

E-VOC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

December 6, 2015

Feast of St. Nicholas

December 8, 2015

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
and the Jubilee Year of Mercy
begins as declared by Pope Francis

December 12, 2015

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 25, 2015

Christmas Day

Dec. 27, 2015

Mother Margaret George's Birthday

Jan. 4, 2011

Feast of St. Elizabeth Seton



The Business Professionals from Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky celebrated the '25 Women of Influence for 2015' at a luncheon held on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Sister of Charity Tricia Cruise (second from left), director of Healthy Moms & Babies, was one of the women honored.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

By S. Janet Gildea

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe comes at the midway point of Advent. So appropriate because the image that Mary left us on Juan Diego's *tilma* (cloak), the only actual image that we have of her, is a pregnant Mary. The black *cinta* (belt) around her waist and the four-petal flower over her abdomen signify that she is a woman with child. There is much more symbolism to the image that Our Lady left us on December 12, 1531, but for discerners in Advent, this pregnant Mary is a good companion.

Guadalupe as guide: The beautiful lady of Tepeyac Hill helped humble Juan Diego to understand and accept his calling: "Juanito, my youngest and dearest son, where are you going?" Then she proceeded to direct his steps, to give him not only the words but the courage to enter the halls of power as her representative and spokesperson. Can you hear her beautiful voice inviting you to a deeper understanding and acceptance of God's call this Advent?

Guadalupe as consoler: From the brokenness of our lives and our world, divided and polarized as deeply as during the time of the colonial conquest of Mexico, the peaceful presence of Guadalupe invites us into a space of compassion and healing: "Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing. Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed." Whatever the anxieties that crowd into your Advent heart, she is there to bring her perspective and vision.

Guadalupe as Mother: Jesus gave us his mother as our own from the cross, entrusting us to her care. Her words to Juan Diego and to us from Tepeyac show how deeply Mary has embraced this calling: "Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more?" Cradled in her arms, close to her heart, our ears are best attuned to the voice of her Son. In her maternal embrace this Advent, what do you hear?

Especially during the novena days before the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 3-12), you might want to read the story of the apparitions: <http://www.sancta.org/nican.html>. With Guadalupe as your Advent guide, your consolation, your mother, may Christ come to birth in your discerning heart.



Future of Charity Blog

“Seasons of Love”

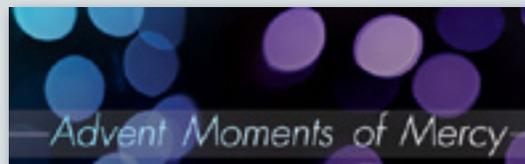


(Far right) S. Sandy Howe with students from Seton High School in Guatemala.

In going through life we encounter its many seasons, as S. Sandy Howe relates in her latest Future of Charity Blog post. Read her reflection on the importance of spiritual experiences through all types of weather at <http://futureofcharity.blogspot.com/>.

Advents Moments of Mercy

The themes of Advent hope and our call to mercy fit hand-in-glove. Loyola Press offers a new daily reflection series based on the Advent scriptures and feast days while incorporating the words of Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy that begins Dec. 8. You can sign up to receive the daily reflections, starting on the first Sunday of Advent, at <http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-moments-of-mercy.htm>



E-Voc 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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My Mentor – S. Marge McCullough

By S. Maureen Heverin



This ink drawing, called “Our Lady of the Mines,” was a gift from S. Marge McCullough to S. Maureen Heverin following her ministry in Appalachia.

I think I first met S. Marge McCullough almost 50 years ago. I remember she was a principal, and she was a regional leader; she did all kinds of things. But what I most appreciated about her was her presence, and the way she was with people. My father and her brother were good friends. We were in the same parish, at St. Cecilia parish in Oakley. We both went to St. Cecilia Grade School, but not at the same time – our first connection.

Through the years, Marge was my spiritual director, she was a mentor, and she was my friend. I think what most influenced me with Marge was she had a great sense of humor, and that she was very honest and very strong in her beliefs and opinions, very clear in what she believed. She was very respectful of other people’s opinions. She lived a very simple lifestyle, and she didn’t need much in the line of stuff or things. But whatever she had, she shared.

I never saw her happier than when she was working in some very poor areas of Kentucky. She loved the people, and Appalachia, and she also had a wonderful spirit. Whatever presented itself is what she did; she really was just the kind of person that she was. She was very down to Earth. You always knew where you stood with Marge.

Interviewed by Josh Zeller.