



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

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“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

Luke 24:5-7



Applicable at this time as it was then and will be for many years to come is Pope Francis' Easter message of April 2025. It echoed what we all see and wish would not be happening in our world today. His message: "Together with the risen Jesus," he spoke in his message, "those who trust in God become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of life. God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again. In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother's womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded."

Pope Francis condemned the "great thirst for death" seen in violence and wars around the world and in the "contempt" people, including government leaders, direct toward "the vulnerable, the marginalized and migrants!"

He also condemned "the growing climate of antisemitism throughout the world." In addition, he called attention to "the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation."

(from Vatican News and Google)

NOTE: Let our focus be on the Risen Christ who comes to raise us ALL up to peace and solidarity. May our brothers and sisters in war-torn areas know that we are with them in prayer and in efforts to bring peace.

You created my inmost
 you knit me together
 in my mother's womb.
 I praise you because
 I am fearfully
 and wonderfully made.
 (Psalm 139:13-14)



MAY

May 2 Rita Licano
 May 4 Laura Grewing
 May 6 Maria Elena Schuerman

May 7 Marlene Blank
 May 8 Sarah Pittman
 May 15 Dolores Buscemi

May 24

Elizabeth Cremar

COMMUNITY SHARES: St. John the Baptist Associate Community, El Paso, Texas

After opening with the Chapter Prayer, the Community members reflected on questions based on the Gospel passage of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. *How we can go forth like Lazarus, allowing God to remove what binds us, or holds us back so that we may live our call more fully? Are you a Lazarus?*

Shared responses: We can sometimes see ourselves bound like Lazarus. Our world is a wounded world, but we can look at what is happening around us as a prophetic call to go out and carry on our mission, the commitment we made to make the love of God real and tangible in our world today. Prayer and meditation are aids that help us see clearly how the Spirit is challenging us. If we stay rooted in Christ, we can understand how God is acting in our lives. "With everything that's going on right now in my life," one member shared, "I have been neglecting my prayer time and focusing more on my personal challenges rather than on Jesus who is ever so close and ready to guide me through them. I came across a quote from a letter that Sr. Pierre wrote to the sisters, 'Pray, pray, pray, pray with humility and confidencebe humble, simple, charitable, and all that by a true spirit of prayer'. A true spirit of prayer is what I'm striving for in the new chapter of my life. "

One member told of how he has been given another chance to live the life which brought him to Christ. We must feel free to share unique experiences and to model how we overcame them. Another read of how an author has surmised on how Lazarus, Martha and Mary had led their life after Jesus' death and this helped her remove binders from her eyes. They continued their life preaching God's word and Lazarus became bishop Lazarus, according to this author. So, she concluded, that "no matter how old we are we must continue doing God's work, as Jesus would want us to". Individually, we each need to focus on what needs change in our lives and let God take over. A powerful dream may be a revelation, as one member shared.....a bird in a cage..... Do I need to set it free? Where will it go? What will it do?.....God is the Master and I am to be attentive to where he leads me.

The meeting ended with renewal of commitment and a delicious lunch.

Trinity Associate Community, San Antonio, Texas



Sister Consuelo holds the beautiful print of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presented to her by the Trinity Associate Community. Sister has been a faithful companion at meetings and a strong supporter of the groups' work and living of the charism.

Pictured standing, left to right: Karen Jaceldos (in discernment), Tom Duckworth, Delia Gutierrez, Sister Consuelo Urrutia, Rose Ann Urrutia, Anne Ettipio, Pat Klar, Rosi Cortez, Saundra Watts, Sister Peggy Bonnot, Lorraine Ewers, Nancy Angel.

Seated: Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger (guest), Jessica Kimmel and Betsy Larsen (in discernment).

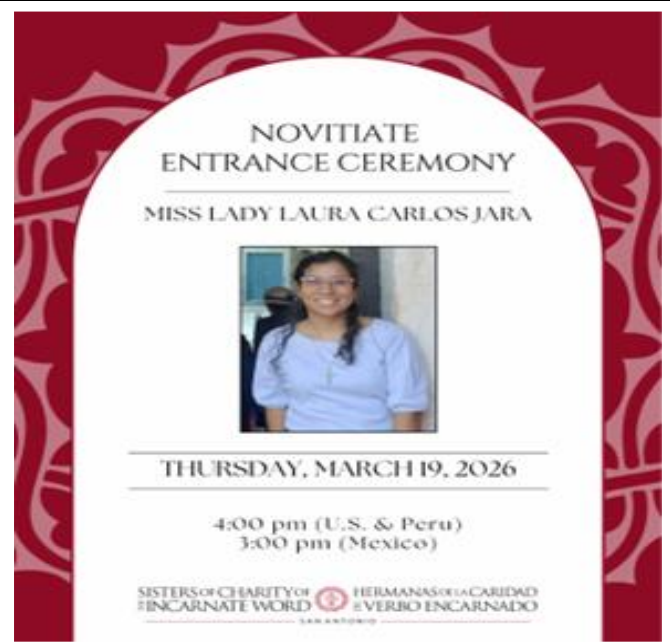
It was a beautiful day on March 22, 2026, as the **Trinity Associate Community** gathered to make their annual commitment. We were blessed to renew our commitments during 10:30 Mass at St. Joseph's Chapel, in the Village at Incarnate Word. Our recommitment was witnessed by the Sisters and residents of the Community, who greeted us and thanked us for our pledge to carry forward the charism of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

After services we celebrated over a yummy potluck lunch, in the nearby Assembly room. Good food does bring people together, and we have great cooks in our midst. While eating we enjoyed sharing stories and getting better acquainted. Community is beautiful, and we find the closer we become the stronger our relationships become, and the more we are able, as a committed community, to carry the light of Christ to the world.

We were mindful on that day, March 22nd, of the upcoming Congregational Chapter meetings, and the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. We prayed for the Congregation and for the Associates, for our ministries and our numbers to grow. We have been blessed with two lovely women currently in discernment and a lovely gentleman, Javier, who ate with us and expressed a desire to visit with us in the near future. As Jesus taught us, we know the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, We have resolved to be joyful, keep our minds and hearts open, and invite to our meetings those already living their faith, and who we believe would love to be a part of the Incarnate Word Associates.

**A big, warm welcome
to Sister Lady Laura Carlos Jara.
We US Lay Associates
pray for her dedication
to the charism of the Congregation
and offer continued support
to the living out of her commitment
as she begins her Novitiate.**

Bienvenida, Sister Lady



FROM A CONGREGATIONAL PUBLICATION (DATE UNKNOWN):

Our Associates are women and men who want to have an affiliation with our religious Congregation while living an independent lifestyle as married or single individuals. Associates make a formal commitment and are part of a community that meets regularly and takes part in Congregational events. Their main focus is to live the mission of making God's love real and tangible in today's world.

Still our belief and our practice as we make renewal of our commitment.

Remaining autonomous but connected. The energy of the charism is what holds us and keeps us together.

The following is from Pope Francis' homily (Easter Vigil, April 2023). www.vatican.va

GO TO GALILEE: The women went to see the tomb. They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness, and distrust....The women at Easter, however, do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the gospel tells us, they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed and went to announce this to his disciples. They bring the news that will change life and history forever.: Christ is risen! At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord's summons to the disciples to go to Galilee for there they will see him.

Let us ask ourselves today: what does it mean to go to Galilee: Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room land go to the land of the Gentiles, to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind...On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to return to the origins, for it was precisely in Galilee that everything began. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples....

This, then, is what the Pasch of the Lord accomplishes: it motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history. Yet to do this, the Pasch of the Lord takes us back to the grace of our own past; it brings us back to Galilee, where our love story with Jesus began, where the first call took place. In other words, it asks us to relive that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love, and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us, and the mystery of life itself....This is what we are asked to do: to remember and go forward! If you recover that first love, the wonder and joy of your encounter with God, you will keep advancing. So remember, and keep moving forward.