

With Gratitude and in Faith

150th Jubilee

1863-2013

HE LEADS

I FOLLOW

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

Sisters Welcome Six New Postulants

“Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart.” Kneeling before the crucifix in the little chapel of San Damiano, St. Francis spoke these words as he sought the will of God. Built on this foundation of prayer, the great Saint of Assisi entered into the way of Gospel living. Following the example of our Holy Father Francis, six young women entered our Community on September first.

Three of these young women, Kim, Celeste, and Janet, came from the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend. During the entrance ceremony, Sister Angela acknowledged in particular the prayers of Bishop D’Arcy, who often sought out and prayed for vocations to our community during his later years. Sylvi comes from the Diocese of Joliet, and we welcome Rachel from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Anna from the Diocese of Lafayette. From high school vocation days to nun runs, these young women have opened their hearts to hearing God’s call to each of them.

The blessing of our six new postulants comes as one of the many graces of our Jubilee Year, and we look forward to their presence at our upcoming celebrations, including the beatification of our foundress. We are sure that Mother Maria Theresia is interceding for each of them as they begin to live our way of life. Her words speak to our postulants and each of us: “Walk faithfully and be vigilant with the grace of your vocation! God Himself has called and chosen us.”



SUMMER 2013

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From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

We have had a memorable and blessed summer! In June we celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with the Sisters' families. Over 500 of our family members joined us for Mass and a beautiful Eucharistic procession, followed by a picnic lunch. This was a wonderful way to bring our families closer together in Christ and thank them for accompanying us over the years with their prayers and support.

In July we gathered together as a province to celebrate the "Chapter of Mats." St. Francis and his brothers once held a "Chapter of Mats" in which the brothers, who had been dispersed through many lands, brought their sleeping mats to Assisi in order to stay for a few days to share prayer and fraternity. We normally schedule this 3-4 day event every four years. For the Jubilee year we combined it with a Rededication. Fr. Michael Kolodziej, OFM Conv. led daily conferences to help us focus on the graces of renewal.

August brought a very busy and exciting time of vow ceremonies and investiture. We have been blessed with two new novices, four sisters who professed their first vows, and two sisters who professed their perpetual vows. As stated in the concluding rite "...may God protect them always by His grace so that they may fulfill the duties of their vocation with a faithful heart."

We welcomed six postulants into the community on September 1, 2013 which is our largest class in over forty years. I can't think of a better Jubilee gift than these beautiful young women desiring to give their lives to Jesus following the example of St. Francis and Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel.

Please join us in praying for our General Superior, Sister Magdalena, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. We also ask that you pray for peace in our world. I close with the words of Pope Francis, "Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace; all of us are her children! Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!"

With gratitude and in faith,

Sister M. Angela



"I have been informed that recently more members have been received into our Community. I rejoice with you and thank God for His goodness. To the young Sisters I wish God's choicest graces and blessings. May you, dear Sisters, in donning the Franciscan habit be clothed also with his spirit, that as true daughters of Saint Francis, you may worthily wear his garb and thus bring joy and honor to our congregation."

Mother Maria Theresia Letters, Vol. IV – 85

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The long years of World War II were very troublesome for Mother M. Verena, who was the Superior General at the time. She suffered much, both personally and in her concern for the Sisters. Already as early as August 12, 1943, our institutions were targets of the enemy. Between 1943 and 1945 more than 30 Sisters lost their lives as bombs struck various institutions. Of special worry to her was the bombing of the Motherhouse in Olpe on March 28, 1945. The railroads of Olpe were located not far from the Motherhouse and were a target for bombing. One can well understand her distress! Through it all, Mother continued to support the American missions and their development as a province. Only a strong woman of God could have endured this, and our Community was blessed to have such a person in leadership.



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

Meet the Postulants



The postulant class of 2013 poses for a photo just one day after their entrance.



Sylvi Pultorak

My hope as I begin religious life is to focus on the love of Christ, so I can grow in holiness and love for Him and share His love with others.



Kim Davis

I was drawn by Eucharistic Adoration; it is heaven on earth. I was also attracted to the balance of the contemplative and active life of the Sisters.



Celeste Warrell

The joy of the Sisters that pervades the whole community attracted me. It is a joy not of this world that emanates from Christ's brides, who know that they are doing God's will.



Rachel Worden

"Be not afraid." Trust that the Lord's plans for your life are more perfect for you than you could ever make for yourself. The desires in your heart are placed there for a reason, so take a leap of faith.



Janet Hilger

The sooner you begin your vocational search the better. It is very exciting just thinking about being Jesus' bride, and as one Sister told me, "Don't keep Jesus waiting too long."



Anna Hoefler

I really fell in love with our Eucharistic Lord. The Sisters' commitment to Perpetual Adoration was one of the things that attracted me to this Community.

2015 Perpetual Profession

Perpetual Profession



Sister M. Lissetta and Sister M. Angela sign a copy of the vow formula upon the altar of sacrifice.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offers Sister M. Veronica (left) and Sister M. Lissetta (right) the solemn blessing of consecration, by which the Church ratifies their profession.



Sister M. Veronica professes her vows during the ceremony.



Sister M. Lissetta enjoys a moment of joy with Bishop Rhoades and her family during the reception after the ceremony.



To celebrate with the newly professed sisters, visitors enjoyed a lovely reception in the convent auditorium.



Sister M. Veronica hugs a family member during the festivities.

First Vows



Sister M. Lucia professes her vows before Sister M. Angela, Provincial Superior.



The four newly professed Sisters process out of the chapel full of hope and joy.



From left to right: Sister Maria Faustina, Sister M. Lucia, Sister M. Ignatia, and Sister Mary Grace

Investiture



Postulants Patricia (back) and Angela (front) leave chapel to dress in their newly blessed habits for the first time. While they dress, the Sisters pray the rosary.



Introducing newly invested Sister M. Regina (Angela) and Sister M. Joan (Patricia).



Sister M. Joan greets Father Francis during their investiture reception.



Source and Summit

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

150th Jubilee Celebrations: *Corpus Christi Family Day*



In honor of our 150th Jubilee, the Sisters invited their families to share in our annual Corpus Christi procession. Over 500 people came to adore the Blessed Sacrament and then share a picnic lunch with us.



Father Francis incenses the people during Holy Mass.



The faithful adore the Blessed Sacrament at the Lourdes grotto.



Father Francis offers benediction at the cemetery altar.

Our Life *in Pictures*



Sr. Jane Marie was recently presented the USCCB “People of Life” award for her commitment to authentic Catholic healthcare, presented by Sean Cardinal O’Malley, Chairperson of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life activities.



Sister Katharina Hartleib of our German Province visited with four girls to experience our life in America. In this picture they pose with Father Timothy Alkire at St. Boniface Parish, the Sisters’ first foundation in the United States.



One of our community celebrations during the 150th Jubilee included a “Chapter of Mats”, during which all the Sisters came together in Mishawaka for prayer and fraternity. In this picture, the Sisters display their musical stylings in the community “Kitchen Band”!



Five of our Sisters traveled to Germany to celebrate the Congregational Jubilee celebration on July 20 with members from each province. In this picture, the Sisters pray vespers before a statue of Mother Maria Theresia at the Motherhouse in Olpe.



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*



1863 2013

YOUNG ADULT DISCERNMENT RETREAT
OCTOBER 25-27

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT
MARCH 8-9

YOUNG ADULT COME AND SEE
JANUARY 2-5

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