

*With Gratitude and in Faith*

150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

1863-2013

HE LEADS

I FOLLOW

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

## Saying Farewell to our Humble Shepherds

On Feb. 3, 2013, our Bishop Emeritus, John Michael D’Arcy died on the 56th anniversary of his First Mass. Bishop D’Arcy was both a loving shepherd and a spiritual father to our Community. For many years, the Bishop resided with the Sisters during his frequent stays on this end of the diocese. Sr. Angela, our provincial, remarked, “What a blessing to witness the many hours he spent in prayer and how he poured out his heart and energy serving the faithful of this diocese whom he dearly loved.”

Bishop D’Arcy served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and thus our Sisters who reside there, for nearly 25 years. Since retiring nearly three years ago, Bishop D’Arcy continued to keep very active serving the diocese. He also conducted several retreats, including two at Mount Alverno. Last summer, he led the retreat for our Sisters in formation, including those preparing to profess their vows. He spoke to the Sisters about topics most dear to his

heart, including prayer, Eucharist, and the Cross of Christ.

His courageous acceptance of his impending death and the great holiness he exemplified as he surrendered himself back to his Lord were an inspiration to all. Bishop D’Arcy had a special love for the Blessed Virgin Mary and would invoke her consistently, asking for “her heart” in accepting all that the Lord was asking of him.

We witnessed this same courage and holiness one week later, when our universal shepherd, Pope Benedict XVI, announced his resignation on February 11. Though unexpected, we join our prayers to those of the universal Church as we give thanks to God for his papacy. His guidance over the past eight years, both in his writings and journeys, offers us a beautiful example of embracing the will of God and the responsibility that accompanies it.

His words to priests and religious, including some of our Sisters, who gathered at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in 2008 serve as an apt reminder of the universal call to holiness which we share: “With great humility and confidence, let us ask the Spirit to enable us each day to grow in the holiness that will make us living stones in the temple which he is even now raising up in the midst of our world.”

We thank the Lord for the great friendship, love, and spiritual fatherhood that Bishop D’Arcy bestowed upon our community and rejoice knowing that he is now at peace in his heavenly homeland, interceding for us before the throne of God. At the same time, we praise God for the intercession Pope Benedict XVI offers through a life dedicated to prayer as His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope-Emeritus. We will miss our humble shepherds!

*Bishop Emeritus John M. D’Arcy greets His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope-Emeritus during the 2012 Ad Limina visit.*



WINTER 2013

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE

FEATURE

*150th Anniversary  
Inauguration*

SOURCE AND SUMMIT

*The Eucharist and the  
Incarnation*

IN-FORMATION

*Searching For My  
Dream Job: Sister M.  
Petra Reflects*

## From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration gathered together at the Mount from Dec. 30 – Jan. 1 to begin the celebration of our 150th Jubilee as a Congregation. Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel remained steadfast in responding to God's will in establishing our Congregation, despite opposition from the government and her own poor health. Her example of deep faith and trust in Divine Providence inspired thousands of other young women to follow her example and answer God's call to join our Congregation. The motto selected for this special year is: **With gratitude and in faith: He Leads; I Follow.** We spend time daily remembering and reflecting on our rich heritage through a brief reading. It is amazing to think what a few Sisters could accomplish with very little in such a short time! One thing is certain. These accomplishments were possible only with the grace of God and the support of so many along the way. I share with you below our Jubilee prayer:

Loving God, who inspired Mother Maria Theresia to establish our Congregation to serve You and those in need, we give thanks for our vocation and those of our departed Sisters over these past 150 years. Enkindle in our hearts a greater zeal to follow after the examples of our Holy Father Francis and Mother Maria Theresia as we strive to combine the contemplative life with the active in perpetual adoration and the works of mercy. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we plead for vocations to continue with us our most cherished apostolate: adoration of God. We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us all keep one another in prayer that our Lenten journey will be fruitful and blessed with an ever deeper faith and trust in Divine Providence as we seek to do His will.

In Christ,

*Sister M. Angela*



*"If I can be a pleasing sacrifice to Him I shall gladly stand beneath the cross with our Sorrowful Mother. I desire nothing of the world but firmly trust in God."*

*Letter I-211a*

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## DID YOU KNOW . . .



Sister M. Alwinia Heinemann pioneered the first steps in Family Centered Maternity Care in Louisville in 1956. When she retired from St. Anthony Hospital, Louisville in 1985, she had been the unofficial mother and then grandmother to 57,000 babies.

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# IN-FORMATION

*Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation*

## Searching For My Dream Job: Sister Petra Reflects

The seeds of my vocation were planted when I was very young. In first grade, my teacher was a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. I remember how much I loved Sr. Kathleen and wanted to be a “Franciscan teaching nun” just like her. From first grade through the beginning of high school, I believed I was called to religious life. In high school, I pushed the thoughts of a vocation to the back of my mind.

In spite of my best efforts to ignore God’s will in my life, He still patiently kept calling me. The thought of religious life never went away completely. Throughout high school, college, graduate school, when I started working, and even during a period when I was not practicing my faith, the thought would creep into my mind. I would tell myself I wasn’t good enough or holy enough for religious life.

During all those years, I did many things. I traveled, lived overseas for four years, and held jobs I would have always considered dream jobs. But I always felt unsettled, restless, and as if something



*Sister Petra celebrates with her nieces and nephew after professing temporary vows on August 10, 2011.*

were missing in my life.

While I was living and working in Vienna, Austria, I stopped practicing my faith. During my last year there, I lost both of my parents to cancer within eleven months of each other. It was during this painful time I realized how empty my life was without God.. I not only came back to the Church, but I also sought to deepen my faith.

Again the thought of religious life came back. But this time instead of pushing it away, I tried to discern why it would not go away. Through much prayer and discernment and with the guidance of my parish priest, I realized God was calling me to give myself totally to Him and the Church as a sister with the very Sisters who first planted the seed in me.

I am now a junior Sister in temporary vows. I realize daily my vocation is a gift from God, and I need to embrace this gift and follow wherever He leads. I desire to give myself to Him totally in love and through this to serve all those He places before me.

## Young Adults Enjoy February Discernment Retreat



*Thirteen young women joined the Sisters in February for a discernment retreat led by Father Drew Curry, pastor of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester, IN and Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Pierceton, IN. In addition to spiritual conferences, the young women spent joyful moments of recreation with the Sisters.*

*With gratitude and in faith:*



CELEBRATING 150

*He leads.*

*I follow.*

1863 2013



SEPTEMBER 17, 1830  
BIRTH OF ALINE BONZEL  
(MOTHER MARIA THERESIA)

DECEMBER 1875  
SIX SISTERS ARRIVE IN LAFAYETTE  
IN. ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL  
BEGAN IN JANUARY OF 1876.



1863

1905

1830



JULY 20, 1863  
CONGREGATION FOUNDED  
AT THE BEHEST OF  
BISHOP KONRAD MARTIN.

1875



FEBRUARY 6, 1905  
DEATH OF OUR  
BELOVED FOUNDER

0 YEARS

THIS YEAR THE SISTERS CELEBRATE 150 YEARS AS A CONGREGATION. THROUGHOUT THIS TIME WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH MANY GRACES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH BEING OUR APOSTOLATES OF PERPETUAL ADORATION AND THE WORKS OF MERCY IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE.



JULY, 1943  
URGED BY BISHOP JOHN F. NOLL,  
SISTERS ESTABLISH THE PROVINCIAL  
HOUSE IN MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.



JULY, 1963  
SISTERS BEGIN A FOREIGN MISSION  
IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH THRIVES  
TODAY.



1944

2013

905  
R  
ADDRESS.



JULY, 1944  
SAINT FRANCIS  
COLLEGE MOVES TO  
FT. WAYNE, IN.

2013  
THROUGH PERPETUAL ADORATION  
AND THE WORKS OF MERCY, 119  
SISTERS CONTINUE TO FOLLOW  
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MOTHER  
MARIA THERESA.

1943

1963



## Source and Summit

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

# Conquered by the Eucharist and the Incarnation

“Christmas is the day on which God gave himself to humanity, and in the Eucharist this gift of his becomes, so to speak, perfect. Let us enter into the mystery of Christmas, now approaching, through the “door” of the Eucharist; in the grotto of Bethlehem let us adore the Lord himself who, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, desired to make himself our spiritual food to transform the world from within, starting with the human heart. Were not St. Francis and St. Clare both “conquered” by the Eucharistic Mystery? In the Eucharist they experienced the love of God, that same love which, in the Incarnation, impelled the Creator of the world to make himself little, indeed, the smallest one and the servant of all. Together let us contemplate this great mystery of love; let our hearts be filled with the light which shines in the stable of Bethlehem!”

His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope-Emeritus



*Sister Mary Anthony places the Infant Jesus in the manger before Midnight Mass.*

“I appreciate living in the same house in which Jesus is always exposed in the Blessed Sacrament and where He is loved and worshipped. Despite all my distractions and weariness, He lovingly accepts my efforts to please and adore Him.”

Sister M. Imelda Pilotte, OSF



# Our Life in Pictures



Several of our Sisters joined thousands of protesters at the 40<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life in Washington, DC.



The Franciscan Conventual friars play Valentine's Day bingo with the Sisters at Our Lady of Angels Convent.



Sisters prepare packages with homemade Christmas cookies for the homeless.



Sister Rose Agnes (left) gives Sister Jennifer a medal of our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, during the inaugural celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.



Sisters distribute ashes to the students at St. John the Evangelist School in St. John, IN.



*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*

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN  
AGES 18-35  
CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT