

E-VOC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

Aug. 5-9, 2014
Catholics on Call
Chicago, Illinois

August 28, 2014
Birthday of St. Elizabeth
Ann Seton

Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2014
Come and Serve
*House of Charity, New Orleans,
Louisiana*

Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2014
Vincentian/Setonian online
retreat for those interested
in religious life

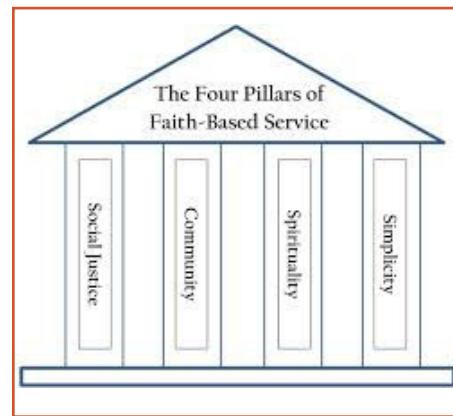


Sisters, Associates and friends of the Community celebrated the Feast of Mary of Magdala, known as "Apostle to the Apostles," on Tuesday, July 22 with an intercommunity prayer service. This year's theme was *Mary of Magdala, Witness and Prophet*.

The Four Pillars of Service

By S. Janet Gildea

Catholic Volunteer Network identifies four pillars of service for the long-term programs many young adults choose after college: Community Life, Spirituality, Social Justice and Simplicity. These pillars form a foundation that many volunteers continue to develop long after they finish the year of service. The four pillars create a framework that helps them to be their "best" selves.



Lived with intentionality, a common life demands time and energy. During the volunteer year there is no way to choose one's companions in community and sometimes sparks can fly! But the commitment to common life is for a limited time and with good support the experience can inspire alumni to seek out or create new small communities wherever they locate afterwards.

Faith-based programs encourage volunteers to see their service not just as a job but as a ministry. The ups and downs of challenging positions for recent college graduates are helped by disciplines of personal and communal reflection. The spiritual resources and direction provided in many faith-based programs and the opportunity to work in agencies that are connected to churches and religious organizations often help young adults at a time of questioning the beliefs and practices of institutional religion.

Action on behalf of justice as well as charity is a prime motivator for many who choose to give a year of service. Mentors who have devoted their lives to the principles of Catholic Social Teachings witness to the possibility of sustaining such a commitment to Gospel values. Connections with networks of faith-based activists broaden the support system for volunteers and give an experience of being part of "something bigger than myself."

Learning to live with less in a consumer society through a commitment to simplicity is a pillar that is both supported by and lends support to the others. Sharing space, negotiating needs versus wants in the household budget, making choices for community meals and entertainment create many opportunities for embracing a simple lifestyle. The Gospels come to life when read from the vantage point of persons at the margins of society. Deep questions arise, such as how much do I really need? Why have I had so many opportunities? How can I be more responsible stewarding the goods of the earth?

It is no wonder that a year of volunteer service, based on these four pillars, often raises questions about life direction and purpose. Catholic Volunteer Network is offering several discernment weekends, specifically for women who are current or former volunteers, to explore vocational choices: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/discernment-retreats>

Ministry in Motion

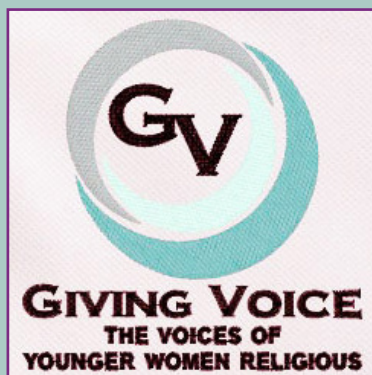


S. Monica Gundler (right) is one of four Sisters of Charity in the SC Federation living in the House of Charity in New Orleans, Louisiana, and ministering to the people there. In addition to serving the Archdiocese of New Orleans and its people, Sister is the vocations director for the SC Community. To learn more about S. Monica and her ministry, [click here](#).

Giving Voice Newsletter

Young women religious created “Giving Voice” in 1999 to build relationships, share experiences and help amplify the voices of the newest generation of Sisters. The stories and reflections of the amazing women who are responding to God’s call to religious life at this time in history are sure to inspire and challenge. There are links to several Sisters’ blogs, as well. Take a listen to these rising voices!

http://www.giving-voice.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=249&Itemid=1



My Mentors –

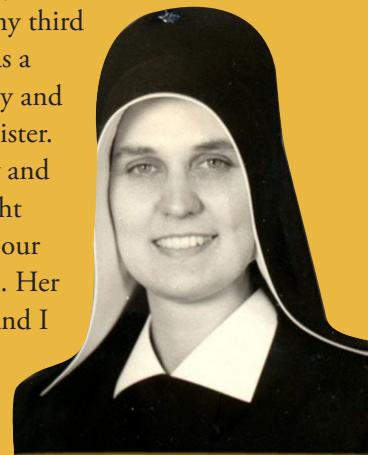
By S. Carol Brenner

I thank God for three beautiful women and the gift each has been in my life as a mentor.

The first was S. Ann Christine Bessler. In the first grade I fell in love with her kindness and goodness. She planted the seed of my Sisters of Charity vocation. From those early years at St. Rose in Cincinnati, I had a desire to be a Sister and a teacher like her.

My second mentor was my senior high school teacher at St. Mary, Hyde Park, S. Laura Mary Liegibel. She was a happy person interested in everyone and everything. As graduation drew near, she encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a Sister. Her care and gentle questioning inspired me to say ‘yes’ to the call.

S. Rose Anthony Foken, whom I met at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs during my first year of teaching, was my third mentor. She was a model of charity and a most loving Sister. Her spirituality and friendship taught me how to live our charity charism. Her life was joyful and I wanted to be like her.



S. Rose Anthony Foken

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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