

CAVA NEWSLETTER

www.VocationsCava.org

Fall 2016

Dear Friends,

This newsletter features CAVA and ministry partner engagements these past several weeks. CAVA is dedicated in its continued efforts to respond to the needs of today in vocation ministry. We invite those passionate about vocation ministry to join us as members or to partner with us as Friends of CAVA.

Chicago's Got Sisters

Sr. Theresa Sullivan, D.C.



Chicago's Got Sisters took place on Oct 7-8. Five very engaged young women participated. Five communities hosted the women at their homes (Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Discalced Carmelites, Franciscans of the Eucharist, Sisters of Mercy and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence). An additional five communities spoke as a part of the vocation panel (Daughters of Charity, Franciscan Sisters of the

Sacred Heart, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, Daughters of St. Paul, and Sisters of Providence).

Here are some of the things that the participants had to say:

"I'd recommend it to anyone who is discerning or interested in learning more about religious life. I don't think anyone would regret it even if they leave without feeling a connection with one particular order. The experience is always beautiful."

"Go - it's worth it, and God will reveal his will."



Upcoming Events

**CAVA Advent
Reflection/Christmas
Celebration
December 13**

**Celebration of
Consecrated Life
January 29, 2017**

**Upcoming Meetings
are posted on the
CAVA website:**

**[Click Here to access the
website](#)**

"I really enjoyed seeing the sisterhood shared among all the sisters from different orders. I have only known Sisters of Mercy but felt privileged to have met sisters from different orders."

"I would tell someone that Chicago's Got Sisters experience is a great way to explore and learn something new whether you are called to religious life, married or single life, it definitely allows you to ask questions."

"This experience allowed me to see that living out the mission of Christ manifests itself in many different ways. What struck me was seeing that sisters in their work's allow themselves to be God's instruments in service of Him and others."

Have a blessed day,
Sr. Theresa Sullivan, D.C.



2016 Paluch Family Foundation Recognition Dinner

Ms. Dolores Orzel, JS Paluch



On Wednesday, October 19, 2016, the Paluch Family Foundation Recognition Dinner gathered people from the Chicago area at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare Rosemont. CAVA members Sr. Maria Brizuela, OSF, and Sr. Connie Bach, PHJC, joined in the celebration of the ministries of the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking (IWRAHT) and the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR). Both organizations received 2016 Stewardship Awards.

Sr. Jean Okroi, IBVM, accepted the award on behalf of her organization. Sr. Jean initiated the Illinois Women Religious against Human Trafficking Committee six years ago with the assistance of the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR). This collaborative committee of ten women religious congregations and their Associates raises awareness and advocates for and assists survivors of Human Trafficking. For more information, visit Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking on Facebook.

Fr. David Kelly, CPPS, Executive Director of PBMR, accepted the award on behalf of his organization. PBMR reaches out and supports youth and families who have been impacted by violence and incarceration. Through a restorative justice approach, PBMR seeks to create safe and hospitable spaces where reconciliation is possible. For more information, visit www.pbmr.org.

Most Rev. Francis J. Kane, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, offered the opening invocation and Rev. Terence Keehan, Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Community in Inverness, Illinois, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Margaret "Mickey" Paluch established the Paluch Family Foundation in 1995. The Paluch family carries on Mickey's legacy through the foundation, which honors and supports three areas of service in the Catholic Church: Liturgy, Stewardship, and Vocations. The foundation awards grants to causes established or selected by the honorees that reflect the ideals of the foundation. For more information, visit www.paluchfoundation.com.

Hands-ON+Hearts-IN

Sister Mary Kay Brooks, SSND



In the hours before the light of day arrived, I quietly began my journey from Iowa toward Holly Springs, Mississippi for my first mission trip. The darkness was significant because I was heading toward a mission trip where I felt as if I were totally in the dark. I never experienced a mission trip before so I didn't quite know exactly what would be happening during the week. As I slowly drove through the golden wheat fields I became more at peace as I observed the farmers harvesting their fields and recalled childhood memories.

No day contained the same activities. We went from painting, tutoring children, serving food to those in need and home improvement evaluations. But the activities were not the most significant events that happened for me. What touched my heart most were the people. Who are these women and men who need help? They are my neighbors, my brothers and sisters who happen to have life circumstances or events in their life that are beyond their ability to handle by themselves.

One woman that comes to mind most often is Rita. Her roof was damaged during last year's tornado but was replaced improperly. Her kitchen ceiling was falling in and the water reservoir was leaking. She had not had a shower in her own home for over a month. The morning we arrived to evaluate how Sacred Heart Southern Mission home improvement team could help, her water heater broke. She went from not being able to take a hot shower to not having water at all. The home improvement team immediately began brainstorming how they could get her water immediately. The tears streaming down her face at the thought of having a hot shower was humbling. Rita continued to call us "angels" for arriving on the worst morning of her life and giving her hope. Giving hope to others, being the face of love to others, being the hands that can provide the work to bring back life is what this mission trip was about. This is what I experienced in being of

service to others. In the distance of what I thought was darkness became a bright light of God's love and mercy.

Mississippi Moves the Heart

By Ms. Libby Riggs, Volunteer for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Right out of college, I entered the Peace Corp, my heart has always gone out to the third world countries where there is so much need. A recent experience however brought me to a halt. As a part of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Volunteer Program, I was offered the opportunity to travel to Holly Springs, Mississippi on a pilot mission program for the PHJC's and the Catholic Volunteer Network in conjunction with the Southern Sacred Heart Ministries. The real beauty of this mission was that those we worked alongside, those we worked with, all became community...there was no notice of



age, race, religion, sex...but a sharing in one mission to serve and be served without question. While I participated in a short program last spring in helping clean-up from the tornado damage of late 2015, we were not afforded the opportunity to be as actively involved in the victims of the disaster since they were unable to live at the sight. This time, would be a totally different experience as we plunged into the lives of the people. ([Read more from our website](#))

Holy Fire

By Sister Lovina Francis Pammit, OSF

Holy Fire was an Archdiocesan event for youth grades 6 through 9 that occurred on October 14 & repeated on October 15, organized through NFCYM (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry). About 2,600 youth came each of those days. Though it was an event for youth, participating as a volunteer meant more interaction with my co-volunteers – mostly Archdiocesan staff – so I was able to get to know better “who's who” at Meyer Center which is a good thing!

Sister Editha Ben and Sr. Belinda Monahan also volunteered with me. Sr. Belinda comments: “...the event itself presented an experience of faith and God to the middle schoolers in a way that they could relate to and that was worthwhile for the young people who attended.”

CAVA did not get the opportunity to have a display table but our hope for next year is to have a more visible presence for consecrated life with more interaction with the participants.

NRVC Convocation

Follow up article and photo gallery on the October 27-31 Convocation in Overland, Kansas is now available at: <https://nrvc.net/86/article/convocation-2016-draws-300-12802>

Any comments, questions or if you wish to be involved, you may contact:

Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA)

Mailing address:

OFR/CAVA

Sr. Lovina Francis Pammit, OSF

835 N. Rush St.

Chicago, IL 60611-2030

Tel. 312-534-5240

Email: cava@archchicago.org