

E-VōC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

April 22, 2013
Earth Day

May 1, 2013
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

May 19, 2013
Pentecost

May 31, 2013
Feast of the Visitation

June 26-30, 2013
Congregational Gathering

June 26, 2013
Opening of Canonical Novitiate

Aug. 6-10, 2013
Catholics on Call

Let God Weigh-In

By S. Janet Gildea



“I wish God would just TELL ME what God wants of my life! I’m driving myself crazy trying to figure it out! How do I know if I’m really listening to God or if I’m just hearing what I want to hear?”

If you find yourself feeling frustrated, exhausted and sick of hearing one more thing about the “d-word,” maybe it would be helpful to take a deep breath, take a step back and consider this: God wants

you to be your truest self. And this is not something remote or unknowable. As Moses told the Israelites entering into the sacred covenant with God, this is “something very near to you, already in your heart ... you have only to carry it out” (Deuteronomy 30:14 paraphrased).

Trusting that God has your best interests at heart might allow you to move toward what St. Ignatius called “holy indifference.” This is a disposition of deep availability for what God desires for you. Can you let go of your own preferences and prejudices regarding the decision you are considering? Ask for the grace to hold the two options like the two pans of a scale perfectly balanced, or a teeter-totter at equilibrium. Then allow God to “weigh-in” on your decision. This takes some practice and real self-emptying.

Another simple yet important remedy for the discernment blues is giving God a listen. Constant chatter, inner or outer, and busyness can keep you from hearing the voice of God. Faithfulness to a discipline of centering prayer or meditation every day, even for just 10 or 15 minutes, will let God get a word in. Just show up and be still. God is already there waiting for you.

Remember God’s timing is perfect. Whatever schedule you have set for completing your discernment process, let it always be subject to revision. God is unfolding your life at exactly the proper speed. Try to keep pace with it, neither rushing nor dragging your feet. As Rilke said to the young poet, “Be patient towards all that is unsolved in your heart...” No pushing. But no procrastinating, either.

The Gospels of this Easter season convey a message of peace. The disciples, huddled together in fear and confusion, encounter the Risen One who tells them, “Peace! Do not be afraid!” Reflecting on these words can bring comfort and courage to anyone in the throes of the discernment process. “Peace be with you! It is I!”



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Where are the Sisters Today?

Sister Carol Bauer



S. Carol Bauer is the “conscience” of Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. As the vice president of mission effectiveness, S. Carol helps to keep the hospital focused on its mission. To learn more, [click here](#).

Cincinnati SCs Host Gathering



“The Future of Charity is Now” gathering held at Mount St. Joseph March 23, 2013, was attended by more than 80 Sisters and Associates from Cincinnati, Nazareth, Ky., and Seton Hill, Pa. Organized by the Grass Roots Committee of the Sisters of Charity Federation and hosted in Cincinnati by Sisters Joan Cook and Alice Ann O’Neill, it was a spirited meeting that included presentations, reflection, discussion, and a panel presentation by newer members, (from left) Marie Flowers, SCN Novice, S. Alice Ann O’Neill, SC, and SC Affiliate Andrea Koverman, on its main theme.



Young Adult Conference to be held in August

The Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference will be held Aug. 6-10, 2013, at the Chicago Theological Union. The conference offers an opportunity for men and women age 18-30 to come together to consider a life of service to the Church as lay ministers, religious sisters, brothers or priests. During the five-day conference participants from across the country gather to hear nationally recognized speakers on prayer, scripture, discernment, ministry and the Church today. There are opportunities for personal reflection, exploring ministries of the Church in the Chicago area, and informal sharing with others who are discerning their path in life. You can view an informational video at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ctuweb>. Contact Sister Monica (monica.gundler@srcharitycinti.org) if you are interested in this opportunity. The website (www.catholicsoncall.org) offers several online retreat opportunities, reflections on the Sunday scriptures each week, and reflections on the journey of discernment by young adults.

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

- Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

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.