



## *Christmas Tea*

The first annual Christmas Charity Tea sponsored by the Women's Spirituality Ministry was an overwhelming success, garnering hundreds of donated items for the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center in Hawthorne. The festive affair, gave the opportunity to 20 women to hostess a table with Christmas-themed decorations and finger food for their invited guests who brought donations for charities. Table themes ranged from the Victorian era to the chic and whimsical.

Chairperson Sue Furey who christened the event "Lighting the Way to the Christmas Season" thanked the many participants with "you are a light in MY life." Sue's husband Paul Furey directed a wait staff of 20 men dressed in holiday aprons with white shirts and black pants. Among the waiters were Fr. Bob and Fr. Lope.

The audience all joined in singing Christmas carols. The speaker for the evening was Sister Mary Ann Collins, a Dominican Sister currently chaplain in the medical unit of the Bedford Hills Corrections Facility in New York. She said our greatest gift to these women who are suffering, alienated, or confused is the gift of compassion without judgment.

The evening concluded with a candle lighting ceremony to celebrate all those who bring light into our lives.