

Associates respond to Year of Consecrated Life

By Anne Cramer, SSND Associate

As we look back on the Year of Consecrated Life, we observe the many ways that associates in the southern area – Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi – of the Central Pacific Province have responded to Pope Francis' call to "Wake Up the World."

From Dallas, Texas, we hear "I have invited 20 friends to be prayer warriors, each week giving them a list of people to pray for." People who know an associate are aware that a request to intercede in prayer is considered a privilege and a holy appointment. These requests are then shared with others who are faithful to pray.

Another associate from Dallas attends a weekly bible study and teaches a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class every week. She also assists with retreats in her parish and attends daily Mass.

A group of associates in the Crowley/Lafayette/New Iberia area in Louisiana interact with sisters and exhibit passion in their daily lives, thankful that they chose to say "yes" to God's call and that they continue to do so. One associate writes, "Each time we are together, we try to discuss the ways we incorporate all these things both at work and at home."

Associates in San Antonio, Texas, manifest their efforts to respond to the call by lending guidance to family and neighbors regarding healthy life choices. They furnish "solace and assistance to individuals and extended family in coping with end-of-life issues." Some provide Eucharistic ministry to the homebound and medical transportation for the elderly and infirm.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, associates conduct weekly bible study, attend adoration hour and visit nursing homes. They participate in Kairos Prison Ministry and prepare tens of dozens of cookies for incarcerated women. During the last year, a music cd was recorded, produced and distributed to bless and edify many with beautiful songs.

Associates throughout the southern Central Pacific Province joined together last year for initial and renewing covenants, celebrated Jubilee with the sisters and attended a donor Mass at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. These coming-together times gave testimony to faith, holiness and hope.

In promoting consecrated life, associates in the Dallas area spoke to co-workers about the life and instructed pre-associates. One associate writes, "I share my life and ministry with family and friends by email and text messages. Their response is always, 'Let me know what you are doing.'"

An associate in Louisiana said, "We are called to wake up the world in so many ways and need to utilize every opportunity that we have as we embrace the future with hope."

In the San Antonio area, associates promote consecrated life by giving spiritual and moral support, working with charitable organizations furnishing clothing, food and needed articles and trying to guide the spiritual growth in others through leadership in day-by-day retreats.

Associates promote the annual women's retreat every October at St. Mary of the Pines, presenting wonderful speakers and facilitators. The warm fellowship is a great encouragement for the time of spiritual renewal and refreshment. □



Associates Carolyn Hebert and Jody Landry baked dozens of cookies for the Kairos women's prison retreat.

