools

in Dublin, for Iona parish and its good priests and people, for the richness he has given me, and for the joy I have experienced throughout my life, even in the midst of very great demands. Truly, I have experienced the hundredfold promised in the Gospels."

Sister Kathleen continues to do research and write on the spirituality and history of the Order. "Like A Crystal Vase" is a pamphlet biography on the life of Jeanne de Matel. In her pamphlet, "These Went Before Us," she wrote short biographies of the Sisters who entered Incarnate Word of Brownsville between 1853 and 1932. Sister's research on Rosa Solis led to the writing of her biography, entitled "God's Border Rose," which has been translated into Spanish by Sister Helga Leija. In this 150th anniversary of her entrance into the Order, Rosa Solis, the first person in the Americas to become a Sister of the Incarnate Word, is also featured in this issue of WordLife.

Explaining how her vocation helps her share God's love with others, Sister Kathleen stated, "to belong to a religious Institute dedicated to the Person of Jesus, the Incarnate Word, calls me into a personal relationship with Him which permeates my life. I firmly believe that, if I am not personally centered in God's love, I cannot share that love with others. My spiritual growth helps me to point the way for others to reach out to and grow in the love of the Lord. The opportunities and results are His. It is such a privilege for me to be called by Him to participate in helping others hear and answer His call."



Sister Mary Catherine Brehony—60th Jubilee



Sister Mary Catherine Brehony

HOMETOWN / FAMILY

Sligo, Ireland

Parents:

John and Catherine McDonagh Brehony

ENTERED IWBS CONVENT

August 1947

EDUCATION

M.S. Mathematics,

University of Notre Dame

National Science Foundation
grant recipient

B.A. Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude,

Incarnate Word University

Religious Studies, St. Thomas University

MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

Incarnate Word Elementary

St. Patrick School 1950-1954

St. Theresa School 1954-58

Christopher College 1964-66

Incarnate Word Academy:

Secondary Level- 1959 to present

Head of Math Department;

Mu Alpha Theta Sponsor; TAPPS Coach

CCD instruction: St. Patrick, St. Paul,

Our Lady of Refuge

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Cross

HONORS

Outstanding Teacher Award, 1988

Award for Academic Excellence 1991

Award for Positive Influence

on Students 1992

Sister Mary Catherine Brehony, baptized Teresa Evelyn Brehony in Sligo, Ireland, felt a strong desire to become a Sister long before she had any firsthand experience with Sisters. Her mother first informed her of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament when she often talked about her two sisters who had entered the Order and she would share their letters with the family.

In 1947, at the age of 18, she was first of four members of her family to enter the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. Three of Sister Catherine's siblings are also Sisters of the Incarnate Word: Sister Mary Rita, deceased, Sister Colette, and Sister Maria Elizabeth. Jubilee observances of any one of them give them opportunity for a family reunion with relatives from Ireland. The Sisters also enjoy traveling together to visit their other siblings in Ireland, Padraic Brehony, Margaret Gethin, Nance Higgins, and their families.

Sister Catherine's service to the congregation has included Coordinator of Initial Formation and Director of Postulants for twelve years. She was Vocation Director for six years, a Councilor in the General Administration for three terms, and served on many commissions and committees.

Teaching has been a way of life for Sister Catherine for sixty years. She has taught all levels of math from algebra to calculus, advanced placement. With her everyday presence and encouragement of all she meets, she gives witness to her call as a religious extending the Incarnation. One student summed up Sister Catherine eloquently as she honored Sister in her valedictory speech. Brigid Tinning wrote, "You have given us the example of your life. You have taught us that there are other roads less traveled out there, perhaps the one you took, and that they can make all the difference."

"From a very early age, I was attracted to religious life, even before I knew much about what following the call entailed," Sister Catherine said. "I am so grateful to God for his invitation to this happy and fulfilling life. I have experienced much happiness living in community and serving in the various ministries of the Congregation."

"Teaching grade school, high school, and religious education in parishes, I have found joy in working with the parents, staff, and students. I continue to see so much goodness, potential and caring in the students," she added. "I have been inspired by the generosity and dedication of the students involved in the Mission program in Mexico and Galveston where they give of their time and talent to share with the less fortunate."



Sister Kathleen McDonagh and Sister Mary Catherine Brehony renew their vows at the Corpus Christi Cathedral on the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Sister Mary Jane Janecek—50th Jubilee Year



Sister Mary Jude Janecek

HOMETOWN

Corpus Christi, Texas

ENTERED IWBS CONVENT

September 8, 1959

EDUCATION

Del Mar College

Mary Immaculate College

Incarinate Word College

B.A. in English, St. Edward's University

M.A. in Administration and Drama,

Texas A&I University

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Youth

Ministry, St. Mary's University,

Baltimore, Maryland

MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

Membership in Congregational Committees

Work on school boards, Search retreats,

Religious workshops, RCIA,

discussion groups

Principal/teacher, St. Theresa School

Principal, St. Pius School

Teacher, Villa Maria Jr. High/Sr. High,

Brownsville

Campus Minister, Southmost Junior College

Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult

Ministry, Corpus Christi

Parish Evangelization Coordinator,

Sts. Cyril and Methodius

Pastoral Associate, St. Mary's Church,

Brownsville

Administrator, Casa de Vida Retreat House,

Brownsville

CURRENT MINISTRY

Adult Faith Formation Coordinator and

Pastoral Counselor in Sacred Heart Parish

in Rockport

Sister Mary Jude Janecek, given the name Mabel Gertrude at Baptism, was born in Victoria, Texas, to Ruth Pearl Bracht and Cyril M. Janecek. Having completed the first eight years of formal education, Mabel attended Incarnate Word Academy, graduating from there in May, 1957. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 8, 1957, and began the canonical year of novitiate on June 2, 1958. Sister Jude made first profession of the vows of religion on June 3, 1959, and final vows on August 7, 1962.

During her years as Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Sister Jude introduced the first Diocesan Youth Spectacular in 1984, which continues on today. It was during the experience of working with youth that Sister became interested in Liturgical movement and researched the use of mime clown ministry. She has shared her interest and talents on many occasions, adding flavor, beauty, and meaning to celebrations and various events.

Sister Jude completed her masters in counseling this Spring. Her internship was spent in practice with the Women's Shelter of South Texas and CHRISTUS Spohn Hospice. This valuable experience as Sister brings to her present parish ministry, creating a welcoming and caring faith community.

She has shared her interests and talents on many occasions, adding flavor, beauty and meaning to celebrations and various events.

Upon being asked to share something about her experience as a Sister of the Incarnate Word, Sister Jude responded, "My Jubilee year is an opportunity for me to pause along this labyrinth journey which I share with my family, my Sisters in religious life, and the many friends who have gifted me with shared ministry and friendship. I rejoice and give thanks for fifty years of being blessed, and I place my trust in the Word Incarnate, as together we continue this journey, connecting 'His-story' with our story."

*The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament
invite you to celebrate with us
a Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving
for the Anniversary of Religious Profession
of*

Sister Mary Anselm Till (70 years)

Sister Mary Catherine Brehony (60 years)

Sister Kathleen McDonagh (60 years)

Sister Mary Jude Janecek (50 years)

Saturday, April 25, 2009

10:00 a.m.

St. Patrick Church

3350 South Alameda

Corpus Christi, Texas

*Reception to follow at Incarnate Word Campus
Meus South Alameda and Chamberlain*

James R. Dougherty Center

450 Chamberlain Street

Incarnate Word Feastday Includes Dedication of Building



The celebration of the Order's feastday on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, was especially festive at the Motherhouse in Corpus Christi, with the dedication of the new Kenedy Math and Science Center on the Incarnate Word campus.

Bishop Edmond Carmody, Monsignor Richard Shirley, Father Richard Gonzales, and Father Pedro Elizardo celebrated Mass with the high school and middle level students. At the end of Mass, Bishop Carmody gave a special blessing to the IWA Mission Team who will serve in Galveston, Texas, to help in areas devastated by Hurricane Ike.

During the dedication ceremony following the Mass, Middle Level students and faculty gathered with dignitaries in the freshly landscaped patio area of the new building for the ribbon-cutting and blessing by Bishop Carmody. General Marc Cisneros and members of the Kenedy Memorial Foundation,



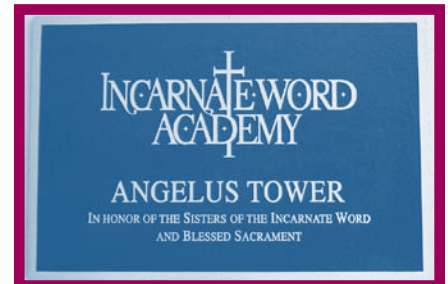
The Kenedy Center for Math and Science features two science labs, eight other classrooms, and the Angelus Tower with clock and chimes and a tile archangel mural with the scene of the Annunciation.

architects David Brown and Tom Mustard, contractors Philip Skrobarczyk and Mike Lippincott of Fulton Construction, School Board members, priests, and Sisters of the Incarnate Word were present for the ceremony.

Sister Anna Marie Espinosa, IWA president, acknowledged the Kenedy Foundation, the Sisters, the Incarnate Word family of administration, faculty, students, parents, friends and benefactors, as the community members who make possible the growth and progress of

Incarnate Word Academy. Sister Michelle Marie Kuntscher, Superior General, accompanied Bishop Carmody as he blessed each room, the stairwells, and the elevator.

A plaque in honor of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament names the elevator and clock tower as the Angelus Tower. Chimes, connected to the clock, ring out the Angelus and special hymns from the tower, whose base has a beautiful wraparound tile mural of the Archangels: Gabriel at the Annunciation to Mary, Raphael, the healer, and Michael, the protector. A companion mural of the Guardian Angel adorns the wall across the patio area.



Student ambassadors led guests on a tour of the two science labs and eight other classrooms in the new building. After the tour, guests joined the Sisters in the convent dining room for a special meal. Monsignor Gregory Deane blessed the meal and entertained guests with his dramatic rendition of "Sweet Molly Malone."

Top Left: Father Richard Gonzales, Sister Agnes Marie Tengler, Monsignor Alvin Tengler, Sister Noreen Begley, Sister William Francis Garcia, Sister Dorothy Anhauser, Sister Julianne Kuntscher, and Sister Stella Barrientes join in the dedication ceremony in the courtyard of the new building.

Bottom Left: Ribbon cutting participants include (L-R) Brendon Bottom, General Marc Cisneros, Madison Longwell, Brent Bottom, Bishop Edmond Carmody, and Sister Anna Marie Espinosa.



2009 Formation Symposium



Directors and Sisters in Initial Formation gathered for the annual Formation Symposium February 13-16, 2009, hosted by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas.

Participants of the 2009 Formation Symposium from the Corpus Christi congregation were Agueda Oviedo, Sister Theresa Nguyen, Sister Mary Helga Leija, Sister Martha O'Gara, Sister Teresita Rodriguez, Sister Rosemary Lichnovsky, Sister Catherine Brehony, and Sister Rosa Maria Ortiz.

Other participants included Sisters from the following Incarnate Word communities: Victoria-IWBS, Houston-CVI, Mexico City-CVI, and San Antonio-CCVI from Mexico, D.F., Maravillas, Hidalgo and Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

The theme of the Symposium was Spirituality of Communion For The World. The weekend included a presentation centered on God's grace freely given to all—the good and the bad, the common experience of our humanity, the Incarnation as standing within and being permeated by the messiness of

humanity, and the importance of accepting and living out of God's grace by embracing both our light side and our shadows, knowing that we are rooted in the goodness of God.

Some of the quotes discussed were the following: "Grace takes hold of us." "We live in truth and reality." "When I get honest I know that I am a bundle of paradoxes." "A saint is someone who experiences the goodness of God." Sharing was facilitated through small and large group discussions. There was also sharing of poems reflecting one's own journey in God's grace.

Other weekend activities included a directors meeting to discuss pertinent formation topics, an entertaining evening of fun and games, a tour of Nazareth Convent, and celebration of the Sunday Eucharistic liturgy at St. Mary's Church in Victoria, Texas.

Next year's Formation Symposium will be held in Houston on February 12-14, 2010.

Women and Spirit



Since arriving in America nearly 300 years ago, Catholic Sisters have served as educators, nurses, social workers and in a variety of other ministries, touching countless lives with their faith and compassion. Remarkably, they created these enduring institutions at a time when most women had few, if any, professional opportunities

Now the story of these courageous, committed women will be told in a new traveling exhibit—"Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America"—scheduled to open at the Cincinnati Museum Center on May 16 and travel throughout the United States for the next three years.

The exhibit was developed by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), whose members represent 60,000 women religious nationwide. "Few people are aware of the tales of the brave women who came to this country to help the immigrants assimilate into the fabric of America," said Jane Burke, SSND Executive Director of LCWR. "Their heroic presence during many of the forming periods of our nation is an important part of American history and the legacy of the Sisters."

Visitors to the exhibit will discover the pivotal presence of these very independent women at many of our nation's dramatic turning points from the Civil War, the Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, through Hurricane Katrina. Among the inspiring stories to be told are how the Sisters of Charity nursed both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Visitors will meet Mother Mary Alfred Moes who proposed to build and staff a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota,

if Dr. Mayo and his sons would agree to provide the medical care. This collaboration was a significant milestone in the development of what is now known as Mayo Clinic.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is an organization that represents about 95 percent of the Catholic sisters living and working in the United States. Over the past year, LCWR has researched the history, worked with sister communities to catalog significant artifacts, and contracted a renowned exhibit design firm, Seruto and Company.

2009 Calendar

- April 25** • Jubilee Celebration
- May 3–10** • Motherhouse Retreat
- June 7–14** • Retreats in San Antonio / Victoria
- July 17–19** • National Reunion

*"Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."*

—Pope John Paul II

In Memory of: (beginning September 2008)

Rev. Gregory A. Boensch

Alton and Rosalie Jones; Dolores Vesely;
Mrs. Willie Mae Shirley

Hester M. Brelsford

Dr. Anthony P. and Rosalie Lucci

Mary Busker

Andrew Busker

Joe Cueva

Dolores Vesely; Ruben and Sharon Amador; Roberto and
Irma Benavidez; Marc and Brenda Chouinard; Charles T.
and Vera I. Fisher; Jorge and Terry Flores;

Maria Rosario Garcia

Rolando and Mary Longoria

Mother Patricia and Sr. Jeanne de Matel Gunning

Margaret Gunning Nawaly

Sister Nancy Johnson

Merle and Patricia Lindsey

Sister Rose Lynch

Grace Hooper

Dolores Morales

Jane Knowlton, Beverly Fanarof, Nancy Burford
(Pediatric Therapy Center owners)

James (Jim) Thomson

Gerry Thomson/Betty Markey

In Honor of the Jubilarians:

**Sister Mary Anselm Till, Sister Mary
Catherine Brehony, Sister Kathleen
McDonagh and Sister Mary Jude Janecek**
Connie Cueva and Manfred and Lore Hofstaedter

George Allen Crowley

Helene Gibson

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