



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

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SOURCE AND SUMMIT

Corpus Christi



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Celebrating the Life of Sister Mary Francis Cates

By Sister Marie

Rachel Cates was born in the small southern town of Alamo, in Crockett County, Tennessee. Her dear mother died before she was even two years old. Her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee.

Rachel graduated from Memphis Tech HS in 1943. Soon after, she did WWII production work starting two years before the end of the war. Rachel made shell containers by working a big press machine. She worked eight to ten hours a day, and sometimes seven days a week.

Her family had decided to move back to Alamo, Tennessee, but she knew there was nothing there for her regarding work, so she remained in Memphis. This was a difficult decision, but proved fruitful.

Throughout her childhood, Rachel and her family had belonged to the Church of Christ. However, during the war, her conversion to the Catholic Church began. She tells the story like this: "An Italian girl that I worked with asked me to stay all night with her. I saw a Crucifix over her bed and asked if she was Catholic. She said yes. I couldn't get to my church during the war because I had to work seven days a week. I would go with her to the Immaculate Conception Church for an evening service to pray for the boys. Another friend took me to the Catholic Church to make a visit. After the war, we decided to take instructions."

Rachel entered the Catholic Church in 1946, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Memphis, little knowing she would enter the convent only two years later! Her pastor, convinced she had a vocation, took her to St. Joseph Hospital in Memphis where she met Sr. M. Vera. Soon, this meeting led to her following God's call to religious life. Sr. Mary Francis recalls her entrance into the convent: "I got the postulant cap in Memphis. I had a head full of real long, curly, red hair! Sr. Vera, the Sister who gave me the cap, went with me by train all night until I finally arrived at the

motherhouse. She chuckled about the memory of trying to fit all my hair into that cap as long as she lived!"

Sr. Mary Francis has blessed the Church and our community with more than sixty years of love and loyalty to the religious life since that train ride in the winter of 1948.

Sr. Mary Francis provided loving and dedicated service to our community for 32 years in the business office – 27 of these years as treasurer.

She smiles when she speaks about her current "assignment" to the Sisters' retirement home, Our Lady of the Angels, in Mishawaka, Indiana. "They are all very good to me here and I have 8:30 Eucharistic adoration nearly every morning. I have a lovely view from my window where I can look out and enjoy a lot of wonderful memories."

Sr. Mary Francis laughs after telling a story about the past.



Sister Mary Francis as a senior in High School



From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and gratitude to God that we share with you in this issue the individual accomplishments of several of our Sisters – Graduation, Jubilee, Retirement! The Sisters featured in this issue will be the first to tell you that their accomplishments were a result of God's grace and the support of their Sisters.

Regardless of our assignment, our individual accomplishments, or our stage of religious life, Venerable Mother Maria Theresia wanted each of her Sisters to be true daughters of St. Francis in the practice of works of charity and all other virtues, especially humility, patience, and penance. 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.”

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Sister M. Angela



“May God bless you and give you all that can make you happy in time and eternity, especially may He bring love of God and neighbor to perfection in you. May your work be blessed now, and may you, after a long and fruitful apostolate, receive the heavenly crown. Celebrate then your feast among the Sisters with much joy.”

Venerable Mother Maria Theresia
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DID YOU KNOW . . .

The first successful human to human blood transfusion in medical history took place in our hospital, St. Alexis, in Cleveland. Joseph Miller, a young man of 23, had a kidney infection, and internal bleeding was draining away his life. Surgeon Dr. George C. Crile sought the brother, Sam Miller, two years older, and asked him if he would give some of his blood to his brother, Joseph.

Each was given a local anesthetic, but a problem became apparent when all needles were too large for such a delicate job. Finally one of the Sisters produced a very fine darning needle and a very fine three-strand silk twist for sewing delicate lines. Only one strand was used. The operation was successfully performed.

The Cleveland newspapers on August 28, 1906 and later the medical journals continued lengthy accounts and praise of Dr. Crile, Sam Miller, the world's first blood donor, and Joseph, the first human being ever to receive a blood donation.

St. Alexis Hospital Chronicles, Jan. 19, 1964

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Not a Princess but a Bride of Christ: Sr. Maria Gemma's Story

By Sister Maria Gemma

As a child I was entirely convinced that I was a lost princess and did not belong to the world in which I lived. Perhaps it was due to the fact that my grandfather spoiled me as child, but there was this somewhat ethereal sense to my life that I never quite understood.

I remember feeling especially like a princess on the day of my first communion. Little did I know that I actually was a princess, and I had just been invited to a royal wedding feast with the King of Kings. The Holy Eucharist has always been the center of my prayer and my vocation.

In high school I always looked forward to Wednesday nights when our Parish youth group had our weekly holy hour. When I went to college, I decided to major in Theology.

My freshman year I had a professor who helped me fall in love with God even more. One day he spoke to a few of my friends and me about the



Sister Maria Gemma after her first profession with her mother, Linda (left) and her grandmother, Linda McPeak (right).

importance of being open to a religious vocation. I believe this moment was what planted the seed of my vocation.

Towards the end of my freshman year of college my grandfather passed away. I didn't know how to cope with his death and I didn't want anyone to see the amount of pain that I was in. Instead of

embracing God in this dark moment, I embraced the darkness. For almost two years I lived a life away from sacramental grace. I never cease to be amazed that God never abandoned me. I remember being so lost, the only place I knew to go was to the chapel. So I went and I wept, and I knew that somehow I had to come back to Him.

My senior year of college I lived in a house where we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours and ate meals together. This is when I really began to feel a call to the religious life. I attended daily Mass and made a daily holy hour.

One of my friends encouraged me to go on a retreat at our motherhouse. The moment I drove onto our grounds, a sinking feeling in my stomach let me know that this was home. I entered the convent after graduation in 2006. Three years later I made my first profession of vows and became, not an earthly princess, but a bride of Christ.

Temporary Professed Sisters Study Religious Life in Summer Courses

By Sister Mary Vianney

To continue their study of religious life, the junior sisters were privileged to spend several weeks during the summer at the motherhouse.

Called from their various mission places, the young Sisters took courses from many capable teachers, including: Rev. Daniel Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace parish in Mishawaka IN, who gave a week-long class on the virtues; Dr. John Bergsma of Franciscan University of Steubenville, who spoke on the Beatitudes; Dr. Perry Cahall of the Pontifical College Josephinum,

who examined consecrated life in light of Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body; and Dr. Lawrence Cunningham, from the University of Notre Dame, who presented on "Purity of Heart".

The Sisters also studied the "The Admonitions of St. Francis," under the tutelage of Sister M. Rose Agnes Pfautsch.

They read and pondered the pivotal writing of St. Francis for two weeks, studying the important virtues of poverty, humility, and penance that crown our Franciscan vocation.



(Left to right) Sr. Madeleine, Sr. Rose Agnes, Sr. Anna Joseph and Sr. Mariana study "The Admonitions of St. Francis."

MAKE A JOYFUL NO

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF NINE

By Sister M. Janice

It was a day to celebrate the joy of their calling and God's faithfulness through twenty-five, forty, fifty, and sixty years in the lives of these Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

The angelic voices of the choir rang out the happy and blessed praises of God in the especially thrilling "Jubilate Deo". Bishop Kevin Rhoades embarked on his first Jubilee celebration here with the assembly of Sisters.

In attendance were Silver Jubilarian Sister M. Jacinta Krecek, Golden Jubilarians Sister Agnes Marie Regan, Sister M. Helene Seculoff, Sister Mary Cecelia Sanders, and Sister M. Martha Ann Reich. Celebrating fortieth anniversary was Sister Dianne Marie Schneider. Also, celebrating their sixtieth anniversaries were Sister M. Aloysius Albert, Sister M. Luke Buchanan, and Sister M. Rose Ellen Kluemper.

Bishop of the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend, Kevin C. Rhoades, quoting Blessed Pope John Paul II, exhorted all present to give thanks to God for a religious vocation, since it is "a gift of God the Father to His Church through the Holy Spirit."

"We celebrate this gift today," he said, "as we pray for the Sister jubilarians who embraced the evangelical counsels."

He emphasized that the religious life is "a spousal love. The consecrated life is an image of the Church as bride in relation to her Spouse, the Lord Jesus."

By way of admonition, he urged all after the manner of Blessed Mary, our Holy Father Francis, and Venerable Mother Maria Theresia to be humble and generous in responding to God's love through faith in Jesus and His Eucharistic Presence and loving service to God and His Church.



Bishop Rhoades shares a laugh with Jubilarians: (left to right) Sister M. Helene, Sister M. Rose Ellen, Sister Agnes Marie, Sister Dianne Marie, Sister M. Luke, and Sister M. Jacinta.

RISE UNTO THE LORD

SISTERS AND THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LORD



60th anniversary
(Left to right)
Sister M. Rose Ellen, Sister M. Luke, and Sister M. Aloysius



Golden Jubilarians
(Left to Right)
Sister Agnes Marie, Sister M. Helene, Sister Mary Cecelia, and Sister M. Martha Ann



Fortieth anniversary
(Left)
Sister Dianne Marie

Silver Jubilarian
(Right)
Sister M. Jacinta



With candles in their hands, the Sisters renew their consecration as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The candles represent the integral connection between religious and baptismal consecration.



Source and Summit

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

Sisters Laud the Holy Eucharist During Corpus Christ Procession

O sons of men, how long will you be hard of heart? (Ps. 4:3) Why do you not recognize the truth and believe in the Son of God? (cf. Jn. 9:35) 16. See, daily He humbles Himself (cf. Phil. 2:8) as when He came from the royal throne (Wis. 18:15) into the womb of the Virgin; 17. daily He comes to us in a humble form; daily He comes down from the bosom of the Father (cf. Jn. 1:18) upon the altar in the hands of the priest.

And as He appeared to the holy apostles in true flesh, so now He reveals himself to us in the Sacred Bread. And as they saw only His flesh by means of their bodily sight, yet believed Him to be God as they contemplated Him with the eyes of faith, so, as we see bread and wine with [our] bodily eyes, we too are to see and firmly believe them to be His most holy body and blood, living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with His faithful, as He Himself says: Behold I am with you even to the end of the world (cf. Mt. 28:20).



The Sisters and Friars walk with Our Lord toward the first station for Benediction.

Excerpt from “The Admonitions of St. Francis”



I am truly grateful for my daily hour of Adoration! It provides me with time of quiet and time of reflection which I know I need. Our Lord has helped me in so many ways throughout my life, and this is one of the ways I can show my love by thanking Him for His many graces. Many prayer requests come to us and these are listed in our Adoration Chapel. It is at my time of Adoration that I pray for these many intentions, asking the Lord to have their needs met and that they come to know God’s great love for them.

Sister M. Blanche Rausch, OSF

Our Life *in Pictures*



In June the Sisters taught a week-long Vacation Bible School at St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette, IN. Above, Sister Maria Gemma plays a game with the students.



Sister M. Clare (left) and Sister M. Rose (right) stand with Sister M. Altraud (middle) of our German province. The two sisters went to Germany on pilgrimage in celebration of their Silver Jubilee.



Sister Anita recently earned a masters degree in Franciscan Studies at the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University in western New York.



Franciscan University graduates pictured in their regalia. Sr. Gianna Marie (left) graduated with a masters degree in School Administration and Sr. Anna Joseph (right) with a bachelors degree in Literature with a concentration in education.



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

WE ADORE YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY, MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

"Never omit the hour of love before the Blessed Sacrament and be assured that you will never leave the Sacred Presence without an increase in grace and virtue."

Venerable Mother Maria Theresia

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2011

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT:

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2011

YOUNG ADULT COME AND SEE:

JANUARY 4-7, 2012

