



Sycamore 2014

Martha Associates

Greetings from the Martha Associate Director

While 2013 had been full juggling many commitments, 2014 was even more hectic with personal health issues. It proved to be consuming with Doctors appointments, pain management, and needing to take time for self-care. At this time I feel much better and hopefully will continue to improve. Thank you for all your prayers and concerns.

As was communicated to you earlier in the Fall we were unable to have the Sycamore published for January as planned because of preparations for Chapter and Tanya Mullin was busy "about many things". We are indebted to Tanya for her skill in setting up and compiling the Sycamore.

In reading this issue of the Sycamore you will find the highlight of the year for the Sisters of St Martha was the Chapter held at Bethany in April. Caroline Martin has very capably explained the Chapter process as well as including the new leadership team. We concluded the Chapter with a Direction Statement to be implemented throughout the next five years. At that time we thanked the outgoing team, Sister Mary MacFarlane, Congregation leader and Councillors Sister Brendalee Boisvert, Assistant Congregation Leader, Sister Sandra Cooke and Sister Wilma Best. I would like to express our gratitude for their continued support for the Associate process while on Council. A special thank you to Sister Wilma Best who was always there for me as Council liaison for the Associates.



I would like to thank the Associate Committee: Nora Bernard, Caroline Martin, Julia Townsend, Sister Stella Chafe and Sister Genevieve MacDonald. By some miracle, we were able to prepare and be ready for Chapter with three SKYPE Meetings. Thank God for a great committee and technology.

Inside this issue:

Chapter 2014	2
ARCAN	5
News from	
Christ the King, Trenton	6
Emmaus Community, Calgary	7
Glace Bay Group	10
Martha Centre, Lethbridge	10
Martha Community, Sydney	12
St. Clare Convent, Sydney Mines	13
St. Monica Group, Lethbridge	14
Teachers Residence, Eskasoni	15



My hope for this year as I meet with each group, is that we may have a conversation around the Direction Statement from the Chapter. That we may help each other, Associates and Sisters, live it out in our own lives.

Let us continue to engender a sense of hope and life in these unsettling times. May we never forget the power of prayer for each other, for our loved

ones and for those in need throughout the world. You have been given a reflective journal, "Praying in These Emerging Times". This is a prayer booklet that all the Marthas have received to help us on our spiritual path. We would like to share it with you for your own spiritual reflection.

So what are we as Marthas and Martha Associates up to these days?

Chapter 2014

Associates and Mary Mc Mahons Summary at Chapter:

At the Chapter, on the day of the Associate presentation, Caroline Martin and Julia Townsend were each asked to give a five- minute presentation. They were asked to name three blessings and say how they witnessed to the Martha mission of Gospel hospitality.

Sister Mary Mc Mahon from her lens of living in the area where Associates were located was asked to name three blessings of having Martha Associates and how she experienced them living out the call.

Here is their summary for the Sycamore.



Martha Centre, Lethbridge

Hi to all the Martha Associates from the East and West!!!

Sister Claudette asked me to write a short note of my experience of attending the Martha's Chapter in Antigonish.

"Every 5 years the Sisters of St Martha of Antigonish come together to hold their General Chapter. The gathering consists of two parts; a Chapter of Affairs and a Chapter of Elections. The Chapter of Affairs consists of meetings where the

sisters discuss, plan, pray-celebrate and set directions for the next five years in the life of the Congregation. The Chapter of Elections is also a very sacred time in the life of the congregation as the women who will be entrusted with leading the congregation for the next 5 years will be elected" (Martha Website).

I arrived at Bethany the Motherhouse and I was warmly welcomed by Sister Claudette. My room was down the hall from the "Prayer Participants" room. This was a room set up with video feed to





the Chapter which was taking place in the Assembly Hall. The room was a prayer room for sisters who were not attending the Chapter but offered prayer support for the 7 Days the Chapter was on. They could follow the Chapter activities live and pray for the voting sisters that attended the chapter in the Assembly Hall. It brought home to me again the faith of the Martha's and how prayer is an integral part of their life and how they constantly seek the guidance of the Spirit in all they do. All the Sisters participated in one way or another to discern God's direction for the Congregation.

The days of the Chapter were full. The Sister's were up early for breakfast and the day began with Mass at 8 am in the Bethany Chapel. Each days meetings started at 9 am and finished at 4 or 5 pm. They had morning and afternoon coffee breaks and a lunch break. The passion and commitment of the Sister's at the Chapter was evident. There was great energy and enthusiasm for the whole process. I could feel it while I was there.

It was a privilege to attend a number of committee meetings. These included the Social Justice Committee meeting and The Martha Ecology Committee. We heard about the different activities the Martha's were involved with. (To learn what these two committees are all about check out the Martha website.)

As always the warmth and hospitality of the Sisters was ever present. I felt right at home. I got to visit with Sister's who used to live and work in Lethbridge and catch up with what they were doing now. I visited the Infirmary where the aged

and ill sister's are well cared for.

An exciting part of the Chapter for me was The Chapter of Elections. I did not attend the elections as this was strictly for the Sisters, but they would announce it over the Public Address system each time a new Sister was elected. There was much joy and enthusiasm and support for the new leadership team. The night after one of the days of election there was a get together of all the sisters and the present leadership team was thanked for their service. The speeches were heartfelt and full of gratitude. On July 29th, 2014 the new leadership team will start their 5 years of service. In case you haven't heard Sister Brendalee Boisvert will be the Congregation leader with Sister Stella Chafe as the Assistant Congregation Leader. The three Councillors are Sister Donna Brady, Sister Florence Kennedy and Sister Joanne O'Regan.

As Martha Associates we can support the leadership team specifically and the Marthas collectively with our prayers. It was a real privilege to attend the Saturday of Chapter and see up close how it all works. It was a special treat to be present at Bethany when the Chapter was on. I saw women of deep faith who are passionate about what they do and the life they have chosen. The Martha's hospitality and sense of service to the community was demonstrated again and again in the presentations on Social Justice and Ecology.

To Sister Claudette and all the Martha's I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the Chapter.

Caroline Martin

Awareness examine at the end of the day:

How have I allowed Love to flow through me today or where have I blocked it?





Martha Community, Sydney

A Visit to Bethany

As an Associate member of the Sisters of St. Martha, I was honored and proud to be invited to participate in a presentation about the Associates during the Chapter of 2014 held April 22 – 30 at Bethany. Before the presentation which occurred on Saturday, April 26th, two other associate Members, Nora Bernard of Eskasoni, Caroline Martin from Western Canada and myself, Julia Townsend, Sydney, were also invited to attend the morning sessions. It was amazing to hear and learn about the work of the Sisters of St. Martha in the area of Social Justice and Ecology.

My overnight stay at Bethany was wonderful! The Sisters of St. Martha certainly live by their charism of Gospel Hospitality. I felt very welcomed by

everyone, the Sisters could not have been kinder or more attentive! The whole experience was awesome!! A special “THANK YOU” must be given to Sr. Claudette Gallant, the Director of Associates, who invited me to participate in the Associate Presentation and who saw to my lovely accommodations and care. I also want to express my gratitude for spending time with Nora Bernard and also making a new Associate friend, Caroline Martin.

I am truly humbled by the work, dedication, commitment, and most importantly, the faith of the Sisters of St. Martha. Thank you for the opportunity to spend a day with you.

Julia Townsend

Christ the King, Trenton

From my lens of being in an area where Associates are located, Christ the King in Trenton, I have experienced many blessings.

Some of these include:

- ⇒ Being with a group of women and men who are eager to grow in their spiritual lives and strengthen their faith life.
- ⇒ Seeing the value they place on community and sharing with like minded people on our Baptismal Call. Through, prayer, faith development, hospitality, and friendship we are enabled to grow in living out this commitment.

- ⇒ Their openness to learn from the various topics presented at our monthly meetings.
- ⇒ Their generosity in being of assistance to us Marthas when needed.
- ⇒ The involvement of members in services in church and community.

I believe that we, Trenton Marthas and Associates are striving to deepen our Christian Call so that in responding to life situations we act with the mind and heart of Christ and so are pockets of hope in our world.

Blessings,
Sister Mary McMahon





Sister Marie Chin's reflection for Chapter:

- + What is not changing is God's love for the world.
- + Fear is the opposite of love
- + the heart is an antenna to Divine Mystery
- + A new understanding of reality evokes a new understanding of God
- + God is longing for us... lean into God... long for God
- + Love is costly...

Atlantic Regional Congregations Associate Network (ARCAN)

A great Event which has recently happened was the ARCAN conference June 6 –7, 2014, at Mount St. Vincent in Halifax. ARCAN is the Atlantic Regional Congregations and Associate Network. The theme was "Widening the Embrace" with Anne Walsh, a Redemptorist Associate of St. John's NL., as the presenter. Anne is a native of NL so we were treated throughout with her humour, practicality and wisdom. There were nuggets to be savoured, remembered. To be shared, hopefully, at a later date with Associates who were unable to attend.



SACRED SHE

Scripture speaks of wisdom as she.
The saints wrote of the soul as she.
And we learn that church is mother she.

Yet when will we listen to she?
When will we give voice to the voices of her?

It seems to me
We have heard from he.

From a lineage of hes.
From a long caravan of hes
Spanning a trillion miles,
And assuming the right
To condemn or condone
The voices of she.



I think Sacred Mother weeps
for her children.
And it is her time to speak.

And she says:
Give voice to the soul of she,
Give voice to the wisdom of she,
Give voice to the mother of mother church.

Linda Longmire





News From:

Christ the King, Trenton

Our group consists of 12 associates, three sisters and one journeyer. We had our closing dinner on May 29, 2014 and after our meal Sister Claudette Gallant suggested that we discuss what we had been learning and doing over the past year. The following are some of the comments and things we did during our 2013/2014 year as associates.

In September of 2013 we met at Bethany in Antigonish for our annual retreat which is too beautiful to describe or put into words. The Holy Spirit is definitely moving and shaking among us all and there is so much love that no one wants the weekend to end.

We meet on the last Sunday of each month. In October, 2013 we met and Sister Edna asked what we would like to do for the upcoming year and she gave us some very good suggestions.

In November 2013 Gary Rankin came and reported on the Diocesan Renewal Congress, "Rebuilding My People, the Church" which was very interesting and informative. Since then Gary has attended most of our monthly meetings and is journeying with us.

In December 2013 we had our Christmas party. We played games, had fellowship, prayer, a carol sing and a beautiful meal.

In January 2014 Sister Becky MacKenna, CND, came and presented centering prayer. This was a very beautiful and relaxing experience and we were all very grateful for it.

In February 2014 Sister Claire came and we did the Lectio Divina (Sacred Word). This again was a very beautiful and moving experience for us all.



In March 2014 Sister Marion Sheridan, came and shared her experiences in attending U.N. meetings and the role the Martha's play. The Marthas enjoy NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status at the United Nations. Through this valuable network and attendance at its meetings, they experience the impact of global concerns on people, and identify issues for which they can advocate and address locally, e.g. lack of access to drinking water, hygiene, and food security on a global scale. Most of us had no idea that the Martha's were so involved in the U.N. this way.

There was no meeting in April because of the Assembly being held in Antigonish.

In May 2014 we had our closing supper with lobster, salad, rolls and an ice cream sandwich cake for dessert. At that time we also presented Sister Edna with a few gifts and many pictures were taken. Sister Edna is moving to Bethany in September and she will be missed by all. As we reflected back on our year we could hardly believe that we had done so much.

This group is very progressive and we all feel very welcomed and loved when we attend our meetings. Someone described our meetings as a coming together of likeminded people and one





community interconnected. Even when someone is not at the meeting, they're with us in spirit because we are all thinking of them. The Associate group helps keep us grounded and helps us to get past some of our hang ups that we may have

grown up with. The Martha Associates and the Martha's are an expression and extension of God's love.

Associate Coordinator: Sister Edna MacDonald

YES AND... Daily Meditations...

by Richard Rohr

DO NOT BE AFRAID

One could sum up the Bible as an interplay of fear and faith. In general, people are obsessed and overpowered by fear; we all fear what we cannot control. God is one of our primary fears because God is totally beyond us. The Good news, the Gospel according to Luke, is that God has breached that fear and become one of us in Jesus. God's response to Mary's quaver at the angel's appearance is, "Do not be afraid" (Luke 1:30)... When Mary manifests this presence and openness, she becomes the Christ- bearer to the world. It is the same for us. (YES AND... page 113.)

Emmaus Community, Calgary



Mary



Barb



Yvonne



Sheila



Debora



Sr. Dolores



Sr. Veronica

Greetings from our Calgary Group as we move forward toward the Christmas Holidays.

We attended a very inspiring retreat weekend in Lethbridge where we prayed and socialized with other Associates from that area.

Sr. Donna Brady's presentation posed some key questions with regards to INCARNATION: How do we move from our "static world view" to an "evolving world view"? This shift in our thinking does provide food for thought! Needless to say, hospitality at Martha Center was excellent!

Due to poor weather conditions out west, we had to postpone our meeting, twice. However, on December 1st we did meet and *share* before the next storm moved in!

Our January gathering will connect us to ONE ROCK - the Christian youth music festival that was held out west, in August. Barbara will show the video connected with the event as she did attend with some of our Marthas.

We do have a special prayer for our St. Clare connections "down east" and, for Sr. Claudette - that she will receive a solution to her temporary back problem.









Glance Bay

Greetings to all Martha Associate Groups East and West.

Our Glance Bay Group has been meeting at Margie Turnbull's home for the past four years.

We call ourselves the "Jet Set" in that individually we have travelled throughout the world this past year... the trips took us to such places as Rome, Mexico, Georgia, South Carolina, Vegas, Western Canada... to name but a few.

Each of the members have expressed at one time or another the attitude of gratitude with regard to having the venue of Martha Associate to express in a relaxed non-judgemental atmosphere our different views on church/religion/faith...

The past year two of our members have experienced a setback with their physical health.

Linda was diagnosed with stomach cancer and Claudette with back disc problems.

Linda is most pleased to share that she is now cancer free and Sr. Claudette is well on her way to recovery.

Martha Centre, Lethbridge

Greetings to all Associates, especially those of you in the East. Our small but mighty group had an extremely busy and productive year. If you are not familiar with the Retreat Centre, we are truly blessed to have such a wonderful prayerful, quiet and serene location on the edge of the coulees of Lethbridge.

The 2012-2013 year saw us welcome a new member, Ina Boyden, as well as another who is journeying with us, Sandy Lodge. An important

Margie's news flash is that she retired from the department of Health and Wellness as of August 2013.

The meetings are important to us as we continue to be open to each as we journey in our faith.

At our last meeting in May we invited Myrtle Turnbull Campbell who spoke to us of her experience in Haiti with the Wesley Anglican Church from Dartmouth. Mertyle also brought a black bean and rice meal to share with us... a staple food for the Haitians in that community.

She told us how touched she was by this experience and how it changed her for life.

During one of our gatherings we received the Martha's General Administration Report. We had a most interesting sharing with regards the Martha way of life, past, present and looking to the future.

With God's breath, the breath of the Universe, we thank you the Sisters of St. Martha for inviting us to join the Martha Associates.



highlight of the year was our annual retreat held in September of this year. With Sister Donna Brady as our leader, we began to touch on the subject of the mystery of God. We left the retreat knowing





that one weekend could not possibly explore all there is to know, but we did leave with a deeper sense of the love that God has for us.

Since we were celebrating "The Year of Faith" this past year, we decided to share with each other the lives of saints who in some way held special places for our members. During our monthly meetings the following lives of saints were brought to life through individual presentations: Saints Lawrence, Theresa- the Little Flower, Elizabeth of Hungary, Gina, Marianne Cope, Joseph – husband of Mary and Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We hope to have further presentations in the new year along with discussing writings from Pope Francis.

The year also held some fun-filled moments, as we celebrated with a special Christmas party, and

then had our annual spring-summer barbeque. With the help of two of our men, we only came close to burning the retreat centre down. Actually, the hamburgers were terrific, thanks to the great culinary skills of Sister Rosalie. We were also blessed to celebrate the 50th wedding with members Barbara and Larry Spiess. As usual, our hosts, the Sisters of St. Martha, always showed us the best of hospitality, welcoming us each in the wonderful Martha way. We look forward to another great year as Martha Associates.

May 2014 be a blessed year for you and your loved ones.

Submitted by Brian Wright

Closure of Bethany Associate Group

It is with sadness that I relay you the news that Bethany Associates and Sisters, after a group reflection, have decided that time has come to bring closure to their group. This took place Monday, February 24, 2014. We had a Ritual where stories were told of past happenings knowing that there are many memories over the years to cherish. Sister Margaret Mac Farlane, our first Director of Associates was able to be present. The faithful Associates were Bernice Keay and Mary Mac Kenzie. Lately, Camille Pembroke was unable to come because of failing health. The Sisters involved were, Margaret Mac Dougall, Rita Mac Lellan and Elizabeth Fraser. We want to thank both Associates and Sisters for their faithfulness and giftedness to the Associate process. As I said at the Chapter, I certainly hope Bernice and Mary will feel welcome at Bethany and our Associate Events whenever they are able to attend.





Martha Community, Sydney

The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus Luke 24 (13-35)

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" 33 So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them 34 who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As Martha Associates we too are on a journey to accept the invitation of a relationship with Jesus through gifts of prayer, silent reflection, and actively engaging in matters to become witnesses to make Jesus and His Way visible in our world.

The Associates were scheduled to meet in January 2013 however due to a storm it was cancelled until February. Sr. Claudette Gallant, Director of Associates, was welcomed as our guest speaker in February. She spoke on the topic re Our Associates and Systemic Change. She made us aware that the Sisters of St Martha belong to the Charity Federation and the Vincentian Family whose focus is to break open their commitment to advocacy for women, children and working persons living in the marginal areas of society. She educated us in the awareness about their commitment and initiatives and helped us understand the systemic change and how its' effects paralyze our society.

In March Sr. Donna Brady was our guest speaker on the topic of The Universe Story revealing the sacred mystery of our living universe and the inter-connection with all living things that exist in oneness and wholeness.

April brought to the forefront our Martha House, Sydney was closing and would we continue with

our Martha group. Much discussion ensued and it was decided that we would continue our journey as Martha Associates and seek a place to have our monthly meetings. It was welcomed by Sr. Therese LeBlanc and Sr. Veronica MacNeil although they would be stationed at Bethany they would be with us in spirit and pray for our group. Julia Townsend would act as lay co-ordinator with help from Mary MacKinnon as assistant co-ordinator for the next year.

In May we celebrated our last pot luck at Martha House with Sr. Therese and Sr. Veronica with a special blessing bestowed on both and gifts to wish them well from our Associate group. On May 26 a final celebration was held to mark the closing of Martha House, Sydney with the Associates included as guests and several sisters of the CSM who were missioned from Martha House, Sydney over the years (1973-2013) were in attendance.

September the Annual Martha Associate Retreat was held at Bethany in Antigonish with seven members of our Sydney group in attendance. The speaker was Sr. Donna Brady on "Delving Deeper into the Divine Mystery". It was at this time we received wonderful news that Sr. Dorothy Moore will be journeying with us in the Sydney group.

October we had our first meeting since Sr. Therese and Sr. Veronica returned to Bethany and Martha House Sydney closed. Our meeting was held at the former Holy Angels High School in Sydney. We opened with reflective prayer and a few moments of silence. Through sharing we tentatively planned our events for the coming year. We looked forward as a group to find a meeting place where we will continue to share, to challenge and to be thankful for the invitation of Jesus to know him and cultivate His Way into our daily lives.

Cathy MacAdam





St. Clare Community, Sydney Mines

What a year this has been for us! Between bad weather, cancellations and illnesses, we've struggled, but persevered.

We started in October by using the book "Earth Saints and Heroes" which was a continuation from last year. This book is published by Loretto Earth Network. Our intention to follow through was sidetracked by unforeseen situations. Just prior to this year we had Father Bedford Doucette speak to us about his experiences as a young man spent at Gethsemani Abbey, a Trappist Monastery in Kentucky and his encounters with Thomas Merton.

During our time of several cancelled meetings we were blessed with the presence of Sister Mary Gouthro who has, to our delight taken up residence at St. Clare. We were also delighted to receive three new journeyers so all in all we have been very fortunate.

We were thrilled also to welcome back Sister

Claudette whom you all know as Associate Director and who has had an extended absence due to illness. She is recovering nicely so God continues to smile on us all.

We did manage to have our annual Christmas gathering in January. We do that every year because December brings its own busyness.

Sister Mary Gouthro gave us an extremely enlightening overview of the Congregation's Leadership Report of the last five years.

We are now looking forward to our closing Bar-b-Q in June.

We wish you all a summer filled with happiness, good health, the singing of the birds and each day God's many blessings.

Affectionately,

Georgie Edwards and all the folks (Sisters and Associates) at St. Clare Convent

CSM Leadership Team



Thank you to the 2009-2014 CSM Leadership Team: Sisters Brendalee Boisvert, Jean Harris, Wilma Best, Mary MacFarlane, Sandra Cooke & Elizabeth Riopelle.



Congratulations to the 2014-2019 CSM Leadership Team: Sisters Donna Brady, Florence Kennedy, Joanne O'Regan, Stella Chafe & Brendalee Boisvert.





St. Monica's Group, Lethbridge

Our 2013 – 14 Story in Fellowship

Greetings to all of our fellow Associates. Our Monica's Associate's group of faith continues to gather at the Martha Centre in Lethbridge. Although our membership has had some changes, we continue to draw together for prayer, fellowship, and social time.

Our theme for reflection and prayer this past year was, "The Year of Faith" and "The New Cosmology". These two powerful topics expanded our understanding of God, our Universe, and their relationship with one another. Science and faith, together, contributed to a much deeper understanding of our relationship with God and the universe. We have much more to learn, however, we have had some wonderful beginnings. This year we reflected on the articles and reflections by Pope Francis.

It is with joy and through faith that our Monica's Associates foundation was build with the engagement and fellowship of the founding members. May Bradley was among our first members when we started 17 years ago. With both sadness and love we share that May Bradley died on March 5, 2014 at the age of 96. We all remember her beautiful face and her contagious smile. She and her words enriched and deepened our faith. Her love of caring for others as a nurse and as a friend will live forever in all those she touched. Our group misses her playing the piano for us during our Christmas celebrations and during our monthly gatherings. She "never read a note" yet her hands played like a pro. Peggy Kirby, who died July 15, 2012, has certainly been missed. We know our angels protect and guide us in fellowship from above. Vera Linden has found going out at night too much for her so she continues to do her daily volunteer work and

keeps in touch with us through prayer. The rest of us, journey in life, with the blessing of God watching our families grow and are ever grateful for each other.

Since our move to the Martha's Centre, we have built some new traditions with our Martha Centre Associates. The two Associates groups now gather twice a year. At Christmas time we all gather to share food and laughter. The inexpensive gift exchange is always a hit. In June, we come together again to have a barbeque and exchange stories. These moments have proven to always be fun and community building.

I wish to give our sincere thank you to the gracious Martha Sisters who, with such dedication and faith, lead us making this journey in faith possible. The Monica's Associates, wish all of you a healthy and blessed 2014.

Submitted by Kathy Gillis

Listening

*I am listening
to the stillness of silence
Listening - Silence
Beneath the dark within.
listening to my tears
Trapped in the darkness of my winter seasons.
Oh. how I long to be
Listening to the flow of my tears
Watering the seeds of contemplation
And unfold the mystery
So full in its emptiness
So empty In its fullness!*

Veronica Matthews, csm





Teachers' Residence, Eskasoni

Each one present answered the following questions:

1. How does being a Martha Associate help you personally?
2. What do you feel you bring to the group?

Richard Poulette

The sharing by others about their love of God and how willingly they share it helps me.

I'm not sure what I bring to the group but to be always met at the door with a smile is a blessing.

Ann Poulette

I feel at peace every time I am with the community and am able to share my faith with others.

I come to hear and share with our members about God in my daily life and to visit the sisters.

Mary Basque

It helps me with my relationships. All are very good people and I made lasting friendships, friends I will have forever.

I am a peaceful person and have a good sense of humour.

Rhodena Stevens

Meeting with the group helps me spiritually. I am able to share with the group.

Elizabeth Stevens

It helps me to be more Christian and to help others by being kind and loving. The Associates are very welcoming as we share and that warms my heart.

I bring and share my kindness, friendliness, love and prayers.

Barbara Denny

The Marthas help me explore and understand my faith.

I feel I bring humor, laughter and my personal understanding of God to my wonderful and accepting Associates.

Nora Bernard

I have developed a very rewarding friendship with my fellow associates and the Sisters of St. Martha. Our relationships help us live our faith.

I bring my personal spiritual experiences, my love and appreciation of my faith and *my humorous* stories.



WHO ARE MARTHA ASSOCIATES

Martha Associates are women and men who identify with the mission and values of the Sisters of St. Martha. They affiliate for the purpose of assisting each other in deepening their relationship with God, others, and the universe.

The association provides an opportunity for all to come to a deeper understanding of the Christian call, so that in responding to life situations we will try and act with the mind and heart of Jesus. These are challenging times and we do well to surround each other with people who are trying to live the Gospel values of truth, goodness and hope. This Associate relationship provides the opportunity to develop ways of supporting each other and calling one another forth.

As Marthas and Martha Associates, we are committed to become aware and to promote Systemic change with the more vulnerable in society. This is ongoing education for us all.

The whole Martha ecology movement and our struggle with the New Universe story is something we want the Associates to be with us as we search for answers, live with the questions and marvel at the expanding universe and what that means for us in the Christian Tradition.

Books to Feed your Body, Heart and Mind:

1. When the Heart Waits
Spiritual Direction for Life's Sacred Questions,
Sue Monk Kidd
ISBN. 0-06-064587-3
2. Yes, And...Daily Meditations
Richard Rohr
ISBN. 978-1-61636-644-5
3. The Way of the Mystics
Ancient Wisdom for Experiencing God Today
John Michael Talbot
ISBN. 100-7879-7572-9
4. Listening for the Heartbeat of God
Celtic Spirituality
J. Philip Newell
ISBN. 0-8091-3759-3

Sycamore 2014

Martha Associates

Sisters of St. Martha
Bethany - 45 Bay Street
Antigonish, NS
B2G 2G6
(902) 863-3113

WWW.THEMARTHAS.COM



<http://arcantheleadingedge.blogspot.ca/>

