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

Sisters Convene for a Time of Grace and Growth

By Sister Marie

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province held our Provincial Chapter from June 26-July 2, 2010.

The Provincial Chapter is the highest authority in the Province and is convoked every four years. It is divided into two parts: the Chapter of Affairs and the Chapter of Elections. Before the Chapter begins, delegate Sisters are elected and, along with ex-officio capitulars (including the Provincial and her Council), come together in a spirit of prayer and communion to listen and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit regarding the life and governance of the community.

The first part of the Provincial Chapter is a three-day meeting called the "Chapter of Affairs." Its purpose is to protect the spiritual patrimony of the Congregation and to promote renewal within the Province. The topics addressed during this year's Chapter of Affairs fell into three major categories:

1. Consecration - Our relationship with God.
2. Communion - Our relationship with our Sisters.
3. Mission - Our relationship with the Church and the world.

The second part of the Provincial Chapter is the Chapter of Elections. We begin by reflecting on our Province and what has happened the past four years. The next day is a day of prayer, in which the Sisters come before our Eucharistic Lord asking Him to help them elect the Sisters He has chosen to help lead the community during the next four years.

Finally, the last day of Chapter is the Elections. It is a very exciting day! When the capitulars finish electing the Provincial Superior and her council members, the entire community gathers in the chapel for a prayer service in which our new leaders are announced.

After the announcement, in the presence of the General Superior, the new Provincial Superior and her Council take oaths of loyalty to the Holy Father and our superiors to fulfill the duties of their leadership according to our Rule and Constitution.

We congratulate and offer our prayerful support to Sr. Angela, who has been re-elected to her second term of office as Provincial Superior, and her new Council. May the Lord bless them and give them every needed grace throughout their years in office.



1515 W. Dragoon Trail
P.O. Box 766
Mishawaka, IN 46546
574-259-5427

www.ssfpa.org



The newly elected Provincial Council before the altar at the St. Francis Convent Chapel. From left to right: Sr. M. Clare, Sr. M. Marilyn, Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. M. Dorothy (Provincial Vicar), Sr. M. Angela (Provincial Superior), Sr. M. Madonna, Sr. M. Ann Kathleen, and Sr. Jane Marie.

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

Peace and all good! You will see from this issue that our summer has been a busy one --- but a blessed one! We gathered together in May to celebrate our Sisters who have Jubilee this year. Their combined years of service to our community is over 650 years! I am so grateful to God for their presence among us and I thank each of them for their loving and dedicated service as a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. They are a gift to us all!

We have recently concluded our Provincial Chapter. Canon Law states that one of the primary purposes of a chapter is “to promote unity in charity.” Spending a week together in prayer and dialogue and enjoying each other’s company provided many opportunities to reflect on this and to decide on the direction we will take over the next four years. It was a time to be grateful for the charism handed down to us by Mother Maria Theresia and the 1,003 Sisters who have gone before us in the Immaculate Heart of Mary province.

What a privilege and a joy to be able to share the legacy entrusted to us with our younger members.

Trusting in Divine Providence, we put the future of our community into God’s hands and say with Mother Maria Theresia, “He leads, I follow.”

Sister M. Angela



“Now let us be faithful in observing our holy Rule and Constitution. Let us be attentive to and willingly follow the inspirations of grace. Above all let us foster and deepen the bond of sisterly love. Let us respond to one another in affection, loyalty and sincerity.”

*Venerable Mother Maria Theresia
Letter IV – 82b*

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Our recently approved mission statement (see page 8) is built upon our First Constitution of 1865:

“After the example of their holy Father Francis, the Sisters strive to combine the contemplative life with the active in the perpetual adoration and the works of mercy.”

First Constitution of 1865

Editorial Team

Editor Sister M. Jennifer Henry
Design Editor Sister Mary Vianney Grau

Advisory Staff

Sister M. Aline Shultz
Sister M. Lenore Schwartz
Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

Vocation in Conversion: A Temporary Professed Call Story

By Sister Mary Vianney

Like so many others, my vocation story is intimately connected to my conversion. When I was a child, my family moved so often and went to Mass so sporadically that I never had an opportunity to receive Holy Communion. God was always important in our lives, however. Thus, I never doubted that He existed and loved me.

Although I was born in the Dominican Republic, I grew up in a rough area of South Florida. Concerned about my future there, my mother sent me to live with my aunt and uncle in Lafayette, Indiana, where I completed high school.

During my sophomore year, my mother joined me in Lafayette and we began going to Mass regularly. Soon after this, I voiced a desire to receive my first communion. My mother was delighted and asked one of her

coworkers for help. This kind lady, who would become my sponsor, told us about the great parish of St. Boniface



Sister Mary Vianney prepares flowers for May Crowning.

and I began RCIA later that year. One Wednesday evening I went to my RCIA lessons as usual but left completely changed. Father Tim, our pastor,

normally taught our classes, but this day the teacher was our very own Sister M. Jane. I had never met a Sister, so her presence was a bit of a shock. As she taught us, I was impressed with her faith, joy, and profound understanding of fraternal charity. After class, I spoke with Sister and left the conversation with a postcard of the Motherhouse and an invitation to visit.

Although a bit hesitant at first, I did visit the Motherhouse after I received the sacraments that Easter. My first experience in Mishawaka was truly extraordinary – so much so that I cried when it was time to return home! Over the next few years, my admiration of the Sisters' joy and love for the Eucharist increased and after one year of college, I asked to enter the community.

I am grateful for the gift of this vocation and look forward to my final profession of vows in 2011.

The Summer Adventures of the Temporary Professed Sisters



After a great day of prayer, work, and study, the Temporary Professed Sisters stop for a bit of fun on the volleyball court.



Temporary Professed Sisters washed and waxed the house cars for one of their summer projects. Look at that shine!

Jubilate Deo!



80th Anniversary

Sister M. Elizebethine

75th Anniversary

Sister M. Florence

Golden Jubilee

Sister Mary Evelyn

Sister M. Marilyn

Sister M. Carol

Sister M. Dianne

Above: The Sister Jubilarians renew their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The Jubilee Year is an ancient tradition, dating back to the time of Moses. For the Hebrew people it was a year of blessing and the remission of sin. Christianity baptized the tradition, maintaining the ritual of celebrating the fiftieth as a year of special grace, which became especially significant for consecrated religious.



Jubilarians receive the gift of Jubilee from Bishop John M. D'Arcy.



Sr. Blanche (right) and Sr. Rita Marie (top left) talk with Sr. Florence before the ceremony.

Sr. Rose Agnes (left) gather with the other Mass.

2010 Jubilarians
(labeled top to bottom, left to right)



60th Anniversary

- Sister M. Geraldine
- Sister M. Lois Ann
- Sister M. James
- Sister M. Rose Agnes



40th Anniversary

- Sister M. Anita

Silver Jubilee

- Sister M. Rose



and Sr. Rose (right)
jubilarians before Holy

Jubilarians gather for a group picture with
Bishop D'Arcy.

Sister Geraldine poses with Bishop
D'Arcy after the Jubilee dinner.



Source and Summit

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

Prayer After Communion

by St. Bonaventure

Pierce, O most sweet Lord Jesus, my inmost soul with the most joyous and healthful wound of Thy love, and with true, calm, and most holy apostolic charity, that my soul may ever languish and melt with entire love and longing for Thee, may yearn for Thee and for thy courts, may long to be dissolved and to be with Thee.

Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the Bread of Angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and supersubstantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delightful taste.

May my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, Whom the angels desire to look upon, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Thy savor; may it ever thirst for Thee, the fountain of life, the fountain of

wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the fulness of the house of God; may it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee, come up to Thee, meditate on Thee, speak of Thee, and do all for the praise and glory of Thy name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, with perseverance to the end; and be Thou alone ever my hope, my entire confidence, my riches, my delight, my pleasure, my joy, my rest and tranquility, my peace, my sweetness, my food, my refreshment, my refuge,

my help, my wisdom, my portion, my possession, my treasure; in Whom may my mind and my heart be ever fixed and firm and rooted immovably. Amen.



Our Chaplain, Father Francis Affelt carries our Eucharistic Lord throughout the Convent in this year's Corpus Christi procession.

ADOREMUS IN AETERNUM SANCTISSIMUM SACRAMENTUM

“Let us adore eternally the Most Holy Sacrament.” These are the words inscribed in Latin around the marble structure which adorns the monstrance in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel. They reflect our vocation as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

Remembering that our earthly life is only a moment between two eternities, our Sisters do now what we will do in Heaven - gaze upon the face of God.

As our Venerable Mother Maria Theresia once wrote, “Ah, yes, what countless graces the Lord bestows on us during the quiet hours of adoration. Let us fulfill this obligation faithfully; then we can look forward to our last hour with confidence, for in eternity we shall continue the loving labor of our grateful hearts: the adoration of God.”

Letters II-4a



“I can't imagine what people miss - the graces God wants to give to us if we come for Adoration. He gives us everything. He gives us Himself.”

Sister M. Alfreda

Meet our General Superior, Sr. Magdalena

by Sister M. Rose

It is a joy to introduce our General Superior, Sister Magdalena Krol. Sister was newly-elected as General Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration at our General Chapter of 2009 in Germany. Sister came to Mishawaka for our Provincial Chapter and will stay for several months to better her understanding of the English language. Here are some interesting facts about Sister Magdalena in her own words:

I was born in Eastern Germany. Even though the effects of the war were obvious, my childhood was simple and easy. I have only one brother. He is five years younger than I. (Now, he is married and has two adult sons.) As a child, I preferred ball-type games and riding the bicycle. I enjoyed all plants and flowers very much. My grandmother had a flower garden, and I was frequently there as a child.

At first I lived in a small neighborhood of Wolfen. That was a city with great chemical factories: AGFA-Wolfen and IG-Farben. Then my family moved to Greppin, and later, we returned to Wolfen. Greppin was affected still more by environmental pollution, for it was located between two industrial cities. There were really scarcely any green trees, but, there were flying ashes and much dust, and the air was full of bad odors.

I come from no typical Catholic family. My father was Protestant, and my mother was Catholic. Our land was Catholic Diaspora. In our age group as children there were only twelve Catholic boys and girls in the entire city. In our family there was no common tradition of praying together. I went as a child only on Sundays to Holy Mass, almost always alone. Later, I went also on working days to the evening Mass and in October to the rosary prayers in the parish.

Later, alone I prayed the rosary almost daily. I became familiar with the Catholic traditions and prayers through the family of my girlfriend whose parents came from a Catholic region. I was frequently with this family who showed me how to live a Catholic faith life.

Even though I did not have

difficulties in my early life, we had been concerned as children by the political situation and the anti-Church atmosphere. So, as a teenager, I seemed to grow more critical toward the political pressure within the society.

Since I grew up in the DDR, the German Democratic Republic, I completed my high school in the only possible general state-run school system, the Polytechnical High School, but in a special class with expanded chemistry teachings. After that, I completed a vocational training in the Filmfabrik Wolfen (film factory) in the area of film manufacturing. Afterwards, I studied at the School of Engineering, Justus von Liebig, in Magdeburg and finished it with a degree in Chemical Technology Engineering.

While in school, I became involved with the Catholic student community. After the conclusion of my studies, I began the course in religious pastoral ministry in Magdeburg and became a religion teacher. It was during this time that I felt that God was calling me to the religious life. I knew no Sisters, and I also knew nothing about the Franciscan Sisters. It was through reading books about St. Francis that I came to realize that I wanted to become a Franciscan. I asked a friend where I could find Franciscan Sisters and she told me there were some in Oschersleben and Brandenburg.

I drove to Oschersleben without knowing what existed there as a congregation of Franciscan Sisters. God really arranged that! In the year 1974 I was accepted in the novitiate in Oschersleben. (As a result of the division of Germany, there were two novitiates in our Congregation.)

I have been a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration for 36 years now.





Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

1515 W. Dragoon Trail

P.O. Box 766

Mishawaka, IN 46546-0766

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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
Immaculate Heart of Mary Province*

HIGH SCHOOL DISCERNMENT RETREAT:
OCT. 23-24, 2010

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN DISCERNMENT RETREAT:
NOV. 5-7, 2010



"THAT IS OUR GOAL: TO OFFER OURSELVES WITHOUT RESERVATION AS A PLEASING SACRIFICE TO GOD; TO SURRENDER TO HIM TOTALLY, CAPTIVATED BY HIS LOVE; TO OBTAIN PERFECT LOVE."

VENERABLE MOTHER MARIA THERESIA BONZEL

