



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

May 2026 Issue 36



The “Saint of the Month” cannot be any other than the Mother of Jesus, the young girl who said “Yes” to the Angel Gabriel. “Let it be done to me according to your word.” This girl gave a most positive response, giving all of herself to God the Father’s wishes. Catholic declarations on the Blessed Virgin Mary define her unique role in salvation history through four core Marian dogmas: Mother of God,

Perpetual Virginity, the Immaculate Conception, and the Assumption. As defined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, she is honored as the Mother of the Church, a key intercessor, and the preeminent model of faith and charity.

It is easy to see Mary as the humble handmaiden, but she is more than this. She is ready to serve all as God’s representative, the mother of His Son. The Magnificat, the prayer she says, places her as one to stand at the forefront of all that is needed to be bearers of Christ, which we are. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian, said “one might even say it is the most revolutionary hymn ever sung; its message is radical and compelling”.

This humble maiden pronounces what nowadays would be revolutionary statements: He has scattered the proud in their conceit; cast down the mighty from their thrones; has lifted up the lowly; filled the hungry with good things; has sent the rich away empty. Are these the words of a submissive woman? Lastly, we are assured of “mercy to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever”.

Rebecca Lowe, a non-Catholic writer posted her thoughts on the Magnificat. She writes: “The radical part of this hymn is that Mary who sees herself as the lowest of society becomes a symbol of God’s upside-down kingdom: she is no longer the humble and mild version associated with the lowest of society forced to become refugees, fleeing Herod’s persecution – is it any surprise that the focus of Mary’s hymn becomes not one of praise, but a thirst for freedom and justice? Mary becomes an archetype for all who have become displaced and oppressed, of all the mothers who have lost children, families and homes to violent conflict and imperialist occupation?”

The Magnificat was prohibited from being sung in church. In the 1980s, Guatemala’s government found the message of God’s preferential love for the poor to be too revolutionary and dangerous and banned any public recitation. During the British rule of India, the Magnificat was prohibited from being sung in church. Similarly, after the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo- whose children all disappeared during the Dirty War – placed the Magnificat’s words on posters throughout the capital plaza, the military junta of Argentina

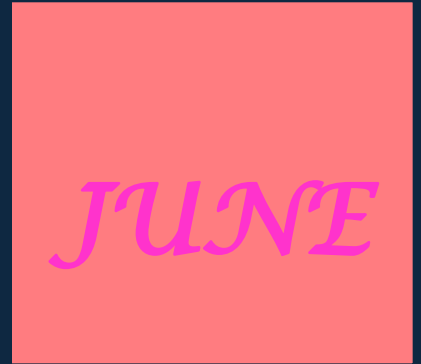
outlawed any public display of Mary's Song. In Nicaragua, the Magnificat is a favorite prayer among peasants and is often carried in banners as they would the Sacrament.

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FOR REFLECTION AND COMMUNITY SHARING

-Does the above resonate with your image of Mary? Why? Why not?
-Do you have devotion to Mary? To the Mary described above?
-Can you see how "imitating Mary" can mean a radical change in your life?
-Does the above article change your manner of praying to Mary?

You created my inmost
Being; you knit me
together
in my mother's womb.
I praise you because
I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.



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|---------|------------------|---------|---------------------|
| June 3 | Lorraine Ewers | June 17 | Cleo Flores |
| June 4 | Becky Kennedy | June 24 | Faith Holloway |
| June 8 | Rose Ann Urrutia | June 26 | Sr. Eileen O'Keeffe |
| June 14 | Pam Mills | June 28 | Mary A. Laffey |



**INITIAL COMMITMENT – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY
EL PASO, TX**

At the April meeting of the El Paso community, Robert Vega, Jr., made his initial commitment as a member of the Incarnate Word Associates. Robert is a single father of two lovely and energetic boys who often join us for our gatherings.

Robert said the following: By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the loving devoted examples of my mentors /saints Fr. James Hall and Fr. Paulsen, I promise to eternally embrace and live the four embodiments of the Incarnate Word Association. 1) Fidelity to prayer;

- 2) participation in the world community; 3) existing to witness the reality of God's love through my life dedication;
- 4) living incarnational spirituality. So help my God! Amen.

Robert was presented with a Certificate of membership, the Congregational emblem in the form of a pin and a framed print of the Annunciation. The Congregational representative Sr. Becky Perez, CCVi, joined us via speaker phone. She welcomed Robert and expressed thanks for his being a member of the community and vowing to live the four areas of membership.

After the ceremony, the members enjoined a delicious lunch.



We fondly remember our dear Sister Alice who was such a huge supporter of our Associate communities as retreat leader, companion and friend. She was a woman of many talents, one of which was writing poetry. Below, one of her works, LETTING GO OF ALL BUT GOD, from the 2018 Chapter Prayer Booklet.

Our beloved Sister Alice Marie Holden entered eternal life February 22, 2026 at The Village at Incarnate Word.

Born in Chicago, Illinois on April 12, 1935, she entered our Congregation in September, 1953, professed first vows in 1956 and final vows in 1961. Her ministries included elementary and secondary education as teacher and principal in Illinois, Missouri and Texas; Children's Home administrator, parish ministry, member of the U.S. Provincial team and spirituality.

We thank God for Sister Alice Marie and for her many years of dedicated service. We are confident she is now enjoying fullness of life with God.

May she rest in peace.

General Leadership Team



Naked we came into the world:
Fragile skin, hiding our Essence,
covering the SPARK of DIVINE LIFE
hidden in vulnerability.
The flesh is fed, clothed, taught –
then caught in a whirlwind of activity;
a world of “shoulds” and “oughts”
created by generations of striving.
It’s all so very proper now...
so utterly important to “be right,”
to “get it right” to be on the right side
of every issue...Right?
But the SPARK is still here, within...
Its presence can be felt,
In moments of meditation...
In the depths of despair.
Then we sense the light within.
Soon we sense it everywhere.
Softly it shines...then brightly,

Blinding our eyes to all but SOURCE.
And then we SEE...a TRINITY
Within:
A Power to create, affirm, respect...
A Power to love, no matter what...
A Power to reconcile all opposites.
Then we are free!
Free to let go of all
So as to return to the Source
From which we came.
Naked we leave this world,
Skin shriveling, Memory missing,
Mind returning to infancy.
Ready now to play,
to shine, to sing:
How very GREAT is our God!
How inscrutable God’s ways!
Praised be the Incarnate Word!
Praise our God in all that is!

2026 - 2027 JUBILARIANS

2026

70 Years

S. Anne Birmingham
S. María Teresa Chavero Blásquez
S. Bernadette Forck
S. Rosita Hyland
S. Marian Jordan
S. María del Carmen Marques Buxade
S. Madeleine Siller Acuña
S. Teresa Stanley

60 Years

S. Dora Alma Campos Tovar
S. Laura Edith Campos Tovar
S. María Teresa Flores
S. Mary Julia Lynch
S. Aurora Isabel Ramírez Arroyo
S. Kathleen Reynolds
S. María Luisa Vélez García

50 Years

S. Christine Stavinoha

You may recognize some of these names, but not others. What we all recognize is that they have served faithfully through all their years of commitment to the vows they pronounced 25, 50, 60, 70 years ago.

We ask God's blessings on them and celebrate the fidelity to their call.

2027

70 Years

S. Concepción Barrio Prieto
S. Helen Ann Collier
S. Germaine Corbin
S. Francisca Javier Hernández R.
S. Sarah Lennon
S. María Guadalupe Moreno Flores
S. Pauline Nugent
S. Mary Pezold

60 Year

S. Maureen Brugess
S. María Elena Corripio Cadena
S. Mercedes Cruz de la Cruz
S. Mary Teresa Phelan
S. Ana Luisa Prieto Valdés
S. María de la Paz Rodríguez García
S. Covadonga Suárez Quintana

50 Years

S. María del Carmen Monroy Colín

25 Years

S. María de los Ángeles Acosta M.
S. Angela Hernández Sánchez
S. Guillermina Holguín de Santiago