



# Sundings update

SHARE EL SALVADOR: HONORING WOMEN RELIGIOUS DELEGATION

## Walking with the Martyrs; Reflecting on our Church and Its Future



On the 32nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan, SHARE and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) led a delegation to El Salvador. The theme was "Honoring Religious Women" who have dedicated their lives to peace and justice in El Salvador and in our world. Sisters Lois Connors and Claire Morrissey as well as CSJ Associates Judy Swett and Mary Rita Weschler were privileged to join in this delegation. From November 29 to December 6, 2012 they journeyed to El Salvador to retrace the route of the martyrs, visit nearby communities, participate in a forum on women's issues, and hold a special event honoring women religious who continue the work for peace and justice across the world. They met with Salvadoran women religious and theologians working with those at the margins, and reflected together on hopes for our Church and its future.

Lois, Claire, Judy, and Mary Rita are eager to reflect on their experience with others and plan to do that over the next few months. Their comments below are the beginning of this sharing.

*"It was a humbling experience to come to a church of martyrs and stand on Holy Ground in solidarity with a people of strong committed faith." Lois*

*"I was eager to touch the solid ground of the men and women of El Salvador... I desired to 'widen my tent'. That has been realized. The colorful environment, the joy and welcoming spirit of all whom I encountered touched me! I have a new mosaic etched in my mind." Claire*

*"The entire program and process was liberating! The women and men I met on the camino shared their testimonies of the organized repression and oppression... having been inspired and challenged I will work and continue to 'speak truth to power!'" Judy*

*"The 'preferential option for the poor' has never made so much sense to me, and likely never will. What a gift to be away, and to return with a fuller heart and a wider perspective. How grateful I am for all of this!" Mary Rita*

PICTURED ON MASTHEAD: Blessing delegation with handmade representations of North American Martyrs [NAM]; Banner commemorating NAM, LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Mary Rita Weschler, CSJA, standing second to left with delegation members; Lois Connors, CSJ, at monument where NAM were found; Claire Morrissey, CSJ, and indigenous woman display plaque honoring North American Women Religious for their work in social justice; Judy Swett, CSJA, seated left, during a small group meeting of the delegation. LOWER RIGHT CORNER: People of Chalatenango, El Salvador, welcome the delegation with posters. This poster reads: "The North American Sisters are remembered by the organized communities."

For more about SHARE El Salvador and this delegation visit: <http://www.share-elsalvador.org>. Also go to the SHARE blog link at this site. \*

### Dates to Remember...

- JAN. 10, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- JAN. 10, THURS., 7:00PM — SHARING THE STATE OF THE HEART — Fontbonne Convent, Milton
- JAN. 12, SAT. 9:30AM-1:00PM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — Motherhouse — call 617.746.1670 for more information.
- JAN. 13, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- JAN. 16, WED., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- JAN. 17, THURS., 7:00PM — TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse Chapel — All Welcome
- JAN. 24, THURS., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- JAN. 27, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- FEB. 3, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- FEB. 5, TUES., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- FEB. 7, THURS., 7:00PM — SHARING THE STATE OF THE HEART — Fontbonne Convent, Milton
- FEB. 9, SAT. — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — call 617.746.1670 for more information.
- FEB. 10, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- FEB. 14, THURS., 7:00PM — TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse Chapel — All Welcome



## Ever-Widening Circles of Holiday Giving!

...**AT SOLOMON CARTER FULLER CENTER:** What a wonderful experience it was for associates and sisters to go to the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center on Saturday, December 8! Fifteen of us brought over 70 gifts and many plates full of homemade desserts for the residents. With the expert mentoring of Kathy Hagerty, CSJ, it was a celebration for the residents, staff, associates and sisters. After opening gifts and enjoying the appetizing desserts, we sang Christmas Carols, and then some of the residents shared their thoughts and comments that were touching, heartfelt and sensitive. Their expressions and gratitude were a gift for us. It was a great opportunity to bring a little more joy into the lives of these men and women as well as into our own lives during the Christmas Season.

— *Mary Ellen O'Connell, CSJ*

...**A VISIT FROM TOM LEACH OF PEOPLE'S BANK:** On December 20, Tom Leetch of People's Bank arrived with generous donations to The Literacy Connection and Cathedral High School. The bank has been a Dear Neighbor to the community. For the past several years they have quietly supported the small food pantry which benefits both those coming to TLC and The Women's Table. As dedicated supporters, they are generous to and active in the Allston-Brighton Community. — *Pat Andrews, CSJ*

...**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE WOMEN'S TABLE:** Once again your donations of gift certificates, toiletries, and more, made if possible for The Women's Table to provide gift bags to single mothers at Hastings House, a shelter in Brighton that assists young single mothers. — *Mary Rita Weschler, CSJA*

**PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM:** Marianne Miller, CSJA, Gloria Davila, and Nancy Santangelo, CSJA, during the visit to Solomon Carter Fuller Center; Mary Black, CSJ, representing Cathedral High School, Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, Tom Leetch of People's Federal Savings Bank, and Pat Andrews, CSJ, Director of The Literacy Connection; Wendy Luk, Mary Rita Weschler, CSJA, The Women's Table Director, and Susan Ho prepare Christmas Gift Bags for Hastings House.

## Prayer Vigil TO COMMEMORATE THE SIXTH ANNUAL Human Trafficking Awareness Day

On Sunday, January 6, 2013, approximately 125 sisters, associates, and friends gathered for a prayer vigil sponsored by the LCWR Region I Boston Unit Anti-Trafficking Coalition. The prayer vigil marked the commemoration of the sixth annual National Human Trafficking Awareness Day [January 11].

Participants began with prayer in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel, continued outside with a silent vigil on Cambridge Street, and concluded with reflection and sharing of a commitment to a personal action on the part of those gathered.

The next event is planned for April 6, 2013, at Fontbonne Academy, Milton,

when the coalition will host a performance of Soul Cry, a dance presentation by the Accendo Dance Company based on a true story about human trafficking. This event will mark the sixth symposium offered by the Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. \*

**"Pursue above all  
the pure glory of God"**

Maxims of the Little Institute, 48

**SISTER FRANCES MARIE MURRAY, CSJ**

Sister Campion, CSJ

**Date of Birth: May 24, 1918**

**Date of Death: December 10, 2012  
in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Life.**

**SISTER MARIAN CALLAHAN, CSJ**

Sister Mary Immaculée

**Date of Birth: January 31, 1916**

**Date of Death: December 13, 2012  
in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of her Religious Life.**

**MEMBERSHIP: 360**

Do you know a woman with whom you can share this information?

*Fiat is a discernment group for women in the Archdiocese of Boston who are considering a vocation to religious life. Our next meeting will be held on January 30, 2013 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton. Our time together will include prayer, conversation about vocational discernment and an opportunity to meet Sisters of the Archdiocese. Light supper will be served. For more information, please contact Sister Marian Batho, CSJ at 617-746-5637, Sr\_Marian\_Batho@rcab.org*

