

# E-VōC

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



*Sisters of Charity*  
of Cincinnati

## CALENDAR

**Jan. 5, 2014**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Feast  
Day celebration  
2 p.m., Motherhouse chapel

**January 12, 2014**

The Feast of the Baptism of  
the Lord

**January 12, 2014**

Affiliate Rite of Welcome for  
Annie Klapheke  
2 p.m., Motherhouse chapel

**January 20, 2014**

Martin Luther King National  
Day of Service

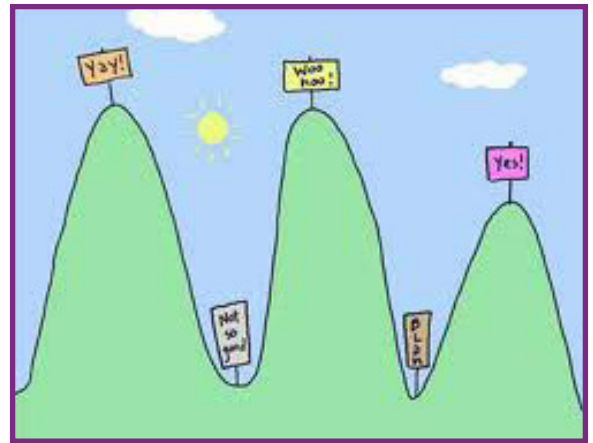
**Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2014**

Catholic Schools Week

## Look Back or Look Forward?

*By S. Janet Gildea*

The turn of the year is a time of retrospectives. What were the top newsworthy events? Who were the most influential people? What were the best movies, songs, books? It might be helpful to look at your life in a similar way. Turn the pages of your journal back to January 2013 and read the entries. Are you amazed or dismayed? Probably some of both ...

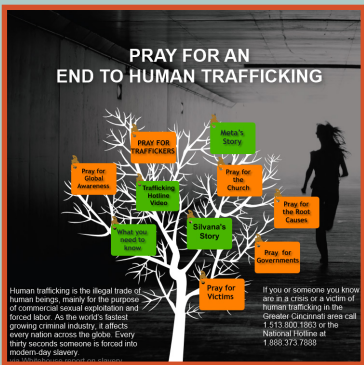


What were the big questions you were facing in 2013? Even if the questions remain, you have a different perspective and new information now, 12 months later. It might be helpful to draw out a timeline of the year with peaks and valleys indicating times of clarity and confusion as well as the plateaus of "I'm tired of trying so hard to figure this out!" What did you hope to know by now?

Maybe it seems that many questions still remain. But before you beat yourself (and God) up for being a slacker in discernment, acknowledge what you have learned and the way the Spirit has indeed moved you along the spiral path of knowing your heart's desire. Just because you still have questions doesn't mean that you are no closer to the answers. Whatever time you gave to prayer and reflection was not wasted on God. Every opening you gave to the Spirit was used to your advantage whether you knew it or not. Looking back, are you surprised by what you know now or at decisions you have made?

Right now, in this moment, what questions are most pressing on your heart? Write them down. Give them expression somehow. Get some colored pencils and draw them in a mandala. Find a song or poem or Scripture passage to honor them. Be creative. As the poet Rilke says, "Learn to love the questions."

Now face forward. What feelings stir in you as you begin 2014? Look especially for the glimmers of excitement, wonder, joy, energy. Where do you sense possibility that draws you forward in hope? These are indicators of the great adventure that God's call holds for you. Who are the people that help you to live into those glimmers? What projects, actions, or explorations give perspective to those possibilities in your life? Commit yourself to make those connections as you live into this New Year.



January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Visit OPJIC's online Prayer Tree to find information about human trafficking and how you can help through prayer. Visit [www.srcharitycinti.org/opjic/prayertree.htm](http://www.srcharitycinti.org/opjic/prayertree.htm).

# Ministry in Motion



Hidden away on the outskirts of Juarez, Mexico, in the colonia of Anapra, is a humble building that houses the Santo Niño Project. Within plain view of the United States border, a group of Sisters of Charity discovered a call to serve children with special needs. They cross the border from El Paso, Texas, each week to offer their services in a clinic built of cement, adobe and straw bale. To learn more, [click here](#).

## “Climb Ev’ry Mountain”

By S. Janet Gildea

The much-advertised live television performance of *The Sound of Music* last month might have fallen short of expectations in some regards but Audra McDonald received high marks. Her performance is truly one of “my favorite things”! Have a look:



<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/culture/la-et-cm-sound-of-music-audra-mcdonald--20131206,0,4566243.story#axzz2osH5z4Be>

Before the broadcast, McDonald talked to the *Wall Street Journal* about how she approaches singing “Climb Ev’ry Mountain.” She said, “Just focus on what Mother Abbess is really trying to do. And what’s she trying to do is give Maria some serious tough love and kicking her out. She’s saying no, you can’t run from your problems. This is opportunity in your life knocking on the door saying here we are. Here is your life. This is your destiny. And I’m not going to let you run away from it because it seems scary.”

## My Mentor –

**S. Eugene Fox**

by S. Marie Irene Schneider

Back in 1962, my first mission slip read “Carroll High School.” Off I went to Dayton in August with a new diploma in my hand and much trepidation in my



S. Eugene Fox

heart. S. Eugene Fox greeted me with a warm welcome and carefully introduced me to all the Sisters in the convent. The adjustment went smoothly – until we met the principal, Fr. Victor Ries. He gave me my schedule for a sophomore boys homeroom, two classes of all boys, and three classes of all girls. Not knowing where to begin, and seeing the bewildered look on my face, S. Eugene came to my rescue and immediately began giving me help with my first real lesson plans.

Every week S. Eugene would explain what literature would be good to teach, help me with a good way to teach it, and how long to spend on each lesson. Periodically, she would meet with me and another new English teacher to teach us how to help students learn to write in a more organized and creative way.

S. Eugene’s kindness reflected her deep love of God and her strong desire to serve Him through her students and young teachers. In my early teaching years, I wanted to be just like her. I thank God for allowing this great SC to help fashion my teaching career and my life.

*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.



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