

# E-VOC

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



*Sisters of Charity*  
of Cincinnati

## CALENDAR

**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



Affiliate Tracy Kemme shares her spiritual and vocational journey in her blog "Diary of a Sister-in-Training." Be sure to visit it at [Sisterintraining.blogspot.com](http://Sisterintraining.blogspot.com).

## Soul Sister

By S. Janet Gildea



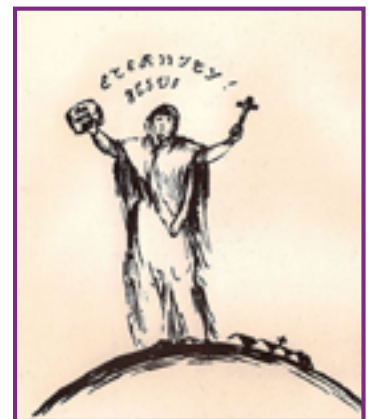
**A**s you make your way along a journey of discernment, the companionship and deep listening of a "soul sister" is a special blessing. Whether it's a family member, a college roommate, a co-worker or a childhood friend, someone who knows you very well can help you to know yourself and understand the movements of God in your life.

For St. Elizabeth Seton, her sister-in-law Rebecca Seton was that kind of kindred spirit. In the happy years of Elizabeth's life as a young wife and mother, Rebecca shared her spiritual journey, accompanying her to religious services and visiting the sick poor of New York City. The two young women had long conversations about faith, trying to recognize together the presence of God in the experiences of everyday life. Elizabeth recorded the story of her struggle to convert to Catholicism in a journal for Rebecca that she wrote from Italy during her husband's illness and after his death. She trusted that her "soul's sister" could bear the conflicting movements of her heart and help her come to clarity about God's call.

Who has "sistered" you in such a way? Is there someone you could trust with your big questions? It's not easy to be cast in such a supporting role. We all have our own ideas, opinions and prejudices. But a true soul sister avoids the temptation of giving advice unless requested. The key to such compassionate listening is to be willing to wait while the other discovers the way of the heart's desire; no detours or shortcuts, even if the way involves pain and confusion.

An old saying goes, "To have a friend, be a friend." The same could be applied to sistering a soul. Being a soul sister is not a one-way street. Part of the magic of such a relationship is its mutuality. So hone your own listening skills for your next heart-to-heart. Treasure such moments, as Elizabeth Seton did. She wrote this account of her last hours with her dear Rebecca: "We then talked a little of our tender and faithful love for each other and earnestly prayed that this dear affection begun in Christ Jesus on earth might be perfected through him in heaven ... I raised her head and drew her towards me -- Nature gave its last sigh -- she was gone in five minutes without a groan -- He who searches the heart and knows the spring of each secret affection -- He only knows what I lost at that moment -- but her unspeakable gain silences Nature's voice and the Soul presses forward toward the mark and prize of her high calling in Christ Jesus."

May you have – and be – such a friend!



This sketch of Elizabeth Seton was made by Fr. Gabriel Bruté. The book she holds bears the words, "The will of God," and she is standing beside the graves of Harriet, Cecilia, Annina, and Rebecca Seton. Source: [http://famvin.org/wiki/File:Seton\\_ernity\\_fr\\_brute.jpg](http://famvin.org/wiki/File:Seton_ernity_fr_brute.jpg)

# Where are the Sisters Today? Sister Sally Duffy



S. Sally Duffy is the president and executive director of SC Ministry Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation has become a leader in comprehensive immigration reform, Hurricane Katrina recovery, focused Catholic holistic education, and in ending systemic injustices. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Worth Watching: “Call the Midwife”

Looking for something to watch during the “Downton Abbey” recess? “Call the Midwife,” now in its second season (March 31-May 19), is another BBC offering that might fill the bill. Based on the memoir of a young midwife, the stories provide insights about the struggles of women, advances in women’s health care, and surprisingly, the collaborative ministry of Anglican nun-midwives training newly qualified lay midwives in a poor neighborhood of London in the late 1950s! Midwife Jenny Lee is shocked by the culture of poverty that she experiences. Wise and compassionate S. Julienne, the local superior and head midwife, explains in Episode One, “We’ll see what love can do. That’s why we’re here.” Check your local PBS station for viewing times. (Also available on Netflix!)



## My Mentor — S. Annina Morgan



S. Annina Morgan (pictured above, right) is one of my most special SC mentors. I knew S. Annina for several years before we actually worked together in the Women’s Center at the College of Mount St. Joseph. That period, during the 1980s, cemented our friendship and helped me to realize what a loving, creative, wise and fun Sister of Charity she is. New vistas were her forte. I remember when she was near 80 years old, she purchased a used laptop computer, so that she could keep in contact with her family and friends via email. And she still does not hesitate to gently speak her truth in times of controversy, or to any of us who need to hear what comes from her heart.

S. Annina’s presence radiates the loving, listening heart of Christ. Thanks, dear friend and mentor, for modeling for us all what it means to be a true Sister of Charity!

- S. Mary Bookser



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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](http://www.srcharitycinti.org) or contact S. Monica Gundler at (513) 504-5592.