



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

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It is Our Pledge: The Eucharistic Life is Pro-Life

In Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, we read that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian Life." (LG, 11) The Eucharist is Jesus. Jesus conquered death so that we might have life. (Jn. 3:16) Our life begins with Him and returns to Him. We experience this drama played out in the Eucharistic sacrifice which is at the center of our lives as Catholics.

"I am the way, the truth and the LIFE," Christ exclaimed. (Jn. 14:6) Again in John 6:51, He cries out, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever!" The Eucharist is life. It is our pledge of life. It is our life. If we say we are pro-life, our conviction must be rooted in the belief that Christ is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in this most holy of Sacraments.

Therefore, leading the battle for life which rages through this time in which we live is Christ, who is always present to us in the Eucharist from age to age. There are many players in this battle for life. First and foremost, is Jesus, Himself, who has already won for us the victory over death. It is He who calls us into battle, tugging at the hearts

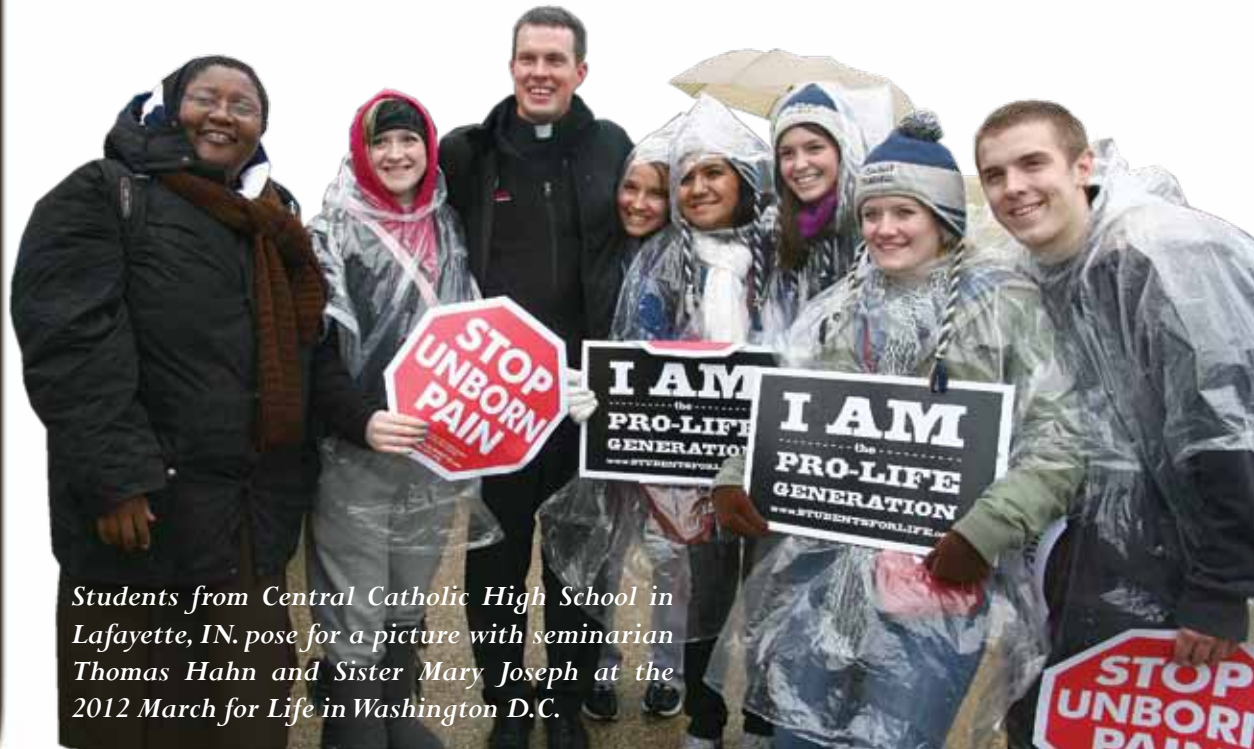
- of doctors and health care professionals who help make life-giving decisions,
- of politicians who have to speak out for truth when it may cost them worldly respect,
- of high school counselors whose words strengthen young girls tempted toward abortion,
- of side-walk counselors who come face to face with hatred and contempt as they try one last effort to save the life of a child,
- of an elderly nun who is suffering yet prays for the unborn during countless hours of adoration,
- of struggling parents who may have to surrender their vision of the future in order to make room for new life in their family,
- and, most of all, of frightened mothers and fathers who are lost and afraid because of a "problem" pregnancy.

Christ strengthens all of us, who are called to wage the war against death. It is a war that has already been won and yet must still play itself throughout time. Therefore let us strengthen ourselves by receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and worshipping Him in Eucharistic adoration each week.



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Students from Central Catholic High School in Lafayette, IN, pose for a picture with seminarian Thomas Hahn and Sister Mary Joseph at the 2012 March for Life in Washington D.C.

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

In recent days Pope Benedict XVI warned of a “grave threat” to religious liberty in the United States that requires Catholics to respond with intelligence and courage.

“It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States comes to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness.” The Pope said he was particularly concerned with “certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion.”

The religious liberty which we have been blessed with in our country is being threatened on many fronts by our government. The recent legislation from the Department of Health and Human Services has announced that non-profit employers will have one year to comply with the mandate ordering nearly all insurance plans to cover the cost of contraceptives and some abortion-inducing drugs. In order to obtain a conscience clause exemption, two of the requirements include that the employees and those served by the institution would be of the same faith as the sponsor. This would be devastating for us! Whether in education or healthcare, we employ and serve those of all faiths.

“We will work hard to fight against President Obama’s total disregard of the long-standing American principle that religion is sacred and the convictions and conscience of religious organizations must be defended. We hope and pray that this regulatory pronouncement will be reversed.” states Kevin Leahy, President of Franciscan Alliance, our health system.

Please join us in offering prayers and sacrifices for this very important intention. Pray for those entrusted with the leadership of our country. Let them know that you want religious liberty and rights of conscience restored and that you want the administration’s contraceptive mandate rescinded.

We also ask you to pray for our Bishops. Endowed with the authority of Christ, they work tirelessly as teachers of the faith. We are grateful to them for their prayers, sacrifices, leadership and guidance on these important issues, and we assure them of our prayers and support.

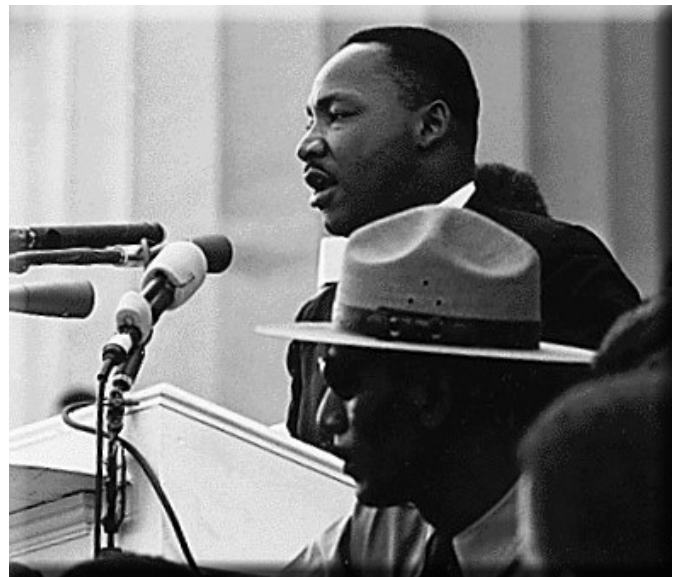
Sister M. Angela



“The Sisters have devoted themselves to their demanding but benevolent profession with exemplary fidelity and tireless perseverance, to persons of every creed and belief, and in far and near places.”

*Venerable Mother Maria Theresia
Letter VII- 8a*

DID YOU KNOW . . .



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. died in April 1968 in our St. Joseph Hospital, Memphis, TN. He had instructed his aides that if anything happened to him to take him to a Catholic hospital. Sr. Rosalita Wetli took his x-ray. Sr. Anna Marie Hofmeyer and Sr. Jane Marie Klein had an opportunity to pray in his room moments after he died.



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

Sister Anna Joseph: Say “Yes” to Whatever God Wants

How would you react if an eleven-year-old informed you of her desire to be a nun when she grew up? Looking back, I think the laughter of my friends was fairly reasonable, considering the infrequency of such statements matched by the 1990’s conception of a religious Sister (via Sister Act).

I had read a book about Mother Teresa that led me to start thinking about religious life. While I remained fairly quiet about it, it seemed common knowledge among family and friends. As the second of five children in a Catholic family, I received a lot of support, even if they (and I) could not always picture it.

I attended a few retreats during high school that seemed to confirm this vocation, but I thought I didn’t need to do much about it until I was “grown up.” By the time I went to college, I felt sure that I was called to religious life but was uncertain as to what community to enter and when.

While studying at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, I met the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. I enjoyed spending time with the Sisters and felt great peace. More importantly, through one of the Sisters and

fellow students, I discovered that prayer lies at the heart of every vocation, and I grew to love spending time before the Eucharist. I also joined a group of women who were also discerning religious life. Being able to share the same experiences with others was a great way to learn more about my vocation.

During my second year of college, I had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. In the birthplace of St. Francis, I felt that I encountered the saint himself and felt called to follow his way of life. Ultimately, I realized that my vocation was a call from God to which I needed to respond, rather than a choice that I had to make on my own.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, I asked our Blessed Mother to help me to say “Yes” to whatever God wanted of me. My thoughts were constantly returning to the Sisters in Mishawaka, and about a week later I asked to enter.

I entered in 2006, and after three years of many prayers and much growth, I professed first vows in 2009. In God’s Providence, the community sent me back to Franciscan, where I currently study secondary education.



Sr. Anna Joseph smiles moments after professing her first vows in 2009.

Mentors Offer Juniors a Tangible Expression of Vows

When a Sister professes temporary vows, she leaves the novitiate community, of which she has been a part for the first three years of religious life.

While she has had many opportunities to interact with the professed Sisters, she now begins to live and work in close contact with some of them.

To facilitate the transition into a convent with Sisters of varying ages and apostolates, the newly professed Sister is assigned a mentor. This member of the community meets with the young Sister on a regular basis, answering questions about

daily convent living and helping her to find a balance of prayer, community life, and apostolate.

The mentor helps the young Sister stay accountable to the vows she has professed and offers support in living religious life. As she grows as a religious, she deepens communal bonds that strive to reflect the perfect love of the Trinity.

The Mentoring Sister offers the Junior a tangible expression of what she has professed in her vow formula: “...with the support of my sisters I will fulfill my consecration in the service of God and the Church.”



Sister M. Delrose (left) meets with Junior Sister, Sister M. Petra (right). Juniors are paired with professed Sisters who guide them during their first years of professed life.

FRANCIS AND THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvellously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.

St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio *Life of St. Francis of Assisi*



Below Left to Right:

Sister M. James, Sister M. Jennifer, and Sister M. Charita peak behind a display at the Motherhouse gift shop.

Friar Thomas and Friar Arturo read names for the Franciscan Friar's annual Epiphany "Saints Extraction", where they assigned both Sisters and Brothers a patron saint for the year.

The novices gather around their snowman on a cold, snowy December day.

Sister M. Dorothy and Sister Mariana smile at the camera while making the Sisters' special Christmas bread.



Left page:

In keeping with tradition, the youngest novice, Sister M. Lucia, places the infant Jesus in the Christmas Crib.



Source and Summit

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

The Strength of Communion: Pope Benedict XVI

“Without the Eucharist the Church quite simply would not exist. Indeed, it is the Eucharist which makes a human community into a mystery of communion that can bring God to the world and the world to God. The Holy Spirit, who transforms the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, also transforms whoever receives it with faith into a member of the Body of Christ so that the Church is truly the sacrament of unity, of human beings with God and among themselves.

In an ever more individualistic culture, such as the one in which we are immersed in western society and which tends to spread throughout the world, the Eucharist constitutes a sort of “antidote” that works in the minds and hearts of believers and continually sows in them the logic of communion, service and sharing, in short, the logic of the Gospel. The first Christians in Jerusalem were a visible sign of this new lifestyle, because they lived in brotherhood and shared their possessions so that no one was in need (cf. Acts 2:42-47). What does all this derive

from? From the Eucharist, that is, from the Risen Christ, really present in the midst of his disciples and active with the power of the Holy Spirit.

And also in the following generations, in spite of human limitations and errors, the Church has continued down the centuries to be a force of communion in the world. . . . But the void produced by false freedom can be equally dangerous, then communion with the Body of Christ is a medicine for the mind and the will, to rediscover the taste for the truth and the common good.

Dear friends, let us invoke the Virgin Mary, whom my Predecessor, Bl. John Paul II defined the “Woman of the Eucharist”.

At her school, may our life, too, become fully “Eucharistic”, open to God and to others and capable of transforming evil into good with the power of love, reaching out to foster unity, communion and brotherhood.”

Excerpts from Angelus Address,
June 26, 2011



Pope Benedict XVI greets the young people at World Youth Day in Cologne in 2005.



For me, adoration is my special time with my Beloved. It seems so natural just to spend time with Him, and while we converse, we remember the needs of the Church, of the world, of the Congregation - and then it is time just to be - together. That is what I especially look forward to during my hours of adoration - just looking at Him and He looking at me. What could be better than that?

Sister M. Corita Last, O.S.F.

Our Life in Pictures



Sister Lenore, principal at St. Boniface School in Lafayette, IN, pictured with two students and Saint Nicholas, alias Father Tim Alkire.



Frolicking in the Fall: In October the Sisters enjoyed horse-drawn hay rides through the convent orchard.



Second-year novice, Sister Maria Kolbe, is stationed at Franciscan St. James Health - Chicago Heights for her three-month mission experience. She enjoys spending time in the Lullaby Birthplace.



(Left to Right) Sister Maria Gemma and Sister M. Rosalita mark their cards during the Bingo party planned by the Conventual Franciscan Novitiate.



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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

Praying for those who need protection and for those who give it.

Young Adult

Discernment Retreat: February 24-26

High School

Retreat: March 10-11

Come & See: June 21-23

"Dear friends, our society, which all too often questions the inestimable value of life, of every life, needs you: in a decisive way you help to build the civilization of love."

Pope Benedict XVI

World Youth Day - Madrid 2011

