



Sundings ^{update}

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Power of Sisterhood: Women Religious Tell the Story of the Apostolic Visitation

The Book, *Power of Sisterhood: Women Religious Tell the Story of the Apostolic Visitation*, serves as an historical record of the event and describes the experience of the women who participated in it. On December 8, 2014, members of the “grassroots group” who initiated the book as well as most of the authors, gathered at Loyola University for a symposium celebrating the official launch of the book sponsored by the Gannon Center for Women and Leadership. After framing the Visitation as a story, situating it in an historical and theological context, tracing its chronology, and detailing the experience as revealed in the survey, the book delves into the deeper meaning of the Visitation for women religious as they experienced it and as they move into the future. Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, a member of the “grassroots group”, introduced the symposium with reflections on how this book came about.



EXCERPTS FROM ROSEMARY’S REFLECTIONS DURING THE PANEL:

This is such an auspicious moment for those of us gathered here this afternoon; it is something we never could have imagined or dreamed of when on December 22, 2008, the Vatican Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life announced an Apostolic Visitation of the Catholic Sisters in the United States. The fact that the members of the original “grassroots group” and the distinguished authors of the *Power of the Sisterhood: Women Religious Tell the Story of the Apostolic Visitation* are present here today speaks to the integrity, resiliency, and creativity of women religious to claim their experience and tell their story.

It was really quite spontaneous how this whole project came into being. During the summer of 2010, while attending the LCWR National Assembly, the Sisters of St. Joseph leadership teams who were being visited had arranged to meet with two canon lawyers, Sisters Lynn Jarrell, and Nancy Reynolds. ... some present began to express that we were, indeed, in the midst of a significant historical moment and as women religious we should take some responsibility to gather data about the experience of the Apostolic Visitation.

Personally, I was energized at the thought of engaging in such a project. ... Our desire was always to be inclusive of all who were included in the Apostolic Visitation which meant members of both LCWR and CMSWR. It was our hope to capture as full a story as possible of the U. S. Sisters’ experience of the Visitation. A real blessing of the grassroots group was the variety of gifts present among the members and the generosity in which they shared them.

Aware that we wanted this project to be both credible and professional we decided to engage Professor Margaret Cain McCarthy from Canisius College to review our survey and analyze our data. She graciously agreed to work with us... Margaret’s analysis clearly captured and highlighted the important story women religious had to tell about their experience of the Apostolic Visitation. ...one could sense a genuine sense of excitement and pride at what we together had accomplished.

With the completion of this analysis and the distribution of the information to the participating religious congregations, the original goal of the grassroots group was complete. However, it was obvious that this material contained a book that needed to be written. And so here we are today on December 8, 2014, eight days before the official Apostolic Visitation report is to be released, celebrating the publication of our story in our words. You can read more about the book, follow-up articles and the Apostolic Visitation final report at <http://www.powerofsisterhoodbook.com/> ↪

PICTURED ABOVE: Margaret Cain McCarthy, PhD, with members of the “grassroots group”, Nancy Reynolds, SP, Marcia Allen, CSJ, Lynn Jarrell, OSU, Jean Wincek, CSJ, Pat Bergen, CSJ, Nancy Conway, CSJ, Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, and Susan Hames, CSJ; participants who gathered at Loyola University for the symposium; Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, reflecting on how the book came about; Margaret Cain McCarthy, PhD and Mary Ann Zollmann, BVM, Co-editors of the book

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VISIT TO SOLOMON CARTER MEDICAL HEALTH CENTER

Carrying Love and Prayerful Wishes

Ten associates and three sisters traveled to Solomon Carter Mental Health Center on December 6 for our annual Christmas visit with the residents. We carried with us the love and prayerful wishes of the entire family of Joseph. After singing carols, we distributed gifts and delicious baked goods from sisters and associates. It is a special time when we are very aware of the light of Christ in each person. ✨

CSJ associates and sisters surrounded by the generous gifts of many other associates and sisters. A staff member at Solomon Carter Center is with the group [row 1 at left].



...a visit from Tom Leetch of People's Bank Charitable Foundation:

On December 12, Tom Leetch of People's Bank arrived with a generous donation to **The Literacy Connection**. The bank has been a "dear neighbor" to the community. For the past several years it has quietly supported the small food pantry which benefits both those coming to TLC and The Women's Table. As dedicated supporters, the bank and its employees are generous to and active in the Allston-Brighton Community.

PICTURED AT LEFT: Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, Pat Andrews, CSJ, and Tom Leetch

Faces of Christmas 2014

Our annual Advent/Christmas gathering was hosted by our Leadership Team on December 13, 2014. Here are a few pictures of this delightful event. More pictures may be viewed via a link sent to CSJ & Associate News.



LCWR REGION I BOSTON UNIT ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITION
Prayer Vigil TO COMMEMORATE
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2014
1:00 P.M. — 2:30 P.M.
OUTSIDE [AND INSIDE] MOTHERHOUSE
 We will gather in our Motherhouse Chapel.
 Warm beverages and refreshments served after the vigil.



*Rejoice!
 Christ
 is born
 within us!*

Dates to Remember

- DEC. 24, WED., 7:00PM — CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY, Fontbonne Convent, Milton — all welcome
- DEC. 24, TUES., 7:00PM — CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY, Motherhouse — All welcome
- DEC. 28, SUN., 9:30 AM — SUNDAY LITURGY, Fontbonne Convent, Milton — all welcome
- JAN 11, SUN., 1:00-2:30PM — PRAYER VIGIL FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY — Motherhouse — all welcome
- JAN. 15, THURS., 7:00PM —TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse — all welcome