

HE LEADS IF FOLLOW

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Immaculate Heart of Mary Province

Jesus In Our Boat: How Adoration Shapes Our Apostolates In Uncharted Waters.

By Sister M. Anna Joseph Nelling

Jesus got into the boat with them. As Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, we have responded to the call to get into the boat with Jesus. Hour by hour, Sisters draw near to the Lord in adoration, offering up the needs of the Church and the world. These needs are current events, spoken requests, and prayers submitted through our website (ssfpa.org/prayer). “Official adorers” pray in a special way for our apostolates along with our co-workers and their families.

In recent months, our Eucharistic Spouse has entrusted us with unprecedented types of service. Our healthcare apostolate has taken on the overwhelming task of serving populations afflicted by COVID-19. Sisters who teach have transitioned overnight to online learning environments. Hospitality has taken on a whole new meaning as we strive to keep each other safe and healthy within our convents. And all of us

continue to approach our Lord in supplication.

Nevertheless, He desires still more. Jesus wants to get into our boat. He does not distance Himself from us. If at times He seems to be asleep, He will awaken at His beloved’s voice. As Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, our time with the Lord is not only a time of supplication. It is, above all, adoration, in which we rejoice that our Lord is who He says He is. We cannot depart from Him as we depart from the adoration chapel. These times remind us that the Lord is in our boat, and our adoration does not stop when a holy hour ends. How easily we can transform our cry, “Save us, we are perishing!” into an act of adoration: “Be who You say You are: Be our Savior, stay with us.”



Sr. Jane Marie Klein and Sr. M. Petra Nielsen.

SPRING 2020

**WHAT'S INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

*Apostolate Exploration:
Novice Mission Experiences*

*Adoration and our
Apostolates*

Source and Summit

Our Life in Pictures

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

Mother Maria Theresia wrote in a letter to her Sisters in America in March of 1882 the following, “Be zealous, dear Sisters, in keeping the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Among all our apostolates, it is the highest and the first. Insofar as we are faithful or unfaithful to it, so will our other works be.” In March of 2020, when our normal way of life began to change dramatically as a result of the pandemic, our primary charism of perpetual adoration became even more central to our lives as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. We began to receive hundreds of prayer requests daily. Many requests were for the health and safety of loved ones, but a significant number were prayers in gratitude for healthcare workers throughout the world. We are so proud of our coworkers at Franciscan Health, who are working on the front lines daily to ‘continue Christ’s healing ministry’ in each of our hospitals. And our Sisters in the education apostolate have heroically transitioned to online learning. But what a sacrifice it is to teach to a computer screen or to walk through the campus of the University of Saint Francis in the middle of the day with no students in sight. It’s not supposed to be this way. And all those serving in administration are faced with planning for an unknown future. As Mother Maria Theresia firmly believed, we trust in God’s providence. He has the plan. We believe that good will come from this time of uncertainty. And we believe in the love God has for each one of us. Jesus came as a healer. He brought compassion and mercy to all those he encountered. We don’t have to look far to see those who are following Jesus in their life of service to others, even if only from within their own homes. Each one of us is called to be heroic, whatever our circumstances may be, through our loving and compassionate service.

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, we assure you of our continuous prayers for you and your loved ones during our hours of Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day and night. It is our ‘highest and first apostolate’ and our greatest privilege.

May God bless you with good health, a deep awareness of His love, and the strength to love and serve others.

Sister M. Angela

**In the words of our foundress,
Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel.**

*“I long to come to you,
but I may not for the time
being. All as our dear Lord
wills! Oh what peace, what
inexpressibly great and sweet
consolation there is for me in
unconditional abandonment
to God, to His Holy Will.”
Letters IV-86*



DID YOU KNOW...

The Sisters in Olpe, Germany devoted themselves to a service of love as the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870. Mother Maria Theresia was ready immediately to send all the Sisters who could possibly be spared to care for the wounded and sick soldiers. The Congregation in Olpe spared no sacrifice and the Sisters cared for more than 800 soldiers.

*Sister Mary John Pultorak and
Sister M. Marcene Franz greet
Sister Mary Amata when they
come to take her to Lafayette.*



IN-FORMATION

Highlights from the Sisters in Initial Formation

Apostolate Exploration: Novice Mission Experiences.

Sister Mary Peter Ruschke:

*Mother Maria Theresia Convent, Dyer, IN:
St. Agnes School, Chicago Heights, IL*

“I was struck by the deep questions the students would ask and their deep hunger for God. I loved sharing my love for Jesus with them. The best part of my experience was getting to know each Sister in the convent. Their openness, quiet witness of prayer and small acts of Sisterly love inspired me and taught me much about religious life.”



Sister Mary Peter poses with the Saint Agnes Theater Club, which she directed, after their performance.

Sister Mary Amata Naville:

St. Elizabeth Convent, Lafayette, IN: St. Boniface Middle School and Franciscan Health

“During my mission experience I was daily amazed by the everyday, extraordinary holiness of the patients, students, co-workers and Sisters with whom I lived and served. It was a joy to give and receive God’s love in both of our apostolates.”

Sister Zélie Marie Warrell:

*St. Francis Convent, Indianapolis, IN:
Franciscan Health*

“My mission experience was a great blessing. I received much joy and peace when I observed the openness and dedication of my Sisters and coworkers in their service to the patients and each other.”



Sister Zélie Marie says goodbye to Sister M. Theresa Ann Long before heading to Indianapolis.

Adoration and our Apostolates

in Unprecedented Times.



Above, Sister M. Cheryl Dazey delivers treats to coworkers at Franciscan Health Rensselaer.

Right, Sister Marie Morgan and Sister M. Mercy Briola prepare to teach a class via "Zoom."

Left, Sister M. Regina DeVreese is ready to serve a patient at Franciscan Health Munster.



Sister Rita Marie Biegel, Sister M. Madonna Rougeau, and Sister M. Julitta Biegel at Our Lady of Angels Convent unite in prayer for the needs of all during this time.



Above, Sister Mary Grace Richey teaches Saint Agnes School third and fourth graders from home at Mother Maria Theresia Convent, Dyer, IN.

Right, Sister M. Evangeline Rutherford works in the lab at Franciscan Health Michigan City.



Left, Sister M. Jacinta Krecek, Sister Mary Evelyn Govert, Sister M. Ignatia Henneberry, Sister M. Marilyn Oliver, and Sister M. Anita Holzmer show their prayerful support of the University of Saint Francis community.



SOURCE AND SUMMIT

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



I'm so grateful that we are able to continue perpetual adoration and attend Mass. During these times we stand before Our Lord on behalf of all those who are currently unable to have communion with Him in this way. It's a great privilege, a great responsibility, and a great reminder of the dignity and necessity of our vocation. To God be the glory!

Sister M. Lissetta Gettinger

Who is not having a difficult time in some way during this pandemic? There are many who in this time and its circumstances feel more burdened by the trials of life, especially with being socially isolated. I have felt a call to deeper solidarity in prayer for them. It hurts to think of their loneliness and need for comfort, to have someone by their side to just be with them, as Mary followed Jesus on His sorrowful way and remained with Him at the foot



Coworkers from the Emergency Department at Franciscan Health Michigan City pause for prayer.

of His cross. At the same time, I pray that no one will miss this opportunity to welcome Jesus into their silence and loneliness, and to grow in friendship with Him.

Sister M. Regina DeVreese

“The peace that comes from knowing the Sisters are all praying for us continually is so comforting! We are blessed to be so supported.”

Franciscan Health co-worker

“Sister, thank you. In the midst of the world where things are always changing, we people look up at the hill, to Mount Alverno, and know that despite the daily changes in our lives, the uncertainties and the insecurity of change, your prayers for us continue. We can depend on you Sisters. Day and night, you are praying for us and for the whole world. That gives us such comfort, peace, and stability. You are our Rock, a constant that does not change.”

Shared by Sister M. Jennifer Henry

Our Life

In Pictures



Clockwise from left, Sisters in the motherhouse dining room participate in the Stations of the Cross with Bishop Kevin Rhoades via livestream.

Sister M. Clare Reuille and Sister M. Jennifer Henry enjoy some sunshine and take care of yard work at Mount Alverno.

Sister M. Ann Kathleen Magiera and Sister M. Janice Kolesiak make hospital gowns and masks at Mother Maria Theresia Convent in Dyer, IN.





Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

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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
Mishawaka, Indiana

