

# HE LEADS I FOLLOW



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

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## Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



## WAKE UP THE WORLD!

— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

WINTER 2015

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE

FEATURE

*Year of Consecrated  
Life: Open House*

SOURCE AND SUMMIT

*The Eucharist and  
The Year of Consecrated Life*

IN-FORMATION

*Formation Classes*

## From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

During this year proclaimed “The Year of Consecrated Life,” Pope Francis has challenged religious to “Wake up the World.” Last year, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life issued a document titled “Rejoice!” In it, Pope Francis has called us to be prophetic witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! He shared three ways in which this call can be implemented:

**Be Joyful** - “Wherever there are men and women religious there is joy!” Each of our convents recently participated in an Open House, and visitors are often surprised to see such joy among the Sisters. It is the joy of doing God’s will – of putting Christ at the center of our lives. Please pray for us to spread the joy of God’s love and mercy.

**Be Brave** – Consecrated life “means continuously making an ‘exodus’ from yourselves in order to center your life on Christ and on his Gospel, on the will of God, laying aside your own plans, in order to say with St Paul: It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Gal 2:20).” Please pray for us to be brave, that we may follow the example of Blessed Maria Theresia and place complete trust in Divine Providence as we follow God’s call to serve Christ and His Church as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

**Be men and women of Communion** – “Fidelity in discipleship occurs and is demonstrated by the experience of community, a theological reality in which we are called to support each other in our joyful ‘yes’ to the Gospel.” We are first called to be firmly rooted in our relationship with God which will strengthen us to be tireless builders of Communal life. “A Community rich in joy is a genuine gift from above to brothers and sisters who know how to ask for it and to accept one another, committing themselves to community life, trusting in the action of the Spirit.” Strengthened by each other we place ourselves at the service of Christ and His Church in education, healthcare, and other works of mercy.

Thanks to our families, co-workers, friends, benefactors, and all those who support our Sisters in our vocation to the religious life. We assure you of our prayers and humbly request that you pray for us and for an increase of vocations to the religious life.

*Sister M. Angela*



*“All that I have and have become to this moment – all is grace. Every thought that invited me to enter the religious life, the courage to resist the temptation to choose an easier life, the strength to overcome all obstacles – all is grace. The will to continue in my vocation – all is grace. Without any merit of mine, the good God, Who is supremely happy without me, has called me because He loves me.”*

*Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel*

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## DID YOU KNOW . . .



“Bishop Dwenger of Fort Wayne must have esteemed Mother Maria Theresia highly also. An incident illustrates this fact, although it is not evident whether it occurred during her first or second visit to America. It had come to his attention that the Sisters had no photograph of their Mother. He influenced Mother Maria Theresia to have her picture taken. Although such was not in harmony with her unpretentiousness, she acceded to the wishes of the bishop. Thus the Sisters had at least one photograph of the Mother they could show to new entrants.”

*He Leads; I Follow, pg. 191*

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## Sister, Friar Novices Learn About Our Lady

Classes pertaining to religious life are part of our initial formation program. Our novices and postulant joined the Conventual Franciscan novices to learn about Mary and Silence in the Franciscan Tradition. These insights were given by the Provincial Superior of the Our Lady of the Angels Province, Fr. James McCurry, O.F.M. Conv., who is also a presenter for EWTN.

Devotion to Mary has always been prevalent in the Franciscan Tradition. St. Francis composed several prayers to Our Lady, two of them being: the antiphon for the Office of the Passion “Holy Virgin Mary” and the “Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary”.

In the “Holy Virgin Mary” antiphon, Francis invokes Mary directly in prayer describing her unique relationship with each Person of the Trinity. The “Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary” was written by Francis at the Portiuncula. In this salutation, he proclaims, “Hail His Palace! Hail His Tabernacle! Hail His Dwelling! Hail His Robe!” Mary carried Jesus in her womb, protecting, nurturing, and keeping Him close to her heart. Mary does the same for the Franciscan order. Francis’ followers continued this devotion to Mary. Blessed John Duns Scotus teaches that Mary and Jesus’ Hearts were so close that they were united in the work of redeeming the human race. By becoming one with Mary’s Heart, we become united to Christ’s Heart and His saving work.



*Father James McCurry teaches our novices and the Conventual Franciscan Novices about the Blessed Mother as she is understood in the Franciscan Tradition.*

## Second-Year Novices Experience Mission Life



*Sister M. Regina looks into the eyes of a newborn baby during her mission experience at one of our hospitals. Both she and Sister M. Joan were stationed at different mission convents in order to learn how to engage in the apostolate. They will return to the novitiate just before Holy Week.*

# Year of Con.

# OPEN HOUSE



# Secrated Life:

TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE, THE SISTERS HELD OPEN HOUSE IN OUR VARIOUS CONVENTS.





## Source and Summit

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

# The Eucharist and The Year of Consecrated Life

“My dearest ones, encounter him and contemplate him in a very special way in the Eucharist, celebrated and adored every day as source and summit of existence and apostolic action.”

Saint John Paul II in *Starting Afresh from Christ*



“Eighty years ago, I left the security of my home and family and entered the convent in Lafayette at the age of sixteen. Sisters nourished me bodily and spiritually thus leading me to perfect love thus showing me how to live each moment as a true spouse of our Lord and a faithful adorer of His sacrament of love. Throughout my life, God provided me with mentors to lead me along the way of St. Francis and Mother Maria Theresia.”

Sister Mary Florence Fedor

“I cannot imagine what life would be like here at the Motherhouse without our beautiful Adoration Chapel. Our Lord’s presence prevails throughout our home. The Sisters come and go after their hours of Adoration throughout the day and night. Mother Maria Theresia’s charism is uppermost in my mind as I pray for the needs of the community, world and all who have asked for our prayers. During my hours of Adoration, my prayer is one of continuous gratefulness for all the blessings received throughout my life. God in His great love cares and guides us in our mission to carry out Mother Maria Theresia’s desire for her Sisters to have Perpetual Adoration.”



Sister M. Blanche Rausch



“When I was 15 years old, Sr. Arlene took me to the convent to experience my first retreat with the Sisters. During the night I went to the adoration chapel and experienced Christ’s presence and overwhelming love in a way I never knew - so much so, that I wanted to give my life to Him as a Sister. I found my home here with Him.”

Sister Marie Morgan

“In the Eucharist, I encounter the living God Who died for my sake and was raised (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15). He provides me with the daily nourishment I need in order to respond to His love by giving all of myself to Him and His Church. My whole day is oriented to receiving Him in the Eucharist: living a life in preparation and thanksgiving for this great gift.”

Sister Mary John Pultorak



# Our Life *in Pictures*



Sr. M. Andrew and Sr. M. Fidelis are very popular among the resident wildlife during the winter months.



Sister Maria Gemma (pictured), Sister M. Lissetta, Sister M. Benedicta, and Sister Mary Joseph attended the 2015 SEEK Conference in Nashville, TN.



Several of our Sisters in both education and health care had the opportunity to attend the 2015 March for Life in Washington D.C.



In January we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sister M. Marita Stoffel. Two of Sister's siblings were able to come celebrate with her.



*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*

**"IT IS GOD WHO GIVES LIFE.  
LET US RESPECT AND LOVE HUMAN LIFE,  
ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE LIFE IN A  
MOTHER'S WOMB." POPE FRANCIS**

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT:**

**MARCH 21-22**

**OR CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT**

