



NEWSLETTER

January, February, March - 2017

Volume 26, Issue 1

Reflections or “The Saga” of our IHM Companions’ Fall Gathering

The morning of November 13th dawned bright and sunny with all in readiness to welcome sixty-one IHM Companions in Prayer and Ministry for their Fall Gathering at Villa Maria House of Studies. Following morning Mass at 10:15 a.m., I was informed that we had NO WATER PRESSURE throughout the house! What was I to do? With the inspiration of Sister Kathleen McLaughlin, who suggested moving the venue to Camilla Hall’s chapel, if it was available I went to the phone in desperation. Low and behold, Sister Dolores Joseph returned my voicemail plea with an affirmative. With the assistance of many Sisters at VMHS, the move to relocate was on!

Sister Marie Susan Bruno gathered her presentation and display and moved into the front of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel. As many Sisters greeted Companions at Camilla Hall’s front door and signed in as “Visitors” those same “Visitors” made a bee line to... the GIFT SHOP! So much for the use of restrooms and water availability! Believe it or not, our program began on time at one o’clock in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and all went well.



Sister Susan included some of our now familiar Mystics in her “Year of Mercy: Lifetime of Mercy” reflections. Sister shared art works from Rembrandt and Father Mickey McGrath, quotes from Popes Francis and John Paul II and concluded with prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you, Sister Susan, for your gifts of wisdom and adaptability.

Acknowledgement of our IHM Companions who completed their first year with us were gifted with their **Companions’ Pins** to wear proudly to gatherings and St. Alphonsus prayer book: ***Visits to the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

Hospitality was provided in Camilla's community room with Companions greeting and meeting one another socially. We had four Companions visiting from St. Matthew Parish, Forestville, CT, who mingled with as many Companions as possible during this time of conversation and laughter. All in all, this turned into an excellent experience for all...the Companions, near and far, the Sisters in Camilla, ever so hospitable, Sister Susan and the CPM coordinator (me) to trust in God's divine providence, daily graces and the goodness of our IHM Sisters.



As you may know, I try to attend as many local gatherings of Companions as possible each month. In December, each group I visited remarked about the Fall Gathering being such a great event. One Companion remarked that she saw the Sisters as being "adaptable and resilient," another, "ever so welcoming and gracious" while others said how "great to see Camilla Hall" some for the first time and others were able to chat with Sisters they knew from their past. Perhaps the entire episode was a blessing in disguise after all! May 2017 be a blessing for all as we continue to pray for one another and our worldwide needs.

Looking Ahead:

Hopefully, as many Companions as possible will register for our **Sunday, March 26, 2017 Day of Reflection** here at Villa Maria House of Studies. Morning hospitality, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, hot luncheon and Holy Mass at 2 o'clock p.m. will be included in the day's schedule that is still a work in progress. Come and join us... bring a friend or relative

Cost: \$25.00 per person. Checks made payable to: IHM Companions

Individual's Name and payment must be pre-register to Sister Francis Helen on or before **March 14, 2017.** ihmcompanions@gmail.com Thank you!

| Month | Virtue | Patron | Scripture |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| January | Faith | Saints Peter & Paul | John 8:12 |
| February | Hope | Saint Andrew | Psalm 91:14 |
| March | Love of God | Saint James the Great | Mark 12:30 |