



## FROM THE DESK OF THE Executive Director

Our CCFM Seattle, 2013 Conference is behind us now. Almost everything that I have heard about the conference has been very positive, but if you were there, you already know that. And so in this article, I'd like to reach out to those CCFM members who were not there. Maybe you didn't think that you could afford the time away from the office, maybe you are not sure that the material would be relevant and useful to you, or maybe you are just a little concerned about flying across the country to meet with a group of total strangers. Those are all very reasonable concerns and I am sure that they were shared by many of our first time attendees. Well, I have heard from a number of those first timers, and I so I thought that I would share their thoughts and reactions with you.



Thomas Richter  
Executive Director, CCFM  
Archdiocese of St. Louis

"My first time experience with CCFM was outstanding! The program sessions and speakers were very interesting, informative and enjoyable – a lot of valuable take-aways. Thanks to CCFM, the Board, and all the sponsors/exhibitors for making the entire conference such a worthwhile time away from the job and definitely a success."

~Orlando Zepada, Diocese of Corpus Christi Texas

"The sessions offered a variety of useful topics and I really enjoyed chatting with the vendors and getting to see their products (instead of just browsing their website). One of the most enjoyable activities was chatting with people in similar positions throughout the country. As a department of one, sometimes you can get mired down and so it was nice to know that others are facing the same problems (some dealing with even bigger problems which make mine seem not so difficult). Thank you for a good time."

~Cindy Ward, Diocese of Fairbanks Alaska

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**WWW.CCFM.NET,**  
to learn more.

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### Conference for Catholic Facility Management

CCFM National Office  
20 Archbishop May Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Tom Richter,  
Executive Director  
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www.ccfm.net

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It was a great pleasure to have the conference in Seattle and to have the support of the board with the election as the President. The Seattle sunshine helped contribute to a very successful event. The keynote speaker has some very thoughtful comments, the workshops explored a variety of subjects, the vendors shared their expertise and everyone had the opportunity to network. If you did not have the opportunity to attend, please plan on joining us next year in New Orleans.



Ed Foster  
*President, CCFM*  
Archdiocese of Seattle

A few updates on projects and resources that will be available to you shortly. First, the CCFM website is getting a facelift. Rob Bennett along with a few others is working with a consultant to find additional ways to enhance the website. Rob would welcome any thoughts, comments or ideas. Secondly, webinars are becoming a popular way to provide further information and education without the associated travel time. There will be additional webinars available to CCFM members. Should you know of a webinar that would be good for the CCFM membership contact Tom or me.

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN CCFM.

As you move into the second half of 2013, I would encourage you to keep in contact with both CCFM members and our vendors. If you stumble into a roadblock, need a resource or want to bounce an idea off someone, I have always found it very reassuring to reach out to another CCFM member.

Lastly, on this sunny day from Seattle, if I, Tom or any of the board members can be of any assistance to you, feel free to contact us. Your involvement continues to strengthen CCFM.

*Continued from page one*

“The conference was really a great experience for me. By attending:

1. I was reminded of WHY I work for the Archdiocese in the first place; the opportunity to work with great people (priests), on some of the most beautiful building types ever created (churches).
2. I met my Diocesan and Archdiocesan counterparts from all around the country. We are all trying to accomplish the same things, for the same reasons, and we deal with the same issues. Except that I get to drive to my parishes, while the young woman from Fairbanks has to use a snow mobile to get to hers.....WOW!
3. I met vendors who prioritize the Catholic Church as a customer, and are there to make sure the quality we expect in a church will continue under their watch.
4. I learned a great deal in the seminars, and wish I could package them and bring them back to my coworkers.
5. I got to see what Greg looked forward to so much each year! I can see that great friendships develop through involvement in CCFM.

It was great Tom, and thanks for including me.

*~Lynne Allen, Archdiocese of Chicago*

AFTER ATTENDING SO MANY CONFERENCES  
WHERE I WAS ANONYMOUS, IT WAS A WONDERFUL  
CHANGE TO BE PART OF A GROUP THAT MADE EVERY  
EFFORT TO MAKE ME FEEL AS THOUGH I BELONGED AND  
HAD A PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE AND WITHIN  
THE ORGANIZATION.

“Tom and the entire CCFM staff and board did a great job of making an incredibly complex event seem effortless. Not only were the sessions informative and consisted of information that I can put to use in my Diocese, but everybody there was incredibly welcoming and friendly. After attending so many conferences where I was anonymous, it was a wonderful change to be part of a group that made every effort to make me feel as though I belonged and had a place at the conference and within the organization.”

*~Lydia Doyle, Diocese of Charleston*

“It was good to share stories about the struggles involved in working with the Church. It felt good to know that I was not alone with the struggles of the transition from the business world to the Church world. Other people actually are fighting the same battles that I am.

Archbishop Sartain’s welcoming remarks were especially meaningful to me. Most of the time, the hierarchy of the church has no idea what I do and often doesn’t acknowledge the facility office’s contribution to the diocese. The Archbishop’s statements about appreciation felt good.”

*~Pat Baker, Diocese of Austin*

I think that they said it far better than I ever could, and I hope that you will take another look at their comments when it is time to register for our upcoming conference in New Orleans, and I hope that next year, YOU will be one of our first timers!

# GOD IS IN THE DETAILS AT THE VIRGEN DE SAN JUAN DEL VALLE SHRINE in San Juan, Texas

*Article provided by Rohn Design - A CCFM Member Company*

## PILGRIMAGE San Juan, Texas

You can make your own pilgrimage at 400 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd. + San Juan, Texas 78589 + 956.787.0033 + [info@olsjbasilica.org](mailto:info@olsjbasilica.org).

About 5 miles from the border of Mexico in the verdant Rio Grande Valley is the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle. Averaging more than one million pilgrims a year – as many as 20,000 a weekend – the national shrine dedicated to Our Lady of San Juan del Valle is one of the most visited shrines in the United States. They come from every state in the Union and from many foreign countries to find masses, in both Spanish and English, in progress from early morning to late at night.

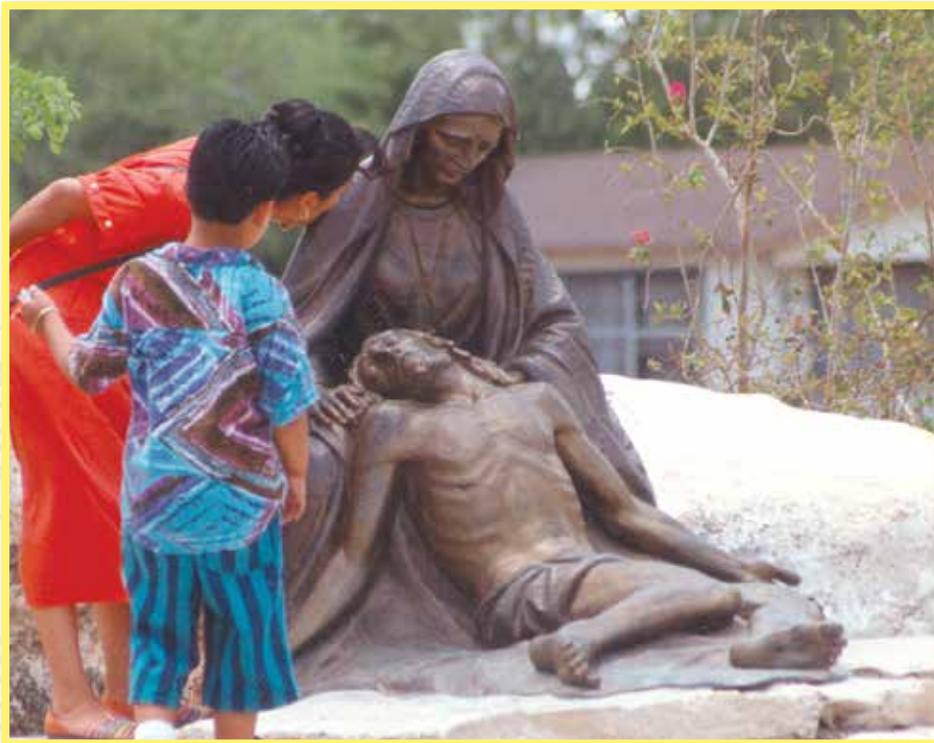
After the original Shrine was rebuilt in the 1970s, Rohn and Associates Design, Inc. was commissioned to design and fabricate life-size exterior Stations of the Cross, the huge 40' x 30' exterior mosaic of Our Lady, and to develop the landscape that wraps around the mile-long Way of the Cross. The Stations lead pilgrims to return to Christ's loving presence through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The twenty-four life-size bronze images are placed along a bucolic path surrounding the outside of the Shrine, allowing for a place of meditation and spiritual reflection.

The labor intensive project was well-worth the end result: evocative and life-like figures depicting the Passion, allowing worshippers to truly identify with Christ's sacrifice and his final hours.



*Mini Wood Model*

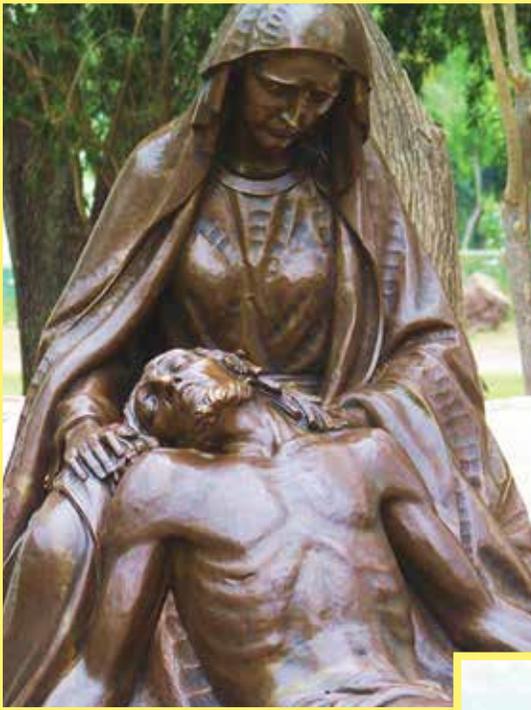
Rolf Rohn and his staff worked closely with a master wood carver and foundry in Ortesei and Lake Como, Italy, to custom-fabricate these bronzes and a heavy oak cross. They first designed and created small-scale models, and once those were approved, actual size wood carvings were made. From these carvings, casting models were fashioned and then the final bronze casts were done. Both the wood models and the bronze statues were sent to Texas via ship in large crates. Once at the Shrine, the administrator enlisted local contractors to install the Stations with cranes while Rolf oversaw the work to ensure that they were according to the Master Plan.



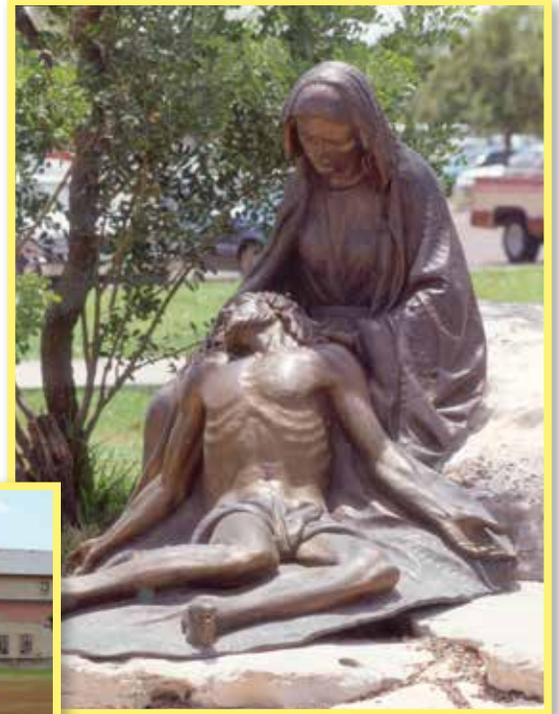
*Full Size Stature*

## FOR MORE information

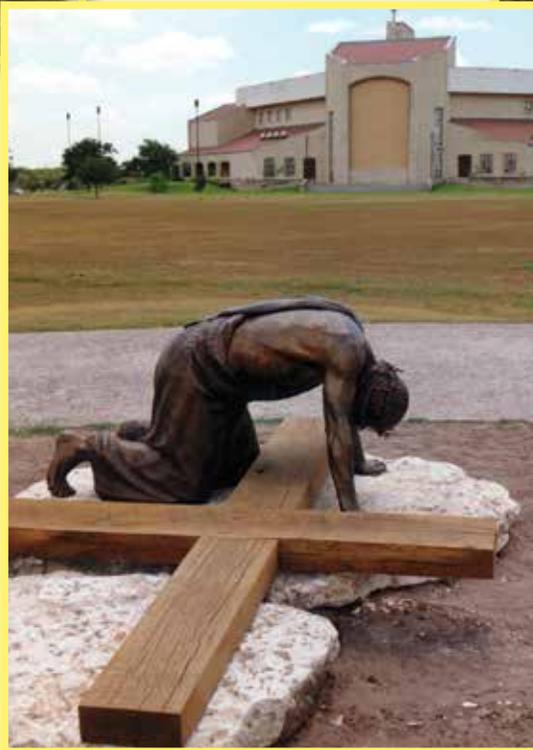
For more information on the customized liturgical design services of Rohn and Associates Design, Inc., please contact us at 1 (800) 245-1288 or visit our website, <http://www.rohndesign.com>. Connect with us on Facebook at Catholic Liturgical Arts Journal or on our blog at [Catholicliturgicalarts.blogspot.com](http://Catholicliturgicalarts.blogspot.com) to see our most recent projects.



Full Size Statue



Full Size Statue



Jesus Falls Full Size Statue

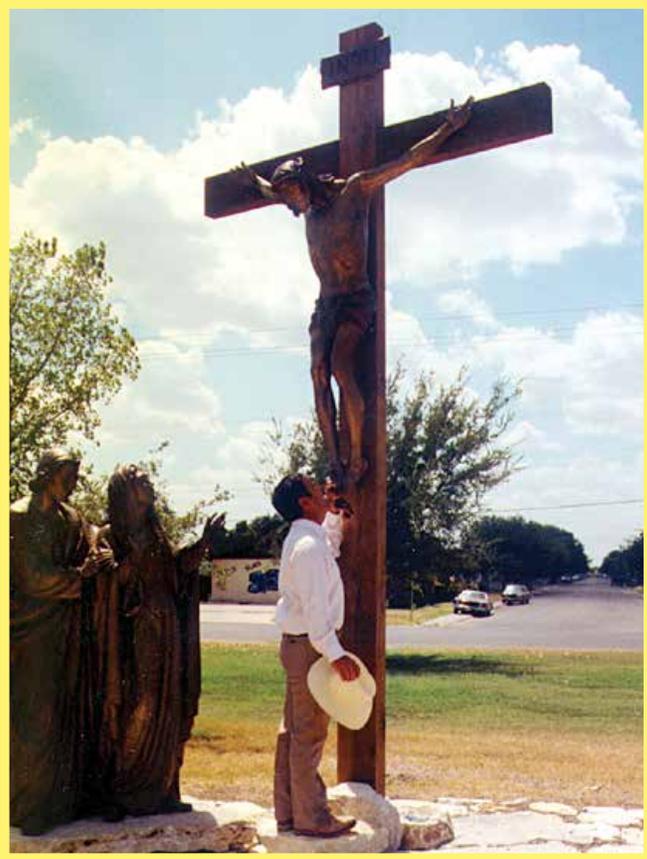
The mile-plus long path along which the Stations were placed was fashioned from rocks brought in via train and then truck from Austin because there were no large stones native to the area. The company also developed exterior lighting to appropriately illuminate the path and the Stations, which are accessible day or night to those who wish to visit. Comfortable benches, signage, water sprinklers and water fountains were strategically placed along the way so that one can stop, rest and reflect. The labor intensive project was well-worth the end result: evocative and life-like figures depicting the Passion, allowing worshippers to truly identify with Christ's sacrifice and his final hours.

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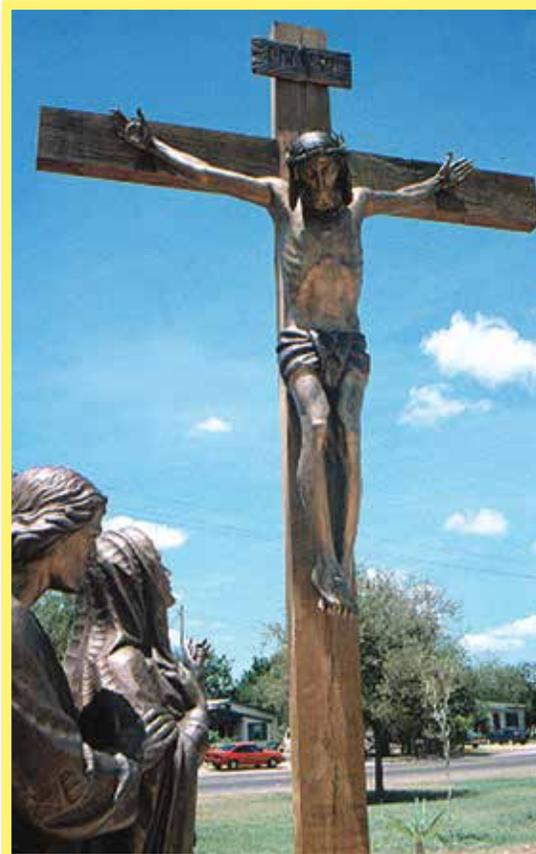
Kathy Maglicco, of Rohn and Associates Design, Inc., recalls one particularly poignant moment when she was visiting the Shrine early one morning: "I noticed an elderly grandmother...standing in front of the 12th station with her hand on the feet of Christ, praying...while parents were walking with their children through the Stations, explaining to them Christ's sacrifice for us. It is quite a remarkable experience to physically encounter these images...walk up to them, touch them, connect with them, feel them." She attributes this ability to identify with these life-size figures as having brought a huge influx of pilgrims to the Shrine to serve as a renewal of faith. It is now a peaceful place of prayer where Heaven and earth meet to elevate our spirit to God.



*Full Size Statue*



*The Crucifixion*



*The Crucifixion*

# EMERGENCY READINESS PLANS KEEPS CRITICAL DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESTORATION INFORMATION at CCFM Fingertips

## FOR MORE information

SERVPRO® is a national leader and specializing in fire and water cleanup and restoration and repair services for both commercial and residential customers. SERVPRO® also offers large loss, national storm response, mold remediation and other property maintenance and restoration services.

For more information about SERVPRO®, please visit [www.servpro.com](http://www.servpro.com).

*Article provided by John Sooker, SERVPRO - A CCFM Member Company*

For a Catholic Diocesan risk or facilities manager, a worst-case disaster scenario involving fire or water damage can seem unthinkable and then suddenly become a reality. In the aftermath of a disaster, quick response time by a disaster recovery and restoration specialist can help minimize property damage as well as inventory or contents loss. To offset some of the risk, facility managers should have an emergency readiness plan (ERP).

The one constant in disasters is that there isn't any constant. Disasters are unpredictable and frequently strike without warning. That's why emergency ready plans are so valuable. In the confusion and panic that often surround a disaster, a manager can reach out for expert help right from the scene, using their cell phones or tablet.

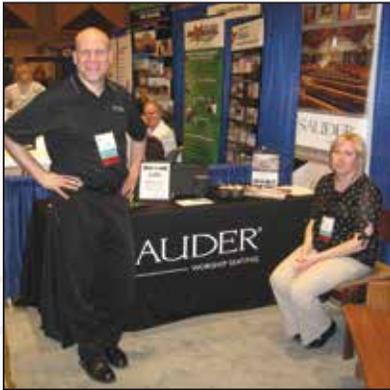
ERP's allow diocesan risk and facility managers to create an Emergency Ready Profile that contains critical facility information that can help speed up response time after fire or water damage occurs. In addition to property details, the ERP's can track prior loss history, utility shut off locations, and key contacts such as police and fire/rescue; stores photos of the damage; and integrates local weather forecasts and more if created in a specialized App.

**IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER, QUICK  
RESPONSE TIME BY A DISASTER RECOVERY  
AND RESTORATION SPECIALIST CAN HELP  
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INVENTORY OR CONTENTS LOSS.**

Some App's allow the user to quickly call their service provider or submit an electronic "First Notice of Loss" (FNOL) setting the wheels of recovery in motion. Rapid response from a disaster cleanup and restoration specialist can help the diocesan risk and facility managers evaluate options, start the insurance process and take the right steps from the beginning to bring their property back to normal.

As a proud member and supporter of the CCFM, we hope that the membership nationwide will take the time to develop an Emergency Ready Plan or download an ERP mobile app to their smart phone. Having that information literally at your fingertips in an emergency can prove invaluable if disaster does strike.

# THANKS TO ALL FOR A GREAT CONFERENCE



LOOK FOR MORE  
CONFERENCE  
PHOTOS ON THE  
CCFM WEBSITE

# JANIS BALENTINE

## Someone You Should Know

**Article provided by Jane D. Palisch, JP Marketing Communications - A CCFM Member Company**

Although she didn't say the exact words, it's fairly safe to say that CCFM member Janis Balentine loves a challenge. After all, she's done just that—accepted, tackled and overcome challenges—over the course of the past 16 years while progressing through a long list of titles, positions and professional duties that evolved into the position she's held since 2009: director of properties for the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Keep in mind that *progressed* means accumulating and continuing the duties involved in each challenge, while tackling the next. She didn't forgo any previous or current duties along this professional journey, but, like many professionals today, simply added them like railcars to a locomotive.

In addition to the outlook and attitude it takes—optimism, determination and enthusiasm—Janis has found herself fairly well-prepared for each of these challenges through not just her formal education, but sometimes curiously and coincidentally experienced life skills, exposures and happenstance events. Throughout her childhood in Oklahoma, she witnessed what it takes to build a successful commercial construction contractor through her father who hoped that Janis would someday be an architect or engineer. With her father's hope in mind, she first studied architectural engineering at Oklahoma State University, followed by a transfer to a nearby university to pursue design drafting and computer science. Without a true passion for careers in those areas, Janis married college sweetheart Brad Balentine and the two agreed it was time they “got out of Oklahoma and experienced life,” she says.

“My husband (a computer programming major) joined the Air Force, which took us a variety of places including San Antonio, Mississippi, Hampton, Virginia and, eventually, Omaha,” Janis says. Throughout that time, Janis worked in the banking, insurance, leasing and personal financial management fields—all of which provided new areas of groundwork experience for her future duties with the Colorado Springs Diocese.

### ... JANIS BALENTINE LOVES A CHALLENGE.

“I finished my bachelor's degree at University of Nebraska in Omaha in business administration with specialties in finance and management information systems. Business is what I had wanted all along—it was what I was most interested in—not the areas I studied right out of high school,” she continues.

Shortly after Janis completed her degree in 1994, the Balentines accepted a transfer to Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs where the couple has remained, declaring Colorado their home. Janis began her tenure with the Diocese of Colorado Springs in 1997 as secretary to the finance officer—and the progression began. Recognizing her abilities and talents, the diocese soon added the roles of contract administrator, office manager and plant manager to Janis' responsibilities and changed her title to facility



Janis Balentine  
President Emeritus, CCFM  
Diocese of  
Colorado Springs

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manager. It was about this time that a letter describing CCFM and inviting diocesan personnel to consider membership crossed Janis' desk. "I convinced my boss it would be good for the diocese and would facilitate my movement from finance to facility, property and construction management," she says.

Janis recalls her first CCFM conference in Palm Springs with great fondness and gratitude for the welcome she received and the years of support, guidance, education and camaraderie the organization has provided. "I remember I sat by Lou Baird (CCFM's first president) on the tours. He was so welcoming...he kind of took me—this neophyte girl—under his wing. All those guys: Lou (Baird), Joe (Gallano), Doug (Cissel), Walt (Wostenberg) and Greg (Veith)...they are the ones that made me know that CCFM is here for us to be of help to each other. I knew I could call on any of those guys," Janis says.

**“IT IS PART OF ME—A REAL PART OF MY HEART. WE TALK THROUGH THINGS, WE MAKE GOOD FRIENDS. THESE ARE GOOD PEOPLE SERVING A GOOD INSTITUTION. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TAKING CARE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.” JANIS SAYS.**

In her oversight and management of the facilities included in the 42-parish/mission diocese, Janis deals with 150-year-old parishes in the mountains and eastern Great Plains as well as new construction within the 15,493-square-mile boundaries that claim a 15 percent Catholic population. Half of the 42 parishes are in the metro Colorado Springs area where the population has nearly doubled in the past two decades, but many mission parishes in outlying areas must share resources, buildings and priests, she explains.

While she may not actually have said she loves a challenge, what Janis DID say is that she loves her job and the people with whom she works. She also enjoys the Colorado lifestyle where things are larger than life, yet at the same time calming in a peaceful, majestic sort of way. That's where she's found that she works best in discovering God's gifts—both within and around her—and developing and using the talents and gifts He places in life's pathways.

Janis has found CCFM to be a professional gift, valuable almost beyond measure. Since joining the organization in 1999, she has given back in gratitude by serving on the board of directors in positions including secretary, treasurer and president as well as membership and nominating chairs. "I think everyone should serve on the board in order to truly understand what goes into it and what it takes the run the conference," she says. She currently serves on four committees, has attended CCFM conferences in 12 cities and feels that "as members of a Catholic organization, we understand each other. CCFM is just as important to belong to as the big international organization," she continues.

"It is part of me—a real part of my heart. We talk through things, we make good friends. These are good people serving a good institution. Our first priority is taking care of the people of God," Janis says.

Plan to Attend:  
CCFM  
Annual  
Conference  
New Orleans 2014  
May 8-10

**Conference for Catholic  
Facility Management**  
CCFM National Office  
20 Archbishop May Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63119

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## UPCOMING Events

**National Association of Church Personnel Administrators  
(NACPA) Convocation**  
TBD

**National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC)  
Conference**  
April 28-May 1, 2014  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Conference for Catholic Facility Management (CCFM)**  
May 8-10, 2014  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Diocesan Information Systems Conference (DISC)**  
TBD

**Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference (DFMC)**  
September 8 - 11, 2013  
Boston Marriott Copley  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) Convention**  
October 14 - 17, 2013  
Hyatt Regency Sacramento  
Sacramento, California

SEE YOU IN  
NEW ORLEANS!  
2014

