

A PRESENTATION AT FONTBONNE CONVENT


Charism, Religious Life, and Hope for the Future



On January 11, 2012, sisters and associates gathered at Fontbonne Convent to participate in a presentation by Kevin Ahern, a PhD candidate in Theological Ethics at Boston College. The topic, *Charism, Religious Life, and Hope for the Future*, was timely as we live into our chapter 2011 Directional Statement. Also, in light of the beginning of the Church's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II, the presentation centered on the question, "How does religious life remain a source of hope for the church and the world today?"

Kevin, who happens to be the nephew of Rita Morrissey, CSJ, is presently writing his dissertation on "*Structures of Grace: Catholic NGOs and the Church's Mission in a Globalized World*." He spoke of Sisters of St. Joseph – in particular Carol Zinn, SSJ, and Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, with whom he has journeyed both at the United Nations and during his studies at Fordham University. He commented that, "A lot of my passion about the importance of working with Christians in the area of social justice comes from my association with these women."

"Religious women are living hope for the Church," Kevin continued. "You are responding to the needs of the Church. God is working through you." He went on to outline four aspects of religious charism that give him hope: Charism is both social and individual. Charism is offered for the needs of the community in both extraordinary and ordinary ways. Charism is the soul of the institution; and a real experience of charism leads to a sense of freedom.

After an inspiring 30 minute presentation, Kevin took another 30 minutes to elicit questions, comments, and responses from those present. Dorothea Masuret, CSJ, summed up the positive energy evident among those present saying, "You've given us hope to share that charism." She concluded the evening with a question to all present, "How do we use our creative powers in ordinary ways?" 

TOP LEFT: Participants listen to Kevin Ahern's presentation.

AT RIGHT — TOP TO BOTTOM: Rita Morrissey, CSJ, [center] with Kevin and other family members who were present; Margo Shea, CSJ, and Ann Marie Ghiloni, CSJ, speak with Kevin; Kevin speaks with Pat Quinn, CSJ, and Betsy Conway, CSJ during the informal gathering that followed the presentation.

From 2003-2007 Kevin J. Ahern served as the President of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana), an international Catholic organization with members in over eighty countries. In 2008, Kevin published The Radical Bible with Orbis Books. Kevin is an active leader and advisor with several national and international networks, including the Catholic Common Ground Initiative and the Boston College Center for the Church in the 21st Century. Kevin has also served as an adjunct professor at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary.

Dates to Remember

- JAN. 26, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.
- JAN. 29, SUN. 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.
- FEB. 2, THURS., 7:00PM — OPPORTUNITY FOR SHARING STATE OF THE HEART — Fontbonne Convent, Milton
- FEB 4, SAT. — AREA COUNSELOR SELECTION MEETINGS — 9:15-10:45AM Fontbonne Convent — 10:00-11:30AM St. Joseph Hall
- FEB. 5, SUN., 1:00-4:30PM — CONSECRATED LIFE DAY CELEBRATION — at Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Tewksbury, MA — see details in CSJ News email 1/8/12.
- FEB. 9, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.
- FEB. 11, SAT. 9:30AM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — Motherhouse — all welcome — call 617.746.1670 for details.
- FEB. 12, SUN. 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.
- FEB. 14, TUES., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.
- FEB. 16, THURS., 7:00PM — TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse Chapel
- FEB. 18-19, SAT./SUN. — CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS — Days 1 and 2
- FEB. 28, TUES., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome; invite friends.