

Daughters of Wisdom Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Associates' Program

May 27, 2007 was an eventful day for the United States Province of the Daughters of Wisdom. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Associates of the Daughters of Wisdom at the Montfort Spirituality Center in Bay Shore, New York. Associates of Wisdom are women and men who are committed to witnessing Wisdom's presence in the world through acts of compassion, justice, and care for creation. In journeying with the Daughters of Wisdom, Associates are strengthened in their efforts through a relationship with those who follow the spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort: Daughters of Wisdom, Montfort Missionaries, and Brothers of St. Gabriel.

At the celebration on May 27, five Associate Candidates made their first commitments: Lanetta Gann (Chicago, Illinois); Candice Kulak (Riverhead, New York); Mary Katherine Lazzaro (Holbrook, New York); Audrey Schroeder (Islip Terrace, New York); and Susan Tanguay (Thomaston, Connecticut)

Associates who renewed their commitments are: Valerie Maniscalco-Day (Bayside, New York); Linda Fenimore (Holbrook, New York); Maryse Haig (Uniondale, New York); Marie McLaughlin (Williston Park, New York); Virginia Struckhoff-Mattera (Shirley, New York); Bonnie Odiorne (Waterbury, Connecticut); Catherine Powers and William Powers (Port Jefferson Station, New York); Lillian Scalogna (Port Jefferson Station, New York); and Roseann Vinciguerra (Ronkonkoma, New York).

Three women from Virginia, who will be making their first commitments shortly, were also remembered: Mary Ann Balding (Virginia Beach); Cathy Rudolph (Virginia Beach); and Kathy Russo (Roanoke). Joining us was Pat Wolosz (Wantagh, New York), who will begin the process of Orientation for the Associates on June 8. Also present were families and friends of the Candidates and Associates and many Daughters of Wisdom from New York, Connecticut, and West Virginia.



Mary Katherine Lazzaro, Susan Tanguay, Lanetta Gann, Audrey Schroeder, and Candice Kulak celebrate their commitment as Associates with Sister Margaret Kelliher, DW (second from left), Co-Director of the Associates' program of the Daughters of Wisdom

Photo right: Associates prepare to enter the chapel led by the Wisdom cross



Photo below: Sister Evelyn Eckhardt, DW; Sister Patricia Schmidt, DW; Pat Wolosz, beginning her Associate Orientation; Sister Ann Gray, DW, Provincial Leader; and Sister Dorothy Reilly, DW



Valerie Day gave a warm Welcome to the Liturgical celebration. The entrance procession began with Maryse Haige carrying the Wisdom Cross followed by the Candidates, the Associates of the Daughters of Wisdom, the Committee members, Sister Ann Gray, DW Provincial Leader, Deacon William Powers, Reverend George Werner, SMM, concelebrant, and Reverend Matthew Considine, SMM Provincial and main celebrant.

In preaching the homily for the feast of Pentecost, Sister Ann Gray noted that, "Like the disciples bursting out from their space of fear and insecurity, we, Daughters of Wisdom, with you, our Associates, and as followers of Montfort and Marie Louise [founders of the Daughters of Wisdom], are being challenged to choose life and not death...We call upon the Spirit to flame forth in blessing upon our gathered Associates who are, who are about to be, and the many more to come, and transform them into Wisdom's friends and prophets, now and forever."

After the homily, Sister Margaret Kelliher, DW called forth the Candidates. Then followed the Rite of Acceptance, after which Candidates together renewed their Baptismal Promises and individually pronounced their commitments for one year. The nine Associates who had pronounced their commitments several years ago were then called forth to renew their commitments together. This was followed by the Sign of Peace. At the Offertory, each of the new Associates brought up a gift: bread, wine, the Associate Handbook, the quilt made on the occasion of the International Gathering of Friends/Associates of Wisdom 2003, and the photo album containing pictures of this international experience.

The celebration continued with a simple but splendid meal, followed by a PowerPoint prepared by Candice Kulak and Valerie Maniscalco-Day. It depicted a short history of both the Congregation and the Associates of the Daughters of Wisdom. Each person present at the luncheon received a special prayer card to commemorate the occasion.



Associates present for the 20th anniversary celebration:

Back row: Candice Kulak, Bonnie Odiorne, Linda Fenimore, Mary Katherine Lazarro, Audrey Schroeder, Maryse Haig, Marie McLaughlin, Susan Tanguay, Valerie Day-Maniscalco

Front row: Lanetta Gann, Virginia Struckhoff-Mattera, Roseann Vinciguerra, Catherine (Taty) Powers; Bill Powers; and Lillian Scalogna

