

UIW Mission Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 1

January-February, 2008

Special points of interest:

- Preparations for celebrating **Incarnate Word Day** on March 25th are underway. The CCVI Spirit Award will be presented at a special liturgy.
- **Women's Global Connection** is recruiting groups to offer workshops and to work with women involved in small businesses in Zambia and Tanzania. Anyone interested in participating should call Paula Caffer at ext. 3208.
- On March 8th, the UIW **Chorale** will perform at San Fernando Cathedral. Admission is free.
- HASS has planned an interesting "**Slice of Justice**" for its faculty and students on March 7th. Over a lunch of pizza and sodas, participants will discuss questions of ethics and social justice.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Kathi Light** and **Dr. Arcelia Johnson-Fannin** who will be inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame on March 6th.

CCVI's Hold General Chapter

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word from Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Zambia, Ireland and the U.S. gathered in San Antonio, January 3rd to open a 10-day meeting



known as a **General Chapter** which decides on a Congregational direction for the next six years. Meeting with the Sisters were Associates, Incarnate Word Missionaries, and co-ministers from sponsored institutions. Together, they discussed and shared their hopes for the future of the ministries and the

mission to extend God's healing love to the world..

The group wrestled with how we should be living the Congregational mission in the 21st century and what governance structure is

appropriate to enable mission.

Justice and Peace issues occupied a primary spot on the agenda. Corporate positions on immigration and on the situation in Kenya were approved and sent to Congress and the Secretary of State. Special interest in Kenya arose because there are Houston-CCVI's living in the danger zone.

The election of a new Administrative Team to lead the Congregation for the next six years will take place in April.

Lent Begins Early: February 6th

The Lenten season started early this year, the earliest it has been since 1913. The distribution of ashes comes from an ancient custom of doing public penance for major offenses against the community. **Lent** is a time of prayer, penance and remembering God's mercy in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Fireside Chat Discusses "Women Who Dare"

Dr. Claudette A. Copeland, Founder of Destiny Ministries, and recently chosen among the top ten most influential black spiritual leaders in the country, led the discussion about women in leadership roles, their acceptance and struggles even in 21st century

America.

Dr. Copeland told the students gathered around the fireplace in Marian Hall to treat themselves with respect and to expect and accept no less from society.

The "Fireside Chats"

hope to attract stimulating speakers on today's burning issues in spirituality and education..



Dr. Copeland

Mission: Foundations and Future Retreat

Twenty-four participants and staff met in Moye Retreat Center in Castroville for the Foundations and Future retreat series. Castroville was chosen as the place to begin the story of the CCVI foundation in Texas. Bishop Dubuis' little church and house still exist there so retreatants prayed about and reflected on the Bishop's call that brought three young French women to San Antonio to initiate what we now continue in health care and education.

The retreat is

open to those who work in CCVI sponsored ministries. Representatives of Visitation House, UIW, Villa de Matel, Our Daily Bread, CHRISTUS Health Care, Province and Generalate staff, and St. Anthony's Catholic High School immersed themselves in the CCVI mission story as it unfolded at Ursuline Convent (now the SW Craft Center), San



Fernando Cathedral, Santa Rosa and as it continues now at Visitation House, UIW, and all the outreach sites of Zambia, Peru and

Guatemala.

The next retreat segment will concentrate on culture, identity, and diversity. The third segment will invite participants to envision how we might create a culture of peace and justice in our time.

Below: the group prays in Bishop Dubuis's chapel in Castroville.

Left: S. Martha Ann Kirk performs "Ashes Could not Stop Her," based on the life of S. Pierre.



ACCU Holds Session on Spirituality and Sports

At its annual meeting held in Washington, D.C., the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities sponsored a session on how some schools are integrating spirituality and athletics programs.

Neumann College, for example, has a full-fledged program starting with a Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development which is dedicated to "a vi-

sion of sports as an educational enterprise which promotes the inescapable spiritual and ethical dimension that exists within athletics."

Because of the pivotal role coaches play in the spiritual and character development of their athletes, the Center offers work-

shops for coaches on how to integrate mission into the athletic department. It appoints chaplains for each athletic team and holds prayer gatherings and dinners to form community among the various teams. Community service is also seen as an effective means of helping athletes live the mission.

Hiring for Mission tip: Try to attract those who have already made the connection between faith and their discipline.—heard at ACCU.

"Meet and Greet" Held in "Villa Agnese"

Dr. and Mrs. Agnese cordially opened their home to welcome a "Meet and Greet" visit of faculty and staff on February 8th. The "Meet and Greet" event provides an opportunity for the UIW community to discover various campus locations, to highlight the persons who

work there and to get acquainted with one another.

L. Mickey Agnese welcomes visitors to her home. R. S. Sally Mitchell and Dr. Michael Tallon enjoy the refreshments in the President's dining room..

