



A Reflection on Becoming a Martha Associate

“Drawn by a dream, lured by a love, Pilgrim Companions, as friends on a journey, we come through the storm, pass through the fire, hungry yet hopeful, sustained by the love of the Lord.”

- the refrain of one of my favourite songs about journeying,
Pilgrim Companions, by Dan Schutte

It is an honour to be asked to share a reflection on becoming a Martha Associate. Indeed, being invited to journey toward Associateship with the Marthas has brought my husband, Joseph Khoury, and me a sense of community and pride.

This journey of formation, which, for us, began in the fall of 2023, has brought us new friendships and strengthened existing bonds. We eagerly anticipate our monthly gatherings, when we join our fellow journeyers at Martha Place, and reflect on living and sharing the Martha charism. It presents another important opportunity to set aside time out of our busy lives to think about our relationship with our living God, and to share friendship and hospitality together with our fellow journeyers, under the gracious leadership of Sr. Sandra Cooke.

I have found our journey to be a source of strength and spiritual nourishment. All much needed, especially at this time of national and global strife. It is precisely because of these challenging times that our call to this new group has an even deeper meaning.

While this journey to become Martha Associates is new(ish), the Sisters of St. Martha have been a touchstone for us

since we moved to Antigonish from Ottawa, nearly 21 years ago. Both our children studied music with Sister Lillian, participating in weekly classes and various recitals over the years. But an added bonus was the loving reception of our children by all the Sisters they would encounter upon arriving at Bethany. Over the years, relationships were forged with Sisters through work and activities on campus, to the extent that our daughter “had” to come to Bethany for photos with the Sisters in her high school prom gown. How lucky we



*Martha Journeyers: Janet Becigneul
and her husband Joseph Khoury*

MARTHA ASSOCIATES UPDATE



have been to have that loving embrace of Martha hospitality for our family.

We often discuss the meaning of the **HOSPITALITY CHARISM** at our Associate gatherings. Like our God, this concept of hospitality has infinite aspects to ponder, and we will always be able to enter into it more deeply. Having the opportunity to start this journey, and to explore other important questions of our faith, is a pure gift. I only hope that we can share with others even a fraction of how beautifully this experience has been offered to us. I know I will do my best.

I look forward to our reception service in June, as we declare our YES to becoming an Associate.

P.S. As I write this, we are also journeying through Lent and I want to wish you meaningful journey of reflection, prayer and spiritual growth, leading to an Easter Joy that inspires your faith and renews your hope!

Janet Becigneul, Martha Journeyer
March 24, 2025

