

# HE LEADS



# I FOLLOW

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

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## Sisters Welcome Postulant Courtney Briola



“Dear young friends, the Lord is counting on you! He entered your hearts on the day of your Baptism; he gave you His Spirit on the day of your Confirmation; and he strengthens you constantly by his presence in the Eucharist, so that you can be his witnesses before the world. Are you ready to say ‘yes’ to him? Are you ready? Thank you.” These words of Pope Francis spoken to young people in August reflect the mission that he and recent popes have given to the youth of the Church: to recognize the universal call to holiness, nurtured in a sacramental life, and to follow the particular path by which each of them might live this call.

This has always been the mission of every member of the Church, and it has been recognized for centuries. Our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia, said that the grace of our holy vocation is the greatest grace that could come to us after Baptism. But she knew the journey would not always be easy. She wrote, “Behold my deep longing, see my great weakness; give me what I need to fulfill your commands, and then command what you will; You have caused the desire, bring it to completion.”

For more than a century and a half, young women have been coming before our Eucharistic Lord and seeking the grace to do His will as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. This September, we welcomed Courtney Briola to our Community as a postulant. She asserts, “Since the seed of my vocation was planted and blossomed through Eucharistic adoration, this community, whose main focus is perpetual adoration, very much attracted me.”

Miss Courtney is the first postulant to enter and to follow in the footsteps of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel after the beatification of our foundress! She states, “My greatest desire is to become a humble servant of the Lord and declare with Blessed Maria Theresia: ‘He leads; I follow.’”

The seeds of a vocation are planted in the family. It is there that young women have had their first experience of the Christian life and of the love that gives itself to God and to others. Pope Francis recently said, “Ask Jesus what He wants of you and be courageous! Behind and prior to every vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life there is always someone’s powerful and intense prayer; a mother’s, a father’s, a grandmother’s, a grandfather’s, a community’s.” With the prayers and love of her family in Pittsburgh and her religious community here in Indiana, may the seed of Courtney’s vocation continue to be cultivated by our Eucharistic Spouse.

SUMMER 2014

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## *From the Desk of the Provincial*

Pope Francis has announced that 2015 will be the “Year of Consecrated Life”. The specific objectives of this year are: Gratefully remembering the past; Living the present passionately; Embracing the future with hope. We will be sharing more about this in the next few issues.

I would like to share a quote from the document “Rejoice” which we are currently studying in our local convents in preparation for this special year. It is based on the teachings of Pope Francis in regards to consecrated life.

“It is Christ who called you to follow him in the consecrated life and this 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)....Do not be afraid to show the joy of having answered the Lord’s call, of having responded to his choice of love and of bearing witness to his Gospel in service to the Church. And joy, true joy, is contagious; it is infectious . . . it impels one forward.” (Pope Francis)

In this issue we share with you the joy of fourteen young women at various stages of their journey of giving themselves totally to Jesus. They have made an “exodus” from themselves in order to center their lives on Christ as a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. For this we are grateful to their families for all they have provided for them and for their continued love and support. We are grateful to our Sisters who, by their joyful witness, loving support, and prayers encourage them to a life of total consecration. We are grateful to them for their courageous ‘yes’ to the religious life. And most importantly, we are grateful to God for the gift of our own vocation, for the many Sisters who have gone before us, and for the vocation of those you will meet in this issue. Please join us in our daily prayers for these young women and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Please pray that each of us may witness to the joy of living the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis and Blessed Maria Theresia.

May the Lord bless you with His peace!

*Sister M. Angela*



*“On your part, do your duty calmly and joyfully. Be zealous in prayer, and simple and modest in your actions. That is what Our Holy Father Saint Francis expects of us, his children, and he will then obtain grace and blessings for us from our Lord.”*

*Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel*

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## DID YOU KNOW . . .



During the past four years, over 14,000 visits were made to our Adoration Chapel at the Motherhouse in Mishawaka.

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# Sisters Celebrate Investiture of Six Novices

Sister Karol Ann (formerly Anna) chose the name Karol, the baptismal name of St. John Paul II, in honor of the role his teaching and example played in shaping her faith.

Sister Cora Marie (formerly Rachel), chose this name in honor of Mary. She explained, "Mary perfectly reflects Christ and her heart is a reflection of His own."

Sister Michael Marie (formerly Janet) chose this name because it is a combination of her mother and father's names. Her feast day is also the day of her baptism.

Sister Mary Bosco (formerly Kim), has a great devotion to St. John Bosco. She is especially drawn to his devotion to the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the poor.

Sister Mary Augustine (formerly Celeste) admires St. Augustine for his impassioned and whole-hearted love of God and love for the Church.

Sister Mary John (formerly Sylvi) states the inspiration for this request is from St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.





# 2014 Perpetual Profession

*Sister Maria Gemma Salyer smiles after professing her vows.*

On the Feast of Saint Clare, August 11, 2014, Sister M. Madeleine Shumacker, Sister Maria Gemma Salyer, and Sister M. Anna Joseph Nelling vowed to God to live until death in obedience, poverty and chastity. Perpetual profession of vows took place during Holy Mass to show that the sacrifice is joined to the sacrifice of Christ. Bishop Kevin Rhoades celebrated the Mass along with many priests, deacons, and seminarians.

At the altar, they signed a copy of the vow formula that they had previously handwritten. All sang the Litany of the Saints to beg the aid of the Church Triumphant in helping these sisters live their profession. During the Rite of Profession, the Sisters knelt before Bishop Rhoades as he blessed a ring that symbolizes their permanent commitment as bride of Christ. After receiving their Divine Spouse in Holy Communion, Bishop Rhoades pronounced over them the Prayer of Consecration "... Strengthened by the vows of their consecration, may they be always one with You in loving fidelity to Christ, her only Bridegroom."

*Sister Madeleine places her vows into the hands of Sister M. Angela Mellady, Provincial.*

*Sister Anna Joseph receives her blessed ring from Bishop Rhoades.*



# First Vows



*Sister Mary Anthony Winger made her first profession of vows on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Here she is pictured with her family, who traveled from as far as Washington State to be with her.*

# Renewal of Vows

*Sister M. Petra Nielsen, Sister Cecelia Clare Stoffel, and Sister Benedicta Duna renewed their vows for two years in preparation for final profession in 2016.*





## Source and Summit

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

# The Divine Physician: Healer of Soul and Body



*Sisters and co-workers join in prayer during adoration at Franciscan St. James.*

When the first six Sisters came to Lafayette from Germany, they did not lose sight of their primary charism, and perpetual adoration was carried out in the chapel at St. Elizabeth Hospital as long as that was the motherhouse of the community. When the motherhouse was relocated to Mishawaka, Eucharistic adoration could no longer be carried out around the clock in Lafayette. After several decades passed, the St. Elizabeth Hospital chapel became the site of perpetual adoration for the area. Today, Sisters, coworkers, and visitors join together in Eucharistic adoration at our hospital chapels.

Franciscan St. Elizabeth, Lafayette: 24 hours

Franciscan St. Margaret, Hammond: M, W, F: 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.; Dyer: F: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Franciscan St. James: F: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (alternating campuses)

Franciscan St. Anthony, Michigan City: Th: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Franciscan St. Anthony, Crown Point: 1st Wednesday of the month: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Everyone who pauses for prayer in our hospital chapels is united to the perpetual adoration at our motherhouse, where the Sisters remember prayer requests received at [www.ssfpa.org](http://www.ssfpa.org) and [www.franciscanalliance.org](http://www.franciscanalliance.org).



# Our Life *in Pictures*



Sisters are all smiles as they depart the 100 year celebration of Franciscan St. Francis Health in Indianapolis.



Sr. Mary Gerard looks forward to her daily work-out with Aileen in the enlarged physical therapy room at Our Lady of Angels Convent.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades meets Miss Courtney for the first time at the St. Joseph County Right to Life Rosary for Life.



Sister Dorothy venerates a relic of St. Francis during our celebration of his feast.



*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.

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"OUR SERVICE FOR THE CHURCH BECOMES FRUITFUL ONLY WHEN IT STEMS FROM A LIVING UNION WITH GOD."  
BLESSED MARIA THERESIA BONZEL

