

## October 2008

### Cardinal John J. O’Conner Pro-Life Award



For many years **Sr. Paula Vandegear** has worked tirelessly on behalf of the unborn children in our society. In October, International Life Services and Legatus – an international organization of Catholic CEO’s – recognized Sr. Paula’s dedication and accomplishments with the **Cardinal John J. O’Conner Pro-Life Award**. The award committee cited Sr. Paula’s “courageous Christian witness in defending the sanctity of all human life.” We applaud and congratulate Sr. Paula for her admirable work and commitment.

### Autumn Festival of Art--- Holy Spirit Retreat Center

The **Holy Spirit Retreat Center** hosted the second annual Festival of Art. Artists and art appreciators alike gathered to share good conversation and laughter, and view and buy artwork created by local artists including several Sisters. Due to the economy, attendance was down a bit this year, but those present were very generous with their time and donations. Please plan to join us next year as we celebrate autumn and the Benedictine tradition together.

### Associates Assembly

This October, Associates and Sisters came together for our yearly gathering, to find our commonality in our spirituality, mission, ministry and charism. It was a wonderful and energizing weekend as we connected, caught up on each others’ lives, joined hands in the breaking of the



bread, and listened to speakers on peace and non-violence. Many of us also renewed vows, took our first commitments or listened as others did.

- ***The assemblies have always been one of the most life-giving venues for me as an associate. We have diverse works and ministries. We may not share all aspects of our personal lives but we are joined in the richness of our spirituality, prayer-life, mission and charism during this weekend. -- Vicky Lopez, Associate***
- ***It always feels like coming home for Thanksgiving when we gather as community with the Sisters and Associates. There's a shared spiritual connection that's like a gentle breeze of fresh air that's puts me immediately at ease – the presence of the Holy Spirit. --- Karen Dotson and Ed Connolly, Associates***