

E-Vōc

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



Sisters of Charity
of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

March 6, 2010

SisterServe: A 14-hour adventure into the lives of Sisters in ministry at the U.S.-Mexico border.

March 23, 2010

Sharing Supper and Stories with Sisters, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at Nativity School cafeteria, Cincinnati. Learn more about the joys and struggles of women religious in our area.

March 28, 2010

Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week

April 4, 2010

Easter Sunday

April 23-25, 2010

Ever Wonder: A weekend at the cottages at Lake Lorelei, Ohio, for women wondering about religious life.

June 3-6, 2010

Catholics on Call Summer Conference in Chicago, Ill.

June 25-27, 2010

Casa de Caridad Volunteers Reunion in La Union, N.M.

Aug. 1-6, 2010

Catholics on Call Summer Conference in Chicago, Ill.

Sept. 3-6, 2010

Come and Serve Labor Day weekend with the Charity Federation in New Orleans, La.

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

Welcome to the first issue of *E-Vōc*, a monthly electronic newsletter of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.

We are dedicating this publication to young women who want to listen for the stirrings of the Spirit in their lives and make choices based on Gospel values. Collaborating with young adults on service trips, in volunteer work, and in ministries around the country, we have heard the desire for mentoring in ministry and in the spiritual life. We recognize how challenging it is to find time for this important task of young adulthood, and our hope is that *E-Vōc* will be an easily accessible resource that will provide information and inspiration for the journey!

As the definitions below the masthead suggest, *E-Vōc* is about re-imagining your life according to the call of the Spirit. As you get an education – and more education – and establish yourself professionally, you can start to feel like a stranger to yourself. What happened to the ideals and motives that first prompted you to embark on a particular course of study, or to choose one job over another? Did you ever think about your work as ministry? As you made those important decisions during your late teens and early 20s, did you ever have a sense that “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet”? (Frederick Buechner, “Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABCs”)

What do you want your life to be? The deepest desires of your heart hold the key to God’s call. *E-Vōc* will offer stories of Sisters of Charity who dedicate themselves to discerning that call and responding in compassionate service. In their lives you will see that it is possible to dare to risk a caring response to the needs of your sisters and brothers in Christ. We welcome your own reflections and questions related to discernment, community life, spirituality and ministry.

Please help us to make *E-Vōc* a dynamic and helpful resource for faith-filled women!

Sister Janet Gildea, SC



Where are the Sisters Today?

Sister Donna Steffen

Cincinnati, Ohio – S. Donna Steffen, a spiritual minister, facilitates workshops nationally for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and also is a member of the ministry team trained at the Jesuit Renewal Center in Milford, Ohio. To read more about S. Donna, click [here](#).



Service and Spirituality in New Orleans

On Jan. 4, 2010, a group of 11 Sisters from the SC Federation, and 19 young adult volunteers from the U.S. and Canada, gathered at the House of Charity in New Orleans, La., as part of a service trip to contribute to the rebuilding efforts of the city. The following quotes are from campus ministry students from the University of Texas at El Paso attending the trip. More about the New Orleans House of Charity will be included in the April issue of *E-vōc*.



“This was my second time coming to New Orleans with the Sisters and this time they had the house, which made it much easier to meet people. The sense of community was a lot stronger as well as everyone’s willingness to be open ... It’s a good experience because it’s not just the physical aspect. It’s treating the overall being as a whole.”

-Kristen Hernandez



“The people who we helped were an amazing influence to everyone. It felt as if no amount of work we did would be equivalent to what they taught us. We learned about compassion, strength, faith and love by the way they treated us. They all welcomed us with open arms and showed humility and gratefulness. Each day was a new lesson and experience that helped me grow as an individual.”

-A.J. Duron



“I came not knowing what to expect and am going home with a sense of slight accomplishment because there is still so much to do. I really did love it here! It was all happiness from beginning to end. There was no part during the week where I wished I was somewhere else. I took the time to remember to be present in where I am and what I am doing, helping, listening, leading.”

-Jessica Chairez

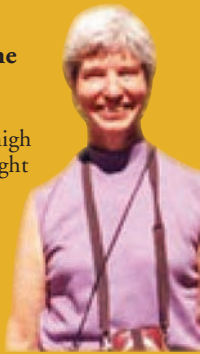
SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Here is your chance to ask our Sisters about their lives, their experiences in community and ministry, their prayer life and more! Send your questions to Erin Reder at erin.reder@srcharitycinti.org. Answers will be provided in an upcoming issue of *E-Vōc*.

ASK OUR SISTERS

What led to your decision to enter the Sisters of Charity?

“I entered right after high school. I had been taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame in high school and grade school. This was always an option. I wanted to give back something to God. God had been good to me, and I wanted to give back to Him. I didn’t know if this was the answer, but I had to try. When I was a senior, I had to make a decision, and I talked to a priest who told me to go to the Charities. I looked at three options, but the Charities were the most appealing.”



REFLECTIONS

Prayer to Follow the Call of Christ

Lord, I thank You for the gifts You have given me, especially for life, love, family and friends.

Help me to know myself better and to know my talents, as I pray, study and decide on my life’s work.

Help me to see and understand the path You open for me. Help me choose a life’s work which will be in response to my potential and your love for me.

If I am being invited to follow You as a priest, brother, sister, give me a generous heart to respond to your challenging call and the strength to follow You wherever You lead me.

Amen.



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of Cincinnati

E-Vōc 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.

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.