



## Sharing in Lives of the Daughters of Charity A Learning Experience for Spiritual Life

The community of the Daughters of Charity is one of genuine love and concern for all people. “By watching the Sisters interacting with people, I could tell immediately that the Daughters truly see Christ in every person,” remarked Whitney Kimmet of her weekend retreat experience.

Whitney attended a Choices of the Heart II Retreat January 15-17, 2010, in Evansville, Indiana, for postulate and pre-postulate women in serious discernment. Whitney and eight additional discerning women participated in service projects, learned about Saint Louise de Marillac, and talked and prayed with the Sisters and with each other. Whitney said, “That it was a blessing to spend time with other women in discernment, and the weekend confirmed that she is where God wants her to be right now.”

Another aspect of the Daughters of Charity that Whitney saw is their joy. Every Sister Whitney encountered spoke joyfully about her life as a Daughter and about the fact that God’s work may not always be easy, it is always worthwhile.

The sense of community was the third aspect that drew Whitney to the Daughters of Charity. They take time to build community and obviously enjoy each other.

While in Indiana, Whitney participated in two service projects, one that led her to Aurora, Inc. (<http://www.auroraevansville.org>), an outreach center that helps the homeless. The outreach center provides the

people who are living on the streets with everyday necessities and also with education on finding and maintaining permanent housing. Once people are housed, the staff at the outreach center helps them acquire some of the necessities of setting up a home (kitchen items, bedding, etc.). Their responsibility while at Aurora, Inc., involved sorting the donations and assembling some of the kits that the street team takes to people.

Another project Whitney helped with was visiting the children from low-income families at Saint Vincent's Daycare. It is much like a Head Start program, in which the children are provided with an early childhood educational experience. “This project wasn't as serious a service project as Aurora was, but we all enjoyed it and I think the kids did too,” said Whitney.

*“So far I can express . . . to speak the joy of my soul at the prospect of being able to assist the Poor, visit the sick, comfort the sorrowful, clothe little innocents, and teach them to love God!”*

Written by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton 5.21 To Julia Scott, 23 March 1809, CW 2:62



Shown above (left to right): Julie Corcoran, discerner; Sister Nancy Murphy, D.C.; Whitney Kimmet, discerner; and Sister Salvatrice Murphy, D.C.