

# UIW Mission Newsletter

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Retreatants pose on the front steps of the Heritage Center at Villa de Matel, Motherhouse of the CCVI's-Houston.



Rosa Garcia-Pompa puts flowers at the gravestone which includes the name of S. Agnes Buisson, who came with Madeleine and Pierre to begin the San Antonio foundation and who returned to Galveston shortly after arrival.



Raul Zendejas and David Allwein enjoy an evening meal at a local restaurant after a day full of "mission" conversation and following in the footsteps of the Congregational founders.

## Retreat Participants Retrace Steps of First Three CCVI's in Galveston

Nineteen members of the UIW, IWHS, SACHS and IWA communities spent two days in Houston and Galveston reliving the stories of the founders of the Congregation of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

The retreat group heard S. Adeline O'Donoghue talk about S. Jeanne de Matel's struggles to begin the Order of the Incarnate Word in Lyons, France and Bishop Claude Marie's request to that Order, two hundred years later, to help his cholera ravaged diocese by

preparing Sisters to run a small hospital in Galveston.

Visits to the site of that hospital, to the place where the 1900 Galveston hurricane destroyed the orphanage and took the lives of 90 children and ten Sisters, and to the cemetery where many of the early Sisters are buried helped bring the story to life.

The group then reflected on modern expressions of the mission as they listened to staff at "Our Daily Bread" describe their service to the homeless and drug-addicted men and women



S. Adeline O'Donoghue

on the streets of Galveston. The final retreat session brought the immersion experience together through discussion of and commitment to carrying on this rich heritage and mission through appropriate service at UIW and affiliated schools.

## Nursing Class 2007 Gets Pinned and Sent Forth

In a ceremony full of tradition and nostalgia, 19 spring nursing graduates received their UIW pins and recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge as faculty mentors and parents looked on with pride and satisfaction.

praised the hard work that led to this day of leaving the student nurse role to enter into the real-life practice of nursing and prayed that they would do so with wisdom and that the duty they were taking on would become a ministry.

The faculty speakers

*Dr. Laura Munoz delivers the "last lecture" to the graduates.*



## Social Justice Institute Held June 5th-8th

Patrick McCormick, STD, Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, led a 4-day Social Justice Institute at UIW, June 5th-8th, for a class of 20 faculty. This was the second class to join the Institute which is designed to help faculty members become familiar with the themes of Catholic Social Thought so that they can incorporate them into their classroom instruction.

McCormick began by giving a global view of the Biblical context for a



socially just society. He showed how the stories in Genesis, Exodus and Deuteronomy reveal the transformation of a people into one that can create a just and righteous community. Likewise, the New Testament describes the transformation of twelve men into people who will think and act differently to bring about the reign of God.

Against this backdrop, McCormick illuminated ten key principles of Catholic Social Teaching: human dignity, community and common good, rights and responsibilities, option for the poor, par-

ticipation in society, dignity of work, stewardship of creation, solidarity, role of government and promotion of peace.

The final sessions of the Institute addressed ways of integrating these principles into specific course syllabi so that students acquire a commitment to social justice and the professional skills necessary to be agents of change in their communities. In the fall semester, the faculty class, which includes representatives from pharmacy, nursing, math, fashion design, biology, and business, will report on their efforts to incorporate the social justice principles and the response of students.

## Representatives of CCVI Sponsored Ministries and Fr. Anthony Gittens Address International Gathering at the ICC

Members of CHRISTUS, UIW, Visitation House, Mexican and Guatemalan sponsored ministries spoke about their experience of the CCVI mission: its relational, incarnational aspect; its emphasis on empowering women and affording respect and dignity to each individual; its sense of drawing people to God through people; and its ability to empower a new

generation of youth to make a difference in the world.

Fr. Anthony Gittens, C.S.Sp., presented a workshop focused on the theology of mission, with emphasis on Luke 4: "The Spirit of

the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me. . ."

*"Living the Incarnation calls us to be open to the transforming work of the Spirit unfolding in the daily events of our life.."*

Gittens understands this as a challenge to all baptized to be about God's mission on earth, to make sure that our structures and strategies are linked to what God has in mind for us.

## UIW Campus Shows Tender "Care for the Earth"

