



# HE LEADS I FOLLOW

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FALL 2010

### IN-FORMATION

*Sister Gianna Marie renews vows*

### FEATURE

*Investiture and Profession ceremonies*

### OUR LIFE *in Pictures*

Four new postulants were received into the community of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration on Sunday, September 5: Heidi Herber, Alexa Richey, Jordan Henneberry and Jessica Richardson.

Heidi comes from St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette, Indiana. She graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH where she majored in computer science. Heidi met our Sisters at St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette where the Sisters have been teaching since 1875.

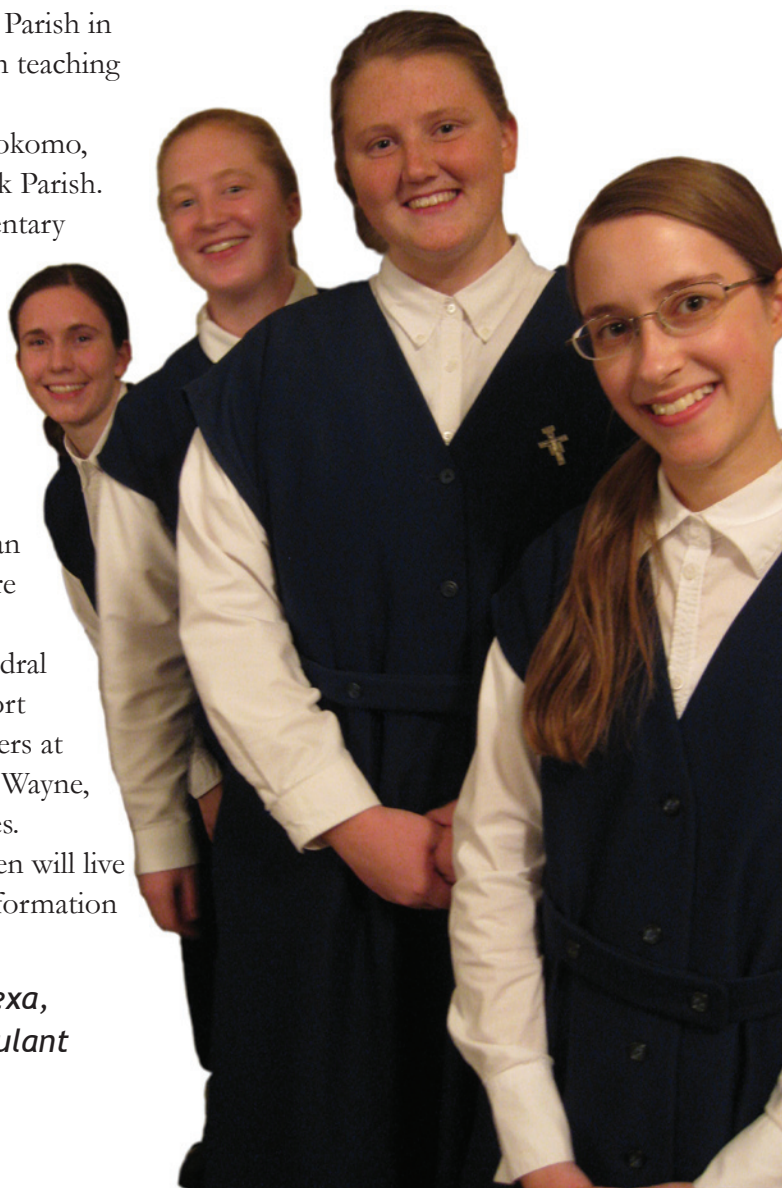
Alexa and her family reside in Kokomo, Indiana and they belong to St. Patrick Parish. Before entering, Alexa studied elementary education at Indiana University-Kokomo. She came to know our Sisters when she attended the Lafayette diocesan retreat – Destination Jesus.

Jordan is a member of St. Anne, Mother of Mary Parish in Mexico, NY. She met our Sisters at Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH where she was majoring in social work.

Jessica is a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Jessica met our Sisters at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, where she was taking theology classes.

As postulants, these young women will live at the Motherhouse and begin their formation

as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. They participate in the Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and also in communal liturgies while studying the basic truths of our faith and the spirituality of our congregation. During the postulancy, they share in community life and have opportunities for ministry and service.



*From right to left: Heidi, Alexa, Jordan and Jessica: the postulant class of 2010.*



1515 W. Dragoon Trail  
P.O. Box 766  
Mishawaka, IN 46546  
574-259-5427

[www.ssfpa.org](http://www.ssfpa.org)

## From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

Our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia, said that “the grace of our holy vocation is the greatest grace that could come to us after Baptism, and for this we are to be most grateful.”

There have been so many opportunities to reflect on this over the past several months. We have celebrated the Jubilees of our Sisters celebrating forty, fifty, sixty, seventy-five and even eighty years of loving service to the Lord and to our community. We have witnessed the profession of perpetual vows, first vows, and renewal of vows among our young Sisters.

Each of these Sisters has recognized the “one thing necessary” – a total gift of themselves to Jesus. Their courage in following the Lord’s call has been a witness of love and fidelity to each of us and to those whom they serve.

We have also been blessed with the entrance into the novitiate for two of our Sisters and welcoming four new postulants. Pope Benedict recently addressed religious with the following words: “The Lord is able to give profound joy to one who responds with courage!” I have seen this joy on the faces of these young women.

On a recent Community Day we each received our newly revised constitution which we call “Our Form of Life”. Each Sister received her book with the words, “Receive this rule and constitution of our religious community with love and fidelity, and witness by your whole life what you have vowed to God.” The procession began with our senior Sisters in wheelchairs. Their faces were radiant as they embraced their constitution. I again witnessed this joy in these courageous women who have responded with love and courage. I hope they realize what hope and inspiration they provide to all who come after them.

Pope Benedict addressed religious in recent weeks with the following message:

“We know that we are merely earthenware vessels, and yet, astonishingly, we have been chosen to be heralds of the saving truth that the world needs to hear. Let us never cease to marvel at the extraordinary grace that has been given to us.” Please pray for us that we may be receptive to this grace to fulfill our vows and witness the life and love of Jesus every day.

May the Lord give you peace!

*Sister M. Angela*



“Next to baptismal grace, the call to the religious life is the greatest grace that could come to us. How grateful we must be.”

*Venerable Mother Maria Theresia  
Letter IV – 82b*

---

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

Every Sister has the same title: “of St. Joseph”? Mother Maria Theresia, because of her gratitude to St. Joseph for many favors, promised that she would add “of St. Joseph” to every Sister’s name. This sign of gratitude still characterizes all the Sisters of Mother Maria Theresia’s congregation.

---

### Editorial Team

Editor — Sister M. Jennifer Henry  
Design Editor — Sister Mary Vianney Grau

### Advisory Staff

Sister M. Aline Shultz  
Sister M. Lenore Schwartz  
Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel



# IN-FORMATION

*Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation*

## God's Whispers in the Heart: Sister Gianna Marie's Call Story

By Sister Gianna Marie

My vocation began, as all vocations do, in my baptism as an infant. These graces deepened through my first confession and reception of Holy Communion in 2000. It was then that I entered RCIA.

My love and trust for Holy Mother Church and all of Her teachings had a profound impact on me. I came to realize that I was in love with Love Himself, and this recognition put my heart on fire.

The Lord was very generous to me through each step of the discernment process. Beginning in November of 2002, I felt a strong calling to the religious life. I began attending Mass regularly, praying the Divine Office, and making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

I attended a conference at Franciscan University and found a brochure to our community. I visited the Sisters in the Fall of 2003 and experienced a strong



*Sister Gianna Marie kneels before Provincial, Sister M. Angela, to renew her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.*

belief that I had a calling to religious life and to this community. Along with God's whispers in my heart, the Sisters' joyfulness and hospitality attracted me. The motto of our Mother Foundress, "He leads, I follow", again affirmed my vocation because her words amplified the conversation in my heart with our Lord. I entered the community in 2004.

I professed first vows in 2007. At First Profession, a Sister makes vows for three years. Renewal of Vows takes place at the end of the three years; the Sister renews her vows for two more years. This signifies the commitment of the Sister to continue growing in holiness as a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. I renewed those vows during Mass on August 9, 2010. I currently am studying Education Administration at Franciscan University in Steubenville.

## A Junior Sister's Experience on Mission: St. Francis Hospital

By Sister M. Madeleine

"He leads, I follow." Our Venerable Mother Maria Theresia's words left an impression on me early in my religious life. However, they have only begun to carry great importance to me since coming to serve at St. Francis

*"It is an honor and such a humbling experience to serve here at St. Francis."*

Hospital in Indianapolis. I have the privilege to be the conduit, bringing families and patients what they need to make this time the best a hospital stay can be. It is difficult to put into words the moving and beautiful

opportunity I have to work with patients and families in very vulnerable and trying times. Some simply need a listening ear or a comforting shoulder to cry on, while others need more extensive help, such as finding grief support groups or financial assistance in its many forms. It is an honor and

such a humbling experience to serve here at St. Francis; the impact of the visible witness catches me almost everyday, whether it is a patient's family member stopping me to talk or a coworker asking me to pray with them.



*Sister M. Madeleine*



# Investiture 2010



*Far left:* Miss Laura (left) and Miss Dianna (right) receive their blessed habits from Sister M. Angela, Provincial Superior.



*Right:* Newly-invested Sister Theresa Marie (left) and Sister Maria Kolbe (right) pose for their first picture as novices.



*Bottom left:* Sister M. Petra (right) preps Sister Theresa Marie (left) before she returns to chapel as a novice.

# First Profession 2010

*Far right:* Sister Mariana is escorted down the aisle by her mother, Ann, and her father, Jim.



*Left:* Sister Magdalena Krol, General Superior, blesses Sister Mariana during the reception after the ceremony.



*Bottom right:* Sister Mariana receives congratulatory applause after professing her first vows.



# Final Profession 2010

**O**n the Feast of Saint Clare, August 11, 2010, Sister Lethia Marie Leveille vowed to God to live forever in obedience, poverty and chastity. Her perpetual profession of vows took place during Holy Mass to show that her sacrifice is joined to the sacrifice of Christ, her Divine Spouse. Bishop Kevin Rhoades celebrated the Mass along with Franciscan and diocesan priests and deacons from the Ft Wayne - South Bend diocese. During the rite of profession, Sister Lethia Marie gave her vows into the hands of our Mother General

from Germany, Sister Magdalena Krol. At the altar, she then signed a copy of the vow formula that she had previously handwritten. All sang the Litany of the Saints to beg their aid in helping her live what she just professed. Sister knelt before Bishop Rhoades as he blessed a ring that symbolizes her permanent commitment as bride of Christ. After receiving her Divine Spouse in Holy Communion, Bishop Rhoades pronounced over her the prayer of consecration

“...Strengthened by the vows of her consecration, may she be always one with You in loving fidelity to Christ, her only Bridegroom.”

Sister Lethia Marie, the daughter of Robert (deceased) and Shirley Leveille, came to the community

from All Saints Parish in Gladstone, Michigan. During her eight years of formation, she grew in love for Christ and in acceptance of His will for her life. Her family was very supportive and understanding of her choice of religious life. They are all consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and during one of their visits, they all gathered in the chapel to renew that family consecration.

One of the most difficult times of her formation was the death of her father, Robert Leveille. Sister was able to be near him when he died and she loves to recount that his last gesture was to draw his rosary closer to his heart.

Sister Lethia Marie currently resides at St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka. In addition to assisting with our apostolate of Perpetual Adoration, she serves as Assistant Corporate Secretary for the Sisters of St. Francis Health Services, our health care apostolate. She also directs the Community Benefit reporting for the health system. May her life as a consecrated religious bear much fruit for the Kingdom!

*“Father, in Your loving wisdom You have singled out many of Your daughters to be disciples espoused to Christ and to receive the honor of His love.”*

*Solemn Blessing of the Professed*



*Sister Lethia Marie kneels before Sister Magdalena Krol.*

*Sister receives her newly-blessed ring from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.*



## Source and Summit

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



Let everyone be struck with fear; let the whole world tremble; let heaven exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is on the altar in the hands of a priest. O wonderful loftiness and stupendous dignity! O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! The Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under an ordinary piece of bread. Brothers, look at the humility of God and pour out your hearts before Him [Ps 62:9], Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him!

Saint Francis of Assisi  
*A Letter to the Entire Order*

Contemplating involves especially the heart. For [Saint] Clare, the heart is the place of the covenant with the spouse; it expresses the radicalness of one's response to the Lord, the total giving of oneself, and the communion that allows for tasting God.

Fr. José Rodríguez Carballos, OFM  
*Letter to the Poor Clares*



*“Adoration is everything to me. I pray for all who pray for me and who have asked me to pray for them. It is all in God’s will - whatever He wants. Adoration is everything there is.”*

*Sister M. Vincetta*

# Our Life *in Pictures*



Sister M. Angelita delivers flowers to a patient at St. James Hospital, Chicago Heights, IL.



Friars and Third Order Secular Franciscans joined us for our 2010 *Transitus* celebration of Our Holy Father Francis's passing into Eternal Life. A friar's habit (pictured here before the altar) was carried in procession by the Conventual Friar novices to represent this glorious event.



Sisters gather for a group photo at the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious National Assembly in Belleville, IL.



Sister M. Angela (left) gifts Sister M. Vincetta (right) with the newly revised constitution approved by the Holy See on May 6, 2010.



*Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration*

1515 W. Dragoon Trail

P.O. Box 766

Mishawaka, IN 46546-0766

*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  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Province*

HIGH SCHOOL DISCERNMENT RETREAT:  
NOVEMBER. 20-21, 2010

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S COME AND SEE  
JANUARY 5-8, 2011



"OUR SERVICE FOR THE CHURCH BECOMES  
FRUITFUL ONLY WHEN IT STEMS FROM A  
LIVING UNION WITH GOD."

VENERABLE MOTHER  
MARIA THERESIA BONZEL

