

UIW Mission News

Volume 4 Issue 6

November-December, 2008

Special points of interest:

- The **Annual Spaghetti Dinner** moved to a new venue this year because of its popularity among the students. Faculty and staff served over 600 students and families at the Rosenberg Skyroom on December 1st. As usual, Dr. Agnese's special sauce recipe topped the menu.
- **The Humane Humans: Students Against Government Execution** held a reflection service for those being executed during November. According to their research, 91% of all executions take place in **China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the USA.** The death penalty is estimated to cost 2.5% more than life without parole. Through the benefits of modern science, 130 people so far have been **found innocent** while on Death Row.
- Check out the UIW *Heritage Moments* at www.uiw.edu/mission/galleries/video.html.

Foundations and Future Retreat Held at Villa de Matel



Fr. Don Nesti, C.S.Sp.

The third in the series of Foundation and Future Retreats was held in Houston at Villa de Matel, November 11-12, 2008. Mrs. Pat Kerwin, Director of Spirituality

and Ministry for the CCVI Congregations, invited the participants to envision how each one could contribute to a culture of peace and justice in the world. In the spirit of the phrase, "if you want peace, work for justice," retreatants pondered the principles of Catholic Social Justice and, then, saw some of these principles in action.

Sr. Margaret Bulmer gave perspectives on immigration issues and Sr. Roseanne Popp, a medical

doctor, described her service to the poor at **CHRISTUS Southwest Community Clinic.** Retreatants, then, spent two hours at Casa Juan Diego Catholic Worker House run by Mark and Louise Zwick, a couple dedicated, in the spirit of Dorothy Day, to serving the homeless without recompense.—Cont. on page 2.



Advent Season is Here

The season of Advent, four weeks of preparation prior to Christmas, began on November 30th. Advent centers our thoughts on the celebration of Christ's first

coming and on the hope of eternal life.

The **Advent wreath** is one of the major symbols used to focus Christian prayer. The

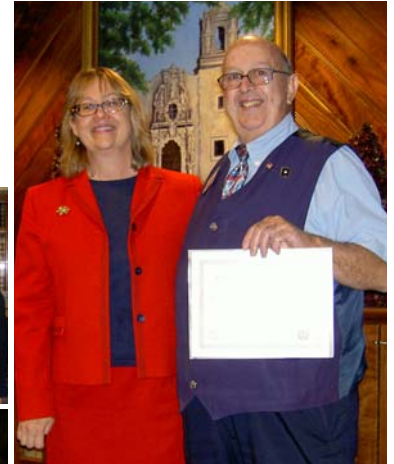
four candles, one for each week, symbolize the light of Christ in the world. Purple is the predominant color of the season, reminding us to pray and do penance.

Faculty Awards Ceremony Ties Past and Present Dedication to Mission Values

The annual “Mission Continues” Faculty Awards ceremony honored Dr. William Schurter: S. Margaret R. Palmer Award in Education; Dr. Hector Perez: S. Pierre Award for Faith; Dr. Elizabeth Kreston: S. M. Goretti Zehr Award for Innovation; Dr. Neeta Singh: S. Columkille Award for Service; and Dr. Mary Elaine Jones: S. Eleanor A. Young Award for Truth. These five awards are named for Sisters who were role models in living out the congregational heritage and mission core values. The awards recognize faculty for their commitment to engaging students in the learning process,

seeking truth through scholarship, and fostering the values of faith, service and innovation through their disciplines.

In a touching ceremony, the nominating letters were shared with the honorees who felt privileged to be recognized by their peers.



Dr. Beth Senne-Duff, Senate President, congratulates Faculty Mission Award honorees (clockwise): Hector, Mary Elaine, Elizabeth, Bill and Neeta (not pictured).

—Foundations and Future, continued from page 1.

Among the Casa’s most needy population are immigrants from several countries, often brought there by Houston’s Immigration Services because it serves all who show up at its doors, no questions asked. John Allen describes the Zwicks as the ‘**evangelical’ face of Texas Catholicism. . .**’in the sense

of lives lived in radical witness to the values of the Gospel.” No one at Casa Juan Diego receives a salary. Instead, service is offered as gift to the people in need. Mark explained that no money is accepted from the

guests but, in the future when someone in need crosses their path, “then they’ll know that it is time to pay for Casa Juan Diego.”

*“We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Fr. Don Nesti gave the final retreat presentation on a *Dialogue with Faith and Culture*.

Around Campus. . .

Alternative Christmas Giving: Women’s Global Connection is offering opportunities to give the ‘gift that keeps on giving’ through donating the price of an animal or acre of land to help an African woman become self-sustaining. The donation may be made in the name of a

friend and WGC will supply a certificate which you can include with your Christmas card. For information, call ext. 3208.

Mission Leadership Retreat: Fourteen faculty will attend an overnight retreat in Gruene to consider how Mission is integrated into the life of the classroom. They

will also reflect on their own inner journey as they discuss Parker Palmer’s words in *Leading from Within*.

The True Christmas Spirit: The theater department is ushering in the Christmas season with Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, December 4th through the 20th,