

E-VōC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

June 26-30, 2013

Congregational Gathering

June 26, 2013

Opening of Canonical Novitiate

Aug. 6-10, 2013

Catholics on Call

Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2013

Come and Serve

House of Charity, New Orleans, La.

Sept. 22-26, 2013

Paying Attention to the Holy Spirit
(P.A.T.H.S.) Online Vocation Retreat

Register online at dcvoc@doc.org

by Sept. 16.



S. Alice Ann O'Neill recently visited our Sisters, Affiliates and Associate in Community living at Casa de Caridad in Anthony, N.M. While there she had the opportunity to volunteer at the Santo Niño Project, started by our Sisters in 2003 in Anapra, Mexico, to serve children with special needs and their families.

Wait Watchers

By S. Janet Gildea



Late last August three of us decided it was time to get serious about losing some weight. Our insurance plan reimburses for the Weight Watchers program, so we joined and have been “weighing-in” and counting our “points” for more than eight months. We’ve had fairly dramatic success, thanks in no small part to the support of our other three community members who encouraged us, ate and cooked healthy with us, and celebrated the “biggest loser” every week. Our Monday night meeting mates have watched in amazement, envious of the support we have given and received because of our community lifestyle.

Having a community of support, whether family or friends or co-discerners, is an important component of any discernment process. First of all, we need people who are willing to let us explore the possibilities. They have a sincere desire for our well-being and will let us try out new “recipes” even if they are more comfortable with the old ones. Second, they are cheerleaders. They remind us of the goal when we are stuck in the doldrums that can be prolonged in discernment. When we despair of ever being able to figure out this discernment-thing, they remind us (sometimes annoyingly) that the answer is within our deepest and truest heart’s desire. “Si! Se puede! Yes! You can!”

Perhaps, most importantly, a circle of support will hold us as we wait for “the slow work of God.” There is no quick and easy discernment, just as there is no quick and easy weight loss plan that is sustainable.

We need people who can be patient with us. Patient with our vacillations, with our frustrations, with God’s timing. They can wait and watch with us, not trying to hurry the process. They can even encourage us to slow down when we’re tempted to hurry toward a decision. Beware of those who try to push the process along. Remember the story of the child who tried to help the butterfly from the cocoon. The butterfly has to hang upside-down for a while after it emerges, pumping blood into its wings to inflate them. Then it waits some more, in some cases three hours, for the wings to dry before it can fly.

God has given each of us the capacity to recognize the way of our heart’s desire, but it can feel like a lonely path. Seek out trustworthy companions for the journey who will listen, encourage, watch and wait with you and with God.



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Where are the Sisters Today? Sister Juanita Marie Gonzales

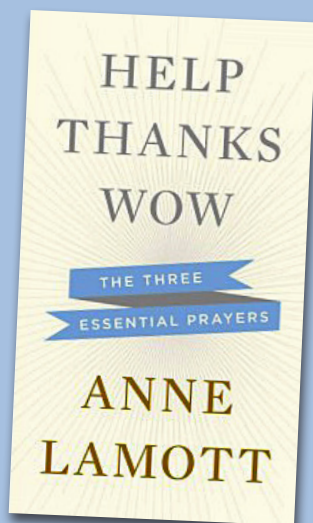


S. Juanita Marie Gonzales (standing, left) is the director of the Faith Formation program at San Isidro-San Jose parish in Santa Fe, N.M. To read more about Sister's ministry, [click here](#).

A Book for the Beach

“Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers”

Intercession, gratitude and praise are the three essential prayers for author Anne Lamott. Funny, irreverent, politically and religiously way-to-the-left, there is an endearing if brutal honesty to her writing that is refreshing. This book distills Lamott's spirituality and is helpful for spiritual seekers who might find themselves uncomfortable with institutional religion. Anne herself has been such a seeker and shares her discoveries as well as her continuing questions and struggles.



My Mentor — S. Jane Coyle

By S. Louise Lears

Sister Jane Coyle (pictured below) celebrated her Golden Jubilee as a Medical Mission Sister in 2009. I met Jane when she served as the pastoral director of Corpus Christi Church in Baltimore, Md., in the mid-1980s. Jane was the first woman in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to hold such a position; she is featured in the 1992 book, *They Call Her Pastor: A New Role for Catholic Women*.

I saw Jane lead the parish in a collaborative way, nurturing lay leadership and gifts. I watched as she formed a social action committee



that now addresses issues such as AIDS, homelessness, and mental illness. Jane loved the parishioners and neighbors and they clearly loved Jane – for her compassion, sense of justice, and Irish humor.

Though Jane would probably downplay her role as mentor to me, she freely offered her ear, heart, and wisdom whenever I was in town visiting my family or by phone. I could trust Jane with the big questions and deep struggles. She both loved and challenged the Church. Her reliance on the Holy Spirit and devotion to the Eucharist echo our SC Charism.

Jane “retired” in 2000 and volunteers in the parish near her Motherhouse. She continues to inspire and guide me.



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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 or contact S. Monica Gundler at 513-504-5592.