

E-VOC

evoke: 1. to call forth 2. to re-create imaginatively



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

April 13, 2014
Palm Sunday

April 20, 2014
Easter Sunday

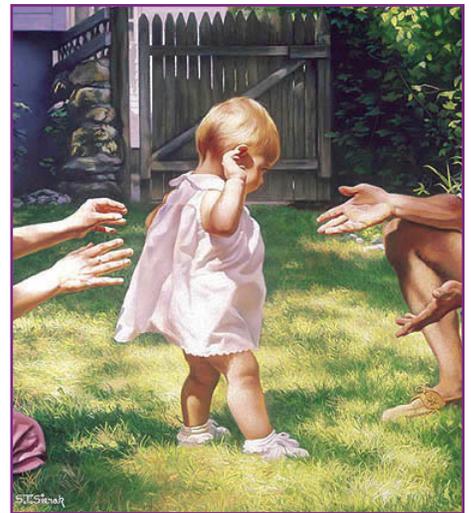
April 22, 2014
Earth Day

May 11, 2014
World Day of Prayer
for Vocations

React or Respond?

By S. Janet Gildea

What would you say: Do you tend to be more of a reactor or a responder to God in your life? This is good information for discernment. Most of us have known both experiences. When God's will suddenly becomes clear – or sort of crashes in on us – we react! Think of Saul thrown from his horse, blinded and hearing the voice of Jesus calling his name and saying, “Why are you persecuting me?” He had not much choice but to react! The Samaritan woman at the well was also in a reactive mode when Jesus interrupted her midday journey to the well. “Who do you think you are? You don't even have a bucket and you're telling me you'll give me living water?”



Saul and the Samaritan woman were in very different situations, both of which can be common in discernment. Saul was on the offensive, feeling strong and sure that he was on the right path, even as he persecuted the followers of The Way. The Samaritan woman was busy trying to avoid the encounter with the Holy One. In each case, God broke through their defenses, eventually winning their hearts and inviting a free response from a less guarded position.

There is another option. I recently heard Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI suggest an image of God as a mother coaxing her child to take first steps. Hands outstretched, smiling face, voice encouraging and affirming ... “Come on! You can do it! Hooray for you!” How beautiful is this God who invites us to respond, never coercing or forcing! This is the God we read about in the prophet Hosea: “Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, who took them in my arms; but they did not know that I cared for them. I drew them with leading strings of love, I fostered them like those who raise an infant to their cheeks; I bent down to feed them” (11:3-4). This is the God who invites us to respond without fear, confident that we are the beloved ones. This is the God we know in Jesus, inviting Zaccheus down from the tree and calling Mary's name in the garden.

During this month that finishes Lent and invites us into the mystery of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, wherever you find yourself on the discernment journey, take time to consider your stance before God. Are you in a position that requires you to react or that invites you to respond?



As part of the first-ever National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, Sisters of Charity employees celebrated their Sisters during lunch on Monday, March 10. Employees thanked Sisters for their support, inspiration and contributions to the community and world with ice cream, flowers and a short thank-you video.

Ministry in Motion

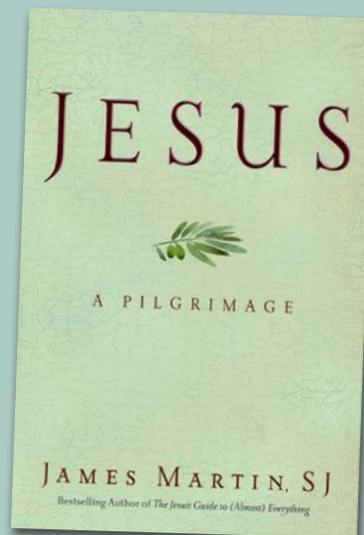


S. Barbara Hagedorn is the coordinator of client services at the Good Samaritan Free Health Clinic in Price Hill (Cincinnati), which serves adults in Hamilton County with low incomes who struggle with costs of or access to health care. To learn more about the clinic and S. Barbara's ministry, [click here](#).

A Good Read

Jesus: A Pilgrimage
by James Martin, SJ

Fr. Jim Martin didn't even want to go to the Holy Land, but we are sure glad that he did! In his usual friendly and funny style, Fr. Jim shares not just a travelogue but a spiritual journey. This is a way to enrich your understanding of Jesus' life and times and to deepen your relationship with him as we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum.



My Mentor –

S. Joan Rutterer

By S. Sheila Gallagher

S. Joan Rutterer (formerly known as S. Mary Isabella) was my freshman English and history teacher, and my sophomore English and religion teacher at Holy Name High School in Cleveland, Ohio. S. Joan drew you in with her simplicity and sincerity; she was very open to the students and always welcoming. I was already considering a religious vocation when I met S. Joan, but she was the one that confirmed my decision to enter the Sisters of Charity – and she was the one that prepared me to enter the Community.

After entering, I saw her frequently. We lived together at Seton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1970-1974, and it was again that same quiet presence that I admired about her in a community situation. She stepped in whenever needed. When I came back to visit her when she was at St. Joseph Home in Cincinnati, she was the one who was getting up to answer the phone or the door, even though it may not have been her duty that night. S. Joan was a quiet presence all the time. She was someone I grew to love, and it is her simplicity and sincerity that I hope to follow.



(From left) Sisters Joan Rutterer and Sheila Gallagher

E-Vōc is the electronic newsletter from the Vocations Team of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati for single women wondering what new thing God is calling forth in their lives. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about life as a Sister of Charity, visit our website at www.srcharitycinti.org or contact S. Monica Gundler at 513-504-5592.



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