

UIW Mission Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 6

September-October 2007

Special points of interest:

- In September, **Father William Christensen, S.M.**, spoke about his work in Bangladesh, the **Institute of Integrated Rural Development**, which helps rural poor. The IIRD is a non-government organization that seeks to empower rural poor to end their poverty by enabling them "to identify, analyze, and devise creative solutions to their own problems." It works in over 1,200 rural villages with 75,000 partner families who struggle to provide one basic meal each day. Its major emphasis is economic so it supports small rural industries, agriculture, irrigation projects, fish and poultry enterprises and micro credit programs.

—www.iird.interconnection.org

- **September 11** was commemorated with a prayer service at the Westgate Plaza. Dr. Agnese addressed the assembled crowd which prayed for peace and an end to violence of all kinds.
- UIW supported the **United Way Day of Caring** by helping out at AVANCE. Participants sewed over 200 Christmas stockings and decorated book bags for the families served by this agency.



Second Annual Meet the Mission Generates Enthusiastic Response

Through its *Meet the Mission* program, UIW brought smiles to the elderly, to children and to short-staffed agency managers alike on September 7th as forty-two faculty and over two hundred students fanned out across the city to carry out one of the important tenets of the UIW Mission—community service.



Meet the Mission is faculty-initiated and in the spirit of UIW's founders, aims to encourage students to become involved in their communities through offering their talents in service of the underprivileged. Agencies such as Holy Angels Senior Center (above), Feed My Sheep Center, (center) Guadalupe Community Center (below) and the San Antonio Food Bank (R) benefited from the student help. Other agencies served included Travis Park Methodist Church, Visitation House,



Battered Women's Shelter, SAMM Shelters, Mission Road Development, St.PJ's, Salvation Army, St. Mary Magdalene's School, and Catholic Worker House.



Archbishop Gomez Blesses New Pharmacy Building

October 17th was one more milestone in the **Feik School of Pharmacy** story when the long-awaited building was blessed by Archbishop Jose Gomez.

The Archbishop opened the ceremony with an invocation asking

God's blessing on all who graduate from this School and prayed that they would play a significant role in improving lives of those who need their services. After blessing a crucifix that will hang in the Dean's office, the Archbishop proceeded to bless the building and the

work that will take place within its walls.



UIW Heritage Week 2007: Celebrating the Past—Building the Future



Heritage Week 2007 began with the traditional service of putting flowers on the graves of the Congregational Founders, Sisters Madeleine and Pierre. Pictured above are the children from St. Anthony's elementary school who participate each year in singing the hymn to the Incarnate Word.

Mass at the **Lourdes Grotto** honored the employees who were to receive their service medals later that day. Dick McCracken and company acted out alumni reminiscences at Tuesday's **STORY HOUR**. A new event celebrated the heritage of the **Chapel of the Incarnate Word** through



Dr. Mary Elaine Jones receives her five-year certificate from Dr. Agnese.

stories, prayer and song. **Debbie Bussineau and Sydney King** sang hymns traditionally sung by the CCVI's during the past 100 years of the chapel's existence.



The UIW Community enjoyed a reception after the Employee Recognition Ceremony.

SGA Initiates a New Heritage Tradition—Gathering with the CCVI's on Campus to Share Stories

Challenged to initiate a new tradition to celebrate Heritage Week on campus, the SGA chose to establish an annual gathering with the CCVI's to learn more about the university and the Congregation.

Held appropriately in Dubuis Hall, students and Sisters chatted about their experiences of UIW's

early days, told stories of dorm life and strict schedules and answered

The Christian spirit of service to others for the promotion of social justice is of particular importance for each Catholic University, to be shared by its teachers and developed in its students. —Ex Corde Ecclesiae

questions about religious life today. Sister Margaret Rose Palmer, Student Council President from 1944-45, recounted how the SGA used to function under S. Columkille Colbert. S. Helena Monahan thanked the students for their interest and encouraged them to find their niche in creating a better world.

Incarnate Word Missionaries "Sent Forth"

Five Incarnate Word Missionaries (IWM) held their commissioning ceremony at Our Lady's Chapel on September 19th. Todd Schmidt from Oregon is headed to Chimbote, Peru with Emily and Nicole Tardio from Cincinnati (R). They will live in community and work in various capacities with the very poor of Chimbote, a city on the west coast of Peru where

the CCVI's sponsor a clinic and hospice.

Laura Keoppel from Milwaukee will go to Kanoj in El Quiche, Guatemala, to assist with a special home for children run by another IWM. Tessia Pierce from Dayton will live and work at Visitation House and St. Mary Magdalen School in San Antonio. For information on IWM, see their website: www.amormeus.org.

