

MARTHA ASSOCIATES UPDATE



September 23, 2025

WOW! The year 2025 is proving to be quite an exciting year in many ways! It is the 125th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. Martha and the 45th Anniversary of the Martha Associates. It has also been my distinct privilege to receive 18 new Martha Associates this year!



June 15



- ♦ May 25: Debbie Aker and Alicia Buffet were received at St. Clare Convent in Sydney Mines.
 - ♦ June 1: Linda Neville, Carol Farmer and Flora Marchand were received at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Hall in Sydney.
 - ♦ June 15: Sheila Redden; Leon Maclellan; Marielle Assad; Joseph Khoury; Marie Delorey; Pauline Maclellan; Barry Mackenzie; Janet Becigneul; Debbie Pettipas and Betty Jane Cameron were received at St. Martha Chapel in Antigonish.
 - ♦ September 6: Angie Kolen of the Antigonish group, was received during the Martha Associate Retreat in Antigonish.
 - ♦ September 14: Lisa Noronha and Warren Blust were received in the Chapel at the Martha Retreat Centre in Lethbridge, also during the weekend of the Martha Associate Retreat.
- All our new Associates expressed such great joy at the time of their reception. It was indeed a blessing for all who were present to witness this joy!***

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**THE MARTHA ASSOCIATE
RETREATS THIS YEAR WERE
HELD ON SEPTEMBER
6 IN ANTIGONISH AND
SEPTEMBER 12 – 14 IN
LETHBRIDGE.**

**The theme for the retreats was:
“Healing the Divide: A Journey of
Reconciliation”. It was beautifully
led by Sr. Donna Brady who offered a
sensitive and compassionate view of
the Great Divide with the Indigenous
peoples. She encouraged us to
recognize our own experiences with
Indigenous peoples, and how we can
be a part of the healing process too.
It was eye opening, informative, and
very timely in today’s world.
Thank you, Sr. Donna!**



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I am also delighted to report that a “Come and See” morning was held in Trenton on April 26, 2025. Three lovely ladies accepted the invitation to “Come and See”, and they are all planning to journey with the group this Fall! In addition, we have at least two journeyers in the Sydney Mines group, and two in the Antigonish group, with the prospect of several more! This brings a sense of hope and joy to my heart!!

In 2025, I am also happy to report, that, with the help of the Martha Associate Committee, the Martha Associate Handbook has been revised and a brochure on “Who Are the Martha Associates?” was developed as a tool to share with possible journeyers, or

curious individuals! The Martha Associate History was revised and compiled for the Archives. A great sense of gratitude goes out to Sr. Sarah MacPherson; Sr. Maria Lawrence O’Keefe; Sr. Claudette Gallant and Sr. Catherine MacFarlane who gathered and arranged much of that material, in particular, to Sr. Sarah MacPherson who outlined the early history in such great detail. May Sr. Sarah and Sr. Maria Lawrence rest in peace.

Wishing all our beautiful Sisters of St. Martha a colorful, crisp and delightful Autumn!!

God Bless,

*~ Julia Townsend
Director Martha Associates*



Sisters and Associates

In our mutual sharing:

- We join in prayer, faith development, hospitality and friendship as a means of living out our Baptismal Commitment
- We learn from each other
- We listen to each other and grow as listeners
- We are open to others, accepting of who they are and what they have to offer
- We welcome every encounter in life as an opportunity to show hospitality.



MARTHA ASSOCIATES

We are:

A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Martha and have been in existence since 1980.

We have Associates in both Eastern and Western Canada.

Contact Us

Phone: 1 902 863 3113

Web: www.themarthas.com

Email: julia.townsend@themarthas.com

Sisters of St. Martha

Antigonish, Nova Scotia



Martha Associate Pin

The twin masts on the sailboat represent the Sisters of St. Martha and the Associates, journeying together on the restless sea of life under the protection of St. Martha. Together, the sails form the letter “M”. The vine with the letter “A” identifies the wearer as an Associate

WHO ARE THE MARTHA ASSOCIATES?

READ and SEE

What We are all about!!

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Martha Associates share friendship, a desire to walk together in faith and to answer the call of our Baptism to love and serve God and one another in responding to the cries of the world.

MARTHA ASSOCIATES

We are:

Women and men who identify with the Mission, Vision and Values of the **Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, NS**. Through the association with the Sisters of St. Martha, Associates have the opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of their Christian call in each of their respective life situations.



MARTHA ASSOCIATES: CARRIERS OF THE CHARISM OF GOSPEL HOSPITALITY!

Martha Associates begin as journeyers who “Come and See” what we are all about. They journey with an Associate Group for at least a year before making a commitment to Associate Life.

Martha Associates gather monthly to share prayer, faith development and fellowship.

Martha Associates participate in an annual Fall retreat.

Martha Associates stay connected through our prayers, gatherings, emails, phone calls and ZOOM.