

ACDP CONNECTION



A publication of the Associates of the Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas

What does 'mercy' look like?

--by Susan Gonzales, ACDP, Providence Catholic School

The 14th Annual Associates' Convocation (Mar. 2, 2024), was a time for renewing friendships between the Sisters of Divine Providence and other Associates near and far. This year's theme was *"The Name of God is Mercy,"* by Pope Francis. The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael J. Laney, ACDP, inspired Associates and Sisters with his own personal life experiences and Pope Francis' words of wisdom.

Two questions resonated that day: "What does God's Mercy look like to you?" and "What do you need to obtain Mercy?"

What does Mercy mean? Merriam-Webster defines *mercy* as compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power. The **Chatechism of the Catholic Church** (CCC) 2447 reads that the Works of Mercy are *charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities*. The differences between these two are that the CCC is based on truth, God's Truth. Everyone we encounter in intertwined in God's Truth.

How can we obtain mercy? Through the Corporal Works of Mercy is how you and I can obtain mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise (USCCB). **Feed the Hungry:** Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need. **Give Drink to the Thirsty:** Organize a group of children involved in a sports team or a summer camp. Invite them to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families. **Shelter the Homeless:** Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew, that would be an extra loving gift. **Visit the Sick:** Spend time volunteering at a nursing home. Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.). **Visit the Prisoners:** Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison. **Bury the Dead:** Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost. **Give Alms to the Poor:** Skip the morning coffee/latte and put that money in the collection basket at church. (USCCB)

We were fed that Saturday and fed well, with personal experiences from the Associates and the Sisters as we listened and acknowledged what our Lord Jesus Christ had placed in front of us. The blueprint to answer the "what" and "how" of Mercy.

This was an opportunity to tap into the Associate's sensory emotions while their hearts were on fire and (continued on back)



- 1 Patsy Fisher
Neal Scogin
- 4 Madison Taber
- 5 Libby Roussin
- 7 Josie U. Martinez
- 9 Bernice Helpert
- 11 Paul J. Olivier
- 14 David Melby
Humberto Espinoza-Molina
- 16 Karen Koller
- 17 Mary Jane Strauch, SFCC
- 19 J.S. "Jerry" Martinez
- 20 Melinda Garcia
Diane L. Summers
- 21 Janna Massarelli
Erika Blancarte Sanchez
- 22 Darnell Conant
- 26 Michael J. Laney
- 27 Evangeline Clor
- 28 Mike Gibson



MOYE QUOTES

Let us love, adore, serve God since He gave us the grace to know Him and called us to the faith. Let us love, pray to, adore, and bless Him for all the people who do not know Him.

and ask: What will you take away from the 2024 Convocation? “His personal stories gave me ‘goosebumps’.” (*Kimberly Munday*); “What keeps you giving and shines in your life.” (*Jeanette Foor*); “Pope Francis’ quotes.” (*Bonnie Abadie*); “Being more open.” (*Mary Lewis*); “I enjoyed the weekend. I enjoyed the speaker.” (*Elaine Bacon*). Personally, I enjoyed talking to the Sisters and listening to their stories that helped me better understand who the Sisters of Divine Providence really are. They’re us, and we’re them. ‘Til we meet again in 2025 for the 15th Annual Associates’ Convocation. ~

(A summary of two breakout sessions, written by Jackie Walter, ACDP, is inserted in this newsletter.)

Sunday Mass with the Sisters at 11:00 a.m. (CT) -- Livestreamed on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CDPSister>.

Mon., Apr. 1 -- April Fool’s Day; Cesar Chavez Day

Wed., Apr. 3 -- National Walking Day

Sun., Apr. 7 -- Divine Mercy Sunday; World Health Day

Wed., Apr. 10 -- National Siblings Day

Thu., Apr. 11 -- National Pet Day

Mon., Apr. 15 -- Tax Day; World Art Day

Fri., Apr. 19 -- Bicycle Day

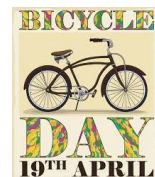
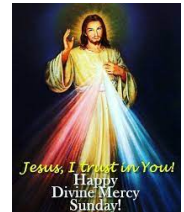
Sun., Apr. 21 -- World Creativity & Innovation Day

Mon., Apr. 22 -- Earth Day

Wed., Apr. 24 -- Administrative Professionals Day

Fri., Apr. 26 -- Arbor Day

Sat. Apr. 28 -- National Superhero Day



Other News . . .

ACDP Formation -- One formation session remains: *The Commitment*, led by Ana Maria De La Portilla. We ask that you pray for the eight who will be completing their formation.



Associate Formation Session
TH @ 3:30 p.m. (CT)
SAT @ 10 a.m. (CT)
Apr. 18 or 20
(request the Zoom link)

Gardening Opportunity -- The Office of Associates and the Office of Mission Support wish to invite you to volunteer in assisting the Sisters with the Peace Garden that our beloved Sister Martha Rose Lange, CDP, may she rest in peace, used to tend. Contact: Pearl Dominguez at (210) 587-1121 or Ana Maria De La Portilla at (210) 587-1105.



Serving our senior CDP Sisters



Associates’ Advisory Committee -- Thank you to our committee members: David Fragoso, Jeanette Geyer, Susan Gonzales, Jerrie Jackson, Michael J. Laney (GA), Jackie Walter, and Jackie Wilson (LA) who helped plan this year’s Convocation. Additional thanks to our silent auction committee: Ana Maria Sanchez, ACDP, Terrie Vollmer, and Pearl Dominguez, ACDP. All proceeds from the auction will help with activities for the Sisters in Regan Hall.



Office of Associates / Oficina de Asociados
 Congregation of Divine Providence of Texas
 603 S.W. 24th Street
 San Antonio, Texas 78207 - (210) 587-1105

“
 The harvest is plentiful
 . . . the workers are few.
 Our ministry strategy:
 share your time, talent,
 and treasure.”
 ”