

# HOLY LONGINGS

January Reflections

Volume 6 Issue 1 Jan. 2012



### Making Pearls

Imagine you are an oyster  
Inside a shell that is attached for life  
To an object in the sea.  
You are one among many oysters.

From within, you see and feel your own shell... As layered and translucent, Smooth and highly polished, Completely comfortable.

You open your shell... And all that you need flows in – Food and water and oxygen – While what you don't need flows out,

Except: a grain of sand... Stuck within a fold of the tender membrane That serves as your skin. Its rough edges irritate and annoy.

You have no hands to pluck it out, No tongue to lick it away, But you can manufacture nacre And transform the grain of sand into a pearl.

Imagine you are an oyster... Inside a rough and gnarly shell Harboring a pearl that will shine in the light... When you open your shell and give it away.

Guenn Martin



From Left:  
Sr. Carol  
Beevers,  
Sr. Sallie  
Latkovich,  
Kathleen  
Kelly, Patricia  
Ross,  
Sr. Jamasine  
Riley



A companion on the journey is a constant blessing.

### Upcoming Events

Feb. 3, 2012

Eric Law Workshop for pastors

Feb. 4, 2012

5th Annual Spirituality Conference

Feb. 10-12

Discovering Oneness Through the Eyes of Feminine Alchemy  
Presented by Carla Palmer

Feb. 18, 2012

Discovering Oneness in Creation  
Presented by Maria Roca

For additional info  
Contact the House of Prayer  
At  
(239) 738-3614

On Sunday January 8, 2012 we gathered with members of the Kretschmer family, past and present directors, board members and friends at Pelican Preserve to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the House of Prayer. It was a grace-filled and spirit-filled celebration. A special thank you to all who attended, supported us with your donations and to all who sponsored the celebration: Ellsworth Heating and Cooling, Haisman Wealth Management, O'Halloran and O'Halloran Attorneys at Law, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers, Labyrinth Spiritual Growth Center, Alva Country Diner and Jim Green Realty.

The pearl is the gem for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and many "Pearls of Wisdom" were shared. Here are a few:  
"The House of Prayer is a place where I found peace, a peace that I would have never found."

"The House of Prayer is a place where one discovers that we are one Spirit drawn together through the Spirit to find our way and be in the presence of the sacred."

"To me, discovering the Mother of God House of Prayer twelve years ago, was like "discovering the pearl of great price"...Once I experienced the peace of the simple natural surroundings and the richness of the programs offered, I knew I would make a commitment to be part of the grace-full, empowering opportunities it offered...I am gratefully blessed!"

**For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!**  
Dag Hammar skjold