

E-VōC

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



Sisters of Charity

of Cincinnati

CALENDAR

Sept. 2-5, 2011

Sisters of Charity Federation
“Come and See and Serve”
New Orleans, La.

Sept. 10, 2011

Silver Jubilee Mass and celebration
4:30 p.m., Mount St. Joseph
Motherhouse

Sept. 21, 2011

Why Discern?
A workshop for those who minister
to older Catholic teens and young
adults.

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



Find Us Online

Don't forget to check out S. Janet Gildea's blog, *Each Day Counts*, at <http://janetsc.wordpress.com>.

The blog offers reflections to visitors on living life with an awareness of God. Her most recent posts include thoughts from a July mission trip to Ecuador.

Now Hear This

By S. Janet Gildea

During a mission trip to Ecuador this summer, we had an opportunity to celebrate Mass with the children, teachers and staff of INESEM school. Approximately one-half of the 70 students are hearing impaired and the other half are mentally challenged. The Gospel chosen for the day was the parable of the sower and the seed. The students dramatized the reading for us, which was as inspiring as it was entertaining.



Students of the INESEM school in Pedro Carbo, Ecuador, dramatize the parable of the sower and the seed.

“Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil where it produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty and a hundredfold. Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear!”
Mark 4:3-9

Imagine this reading in a congregation where almost one-half of the people cannot hear with their ears. Others have difficulty with comprehension. And this Good News was proclaimed by a cast of evangelists that included people of both groups to us whose inability to hear and comprehend are no less real, just less obvious. What birds, rocks and thorns keep us from hearing the Word and bearing fruit?

Often God's word falls on deaf ears because of the sheer magnitude and volume of competing voices in our daily lives. On occasion we can make a getaway to the mountains, a desert or a beach to still those noises. Jesus did. But most of us can't stay in those places. Jesus didn't either. We have to find ways to “hear this!” in the daily ruckus of our lives.

The Sisters on mission in Ecuador live above the clinic they administer. The clinic is open 24 hours a day and is located on the main thoroughfare of the town. In the tropical climate everything is open-air. The noise is incredible and constant – to the level that, at times, it makes conversation almost impossible in the house. The Sisters manage to create interior sanctuaries where they can hear with the ears of their hearts. This is the challenge for active apostolic religious women and for all who hope to be fertile ground for the Word.

Vocation discernment is all about hearing. Few of us will have St. Paul's experience of being knocked off his horse and hearing Christ's voice directly. Some of us might experience the voice of God on the mountaintop in a quiet stirring sound like the prophet Elijah. Most of us will be caught off guard in the midst of our busy lives, like Peter at his fishing or Elizabeth Seton raising her children. We will find ourselves straining to hear a voice that is not as loud and clear as we would like it to be. God is with us in our efforts to hear, desiring to produce the hundredfold in our lives.

Where Are the Sisters Today?

S. Mary Beth Peters



Since 2005, S. Mary Beth Peters has been responsible for the administrative duties of Our Daily Bread, a Christian hospitality ministry that provides a warm meal and a safe place in community for the poor in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine and West End neighborhoods. But she says the most enjoyable part of her ministry involves associating with the many guests who visit on a daily basis. To learn more about S. Mary Beth, [click here](#).

Faith in Film

By S. Janet Gildea

This summer, the movie "The Help" opened to mixed reviews. Based on the best-selling novel by Kathryn Stockett, the story describes the lives of African-American women who worked as domestic help in Jackson, Miss., at the dawn of the civil rights movement. Criticized by some who say it depicts generalized abuse of these workers by their white employers that is inaccurate, others say the depiction is "sanitized" and does not adequately reflect the injustice suffered by the women.

The movie is a very good adaptation of the book and brings new awareness of this dark period in our history. It also conveys the faith that gave the women the courage to risk sharing their stories, reminding us that God is our *help* in every struggle for justice. See the movie. Read the book!



ASK OUR SISTERS

S. Barbara Davis

How do you carry out the spirit of Elizabeth Seton in your daily ministry?

"I have always believed firmly in the grace of the present moment. Whatever happens in the course of the day, I strive to respond in a manner that reflects Elizabeth's spirit of trusting in God alone. In her words, 'Never mind, all will go right; since we look to God alone.' Those words inspire me to bring a spirit of hopefulness and openness to each moment.

"I also look to Elizabeth as an educator. Though her students were younger in age, our students, just like hers, are seeking truth and knowledge. As a Catholic institution of higher education, we strive for excellence in everything that we do, both in the classroom and in any service we provide for our constituents."

- S. Barbara Davis, coordinator of alumni relations and annual giving at Mercy College in Toledo, Ohio



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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 or contact S. Janet Gildea at (513) 535-1624.