

E-VOC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

May 11, 2014

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

May 29, 2014

The Ascension of the Lord

May 31, 2014

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June 8, 2014

Pentecost Sunday

A Willing Heart

By S. Janet Gildea

In Psalm 51 we pray, “A willing heart sustain in me, O God!” (v.10-12). Is your heart willing or willful? What blocks you from having a willing heart? Sister of Social Service Simone Campbell suggests that two things can hold us back: fear and grasping. Both are about control, are they not? Fear rises when we feel out of control. We grasp (or hold on for dear life) because we are trying to maintain control of a situation, of a person, of our very selves. But in order to give ourselves over to God, we must somehow let go of fear and the grasping for control that are signs of willfulness.



What triggers your fear? What raises your tendency to hold on? Identifying those triggers can be a step toward the freedom that is essential in the discernment process. You will know the deeper truth about yourself, “and the truth shall set you free.” Then, with God’s grace, you will be able to move beyond your fears, open your hands and let go of whatever you are clutching that keeps you from falling into God.

S. Simone suggests that the remedy for a willful heart is to “touch the pain of the world.” Service to others, following the example of Jesus and impelled by the Holy Spirit, frees you from tendencies toward self-preoccupation and self-preservation. It builds generosity of spirit. To touch the pain of the world can also mean avoiding the need to fix, standing in situations of powerlessness, accompanying those whose brokenness we cannot mend. We stand at the foot of the cross.

When we follow Jesus on his self-emptying way, we let our hearts be broken, again and again, by the pain of the world. “For he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself” (Phil. 2:6-7).

Mary Magdalen was one who stood brokenhearted at the foot of the cross. She was still weeping in the garden on the first day of the week. She had touched the pain of the world. So when she heard her name, “Mary!”, spoken in love by Jesus risen, she could overcome her fear, loosen her grip, and be sent as the Apostle to the Apostles. “Do not cling to me, Mary ... but go and tell the brothers ...” From her willing heart came the joyful message, “He is risen!” Alleluia!



(From left) Pre-Entrant Romina Sapinoso, Carmen Zuniga, Denise Morris, Affiliate Annie Klapheke, S. Janet Gildea, Sandra Gutierrez and S. Carol Wirtz attended the 2014 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress held March 14-16 in Anaheim, Calif. The three-day weekend offered more than 200 speakers presenting more than 300 workshops, and provided the opportunity to share faith with 40,000 other Catholics from around the world.

Ministry in Motion



S. Mary Ann Flannery is the first woman director of the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. To learn more about S. Mary Ann and her ministry, [click here](#).

A Good Read *Nuns on the Bus* by S. Simone Campbell

“**H**ow All of Us Can Create Hope, Change and Community” is the subtitle for this account of the remarkable journey of the Nuns on the Bus in the summer of 2012. S. Simone Campbell serves as director of NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby organization founded in 1971 by 47 women religious. In the summer before the last presidential election, NETWORK sponsored a bus tour to increase awareness of how a proposed federal budget would have dire consequences for the poor and middle class. S. Simone recounts the stories the Sisters heard on that journey and reflects on how contemplative prayer can undergird our work for systemic change.



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](#).

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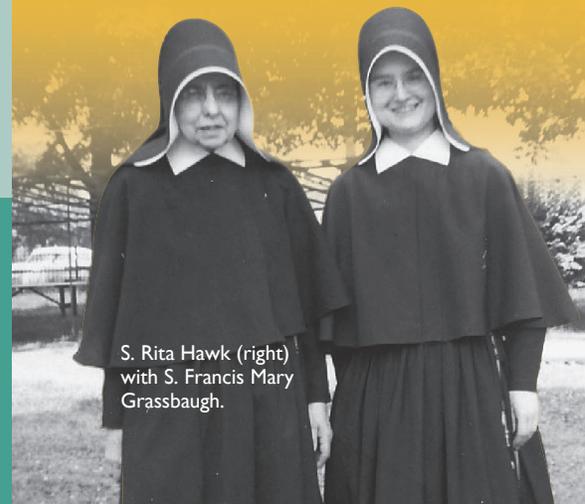
My Mentors – By S. Rita Hawk

S. Francis Mary Grassbaugh, my grandfather’s sister, was my mentor and role model as I prepared to become a Sister of Charity. I grew up on a farm outside Danville, Ohio, and attended public school for all 12 years; we did not have a Catholic school in our area.

When I was going into the second grade S. Francis Mary and her blood sister, S. Maria Julia, came to visit for a family reunion. When I first saw them, I decided I too wanted to be a Sister.

Several years later, S. Francis Mary returned to Danville for a family reunion because she was told that she had two grandnieces who were thinking about being Sisters. We talked for a short time and she wrote to me frequently. She encouraged me because I didn’t think I would “know enough” since I went to public school. Actually, when I entered the Sisters of Charity in 1956, I found I was as well read and knew as much about our Catholic faith as any of my classmates.

Sister was a model of prayer, gentleness, courage and love of our large extended family. In fact I still have two role models: S. Maria Julia who was a Sister of Charity from 1895 until she died in 1950 and S. Francis Mary who was a Sister of Charity from 1905 until her death in 1976. They both served as teachers and I continue to teach, albeit via e-classes, but with the same spirit and commitment they modeled to me.



S. Rita Hawk (right)
with S. Francis Mary
Grassbaugh.