

Volume 5, Issue 3  
Fall, 2011

# The Vine

A Newsletter of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

I am the Vine, you are  
the branches. Whoever  
remains in Me and I in  
him will bear much fruit,  
because without Me you  
can do nothing.  
John 15:5

*Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*



**CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT,  
CHRISTUS IMPERAT!**



*Letter from Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ*

*Provincial Superior*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

With the publication of this Vine, I find myself writing to you as the newly appointed Provincial Superior of the Province of our Congregation in the United States. This appointment can cause a mixture of emotions. Initially, I find fear trying to make an entrance into my soul since Our Lord says, "To whom more is given, more will be asked," but Our Lord also says, "Fear is useless, what is needed is trust." I love the word trust and I love the practice of it even more dearly. I believe that trust is one of the highest praises we can offer any person, especially God.

Therefore, placing my trust in God, I desire the title, "Mother," given to a provincial superior to resonate in my heart. This title is in all actuality a common calling for all women: married, single and religious. Motherhood is not just physical, beautiful, good and necessary as that is, but motherhood is written in the very fiber of every woman.

This is the case because we are each called to pray, nurture, encourage, instruct, correct and sacrifice so that God's precious children, i.e. every individual may be strengthened to discover their true identity and their loving God and Father. With this appointment, I hope above all to live this role for our Sisters.

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HEART OF JESUS**  
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This appointment coincided with my Jubilee celebration of 25 years in religious vows. The actual date for my anniversary was June 24th, the feast day of St. John the Baptist, but with the visita-



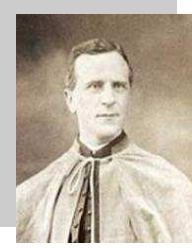
tion of Mother General and our anticipated celebration of 25 years as a Province, my celebration was observed on August 6th, the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Most of our Sisters, my family, many priests, and friends joined us in thanksgiving for the gift and graces of my vocation. My heart thrilled to publicly renew my vows to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Our General Visitation, our 25th Anniversary as a Province, my new appointment and my Jubilee celebration of vows made for a wonderful time to reflect on God's blessings, but gratitude is always in season and opens our hearts and minds to recognize the loving hand of God. May this Thanksgiving unite all our hearts in discovering and acknowledging God's goodness to each of us.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

*Mother Jacinta Miryam Hanley, SSCJ*

Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ



## THE FRUITS OF DEVOTION TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar teaches us that the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the wellspring overflowing with graces from which all can draw; the source which is accessible to all.

The Lord Jesus invites everyone to this fountain: *All you who thirst, come to the water.* Come, arid hearts, and those consumed with the fever of worries and temptations; come, draw from this source the water of life. Hearts, wounded and weak, come to be healed and to find your strength in It. Hasten to the Divine Heart in all your spiritual and temporal needs.

You need not look far, for this Heart lives always in the Most Blessed Sacrament. As many times as you receive Holy Communion, so often do you press your lips to the opened Heart of Jesus.

Hearts that are closely united with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus endeavor to make reparation to Him for all transgressions. They live by His love. With the love of Christ or, to put it another way, with Christian love, they love God, themselves, their neighbor –all besides. Such is the greatest fruit obtained by means of devotion to the Divine Heart of our Savior and what we must desire and seek.

To those who bear and renounce all things for the Kingdom of heaven, the Kingdom of love, the Lord Jesus confers the beatitudes and the promise of possessing not only Himself but eternal happiness as well. Such are the people of the beatitudes: the poor, the sorrowing, the meek and humble, the just, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers and the persecuted. They shall be rich, consoled, filled, granted mercy; they will see

God face to face and will rejoice that He calls them His sons. Here on earth we can experience these fruits only partially, however in heaven does our ultimate happiness await us.

Through the cooperation of Saint Margaret Mary, the Lord Jesus has made sure promises to us that He will show Himself especially gracious and generous towards those who will have a zealous devotion to His Divine Heart. These promises are in some way united to the evangelical beatitudes.

Devotees of the Heart of God will be given all graces necessary for fulfilling the obligations of their state in life; they will be granted peace in their families, consolation in distress, refuge in life and at the hour of death, blessing in their undertakings; mercy for their sinfulness and increase in zeal.



Such promises however of the merciful love of the Lord Jesus should not be understood to be something automatic, superstitious, or like a business transaction; instead it is only with a person's faithful efforts that these promises are attained.

Our fidelity and cooperation with the graces of the Divine Heart are essential to realize these promises.

The practice of the First Fridays of the month should introduce the Catholic to a permanent, frequent and monthly reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, a practice leading to a life in the state of sanctifying grace and in union with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. It is a great grace and it makes us ready to fulfill our obligations and our aim in life.

This practice is an invaluable help to us in daily actualizing Christian love, in evangelizing with the power of Christ's love, acquiring merits, and passing on to an eternal happiness in the grace of God.



## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The rains may have drenched the beautiful greens of Cresson Summit Country Club, but they could not dampen the spirits of our dear friends who gathered on September 9<sup>th</sup> to support our Sacred Heart Sisters' life and mission at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Golf Tournament *The Invitational***.



The gathering began this year with Holy Mass, followed by a delicious breakfast enjoyed by one and all, thanks to a special anonymous benefactor.

Despite the inclement weather, our golfers then enjoyed a morning of camaraderie, sharing, wonderful prizes from so many supporters and benefactors, and even made a short venture into the weather for the putting contest and hole in one shot. The tournament concluded with an ethnic dinner, thanks to the goodness of Jack, Genevieve, and Paul Calandra.



We had a wonderful time and certainly the event aided our Sisters tremendously. We are so very grateful to our **Special Angels of Assistance** who, once again, made this Tournament possible and to so many others and we invite you to frequent their businesses.

We want to express our sincere, heartfelt gratitude for the hard work in preparation for this event by our Golf Chair, Ward

Prostejovsky, and the members of his dedicated golf committee: Richard Prostejovsky, H.C. Lang, Tiger Trimbath, Steve Perove and our newest and honored member, Father John Gibbons, parochial vicar of the Altoona Cathedral.



We also extend our great thanks and appreciation to all our golfers as well as our Tournament Sponsors who are listed on the following page.

### NUNS ON WHEELS...

Would you like to donate a used vehicle...car, truck, van, as is?

While we may need to sell it or trade it, this donation will be a great help to us and you can claim its value as a charitable gift and tax deduction.



The Sisters  
will be grateful!

Thank you for helping us in our mission to be the hands and feet of our Lord on behalf of so many needy!



**May God reward each of you!**

**THANK YOU TO ALL GOLF SPONSORS!!!**

*Tee Sponsors:*

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### CONGRATULATIONS

to our new novice,  
Sister Katherine Ostrom,  
received into the novitiate  
on August 14, 2011.  
We extend our prayerful best  
wishes for her ongoing formation  
under the guidance of the  
Director of Formation,  
Sister Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ



Fr. Dennis Carbonaro  
blesses the novitiate garb

### Celebrate Thanksgiving – Giving Thanks to God

Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ

How do you celebrate Thanksgiving? Can you imagine your family and friends celebrating your birthday, but NOT inviting you? It would be hurtful to say the least. On Thanksgiving, despite the fact that this is primarily a national holiday, let us take time to give thanks to God.

In one parish where I was stationed, the late pastor, Father Eugene Jacobs, invited his parishioners to attend Holy Mass that day – the result? The church was so full that parishioners were standing and lining the walls. The Holy Eucharist is our most treasured gift, an “invention of God’s love.” If attending Mass has not been a practice in your family, perhaps you can introduce a new family tradition this Thanksgiving.

### **The Love of God Impels Us! A Retreat for young ladies in Grades 7-12 (Dec. 9th —11th)**

Presented by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the retreat includes: prayers, conferences, food, crafts, praise and worship, games and more. Held at Sacred Heart Center, 1872 Muster Rd., Portage, PA 15946, the retreat begins Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and ends Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please contact Mother Jacinta at 814-886-4223 to register.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER US**

*when making or revising your will.*

*Our name is:*

**Sister Servants of the Most Sacred  
Heart of Jesus**

*Our federal ID Number is: 75-236-912*

Thank you for remembering us in your shopping!

For the Pantry-Breakfast Cereal,

Meat, Tuna (canned), Cheese

Sundries - Toilet Paper, Kleenex

For the Laundry - Laundry Detergent

Office Needs - Postage Stamps (unused);

Plain white copy paper

Other Needs - Gas cards



## Sharing in Life

By Robert J. Allen

The late Bishop Fulton J. Sheen is quoted as having said, "Charity is a quality of the soul rather than a good deed". What an in-depth look into the person and how we are formed through our actions.

The act of giving is not unique to anyone's race or religion. The great Aristotle wrote, "Giving is never easy nor is it in every man's ability, as to what to give, how much to give, or to whom it should be given to". How true, but what he was lacking in his profound statement is what

Bishop Sheen gives us in his equally profound quotation – "a quality of the soul".

Each person is so very blessed and has not only the physical attributes, but a God-given soul. God lives in each person and we are His heirs; we can call God our Father, and we are His children.

Giving is really about sharing, because everything we have is a gift from God. How and who and how much is up to us. Giving is about receiving, because when we give we are doubly blessed, by God and by the good feeling of having helped someone who is in need.

When we give to the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, our gift multiplies because it touches lives of many people in many ways - people whom we may never meet or even know how we have helped. If the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus can give up their life to God, what can we give that even begins to match this quality?

No matter how we choose to support these Sisters, we are remembered and supported by their prayers daily – a gift that cannot be measured by human standards.

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personal care for your loved one?  
Please consider our

**John Paul II Manor**  
in Cresson, PA  
where our Sisters offer 24-hour care  
in a loving and secure environment.

For information, please contact:  
**Sr. Mary Andrew 814-886-7961**  
[www.johnpaul2manor.org](http://www.johnpaul2manor.org)

## IRA Rollover Passes for 2011/2012!

Good news!

The IRA Charitable Rollover Passed! In "Division C -- the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2011" of H.R. 1424, Congress, extended an excellent charitable planning opportunity for both 2011 and 2012. This act permits an IRA owner age 70½ or older to make a direct transfer to charity. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and this IRA rollover will exist for year 2011 and year 2012. Sec. 408(d)(8)(A).

**THY KINGDOM COME!**

We pray this so often each day in the “Our Father” but do we ever stop to ask ourselves what this means?

We are praying for God’s sovereignty over each and every aspect of our lives – that He would be Lord and King over our personal life and decisions, over our inmost thoughts and feelings, that He would govern every part of our being.

While we know that “the Kingdom of God is within us” and that our Blessed Lord declared that His Kingdom “is not of this world” this does not mean that this Kingdom should not affect our life and consequently our family life and the life of society.

That Christ may reign fully in our hearts, in family life and in society, the practice of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is encouraged by the Church and promoted in a particular way by our Sisters.

What is this Enthronement? It is a public profession and consecration of our home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This practice has been beneficial to so many souls and has transformed many families. The ceremonial of the Enthronement consists of the placement of a picture or statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in a place of honor with a special consecration of the family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This can be done privately by a family who has had the image of the Sacred Heart blessed previously or can be done more publicly in a spirit of reparation for the repeated cry of many, who join their voices to the crowd on Good Friday: “We have no king, but Caesar, away with Him, crucify Him.”

When a priest is present, the ceremonial begins with a house blessing and also the blessing

of the image of the Sacred Heart. The image is then carried in procession to the room where it will be seen and honored. Some make it look like a throne. Others place it above a mantle or on a stand so that they can place flowers or candles before it and/or family photos asking God’s blessing on each member. At this point, the Apostle’s Creed is prayed and then some excerpt from the

Sacred Scripture. If there is a priest or facilitator, a short talk is usually given. (Sometimes even a recorded talk.) Then family members and friends who are able are asked to kneel while the Act of Consecration is recited by family members. Friends may join in this prayer, but it is above all the family members who are asked to do this. Then following, there are a few additional prayers consisting of both petition and thanksgiving. The ceremonial is

concluded by a blessing from the priest and the signing of a certificate. While it is not necessary, this adds to the solemnity and the commitment to live as a family under the Kingship of Christ.

*More information on this devotion will be available at our website: [www.sacredheartsisters.org](http://www.sacredheartsisters.org)*



The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus extend our best wishes to you and your family for a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY** filled with joy and blessings.



As we give thanks to God for all our dear Family, Friends and Benefactors. We offer our Prayers and Gratitude!