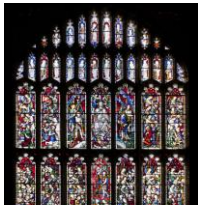




**NEWS –US LAY ASSOCIATES
SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

November 2025 Issue #30

NOVEMBER: Month of the Holy Souls



The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace. (Wisdom 3:1-3)



“I BELIEVE IN THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND LIFE EVERLASTING”

All Souls' Day is also called the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. It is a day of prayer and remembrance for all the faithful departed, observed on November 2. All Souls' Day is ultimately about connection, prayer, and remembrance. It's a day to pause, honor the lives that shaped ours, and trust in God's mercy for those who have passed.

Remembering the departed is a tradition that goes back to the early church. the basis is the Belief in the communion of saints, the bond between the living and the dead. St. Odito of Cluny, officially established November 2 around the 10th-11th century as a day to pray for all the faithful departed.

All Souls' Day follows All Saints' Day which honors those already in heaven. On All Souls' Day we focus on those still on their journey toward God. We believe in the power of prayer, charity and the celebration of the Eucharist to help souls on their journey to eternal life. Death doesn't break the bonds of love – we can still care for those who have gone before us.

We Associates know how our deceased members contributed to our spiritual and community growth and we remember their time with us. In this NEWS, we think back on how the ones we recall helped us grow and become the Associates we committed ourselves to be. It was in sharing of themselves that we got to know them and got to know ourselves better.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Amarillo, Texas

Mary Lou Dismuke, August 12, 1990
Dona Ann Dextraze, July 12, 1995
Dr. Jordon Grooms, May 3, 2006

Chicago, Illinois

Ellen Holden Clark, November 21, 2009

Corpus Christi, Texas

Maggie Ramirez, August 30, 2009
Mary F. Welch, March 3, 2017
Lydia Montalvo, June 2, 2021
Fela Silva, October 22, 2023
Maggie Ybarra, January 29, 2024
Oscar Ramirez, November 1, 2024

Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Janice King, July 22, 2019
Patricia Davidson, September 5, 2023
Ben King, August 18, 2024

Eagle Pass, Texas

Estelita Cobos, July 27, 1989
María Isabel Riddle, September 2, 2008

El Paso, Texas

Saul Licano, June 16, 1985
Bernice Brasfield, December 21, 2018
Fr. James W. Hall, February 1, 2025

Jefferson City, Missouri

Marian Mahon, February 19, 2014



Kingsville, Texas

Lydia Bradshaw, August 1, 2009
Patrick J. Smith, November 5, 2012
Arcelia "Shelly" Muñoz, October 1, 2013
Linda Johnson, May 5, 2015
Yolanda Pérez, April 21, 2018
Lupita Lozano, October 14, 2023

Lubbock, Texas

Josefina Malouly, October 21, 1995
Eva Gutiérrez, May 10, 2016
Carla B. Castle, June 13, 2019
Petra Mejía, October 20, 2021

New Orleans, Louisiana

Aline Provensal, May 9, 1992
Margaret Brady, February 11, 2012
Isabelle Margavio, March 20, 2017

Saint Louis, Missouri

Jean Schoonmaker, May 4, 2005
Josephine Synder, November 13, 2007
Sandy Tiefenbrun, January 29, 2016
Lois Atnip, April 16, 2017
Darlene Zoll, April 12, 2018
Sue Burghoff, July 20, 2021
Virginia Bone, August 12, 2025

San Antonio, Texas

Etta Marie Cherry, October 26, 2007
Rita Villalpando, May 2, 2008
Elizabeth Carter, October 23, 2009
Ann Blanchard, January 7, 2011
Norma Bliquez, January 16, 2014
Mary Elinor Champion, March 5, 2016
Joe Rodríguez, June 26, 2017
Ester Rodríguez, December 24, 2017
Agnes Davidson, February 12, 2018

Patricia Davidson, September 5, 2023 - Mother de Matel DFW Community

Pat was spunky, intelligent, and full of humor, with a joyful spirit that brightened every gathering. She brought fresh insight and thoughtful curiosity to our community, often asking questions about Church teachings that deepened our understanding and invited us to reflect more profoundly on our own faith journeys. Embracing the charism of our congregation, she was a steadfast supporter of Greg in his role as Director of Associates, always ready to offer help wherever needed. Her genuine enthusiasm inspired everyone to value kindness, openness, and sincerity in faith. One memorable evening during a community retreat in Austin, as we shared a glass of wine in her backyard, we laughed until we cried and could not get a hold of ourselves, a perfect reflection of her joyful spirit. Pat made everyone feel valued and loved, and she remains deeply cherished and greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

(submitted by Laura Grewing)

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Carla Castle, June 13, 2019, Amicus Community, Lubbock, Texas

Carla was not only a member of our Amicus community but a good friend to all of us. She would go out of her way to help people, her students at Texas Tech, her students from religion classes and when she worked part-time at Catholic Charities.

We miss Carla's gentle spirit, wisdom and teasing her about always being late. We would laugh about it and she would take everything in stride, but when you needed her the most, she would always be there for you.

Even when Carla was going through cancer, she always had a positive attitude and continued to be the Carla we knew - kind, warm, gentle and very prayerful. She never feared in the face of death, because she knew where she was going and she was ready to meet Christ in her new life.

(submitted by Cathy Rodriguez, Sonia Comacho)

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Sandy Tiefenbrun, January 29, 2016, St. Louis 1 Community, St. Louis, MO

Sandy made her Initial Incarnate Word Associate Commitment on March 24, 2002. She worked as a Hospice nurse for Incarnate Word Hospital on Grand Avenue in St. Louis. When she shared her experiences with us, it was evident how much she cared for her patients and their families and how she loved bringing the Incarnate Word, Jesus, to them.

She lived with her mother and helped her as needed. She was an active Associate and shared the duties of hosting meetings, bringing desserts and leading the Prayer.

The last few years of her life she was diagnosed with a progressive disabling muscle condition that affected her whole body as well as her swallowing and her speech. When she was unable to care for herself, she moved to a skilled nursing facility. Many times, our community meetings were held at this facility so that she was able to participate.

Toward the end of her life, we had an Anointing Service in her room. She wanted to anoint each one of us who were there. This was very touching and inspirational. We have missed her greatly.

(submitted by Mary Lou Peters)

Maria Isabel Riddle, September 2, 2008, Amunah Community, Eagle Pass, TX

If you never met Maria, you missed a lot. I am sure her impression is still in the hearts of many she helped in her long life. Just by entering her home in Eagle Pass, you are taken aback by the baby grand piano to the left of the front door. The floor of the room housing the piano is elevated and is behind a full decorative wrought iron “wall” which sets it apart from the rest of the house. Maria taught piano lessons there.

That first paragraph is written in the present tense and it may be that I am still there with her as I was many years ago. I visited her and the Associate community and got a better picture of how they were living their commitment. They concentrated on the needs of their community and the community of Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, across the border. They saw the need and answered the call of the Incarnate Word to live the corporal works of mercy.

Maria most certainly received a wonderful welcome in heaven...."Come, blessed of my Father; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." (Matt 25:35). I'll add that we both enjoyed a bit of her favorite Scotch before calling it a day. (submitted by Maria Elena Schuerman)

(submitted by Maria Elena Schuerman)

+

Lydia Montalvo, June 2, 2021, Stella Maris Associate Community, Corpus Christi, TX

My mother's presence was a blessing, and her legacy of the calling to the Mission and Charism of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word will continue to inspire us.

My mom brought a spirit of joy and unwavering faith to our community representing the charitable work of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, especially in ministries focused on the poor. She annually participated with Catholic Charities who partnered with the US Marines “Toys for Tots” program and assembled the volunteers to assemble holiday meals, Christmas gifts and support families registering in person by assisting with their applications. She was also instrumental in obtaining the Urrutia Family Grant to the Mother Teresa Shelter.

She served tirelessly as a Christus Spohn Hospital Volunteer for over 21 years as a Eucharistic Minister, and other departments: hospital gift shop volunteer preparing flower and balloon arrangements, a sign-language interpreter for patients, made head rest pillows for cancer patients. She provided many services in her local parish as a lector, Eucharistic minister, prepared the altar, CCD, and CYO. Many services that are carried out in the spirit of the Incarnate Word.

My mom will be remembered by all of the Community as one that strived to bring the presence of Christ to others with her gentle strength and ability to turn challenges into opportunities for growth. My mother's absence leaves a deep void because she was more than a volunteer—she was a friend, a mentor, and a source of comfort. She is no longer with us physically, but her spirit lives on in the love she shared and the seeds of faith she planted. We thank God for the gift of her life and commitment to carrying forward her legacy of service and compassion. (submitted by her daughter, Dina Ahrens, Stella Maris Associate Community, Corpus Christi, TX)

Father James “Buzz” Hall, February 1, 2025, St. John the Baptist Community, El Paso, TX

Father was a living saint in the El Paso border plex community, having touched hearts and lives of thousands of families. A priest for over 50 years, he was my mentor, best friend, and hero. Wherever we traveled together, from El Paso to Wyoming, he was a walking encyclopedia always sharing endless facts about the geography, events, and history of the region. Known for his humor and laugh of a single loud “Ha!”, Fr. Hall is tremendously missed by all who had the honor to call him friend.

As spiritual guide for the local El Paso chapter of the Incarnate Word Associates, we all looked forward to his input, savvy, and presence during our monthly prayer meetings. “Buzz” was also known for his appreciation of good food and was often the guest of many family and friends who cherished his company and conversation.

One of the greatest graces Padre was known for was his heavenly homilies at Mass. Everyone agrees that he gave some of the best homilies ever heard and had everyone on the edge of their seats hanging on to his every word. Even those older individuals who might have nodded off would find themselves alert and captivated by the powerful message of his homilies.

As a musician he played organ, piano, and was wonderful at singing harmony. His thirst for knowledge, reading, and sharing the fruits of his life was evident to all and truly, this great priest will be missed for many years to come. Father James Hall, now in the company of the Church Triumphant, pray for us.

(submitted by Robert Vega, Jr.)

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

MARY ELINOR CAMPION, March 5, 2016, HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNITY, SAN ANTONIO

Mary Elinor was a member of the Holy Spirit Associate Community for over twenty years. She passed away shortly before her 100th birthday. Mary loved her Associate Community. She never missed a meeting. After her husband died and she moved to the Village, she invited our community to meet in her apartment. She provided warmth, music, and generous snacks. Mary raised eight children and was a retired teacher. She brought her life lessons to us and used them to keep us on track with our meetings and extra activities. Once, we hinted at skipping meetings in the summer, but she would not have it! She held firm and blessed us with a shining example of dedication to the Incarnate Word and the Associates.

(submitted by Sandra Watts)

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

MARGARET BRADY, February 11, 2012, CRESCENT CITY COMMUNITY, NEW ORLEANS

Margaret Brady was a true original member of the Incarnate Word Associates. She joined the convent when she was young, but later left, and her sister Rosemary Cousins joined and dedicated her life to being a CCVI. Margaret was a key member of the Core Committee, and she and I were the only two who consistently showed up for all the CR days. These were

weekend gatherings and, as the name indicates, they were days where we Associates and the Sisters met to pray, reflect and look seriously at how all of us were living our commitment to live the charism of the Congregation. We appreciated sharing the CCVI spirit with the Sisters and being partners in their mission.

Margaret and Sr. Jane Farek were the heart and soul of our community for many years. Margaret's wisdom and unwavering commitment inspired those around her, and her gentle encouragement often helped guide the community through challenges and transitions. She is remembered for her steady presence, kindness, humor, and unwavering faith. Margaret's legacy lives on in the deep bonds she helped foster among Associates and Sisters alike, leaving an indelible mark on the Crescent City Community. (submitted by Karen Metternich, Jefferson, LA)

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

As of this NEWS, no Associate has submitted her/his name to become Coordinator of Associates. The Core Committee will perform the duties of Coordinator until a candidate steps up to seek the vote of the membership, in mid-2026.

In the interim, the Core Committee will be in communication with the Facilitators and then with communities during their monthly meetings after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. If you have questions or comments on the duties of the Coordinator, this will be your time to ask them of the CC member who will be in touch with your community. Why do you feel God is **NOT** calling you? Have you seen yourself as Coordinator of Associates? Why not? Is there an Associate you feel has the qualities to be Coordinator?

God is asking something special of some of our members. Let us listen and join our heads and hearts to have us better listen to what part we play in God's plan. We do, you know!



DECEMBER

December 1 Rosi Cortez

December 10 Dale Roper

December 23

December 3

December 19

Ceci de la Cruz

Connie Amparón

Alice Marie Weis



**GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD;
FOR HIS GREAT LOVE
IS WITHOUT END. PS 107:1**