**Live † Jesus**

**St. Louis Visitation Association of the Christian Faithful**

**Visitation Academy (St. Louis County, Missouri)**

**Eleventh Annual Report: October 31, 2014**

**Members**

Mrs. Ginny Starke, Moderator; Mrs. Mary Anne Spruell; Msgr. John Unger, Chaplain; Miss Mary Beth Concannon; Mr. Jeff Cupps; Mrs. Marilyn Fitzgerald; Mrs. Cathleen Fogarty; Mrs. Jennifer Germanese; Mrs. Julie Ivers; Mrs. Julie Ledbetter; Mrs. Chris Nassif; Mrs. Michelle Reagan; Mrs. Kathryn Snodgrass; Mr. John Sturm; Sr. Veronica Haronik, Superior; Sr. Margaret Mary Gibson; Sr. Mary Grace McCormack and Sr. Marie Therese Ruthmann

Our dear Sr. Lucy Beres went home to God on November 4th, 2013.

**Formation Summary**

The ACF had very fruitful and enriching formation sessions this year. Our book discussions this year were based on the book*, Letters of Spiritual Direction by St. Francis de Sales*. We gave our greatest attention to the six themes of Salesian Spirituality outlined by St. Francis. We also shared an overnight retreat with the Visitation Associates in February. The presentations were given by video from Fr. Eunan McDonnell SDB, *God Desires You, St. Francis de Sales on Living the Gospel*, with discussion and reflection time following. In addition, the ACF hosted a spring bus trip to Visitation landmarks throughout St. Louis to enliven our historical traditions.

Visitation Academy Board of Directors and the ACF shared an evening retreat on Salesian Leadership and Governance in September 2013. The retreat included presentations, group discussion, and personal sharing. This new tradition to spend retreat time together as a board of directors and the ACF is planned to continue, annually.

**Association of the Christian Faithful (ACF) Summary of Business Meetings**

The Visitation Association of the Christian Faithful held 5 business meetings during this past year, plus an additional ACF meeting dedicated solely to planning for a future Salesian Center to be built at Visitation. All members signed an agreement of commitment and confidentiality at the beginning of the year. Complete meeting minutes are available for review upon request.

**Overview of Activities**

The ACF continues to progress in defining our Association’s structure and opportunities for service. Side-by-side with the Sisters, we continue to unfold how our mission and role at Visitation can be implemented to serve the Church and the community. We diligently strive to meet our spiritual and fiduciary responsibilities and remain very committed to Visitation and the Church.

This past year, ACF Members participated in the Academy’s Board of Director meetings and served on all Board of Director committees in either member or ex-officio capacity. The ACF committees of Communication, Formation and Membership successfully met on a regular basis. The members collaborated with other Visitation constituencies to facilitate communication and participate in common activities and initiatives. The ACF Council (akin to an executive council) met regularly with the Sr. Veronica and the Monastic Council to assist in leadership and Monastery service, as needed. An ACF member was appointed to serve as the Alumnae Association co-moderator with one of the Sisters during the 2013-2014 school year.

In addition to enriching our spiritual formation as a group and individuals this year, the Visitation ACF focused on:

* Educating the community on the mission and role of the ACF;
* Hosting several 10 ACF Year Anniversary events; and
* Initiating plans for a future Salesian Center.

**Website and Facebook Page Launched**

The Visitation ACF Communications Committee created a website that we invite you to review. <http://www.stlvisitationacf.com> The ACF website also features a video presentation we gave to Visitation alumnae regarding the Sisters’ vision for the future and the mission and role of our Association. In our efforts to encourage community interaction, we launched a Facebook page as well. <https://www.facebook.com/StLouisVisitationACF>

**ACF activities for 2013-2014 include:**

* Worked with the Sisters and appropriate consultants in various small groups to begin plans for a future Salesian Center;
* Authored with the Sisters a vision, mission and objectives statement for the future Salesian Center;
* Assisted the Sisters in articulating their desires and plans for the future of the Academy;
* Enrolled Visitation Academy administration, faculty and staff into the Archconfraternity of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus;
* Organized and hosted an overnight retreat with the Visitation Associates;
* Created and presented a power point presentation on the ACF mission and role specifically for the Board of Directors of the Academy;
* Created a second power point presentation suitable for the alumnae and hosted 3 open meetings with alumnae to share the mission and role of the ACF;
* Created a concise question and answer brochure on the ACF for the community;
* Gathered for dinner with the Sisters prior to the Academy’s Christmas concert and attended the presentation together;
* Organized and hosted a Visitation Landmark bus trip;
* Hosted dinner and a commitment renewal service with the Visitation Associates;
* Coordinated with Pam Miller, Visitation Academy’s Salesian Coordinator, to research and make 4 short presentations honoring individual Sisters as Salesian Leaders during the all-school masses;
* Participated in the faculty’s formation meetings, *Listen with Your Heart;*
* Contributed an article about the ACF to the publication *The Visitor Commencement Issue,* published earlier this year;
* Attended alumnae and academy sponsored events;
* Communications Committee designed informative business cards for ACF members to distribute as needed;
* Formation committee assisted in the planning and presentation of Salesian Spirituality as part of the orientation process for new faculty and staff;
* Formation committee worked with the Visitation Associates program to consider how ACF members might be able to assist in the formation of new Associate members with the Sisters. An ACF member will now assists the Sisters in leadership duties of the Associates; and
* The Membership committee worked with the Monastic Council to identify potential future members for the ACF. A new member, Mary Ann Clancy Schwartz, will join the ACF in the 2014-15 year.