

# HE LEADS



# I FOLLOW

*Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary Province*

## A Year of St. Joseph.

**I**n Pope Francis' document declaring the Year of St. Joseph, he lists many ways St. Joseph is a father to us. He tells us, "Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."



This year of St. Joseph affirms what we as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration have known for generations: St. Joseph is a faithful and loving father who cares for us. We follow our foundress in her devotion to the great foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary. We know that as a father, he cares for all of our needs, whether for our physical wellbeing, financial sustainability, or spiritual care.

It is common to see, as in this picture of Sister M. Blanche Rausch and Sister M. Joseph Ann Vogel, our Sisters "going to Joseph" and trusting that he will be to them a loving father.



SPRING 2021

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Jubilee*

*First Vows and Renewal of Vows*

*Final Vows*

*Investiture and Postulant Entrance*

*Thank you*

## From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration rejoiced when Pope Francis declared that 2021 would be the 'Year of Saint Joseph'. This coincides with the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Mother Maria Theresia had a very special relationship with Saint Joseph. She turned to him for all the needs of the growing community. She was so grateful for his intercession, with needs great and small, that she pledged that she would entrust each Sister of the Congregation to him. This tradition has continued for 157 years. A postulant receives her habit and veil and also her new name at Investiture. As each new Sister's name is read, it is followed by "of St. Joseph". In this issue you will meet our novices who received the names Sister M. Chiara Luce of St. Joseph and Sister M. Emmanuel of St. Joseph at their Investiture on August 1, 2020.

This past year, while stressful and filled with many uncertainties, also included joyful occasions with our Sisters celebrating Jubilee, professing vows, and entering as a postulant. Enjoy the pictures from these special celebrations.

We continue to pray daily the prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for all those who suffer from the pandemic.

In the midst of such great sorrow, we have become more aware of God's faithfulness and the many blessings bestowed upon us. We are so grateful to all who have assisted us over this past year, especially those from Franciscan Health. This quote from our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia, is a tribute to all those who have selflessly served others in so many different ways this past year.

*"Let us keep in our hearts a love which shows itself in deeds, in great and heroic action. We should desire to love Him with the strength of death, offering Him all we have."* —Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, we assure you of our continuous prayers for you and your loved ones during our hours of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day and night. It is our 'highest and first apostolate' and our greatest privilege.

*Sister M. Angela*

## From Mother Maria Theresia's Morning Prayer to St. Joseph:

*"May the care of our house be recommended to thee, O dearest, most loyal Joseph. I deliver unto thee all our exterior affairs. Do thou, O great carpenter and chief master of all artisans, help us, thy most devoted children."*



## DID YOU KNOW. . .

In the early days of the community, when Mother Theresia's building program was in progress, her brother-in-law, Dr. Kauffman, who was intimately acquainted with the financial condition of the congregation, often wondered audibly how Mother Maria Theresia could meet her financial obligations. "Aline, with what do you build, anyway?" he would ask. "St. Joseph will help again," she would smilingly reply, pointing to the statue of St. Joseph. (This statue had a large cavity in the back, and into this Mother Maria Theresia would thrust all her unpaid bills.) The famous physician did not understand this explanation. Mother then laughed heartily, but immediately serious said: "Do not worry, Lorenz; I place all bills in the statue of St. Joseph; believe

me, somebody always brings the money needed." Never did St. Joseph fail her; never did he leave her prayers unanswered. Many times benefactors called late into the evening to bring money needed the next day. The picture at left is a statue of St. Joseph, still in our motherhouse in Germany, before which our foundress prayed.



# Jubilate Deo!

**W**e rejoiced with the following Sisters who celebrated their Jubilee in 2020: Sister M. Marilyn Oliver, Sister Mary Evelyn Govert, Sister M. Dianne Zimmer, and Sister M. Carol Meyers commemorated sixty years in our Community, and Sister M. Anita Holzmer celebrated her Golden Jubilee. We were blessed to celebrate the seventy-fifth Jubilee

of Sister M. Caroline Knapik just two months before her Bridegroom called her to come away with Him to her heavenly rest. The Jubilee Mass, celebrated by Fr. Brad Milunski, OFM Conv. on October 17, 2020, was livestreamed so the extended family and friends of the Jubilarians could share this special day with their loved ones.



*Clockwise from Top Left: Sister Marilyn, Sister Mary Evelyn, Sister Anita, Sister Dianne, Sister Carol*

# Trusting in God's *Grace*

# With All My Heart.

Below, Sister M. Helen Minich greets Sister Mary Peter in the receiving line for the newly professed.



Above, Sister Mary Amata Naville, Sister Zélie Marie Warrell, and Sister Mary Peter Ruschke professed first vows on August 1, 2020 in the presence of their immediate families and the Sisters.



Left, Sister M. Mercy Briola enjoys a visit with her mentor, Sister M. Janice Kolesiak. Sister Mercy renewed her temporary vows on July 31, 2020.



Clockwise from left, Sister M. Regina DeVreese and Sister M. Joan Roeder professed final vows on August 2, 2020. Sister Regina's former pastor, Father Dan Scheidt, concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Kevin Rhoades. Sister Regina joyfully signs her vow formula at the altar. Sister Joan shows her ring, a sign of her total consecration, to her parents and brother. Sister Regina and Sister Joan lie prostrate during the Litany of the Saints.



# I Have Called *You* by Name



*Top left and above, New Novices: Meet Sister M. Chiara Luce Brinkman and Sister M. Emmanuel Kurtzweg! These two novices received their habits and new names on August 1, 2020.*

*Left and below, Postulant Entrance: On September 6, 2020, we welcomed Miss Briana Bruske to our community. Miss Bri comes to us from Minnesota and met our Sisters while serving as a FOCUS missionary. She is pictured below with her parents.*



# In Gratitude

*“...our Sisters have continued our primary charism of perpetual adoration, interceding for our apostolates, our coworkers and their families, and the whole world. You remain in our prayers!”*



A special thank you from all the Sisters to Franciscan Health. This year brought added meetings, more stress, staffing shortages, financial worries, and so many more challenges. It is a privilege to continue the healthcare ministry begun by Mother Maria Theresia more than 150 years ago. This is possible with your support and dedicated service. We also thank our coworkers at the University of Saint Francis, who have worked hard to

continue education in the classroom and online, as have those who serve with our Sisters in grade schools and high schools. The education ministry of our community has had many challenges this year as well. Throughout it all, our Sisters have continued our primary charism of perpetual adoration, interceding for our apostolates, our coworkers and their families, and the whole world. You remain in our prayers!



*Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration*

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Return Service Requested

"Next to baptismal grace, the call to the religious life is the greatest grace that could come to us. How grateful we must be!" Bl. Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, Foundress



*Sr. M. Regina DeVreese, Assistant Vocation Director, and Sr. M. Ignatia Henneberry, Vocation Director, are grateful to begin their apostolate in vocation ministry and accompany young women as they discover God's call in their life.*

May 14-16, 2021

DISCERNMENT RETREATS

November 12-14 2021