

# E-VOC

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



*Sisters of Charity*

of Cincinnati

## CALENDAR

### March 2-6, 2011

Company of Charity Formation  
Personnel, Nazareth, Ky.

### March 9, 2011

Ash Wednesday

### March 19, 2011

Feast of St. Joseph

### March 25, 2011

Feast of the Annunciation

### March 26, 2011

SisterServe  
El Paso, Texas

*For more information about the  
above events, contact S. Janet Gildea  
at [janetsc@juno.com](mailto:janetsc@juno.com).*



Young adults gather with Sisters of Charity in La Union, N.M., to share about the Enneagram, a tool for personal and spiritual growth.

## Fast, Pray, Love

### YOUR WAY THROUGH LENT

*By S. Janet Gildea*

**L**ent begins very late this liturgical year. Ash Wednesday is March 9 and our journey toward Easter won't end until April 24. The season of Lent, for most of us, means a time of soul searching and repentance. We were trained to think of things "to give up" at some personal sacrifice as a way of getting closer to God.

The three spiritual disciplines of Lent are fasting, prayer and almsgiving. They are like the three legs of a stool, equally important to keep in balance as we turn our hearts toward God.

Fasting from food, technology, consumerism, harsh judgment and frenetic activity opens up a space for us to recognize our deepest longing, "the holy longing" for God as Fr. Ronald Rolheiser calls it.

Exploring new forms of prayer or recommitting to traditional practices like the Stations of the Cross are opportunities to build our friendship with God as well as experience the gift of Christian community.



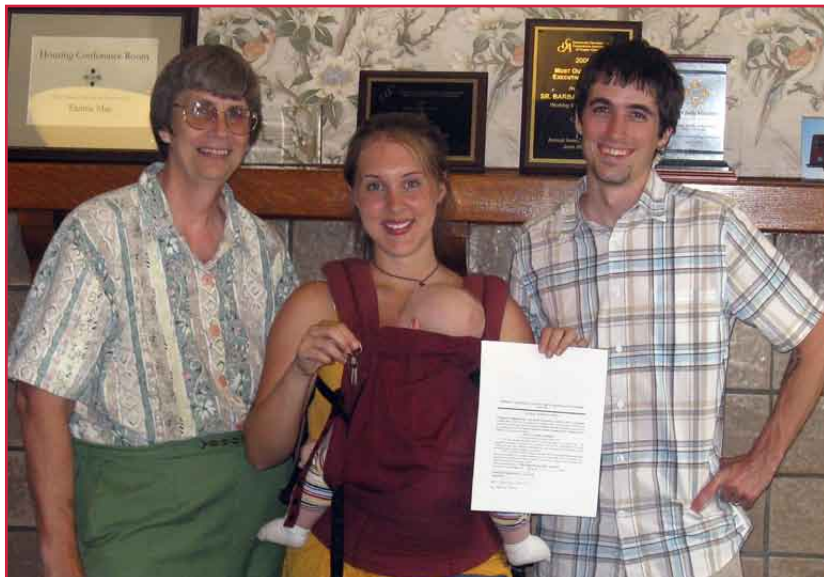
Sisters Rose William Herzog (left) and Monica Gundler (second from right) gather students from the College of Mount St. Joseph to pack lunches for Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Almsgiving is perhaps the least developed of the disciplines of Lent. As children we may have been encouraged to give money to "Operation Rice Bowl" or a local charity. For adults, our "alms" for the poor are a call to justice as much as charity. Our Catholic Social Teachings require that we walk on both feet: charity and justice. So almsgiving might mean educating ourselves and others on issues as diverse as climate change and U.S. immigration reform. Our "alms" might be a letter to our congressional representatives or the editor of a newspaper. In addition to sending money we might also send ourselves ... to a homeless shelter, nonviolent protest, immersion experience or service project.

If you find yourself in a time of discernment this Lent, offer God your fasting, praying and loving to discover the path of your heart's desire, the pathway to God's own heart.

# Where are the Sisters Today?

## Sister Barbara Busch



S. Barbara Busch (left) is the executive director of Working in Neighborhoods, an organization in Cincinnati, Ohio, that empowers people to make informed choices for themselves and their neighborhoods through community building, home ownership and economic learning. To read more about Sister's ministry, [click here](#).

## A Good Read

### “Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope” by Brian D. McLaren

The Greek word “metanoia” means a change of heart. In the Christian tradition it is associated with repentance and conversion. This book by a Christian pastor offers insights about why Jesus was so dangerous to the religious and political institutions of his day. The author challenges us to be open to the kind of radical change that Jesus embodied. The chapters are short and have questions for discussion that are meant to carry the change forward in communities of faith.



## ASK OUR SISTERS S. Cookie Crowley

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

I was fortunate enough to become acquainted with the Sisters of Charity at an early age. When it came time to get serious about what I wanted and needed to do with my life, I just knew it had to be with them. Growing up I learned that when the Sisters were involved, things got done and needs were met. One day in high school I questioned my mom about something she was doing for the Sisters, her response was simple, “Cookie, we can never begin to repay the Sisters for what they have done for us and the many families in the city.” So maybe I was one of the first of the “pay it forward movement!”



## REFLECTIONS

“Change our hearts, this time, your word says it can be.

Change our minds, this time, your life can make us free.

We are the people your call sets apart Lord, this time, change our hearts.”

*From the song “Change Our Hearts” by Rory Cooney. To view a YouTube video featuring the song, [click here](#).*

## RESOURCES

The Catholics On Call site ([www.catholicsoncall.org](http://www.catholicsoncall.org)) is filled with articles, podcasts and online retreats to help with the discernment process. The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati are Catholics on Call partners and sponsor participants for the annual Young Adults Conference (Aug. 9-13, 2011). Contact [S. Janet](#) if you are interested.



Sisters of Charity  
of Cincinnati

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 Web site at [www.srcharitycinti.org](http://www.srcharitycinti.org) or contact S. Janet Gildea at (513) 535-1624.