

# What's Up?



Not many leaves!



Advent wreaths!



Christmas décor!



Preparations for our February gathering!

## US!

*It's been a while since the last newsletter. Halloween and Thanksgiving have passed and the Advent wreath has been lit. In that time we hired a consultant for Development, published the next Connections, now called Walking Together, and sent out the Christmas Gift of Prayer. In that time we have begun the plans for the next Assembly, officially known as The Regional Congregation (RC). The finance department, Connie and Barb, completed all the preparation for the audit, which is now complete. Plans for Union and possible Zooms with other CJ sisters continue. Materials for February (RC) are on their way out soon. Our Leadership met with Bishop Hicks.*



Esther O'Mara 'chiming in' with others for Mercy's Advent prayer.

*Hopefully in the midst of it all we will have time for the quiet expectation of Advent. May the blessings of this season flow over us and through us.*

*Forever I will sing the mercies of the Lord!*



Lorraine Crawford danced her way through Mercy Chapel to open the Advent season.

## Meeting with Bishop Hicks

November 4, 2021

The annual Meeting of Major Religious Superiors with Bishop Hicks was held in October. We gathered at the Provincial Administration Building of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. The seventy five minute drive from Wheaton was rewarded with beautiful fields of growth and many harvested acres. The setting was a conference room with a view of the Kankakee River.

While details of the meeting are confidential, I can share the agenda and some brief comments:

Racism and Critical Theory was discussed in depth. Critical Race Theory examines social, cultural, and legal issues primarily as they relate to race and racism in the United States. We shared our thoughts and concerns around this timely subject. Each religious community discussed what they did to address the subject of racism with our members.

The “Synod on Synodality” was reviewed in the spirit of a listening experience. The local diocesan listening and discussion sessions, hopefully result in hearing where the Holy Spirit is calling the Church now. Please consider joining a group and actively participating. We closed the meeting sharing both the positive and negative effects of COVID-19 on our communities.

*Bishop Hicks graciously models a “listening” Bishop. His desire to share and receive feedback is authentic. Time spent with these other leaders was very valuable.*

— Helen Timothy

Please click the link for Bishop Hicks’ column for November, which focuses on the Synod on Synodality. You can also find his column at this [webpage](#). We also have created a [webpage on the synod](#), which features a video of Bishop Hicks’ homily from the diocesan opening Mass for the Synod on Synodality.





## Did you know...?

Lorna Hays continues to counsel, give retreats, spiritual direction, and is mentoring many 12-step program members, all while enjoying her new apartment and being present to the residents at Casa.



Ellen Enright not only runs a knitting group once a week, but also hosts a book club at Casa Scalabrini. Her contacts are many and varied, and they all really enjoy the time together. She is known there as a great listener and spiritual guide.

Kay Foley maintains her role with our sisters at Casa. She is alternately companion, shopper, driver, visitor. In all things she brings a friendly presence and helping hand. She also started as Eucharistic Minister for the Artis Residence in Elmhurst when Josephine lived there. She continues this ministry every Wednesday for the residents.



Cindy Langlois at the office works diligently on the thousand of photos, identifying locations, occasions, and people. At home she is thoroughly enjoying her new chihuahua puppy, Tinka.

Arlene Connolly knits in the Prayer Shawl group with Ellen Enright. Recently she sent a big bag full of beautiful scarves to the People's Resource Center for the Christmas gifts for their clients. She accepts and uses all kinds of yarn, and gives to anyone who needs a warm gift.



## Did you know...? (cont)



December 1st Sr. Anthony of St. Patrick's Residence awarded Judy Illig, along with 5 other volunteers, the Cladagh Award for Love, Friendship and Loyalty. For the last 20 months this group, dubbed the "Back Door Ministers" has donated at least one day per week to assist at the back door of St. Patrick's Residence, doing all the needed paperwork, taking temps and filing while also cheering on the overtired healthcare workers and first responders.



### Other Interesting Factoids:

Winter styles in Southern California are just not the same of ours in the Midwest! This is Muffie Carton's granddaughter, Gracie, modeling her winter wear.



Cargo ships are lined up outside many ports along both coasts. This one happened to get clearance to come in for unloading in Oakland the day I was walking along the Bay with my sister.

Those live Christmas trees you can get in the grocery store—the ones that stand about 1 foot tall— are called Norfolk Pines. When they grow up they actually look like each tree to the left, one residing in Western Springs, tended by Kay and Connie for several years, the next planted long ago in Golden Gate Park, CA.



Carrie Goodale's cat, Cynthia, won first place in the pet Halloween contest at her apartment complex in Chicago.

### Annals—Mundane and Extraordinary

"Although the IBVM Archive is filled with wonderful resources, few are as insightful as the annals recording daily life. Just one example, this page details the experiences of the Woodlawn Branch Novitiate in April and May of 1945. Note that in between entries describing Sister Pierre's search for a new tooth is a mention that World War II ended in Europe! Ranging from the mundane to the extraordinary, annals are an important tool for preserving the history of the IBVM and the incredible legacy of the sisters." (These are located on the next page)

Kevin Korst

[Learn more at the Regional Congregation in February!](#)



# Woodlawn Annals 1945

- Apr. 1 After observing Passion Week by attending the Carmelite services at St. Cyril's Church, we are rejoicing in this great and significant feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord.
- Apr. 24 Marco Polo has nothing on Sister Pierre who has just checked off "umteenth" trip to the far north side in search of a tooth at the Loyola Dental College.
- May 8 V-E DAY!!! We join in the Te Deum of the Allied Nations as the victory in Europe is proclaimed.  
While the school teachers stayed home to celebrate this great day, the St. Xavier students from our Nov. upheld their principle that seeing is believing much to Sr. Mary Grace's dismay. At the crack of dawn they ploughed off to college only to discover the truth of Sister's vain protest that in case of V.E. day classes would not meet....as Sister says, "but you wouldn't listen to me."
- May 16 All things come to her who waits. At last the dentist has found just the right size, right polish, right color cuspid to fit into Sr. M. Pierre's "upper plate."
- May 20 This Pentecost Sunday also is Mother's feast day. Though we're not officially celebrating today we pray that the Holy Spirit will shower her with His choicest blessings.
- May 25 The quarterly sign, "Genius at work," appears in the Noviceship as college students study for and teachers compose exams. Vacation is already peeping around the corner at us.
- May 28 The Agnus Dei ceremony, more commonly known as our six novices, went into three months today to prepare for Profession. Mother is finally freed from the daily interrogation directed by Sr. M. Sebastian as to the date of Profession. Since this inquiry has continued since January 1st we vote that Mother should be awarded the palm of endurance.
- May 30 All the J.P.'s from Englewood and St. Brides, the Noviceship crew, together with the Woodlawn community join in merry festivities for Mother Bernardine's feast day. Beginning with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered for Mother's intentions, the order of the day was: (1) "Reck for brek" in the refectory which was decorated with little boys and girls on tester-tawters and swings (of the paper doll species) (2) After prayers, we went fishing in Sr. M. Francesca's pond, where each one caught a prize for answering a profound question from Sister's book. Sr. M. Perpetua obtained much desired shoe laces. (3) It seems that Mother caught the most prizes without even fishing for her gift-table groaned under the weight of daintily wrapped packages which she opened midst exclamations of delight. One intriguing box contained a supply of Vims from one of Mother's Vim-fed children. (4) Dinner was followed by a mystery play, "Murder in a Nunnery" presented by the Thespians of the Noviceship. (5) Then everybody went to the Gym where we played progressive games until it was time for our party supper. This latter event proved so adequate that later in the evening we forgot to return to the refectory to finish the goodies. At nine o'clock the lingering strain of a Happy Feast went out on the wings of prayers of thanksgiving from all fourteen of us for such a lovely festal day.



# California Companions



In my recent trip to California I met and dined with the Companions in the Sacramento area. Left column: Maria Victorio, teacher at St. Patrick Academy in South Sacramento, also runs a program for local teens. Every year for the holidays she gathers people to help her feed and gift the neighborhood, one of the poorest in Sacramento. Everyone pictured pitched in to help with shopping, purchasing and praying.



Peggy Weseloh is ever-aware of those older folks who need a call, a listening friend a luncheon, or a small group book club (Richard Rohr is the current author).



Barb Barnett, Linda Haines (unofficial, but a true Companion), and Mary Lembke are each active in advocacy and service for the poor, hungry and homeless. Mary is also one of the "favors granted" people in the Cause for Mary Ward.



Right: Ann Gamboa supervised the kitchen for Sharing God's Bounty, a weekly meal at St. Philomene's for the hungry. After many years, she is now chief treasurer for the group.

Bill Durborough is head of the Justice Committee for his parish, St. Clare's. He took on Sr. Judy's river ministry as well and has helped homeless at every stage from the streets through transitions to homes.

After our lunch that day Barb Barnett gave Bill the fruits of her recent 'garage sale-ing' - sleeping bags, jeans, shoes and blankets. ***They have to continue meeting like this!***

I could not see a few of the Companions out there because of time and distance, but be assured:

*"Standing with the poor and persevering in the same...." is their aim.*



We are blessed by the presence and faithfulness of our Companions. Throughout the country they are who they are for those in need around them. If you have any information about a Companion you'd like to share, please write a paragraph about them and send a picture. This could be autobiographical and selfie, too! Please send these to [mtcarton@comcast.net](mailto:mtcarton@comcast.net)

## Requests:

1. If you come across some interesting facts or people that could be part of " Did You Know... article, please consider sending a picture and a short description of the fact/ work/ event. This could be a good way to share a movie, a person, a fact, a link or something you found interesting with others in a brief way.
2. We need to stay in touch with donors and extend our outreach. According to all who work in development, social media and website, SISTERS are the best connection and highest interest for our donors and readers.

*If you are willing to make a few phone calls to past pupils, friends or relatives on behalf of Development, please let Mary Carton or Judy Illig know.*

If you can respond to either of the requests above please contact  
mtcarton@comcast.net or mcarton @ibvm.us or 916-606-9600 You can also contact  
Judy at ibvmjudy@aol.com or 916-606-9831



## Development

This has been a very busy month for Development! The Christmas Gift of

Prayer went out for the first week of December. The publication **Walking Together** (formerly *Connections*) is being printed and will be mailed soon. Giving Tuesday has come and gone, and the Annual Report is in progress. We have met with some familiar faces—Grace, Mary Ellen, Nancy, Marlene and Gretchen to begin discussions about possible events in the coming year. We'll keep you posted in the What's Up as things progress further. (If you happened to skip the requests above, please take note of #2!) Sisters—all of us—make a big difference!



Laura Schmidt and Megan Beutel have joined our collaborative team for Development.

IBVM Development Special Events survey:

[Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary > Support Us > Events \(ibvm.us\)](http://www.ibvm.us/SupportUs/Events)





## SYNODALITY

Synodality...of us. It is a way of conversing encouraged by both Pope Francis and IBVM and CJ General Councils. We need to listen. We need to speak and be heard. We need to be Mary Ward women of today, and we need to be involved in the journey of Church. Easy? Probably not. But it is our challenge and opportunity.

There are questions that are basic to the focus of conversations with other Catholics concerned about the movement of the Catholic Church into the future. It's a chance to speak of visions, hopes, relationships and inclusivity. It is not for arguments or proving something. It is a time of listening to the whole and thus hearing how the Spirit is flowing through us and leading us.

**Fundamental Question** – A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together”. How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church? How does it allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in accordance with the mission entrusted to Her? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

There will be centers for small groups near our Sisters: the Wheaton Franciscans Motherhouse and Mercy Circle. I know that several people have expressed interest in being part of a group. The idea is to have diverse groups culturally, theologically, active or lapsed, cradle or convert Catholics, etc. Please consider joining a group or creating your own. These links tell more:

<https://www.archchicago.org/news-and-events/synod>

<https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/bishop/sectioncontent.php?secid=18>

### From a letter from Bishop Hicks:

We can have the best hearing in the world, but it takes real attention and effort to be a good listener, too. Some people seem to have a natural gift to listen well. Nevertheless, you have probably encountered some people in our society who prefer to monologue instead of dialogue. To dialogue, one must embrace the humble position of not only speaking but listening, too.

Our Holy Father has asked that the Church begin a process of “listening.” It is called the Synod on Synodality. “In creating the opportunity for listening and dialogue on the local level through this Synod, Pope Francis is calling the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature. This rediscovery of the synodal roots of the Church will involve a process of humbly learning together how God is calling us to be as the Church in the third millennium. (*Vademecum* for the Synod on Synodality, section 1.1)







*"His Name Shall Be" by Matt Redman*  
*Song recommended by Dana Wolze for Sips of Faith for Advent*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWzLWNxh8fE>

Trouble with links? Copy and paste in navigation bar.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGs9cfFmu9I>

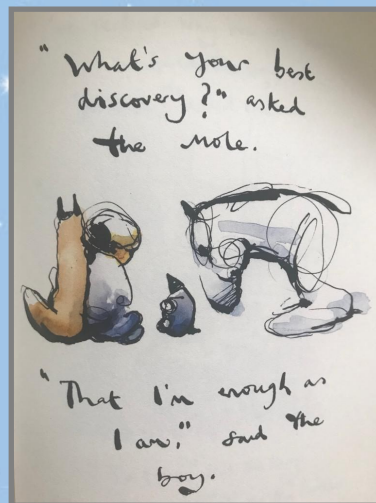
**The Magnificat—an Advent Reflection**

*"O Holy Night" Sung by Josh Groban*

<https://youtu.be/8Uh6X7WB5UE>

**Link to Friendly beasts:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWWIBtVq6II>



**What's your best discovery?" asked the mole.**

**"That I am enough as I am," said the boy.**

**This is taken from a soliloquy by Mr. Blue in the book by the same name.**

**(Myles Connolly, 1928)**

Atop a building in Manhattan, his face toward the stars, Blue declared: "I think my heart would break with this immensity if I did not know that God himself once stood beneath it, a young man, as small as I...It was Christ who humanized infinitude, so to speak. When God became man he made you and me and the rest of us pretty important people. He not only redeemed us, he saved us from the terrible burden of infinity....My hands, my feet, my poor little brain, my eyes, my ears, all matter more than the whole sweep of these constellations. God himself had hands like mine eyes and brain and ears! ...Behold! Behold, God wept and laughed and dined and wined and suffered and died even as you and I.... I am no microcosm! I, too, am a Son of God!" He finished with a great gesture to the stars.

After a pause, he said, "Imagine, imagine anyone with anything good to tell keeping it to himself!



*May the Peace of the Lord be with you  
With your friends and your family too,  
Let it be, let it grow, and everywhere you go  
May the Peace of the Lord follow you!*

*(from a song by Carey Landry)*