



HE LEADS I FOLLOW

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

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“Do Whatever He Tells You”: Formation On Mission

By Sister M. Cecelia Clare

When a Sister is sent “on mission”, whether the assignment is to serve in a school, hospital, or other ecclesial apostolate, it is one of the most visible ways she will experience the vow of obedience.

Sisters in initial formation are exposed to the apostolic works of our community on two occasions: once during their postulancy, and again as a second year novice.

Each Wednesday for the past three months, the apostolic activities of the postulants, Heidi, Alexa, Jordan and Jessica, have sent them to St. Joseph School in LaPorte and Franciscan-St. Anthony Health in Michigan City.

Their assignment gave them an opportunity to see what apostolic work will be like. From making rounds on the floor to helping out in the classroom, the postulants were well received! Those they served as well as their co-workers were able to have the chance to learn about each postulant and her desire to become a religious Sister. It was a wonderful experience for all!

During her mission experience, a novice spends several months apart from the novitiate

schedule to “live the life” of a professed Sister. This winter, the three second-year novices served in either education or healthcare.

In Lafayette, Indiana, Sister Petra was at Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health where she helped at the front desk and with various other projects. Sister Benedicta served at St. Boniface School, also in Lafayette, where she taught religion and tutored students. Sister Cecelia Clare assisted in Outpatient Services at Franciscan St. James Health in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

With the majority of the day being spent in apostolic work, the novices were edified to see how their Sisters integrate their prayer into their day in addition to preparing meals and other daily chores.

Conversations at table provided an opportunity for knowing a Sister better, to experience the day through her eyes. Truly, whether praying or recreating with one’s Sisters, working at a hospital, or teaching students, the words of Our Lady concerning her Son at the marriage in Cana echo with each generous service: “Do whatever He tells you.”

Sister M. Petra reviews documents at Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health welcome desk.

Sister M. Benedicta at the St. Boniface vs. St. Lawrence “Battle of the Saints” basketball game.

Postulant Jordan stops for a photo while on mission at Franciscan St. Anthony Health, Michigan City.



From the Desk of the Provincial



Dear Friends,

Peace and all good!

In this issue we share with you about the mission experience of our novices and postulants. We define “mission” as any of the works of our community – whether in education, healthcare or other ecclesial ministries.

Vita Consecrata states, “Indeed, more than in external works, the mission consists in making Christ present to the world through personal witness. This is the challenge, this is the primary task of the consecrated life! The more consecrated persons allow themselves to be conformed to Christ, the more Christ is made present and active in the world for the salvation of all.” Vita Consecrata (72)

Each April we gather together for a Community Day and within a prayer service renew our commitment to the service of God’s people in each of our apostolates. I am so grateful for the witness and dedication exemplified by each one of our Sisters. May the fruits of our prayer and community life strengthen us to truly live Venerable Mother Maria Theresia’s challenge for us: “All as God wills, He leads; I follow.”

May the Risen Lord bestow upon you an abundance of Easter graces!

In the love of Jesus and Mary,

Sister M. Angela



“All our activity should be secondary to our communion with God, for only in prayer can we achieve the true spirit of Jesus Christ, in and through whom we work.”

*Venerable Mother Maria Theresia
Letter IV - 87*

DID YOU KNOW . . .



Our healthcare ministry formerly known as Sisters of St. Francis Health Services officially changed its name and logo mark. “Franciscan Alliance” is the perfect pairing of two words to create a meaningful, memorable name that affirms our promise to continue Christ’s ministry in our Franciscan tradition. The new logo mark maintains the Tau cross symbol (a sacred symbol to Saint Francis and a constant reminder of the Cross of Christ) with the new name.

The development of a strong, consistent identity and brand replicated across the 13 hospital system is an important part of telling our story with one voice. Throughout the 135-year existence of our health ministry, Franciscan Alliance has stayed true to our founding mission of caring for everyone who comes through our doors.

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Sister M. Lenore Schwartz

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IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

The Eucharist, Mary, and Confession: Pillars of My Vocation

By Sister M. Lissetta

I first thought of being a Sister in the sixth grade. As I grew up the thought would return to me now and again. However, I did not have a good understanding of my faith and in college I completely fell away.

During my junior and senior years in college, as an attempt to find some balance and a sense of peace, I began to attend Mass again; however, I did not know that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist and could not say when my last confession was.

In 2003 I moved to Lafayette for graduate school at Purdue. With the advice of a professor I began attending St. Boniface Parish. It was because of the homilies of Fr. Tim Alkire that I began to acknowledge Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, Mary as a mother, the Mother, and returned to confession. I consider these three factors to be the pillars of my vocation.

In prayer I begged to be open to His will. I was visiting home when my cousin unexpectedly asked me if I had



Sister M. Lissetta smiles as she helps one of her second graders complete a task.

ever thought of being a nun.

The following weekend I planned on attending the early Mass to meet with one of the Sisters; however, I rolled over in bed and got up for the nine-thirty Mass instead. To my chagrin, there were three Sisters sitting in the front row. After Mass Father introduced one of them as the vocation director and said they would

like to take 14 girls back with them.

I began talking with the Sisters at the parish and visiting the Motherhouse. A few months later I attended a Eucharistic Congress in Washington D. C. with them. The bus could not have been filled with more joy – I was enamored. I finally rallied the courage to share my vocation with my parents. This was hard, but they only wanted me to be happy. They met the Sisters and it was probably the Sisters' joy that set them at ease.

It has been six years since I entered and I see more and more how my community is really meant to be a family; and how this family opens its arms to embrace the Church and the world.

Currently, I am teaching second grade at St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend, IN. I consider it a privilege to prepare God's children to receive the Eucharist. The blessings that flow from following the will of God are innumerable.

March Discernment Retreat Leads Young Women Closer to Christ

By Sister Margaret Mary

On the weekend of March 25th, the Sisters hosted our spring Young Adult Women's retreat. Father Jeff Martin, assistant pastor at St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette, brought us the sacraments and gave conferences on the virtue of faith.

Eighteen women joined us for prayer, study and time spent with each other. They came from as far west as

Washington state and as far east as Connecticut. Six came from our very own state of Indiana. Many of these young women have been discerning a call to religious life.

In coming away for a time from the busyness of their lives they can more easily hear God's voice and gain strength to follow His call.



The young retreatants gather for a photo with the novices and postulants.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen

EASTER PREPARATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS



Sister Hilaria and Alexa reveal evidence of colored Easter eggs.



The camera catches Sr. Anna Marie and Sr. Jane Marie as they decorate the refectory for Easter Sunday.



The Sisters having what we like to call a "grapefruit party" - sectioning grapefruit for our Easter Sunday breakfast.



en as he promised, Alleluia!

ONS AROUND SAINT FRANCIS CONVENT

Sr. Helene (right), Sr. Theresa Marie (back) and Heidi prepare flowers for the Easter Vigil.



Fr. James Kendzierski, OFM, chaplain of Our Lady of Angels Convent, inscribes the Greek letters A and \Omega into the Paschal Candle.

The convent choir sings Palestrina's "Regina Caeli" during the Easter Vigil.

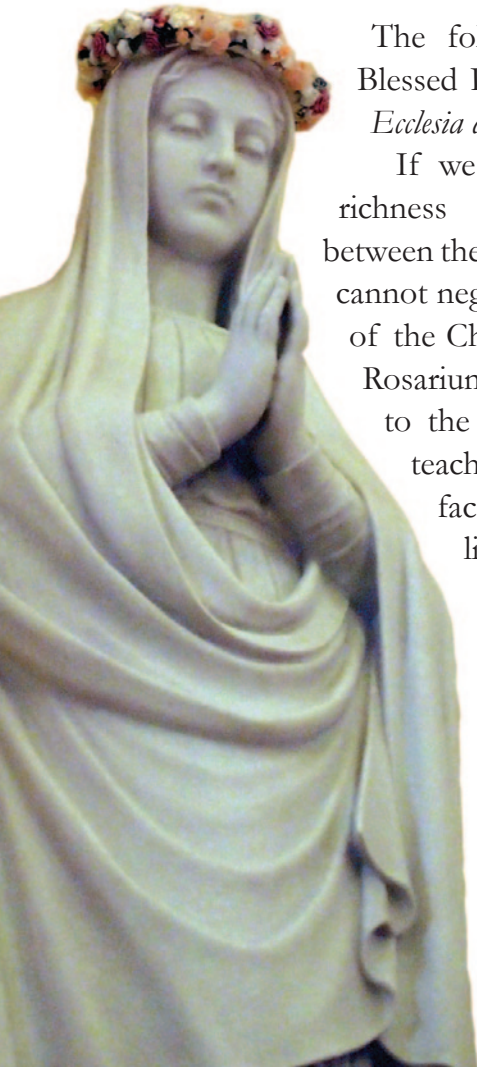




Source and Summit

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

Blessed John Paul II: Reflections on Mary, “Woman of the Eucharist”



The following is an excerpt from Blessed Pope John Paul II’s encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*:

If we wish to rediscover in all its richness the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, Mother and model of the Church. In my Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, I pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our teacher in contemplating Christ’s face, and among the mysteries of light I included the institution of the Eucharist. Mary can guide us towards this most holy sacrament, because she herself has a profound relationship with it.

At first glance, the Gospel is silent on this subject. The account of the institution of the Eucharist on the night of Holy Thursday makes no mention of Mary. Yet we know that she was

present among the Apostles who prayed “with one accord” (cf. Acts 1:14) in the first community which gathered after the Ascension in expectation of Pentecost. Certainly Mary must have been present at the Eucharistic celebrations of the first generation of Christians, who were devoted to “the breaking of bread” (Acts 2:42).

But in addition to her sharing in the Eucharistic banquet, an indirect picture of Mary’s relationship with the Eucharist can be had, beginning with her interior disposition. Mary is a “woman of the Eucharist” in her whole life. The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.

Mysterium fidei! If the Eucharist is a mystery of faith which so greatly transcends our understanding as to call for sheer abandonment to the word of God, then there can be no one like Mary to act as our support and guide in acquiring this disposition. In repeating what Christ did at the Last Supper in obedience to his command: “Do this in memory of me!”, we also accept Mary’s invitation to obey him without hesitation: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5).

“Eucharistic exposition and adoration are nothing else than the action of the Mass held in contemplation. Can we, as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, be a vital force to restore the value of adoration and Eucharistic Exposition and bring it to our young people, those we serve, and those with whom we come in contact? This is another challenge for us, as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, namely, to promote Eucharistic exposition and Adoration, in our schools, hospitals and all whom we serve, for then we will be carrying out the primary charism of our congregation.” (April 22, 1989)

Sr. Theresa Solbach (1927-1993), served as Provincial from 1974 to 1986.



Our Life *in Pictures*



The Sisters and members of the Secular Franciscans process from the grotto for this year's May Crowning.



Sr. Blanche (left) and Sr. Elizabethine greet Sr. Maria Kolbe (right) while on a stroll through the convent grounds.



Sr. Lenore with her students at St. Boniface School during the annual Education Fair.



Sr. Magdalena (left), Sr. Rose Agnes (front), and Sr. Jane Marie (back) visit the tomb of Venerable Mother Maria Theresia in Olpe, Germany with presidents from Franciscan Alliance.



Sisters with Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Coyne from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during the blessing of a new wing at Franciscan St. Francis Health, Indianapolis.



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 COME AND SEE
JUNE 16-18, 2011

DISCERNMENT RETREAT
YOUNG ADULT WOMEN
NOV. 4-6, 2011

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT
NOV. 12-13, 2011

"Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!" ~ Blessed Pope John Paul II