

E-VōC

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

Jan. 3-8, 2011

House of Charity Service and Spirituality Trip
New Orleans, La.

Jan. 4, 2011

Feast of St. Elizabeth Seton

Jan. 9-15, 2011

National Vocation Awareness Week

March 9, 2011

Ash Wednesday

For more information about the above events, contact S. Janet Gildea at Janetsc@juno.com.

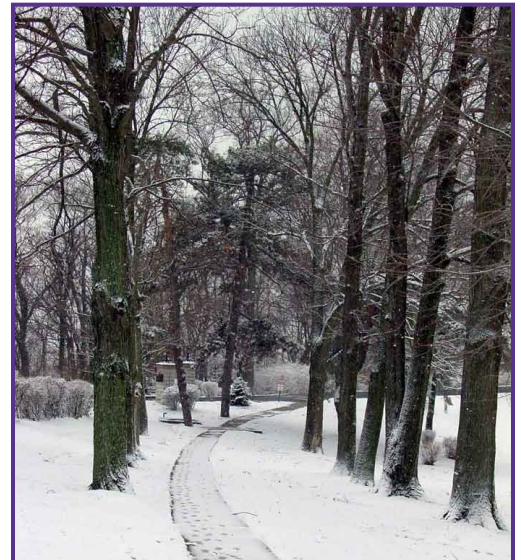


DISCOVERING THE PATH OF Your Heart's Desire

By S. Janet Gildea

At the turn of the year something deep within us raises resolutions for change. When the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, we feel a fresh start and want to make the most of it. People at times of transition or discernment can find in the month of January a sense of possibility.

Before looking forward it is good to take time to look back. If you keep a journal or a blog, revisit what you wrote in 2010 with an awareness of God's provident love at work in the events and experiences of your life. Or, take a look back at your calendar – or your checkbook – to jog your memory. Where and with whom did you invest yourself in the past year? What were two or three most significant things you learned about yourself? Is there “unfinished business” or are there “works in progress” that you need to keep in mind as the new year begins?



New Year's resolutions tend to be related to self-improvement: weight loss, smoking cessation, exercise programs. We want to be “better.” What about the inner self? As you seek to discover what is the path of your heart's desire, which is God's will for you, what will help your inner self to grow stronger in this new year? What baggage is weighing you down, and what will help you let go of it? What unhealthy habits are distracting you or clouding your vision? What disciplines of prayer or opportunities for spiritual enrichment might you access? Who might mentor you to help you be faithful to these practices?

January 4 is the feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. In her life story we discover a woman of exceptional fidelity to God's call as a married woman, a mother, a widow, a convert to the Catholic faith, an educator and a founder of a religious congregation. She can be a wonderful patron and model for those trying to navigate the waters of discernment. Elizabeth listened in prayer, sought the counsel of friends and spiritual advisors, and walked forward in faith even when the way was full of obstacles. She leaned on God in the sacraments, in Scripture, and in her beloved friends. She surely prays for all discerning women in the words of St. Paul:

“May God give you the grace for your inner self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will, with all God's holy people, have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.” Ephesians 3:16-20

Where are the Sisters Today?

Sister Roberta Westrick

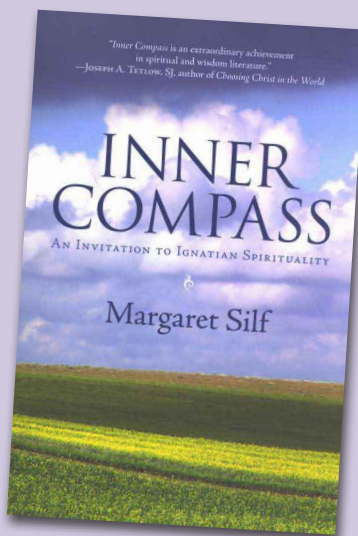


A working artist, Sister of Charity of Cincinnati Roberta Westrick recently painted 18 decorative santos for the reredos behind the altar of the newly formed parish of St. Pius X in Weslaco, Texas. To read more about S. Roberta's ministry, [click here](#).

A Good Read

“Inner Compass: A Guide to Ignatian Spirituality”
by Margaret Silf (Loyola Press 1999)

Far from being just another explanation of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, “Inner Compass” is a kind of “user’s guide” for the discernment journey. Margaret is a regular contributor to the spirituality section of *America* magazine, and I have always found her columns practical, folksy and even poetic. This book starts with the basics of spirituality and helps the reader to “find God in all things,” especially in personal experience. Reflection questions at the end of each chapter make it a tool to use with a spiritual director or small faith-sharing group. It is not meant to be a fast read, a real “page-turner,” but is designed to help you stay with the discernment process. As much as we all want God to provide clear answers to our questions in a timely fashion, Margaret reminds us that the journey is as important as the destination and helps us learn to use our own inner compass to explore the ways of God in our lives.



MEET OUR SISTERS

S. Jacqueline Leech

What do you enjoy most about being a Sister of Charity?

What energizes me and what gives me joy are the relationships and the connectedness I have with so many Sisters. I love going to Community meetings, to the Motherhouse and to big gatherings because I feel such a bond – that so many women wish to serve God and one another in this Community of Charity. That I belong to a community of women who care about one another and this world of ours gives me hope. As a chaplain in a retirement facility, and a chaplain for the Denver police, I’m quite aware that I represent a larger whole; I’m just one little piece of the whole.

What is the best thing about Community life?

In belonging to a Community and pooling our resources (“woman power” and finances), we are able to help others much more than independently. The support and concern I have received when I have been sick and have experienced deaths in my family have meant so much to me. The fact that I belong to a larger group gives me the desire to contribute to the building up of our community and to be a responsible, loving member.

What do you do for fun?

I love to do anything outdoors. I like to participate in hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing. During the summer Betty Voss, BVM (the Sister I live with) and I go tent camping for long weekends. There’s something about cooking, eating outside and sleeping in a tent that nourishes my soul. Betty and I take each other on “mystery trips” where the one only knows what to wear and if to bring money! We’ve had some great trips and picnics. Enjoying God’s creation is wonderful. I also like to read, play pinocle and do art work.



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E-Vic 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 Web site at www.srcharitycinti.org or contact S. Janet Gildea at (513) 535-1624.