

HE LEADS I FOLLOW

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration • Immaculate Heart of Mary Province

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With Gratitude and in Faith: He Leads; I Follow



Back row left to right: Sister Margaret Mary, Sister M. Ann Kathleen, Sister M. Madonna, Sister Lethia Marie, and Sister M. Lissetta. Front row: Sister M. Angela, Sister M. Clare, and Sister Jane Marie.

The Sisters had much cause to rejoice at the end of the 2014 Provincial Chapter. This year's Chapter centered around the same theme as our 2013 150th Jubilee, "With Gratitude and in Faith: He Leads; I Follow."

This week-long event began with the Chapter of Affairs, during which the Sisters met to discuss our relationship with God, each other, and the Church. Throughout these discussions, we sought ways to grow in these bonds, always mindful that we are called to "combine the contemplative life with the active in perpetual adoration and works of mercy." The conversations were very fruitful and served to unite the Sisters in our common goal, namely, to love Jesus and share this love with others.

The latter part of the week featured our Provincial Chapter of Elections, which included a day of prayer. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the Main Chapel, giving more Sisters the chance to pray together in the presence of our Eucharistic King. On the day of elections, and after intense prayer to the Holy Spirit, the delegates met to choose the provincial and council who will serve the community for the next four years.

We rejoice to receive Sister M. Angela Mellady as our Provincial Superior alongside Sister M. Ann Kathleen Magiera, Sister M. Madonna Rougeau, Sister M. Clare Reuille, Sister Jane Marie Klein, Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel, Sister Lethia Marie Leveille and Sister M. Lissetta Gettinger. We are grateful for the generosity of these Sisters.

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From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

We have just completed our Provincial Chapter, which is held every four years. It is a time to promote unity in charity in the province, to examine the religious life of the province, and to be guided by the spirit of the Gospel, the directives of the Church, the spirituality of Saint Francis, and our newly beatified foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel. Relationships are the foundation of our life as religious, so we spent time discussing our relationship with God, our Sisters in community, and with the Church and the world through our apostolates.

“The apostolate of all religious consists first of all in the witness of their consecrated life, which they are bound to foster by prayer and penance.” (Canon 673). Spending a week together in prayer, dialogue, and enjoying each other’s company provided many opportunities to reflect on this and to decide on the direction we will take over the next four years. It was a time to be grateful for the charism handed down to us by Mother Maria Theresia and the more than 1,000 Sisters who have gone before us in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province.

A Provincial Chapter can also precipitate many changes. Please pray for our Sisters who are preparing to transition to a new mission assignment or assuming new responsibilities. In imitation of our beloved foundress, as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration we pray in her words: “May God grant me the grace to spend the time still allotted to me solely for his greater honor and glory and in faithfully fulfilling my duties in the service of the community and the Church.”

Trusting in Divine Providence, we put the future of our community into God’s hands and say with Mother Maria Theresia, “With Gratitude and in Faith: He leads; I follow.”

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Sister M. Angela



“Fervent prayer and an intimate relationship with God make us true religious, not our apostolate among the sick, the aged, or among the children. All our actions must be subordinated to communing with God, for only in prayer can we obtain the true spirit of Christ in Whom and through Whom we work.”

Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel

DID YOU KNOW . . .



A new shrine area was built in the Main Chapel at St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka where the relic of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel can be venerated. Special thanks to Joe Coar of Tonn and Blank Construction for building the glass reliquary, the picture frame, pew, and platform.



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

“A Bet With God”: Sister Maria Kolbe Reflects

“Lord, if you just get me to the Holy Land, I’ll join the convent.” This was my plea during the summer of 2008. My best friend asked me if I realized what I had just said. I didn’t. However, I learned that when making a bet with God, not only does He always win, He always has a plan.

I first started to think about the religious life when I was a little girl. I grew up in Richmond, Indiana, and I am the youngest of three girls. As a child I had a profound love for God. What really sparked my interest in religious life was my favorite movie of all time: *The Sound of Music*. I would constantly parade about my house acting like Maria von Trapp before she left the convent.

In high school, I thought to myself, “Why not try being a Youth Minister, since you love God and Youth Ministry?” With that in mind, I went to Marian University in Indianapolis.



Sister Maria Kolbe at her First Profession of vows.

When I was a freshman in college being a religious sister was far from my mind because I had a boyfriend. I thought we were going to get married and have ten kids, but God had other plans. We broke up, and about two weeks later, I was at a vocations dinner

with the Archbishop of Indianapolis! It was at this dinner where I met Father Jonathan Meyer. Later I would also meet Father Bob Robeson, who became my spiritual director in college.

It was through these priests that I found the Sisters. Father Meyer and Father Robenson invited them to a youth retreat for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis called CONSUMED, where I happened to be working. During this retreat my prayer after communion was: “Lord, do You really want me to be Your bride?” God’s answer was a resounding “Yes!”

I made a visit to the Sisters in October of 2008. When I arrived I found peace, and I knew that within a year I would be entering. I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009 and entered in September of that year. I professed first vows in 2012 and have been at peace ever since! I now work in our health care apostolate.

Postulants Experience the Apostolate in Lafayette



Our postulants visited Lafayette, Indiana, the foundation of our province in the United States. In addition to visiting historical sites, they spent time with our Sisters serving at St. Boniface Parish/School, Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health and Central Catholic High School. Here they are pictured with Sister Julie Marie and Fr. Cajetan Ebuziem, who are part of the hospital’s spiritual care staff.



Jubilee

In a society in which “commitment” is often scoffed or feared, our Community celebrates this year the Jubilee of six of our Sisters, whose lives of consecration total 370 years. In *Vita Consecrata*, Pope John Paul II explains, “This is the meaning of the call to the consecrated life: it is an initiative coming wholly from the Father . . . The experience of this gracious love of God is so deep . . . that the person called senses the need to respond by unconditionally dedicating his or her life to God.” Our Sisters’ lives of dedication to this call serve as a witness of the “gracious love of God.”

Sister M. Clarice Sobczyk and Sister Evelyn Marie Czaplewski celebrate 75 years in our Community. Sister M. Clarice spent many years serving in schools as a teacher and principal, and Sister Evelyn Marie also served in the education apostolate, including many years at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. Both Sisters now reside at Our Lady of Angels Convent, where they participate directly in our primary apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration.

Sister M. Joseph Ann Vogel and Sister M. Elizabeth Ann Schildmeyer entered the community 60 years ago. Sister Joseph Ann spent several decades as a missionary in the Philippines, serving in various capacities. Sister Elizabeth Ann also spent many years as a missionary in Honduras and continues to serve in our healthcare apostolate in spiritual care.

Sister M. Janice Kolesiak and Sister M. Elaine Brothers celebrate 50 years in religious life. Sister Elaine brings her background in education to our healthcare apostolate by service as Corporate Vice President of Education. Sister Janice has served in many schools as a teacher, principal, and, most recently, a librarian.

The commitment of each of these Sisters goes far beyond the various capacities in which they have served our apostolates over the decades. By responding to God’s gracious love, they have unconditionally offered all that they are to the Father. Their daily witness shows that they continue to consecrate the present and the future to God and His Church.

Jubilee fell on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Patroness of our province.



Above: The Jubilarians pause for a picture with Bishop Kevin Rhoades and Sister Angela before the Jubilee Mass.

Above: Sister Joseph Ann folds her hands in prayer as she processes out of Holy Mass. Many of the Sisters of our province were able to attend the Jubilee ceremony.

Above: Sister Elaine enjoys a moment of laughter as she is greeted by another Sister during the Jubilee dinner.

Middle: Sister Elizabeth Ann smiles as she processes out of Chapel after the Jubilee ceremony.

Middle: Sister Evelyn Marie waits patiently for Mass to begin after being pinned with a corsage, honoring her 75 years as a Religious.

Below: Sister Janice shares a moment of mirth before Holy Mass.

Below: Sister Clarice shares a joyful moment with another Sister during the Jubilee dinner.



Source and Summit

*Combining the Contemplative Life with the Active
in Perpetual Adoration and Works of Mercy*

Corpus Christi: Celebrating Our Greatest Joy

“Jesus, defend us from the temptations of worldly food that makes us slaves; purify our memory, so that it does not remain captive in selectivity, selfishness and worldliness, but is a living memory of your presence throughout the history of your people, a memory that becomes a ‘memorial’ of your gesture of redemptive love.”

Pope Francis on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2014



Once again, the Sisters had the honor of escorting our Eucharistic King throughout the convent grounds. This year we were accompanied by the Conventual Franciscan Friar novices and their director, Fr. Giles Zakowicz. The friars have their residence just below Mount Alverno, on the campus of Marian High School. It is always a gift to have them with us during liturgies and celebrations!

Exposition at Sunrise



Lord, I gaze on you, Bread of Life,
 Cirled by the morning sun.
Heavenly hosts worship you unceasingly.
 I join them as one!

Dawn bursts through with brilliant light
 Streaming through the window now.
At your tabernacle God and sun unite.
 To you, Lord, I bow!

Your radiant love fills my soul,
 Drawing me closer to you.
 By your grace --
I am made whole in your image;
 One is made from two.



With our apologies to Sister Elise, we reprint her beautiful poem since part of it was inadvertently omitted in our previous issue.

Our Life *in Pictures*



In May we were proud to attend the commencement ceremonies for Sister M. Jennifer (middle), who graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Non-profit Business Administration.



Sister M. Lucia sings and dances with seven-year-old children during Vacation Bible School at St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette.



During our Provincial Chapter, we had a bit of fun with bubbles on the front lawn of St. Francis Convent. Here the Sisters look at the camera through a very large bubble!



We were blessed to have eight girls join us for the High School Come and See in July.



Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

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Return Service Requested

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, participate in the mission of the Roman Catholic Church by living the Gospel after the example of Saint Francis and our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. We strive to combine the contemplative life with the active through perpetual adoration and the works of mercy in education, healthcare, and other ecclesial ministries.



Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT: OCTOBER 18-19

DISCERNMENT RETREAT: OCTOBER 24-26

OR CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT