

# ACDP PERSPECTIVES

The Associate Community of the Congregation of Divine Providence  
Melbourne, Kentucky 41059

December 2017

Volume 28

## *From the Director: Donna Esposito, ACDP*

### IMPORTANT DATES

Be sure to check  
the last page  
for important  
meetings for all  
Associates

#### Steering Committee

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Director of Associates

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“Blessed be the moment when the Son of God, coming forth from the bosom of the Father, was made man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. Blessed be the womb that bore the Son of God for nine months.”

Blessed Jean Martin Moye (Dir. Pg. 155)

Christmas! What is the true meaning of Christmas? The word that comes to mind is love. Do you agree? First, it was the love of God the Father who sent His Only Son to earth as a baby. What a precious gift! Love was born in a manger beneath the heavenly skies on that holy night. Then there was Mary and Joseph, who because of their love for God said “yes” to be the parents of this beautiful baby boy. Little did they know the future of their child would bring salvation to all humankind when He would say “yes” to save a broken world. What wondrous love is this!

Reflecting on these profound examples of true love how can one help but to know the meaning of Christmas? It is for us to be a beacon of hope to those who are in need by opening our hearts to share our gifts whether it is our time, a monetary gift or a simple act of kindness to others.

Let us take time to see the little miracles, blessings and love that God places into our small moments each day. In turn, one sharing love with others will never be regretted, and will be in awe at the blessings that will be returned.

My personal wish and prayer on this Christmas and always is that each one of us will be beacons of hope, joy and love in our broken world. May you and your family enjoy the graces and blessings of the season and throughout the New Year. As always you are in my thoughts and prayers.

***From Our Mentor: Sr. Rose Ann Menke, CDP***



Christmas is a day filled with joyful celebrations at Mass and wonderful family gatherings.

It is a day of gift giving and wishes of peace and happiness. It is especially a day to reflect and gaze at the child in the manger—a day of wordless contemplation.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and savor his pure, unconditional love. May this child touch our hearts with the wonder of his love. May this child nurture love in us so we can be love and joy for others. May we truly see the face of Jesus in our neighbor.

With Fr. Moyer let us pray: "Increase my love for you, O my Jesus, make it grow from day to day." (Const. p 418)

May the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

**Christmas Tree  
Blessing  
Submitted by:  
Vicki Crawford,  
ACDP  
Taken from:  
Sadler Religion  
Permission  
Included on  
Blessing**

**Christmas Tree Blessing**

Lord, Jesus,  
Encircle this tree with your blessing.  
May its twinkling lights remind us  
of the hope and promise of your  
coming.  
May we find joy in the memories we  
share in its tinsel and trimmings.  
May the presents we place beneath it  
give rise to an appreciation for the  
gift of your presence among us.  
We ask this in your holy name.  
Amen.

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### *From the Solomons: By Anne Etzel, ACDP*

As the days race onward toward the Christmas Season, we send our blessings and greetings to all from Solomons, Md ACDP's. We continue our study and discussion of the book "*Simplicity*" by Richard Rohr. At this time of year, when all of us seem to be rushing somewhere to do something before rushing somewhere else to do something more, the subtitle of the book "The Freedom of Letting Go" appears all the more appealing. Perhaps we need to let go of some of this need to "do" and take time to sit quietly, relax in the presence of God, and just love God with all our hearts. Sometimes, in all our rushing about we get anxious, annoyed and even angry with those we love. But God calls us to be loving and forgiving and to let go of all that separates us from God and from those we care so much about. I believe there is inside most of us a desire to simplify our lives. During this season is a great time to start.

You may remember one of our newest ACDP's in Solomons, Jan Beil, died shortly after her reception. Jan served in the military and is entitled to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. So in January she will be interred there and several of us are planning to attend the ceremony. Please remember Jan in your prayers as well as pray for good weather on the day of her interment.

We send all ACDP and Sisters of Divine Providence blessings of the Season and pray in the year ahead we can indeed simplify our lives and draw close to the heart of God.



### **History of our ACDP Pin By Mary Lee Vennemann, ACDP**

In 1992 Sister Micki Martin CDP, Director of the USA ACDP's, Mary Lee Vennemann, ACDP and other American ACDP's flew to our Motherhouse in Fenetrance, France, for the Second International Associate meeting. Sister Theresa Bowman, CDP, our Provincial met us at the Motherhouse. We joined our Superior General; Sr. Marie Paul Six, and Sr. John Joseph; Director of the French Spiritual Family of Fr Moyer. [The French have a different Association than the USA - which is another story.]

One of the topics on the Agenda was the design of our ACDP Pin. Mary Lee Vennemann, ACDP, suggested a design and after discussion and sharing with the group it was accepted and confirmed by our Superior General Sr. Marie Paul, CDP. Our Pin is a circle which represents the World with no border around it because we ACDP's are to "go out into the world and live the Spirituality of Providence". As Associates, we are in a position to minister the Providence of God in places where Vowed Religious cannot venture, e.g. our families and our workplace.

Sr. Marie Paul, CDP, directed that the Cross engraved into the Sister's Cross be placed in the Associates pin; therefore, we Associates share closeness in the ministry of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

In grateful praise we thank our Provident God for our vocation as women and men of Divine Providence functioning in today's challenging world, we truly make up The Body of Christ.

## Spring Hill, FL Monthly Meeting Report: November 15, 2017

Intro: Jesus has invited all of us to participate at a banquet. We are called often to seek Wisdom for Perfect Prudence and to live the CDP charisms to the best of our ability. Will we be wise or foolish? This month the two readings were from the previous Sunday. Wisdom 6: 12-16 and Matthew 25: 1-13

Prep: We are to spend some time reading these two passages so that we will be better able to comment on the questions which we have not heard prior to this meeting.

Questions: *JESUS IS THE MASTER OF ALLEGORY*

Wis. 1. What does this reading say about Wisdom? What spoke to you in your heart?

Wis. 2. What does Wisdom give us and why are we given it?

Mt. 3. Why does Jesus describe heaven as ten virgins? What is the meaning of the word "virgin" in this parable?

Mt. 4. Why did five of the virgins respond "no" when asked to share their oil? What does the oil represent?

Both of these readings brought forth great discussion, but we will look at the gospel first. What does the word "virginity" describe? The group agreed that virginity aptly describes heaven as absolute purity, perfection. The wise virgins said "no" to the foolish virgins because they wanted to assure themselves of their own entrance into heaven. One must be ready.

The author of Wisdom is unknown. He uses a literary tool called personification by presenting Wisdom as a person. His descriptions are both concise and precise. He describes Wisdom as resplendent and unfading - not just shiny and unending. He uses these words because they give a sense of urgency in reaching the other to both the seeker and the giver. While the seeker is anxious to receive, so also is Wisdom anxious to give itself to the seeker.

We found this reading to be a tool to living a life of abandonment. When we attain wisdom, we attain truth. No need to seek any more. We have gained freedom from Wisdom because truth is unfading.

This description of wisdom is a foreshadowing of "He who is to come". Wisdom is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the light. Jesus is that perfect wisdom that we each seek. This reading closely parallels the CDP charism of trust in Divine Providence. Our journey is seeking the way, the truth and the light. Jesus Christ is our Wisdom.

Fr. Jean Martin Moye followed Jesus Christ in earnest. He gave the Congregation of Divine Providence a way to follow Christ through the virtues of Abandonment, Simplicity, Poverty and Charity. Thank You Sisters for sharing your charism with us.

### Sharon's Christmas Prayer Author: John Shea Submitted by Anne Etzel, ACDP

She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity.

Convinced every word was revelation.

She said, "They were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat.

And they went a long way from home without getting lost.

The lady rode a donkey, the man walked and the baby was inside the lady.

They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee hee).

But the three rich men found them because a star lighted the roof.

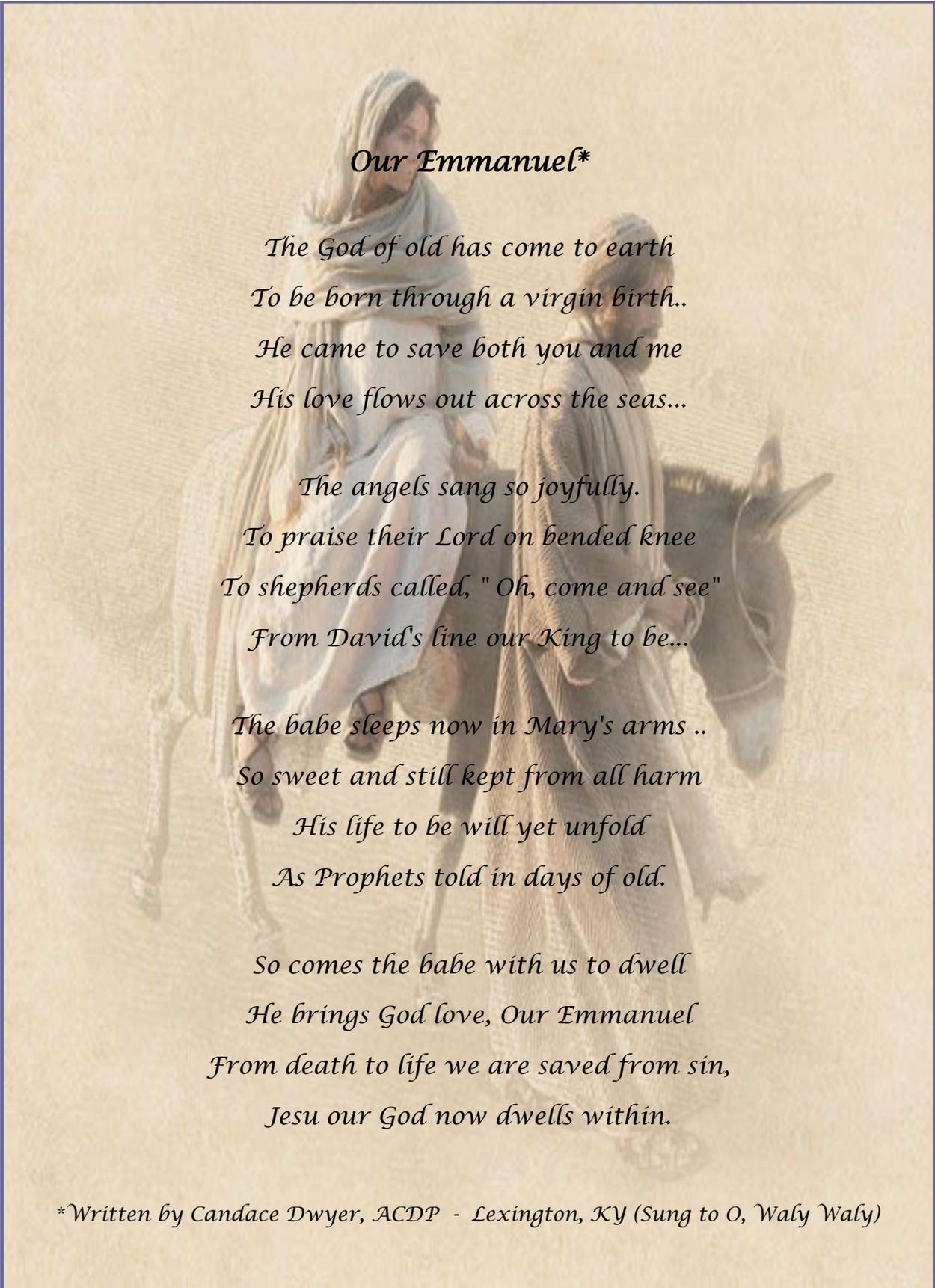
Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.

Then the baby was born. And do you know who he was?

The Baby was God.

And she jumped in the air, whirled around, dove into the sofa  
and buried her head under the cushion. Which is the only proper response to  
the good news of the Incarnation!





### *Our Emmanuel\**

*The God of old has come to earth  
To be born through a virgin birth..  
He came to save both you and me  
His love flows out across the seas...*

*The angels sang so joyfully.  
To praise their Lord on bended knee  
To shepherds called, " Oh, come and see"  
From David's line our King to be...*

*The babe sleeps now in Mary's arms ..  
So sweet and still kept from all harm  
His life to be will yet unfold  
As Prophets told in days of old.*

*So comes the babe with us to dwell  
He brings God love, Our Emmanuel  
From death to life we are saved from sin,  
Jesu our God now dwells within.*

*\*Written by Candace Dwyer, ACDP - Lexington, KY (Sung to O, Waly Waly)*



### Dates to Remember!

- February 10: ACDP Meeting: Providence Hall 1:30-3:00pm
- February 19: Lenten Scriptures Sr. Fidelis Tracy, CDP  
in Providence Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- February 26: Gospels of Lent Video of Rev. Michael Himes  
Providence Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- March 3: The Gathering, Sr. Margie Verhoff, CDP  
Providence Hall at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- March 3: Penance Service in Immaculate Conception Chapel
- March 10: Movie "The Way" Providence Hall - 1:00 p.m.
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day Prayer, potluck and sing-a-long  
with Cathy Brunner, ACDP and friends (more to follow)
- April 14: Lent Gathering, Sr. Barbara Rohe, CDP  
Providence Hall at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- May 5: Moyer/Derby Day at Holy Family 3:30 p.m. - ?
- May 19: ACDP Meeting  
in Providence Hall, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- June 8,9,10: Annual Associate Retreat  
St. Anne Retreat Center - Friday at 4:30 p.m.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas  
and Joyous New Year!

