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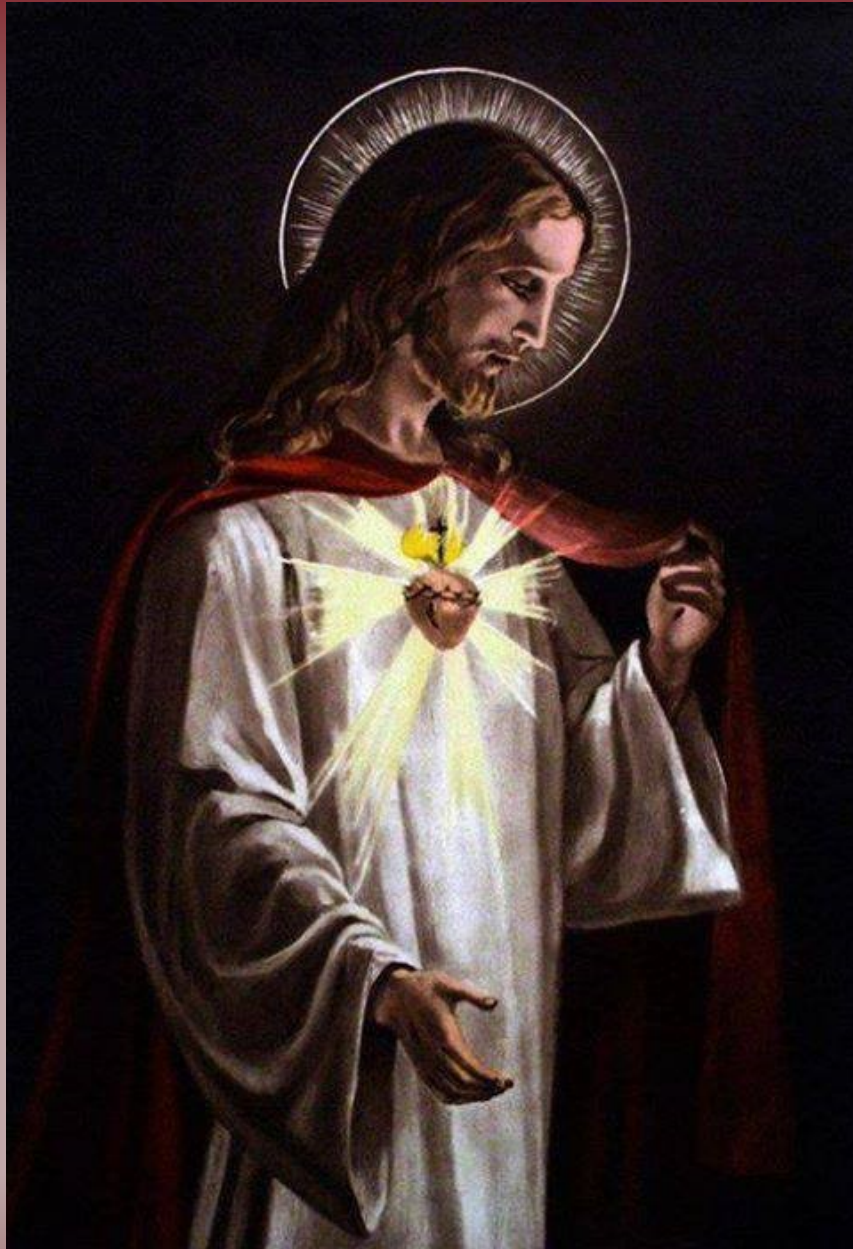
# The Vine

*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*

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

*Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*



**MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS,  
THY KINGDOM COME!**

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



## Letter from Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ

Provincial Superior

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Summer, 2014

Dear Faithful Friends of the Sacred Heart,

With the Feast of the Sacred Heart, it was wonderful to hear from so many of you. We thought it would be most fitting before the Summer passed to reassure you that the Vine has not gone out of existence. The work to extend the branches of Our Lord, the Living Vine, to souls while strengthening our own love and spirituality has filled this past year with many and varying events that have not allowed us to put out an edition of the Vine since last Summer. Although we could devote an entire issue of the Vine to each event, we will try to highlight several major happenings in this edition.

The very image of the Sacred Heart allows us to see at a single glance how the love of God holds out to us the hope of this victory of love over hate, of forgiveness over revenge, and of life over death. Despite the thorns, the wound and the cross, we see His Heart as a burning furnace. And as we contemplate this furnace of love, we realize that a cry of sorrow, a cry of repentance, a glance of trust in His love and mercy can allow that burning furnace to send forth a flame to aid the sinner to confess his sins and receive the mercy and forgiveness of our loving God.

In addition to the various events which we will try to outline for you in this Vine, we have had to undertake some large and costly projects to upkeep our convents. One of these involved our guest house, sometimes called the 'Portiuncula' where, sadly, most of the pipes had to be replaced due to pipes bursting when the furnace died in the midst of sub-zero temperatures. We also undertook an even larger project at our Province House where on rainy days we literally had a river of water flowing that would separate into three tributaries to be sure to water all of our basement! To correct this, we had to have French drains installed around the entire house. The contractors, Hanlon Excavating of Loretto, PA and Knopp & Klatt Excavating and Concrete of Ebensburg, PA both took great pride in their work and we have enjoyed the fruits of a dry basement.

Nevertheless, we now have to secure the house from the top down since leaks are manifesting themselves in our walls and our gutters are in great need of repair and/or replacement. Therefore any financial assistance you can offer to offset the cost of these projects would be greatly appreciated.

Entrusting you to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ  
Provincial Superior

### TO CONTACT US:

#### SISTER SERVANTS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

SACRED HEART PROVINCE  
866 Cambria Street

Cresson, Pennsylvania 16630

Phone: (814) 886-4223

Email: [secretarysscjusa@yahoo.com](mailto:secretarysscjusa@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.sacredheartsisters.org](http://www.sacredheartsisters.org)

Our federal ID Number is: **20-8127262**

## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



From the Writings of our Founder  
**ST. JOSEPH SEBASTIAN PELCZAR**  
(1842-1924)

### THE LOVE OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS REVEALED IN THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

According to St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar, the Lord Jesus, returning to His Heavenly Father, left us not only His teaching, grace and law, but bequeathed to us also His Church, His Mother, and, above all, Himself. In the Most Holy Mystery of the Altar He found a mysterious and miraculous way of dwelling with us. He descended to the lowest step of the ladder of humiliation, veiling not only His Divinity under the sacramental species but also His humanity. Even if we were to have the wisdom of all angels and the hearts of all saints, we would still not be able to comprehend or thank Him enough for this love. The Most Blessed Sacrament is truly the “miracle of miracles” that the Lord Jesus continually brings about in order to remain with us. It is the crown of God’s mysteries and His works, since it is the culmination of the love that the Lord Jesus has shown in the mystery of His Incarnation, His earthly life and institution of the Church. In this way the Lord Jesus remains upon earth until the end of ages, because *loving His own in the world, He loved them to the end* (Jn 13:1). In the Most Blessed Sacrament the love of His Heart reaches its summit.

The Lord Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, above all, for this purpose, namely to re-present in an unbloody manner the sacrifice of the cross upon our altars. Through this mystery, the Lord Jesus is present upon our altars during Holy Mass and remains hidden in so many tabernacles under the sacramental species, everywhere alive, everywhere in His fullness. The Lord Jesus instituted this Sacrament for this purpose too, namely, to be as heavenly food that comes down to us to strengthen us, sanctify us and unite us with Himself, and so transform us into Himself.

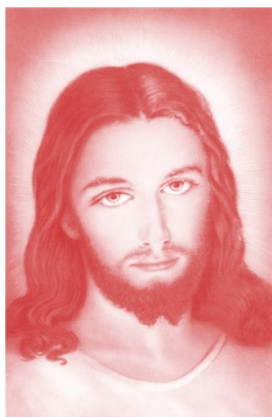
The Heart of the Lord Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament ever remains the seat of mercy, treasury of graces, the fire of holy ardor and school of virtues. The Divine Heart, the Eucharistic Heart of the Lord Jesus, is worthy of ardent gratitude, worship and love. It has been said beautifully that there is a double bond connected in this mystery: one, descending from heaven to earth,

which is the desire of God for us; and the other, rising from earth to heaven in our longing for God.

The Heart of Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Heart of our High-Priest, Friend and Father, beats with ineffable love. At the same time how ungratefully people repay such love! From the depths of the Eucharistic sanctuary is heard this complaint: *How long must I remain with you? How long can I endure you?* (Mt 17:17).

“Oh do not allow that the Lord would complain about you as well,” writes St. Joseph Sebastian. “Pray, and take care that the object of your eager desire will be your daily participation in Holy Mass, your visit each day to the Most Blessed Sacrament, your frequent and worthy reception of Holy Communion and your devout participation in Eucharistic celebrations ... that thus may every act of yours may be united with this Mystery.”

Try to zealously make acts of expiation for the many insults and much ingratitude shown to this loving Heart.



### O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I have asked You for many favors, but I plead for this one. Please take it, place it in Thine open, broken Heart, and when the Eternal Father looks upon it and sees it covered with the mantle of Your Most Precious Blood, He will not refuse it. It is no longer my prayer but Yours.

WITH ALL MY HEART,

WITH ALL MY HEART,

I LOVE YOU!

O Jesus, I place all my trust in You!

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE VINE CANONIZATION OF TWO NEW SAINTS



Our Congregation rejoices in the Canonization of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II which took place on Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Sisters of our Congregation were privileged to serve St. John Paul II in Krakow, Poland during his episcopacy and at the Papal household during his entire pontificate where they served as secretaries, cooks, nurses and household staff. Our Sisters were at his deathbed.

Many Sacred Heart Sisters from all over the world attended the canonization in April. The United States Province was represented by Sr. Ryszarda, Sr. Klara & Sr. Rita.



Our Sr. Tobiana Sobotka, SSCJ personal secretary to St. John Paul II, greets Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.



Our John Paul II Manor community Cresson, PA observed the Canonization Day with a Mass offered by Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, JCD, DD of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and Msgr. Arnold Gaus, resident chaplain. Bishop Mark very kindly graced us with his presence as well as with a beautiful picture of St. John Paul II. What a memorable day for all of us!



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATION



As a Polish Congregation devoted to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, our Sisters are engaged in a 3-year spiritual preparation to mark the 250th anniversary of approval for the first liturgical celebration of the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart in Poland (1765).

Our Congregation was designated 2013 the Year of St. Margaret Mary, a year which also marked the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Province of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in France. Two pilgrimages to France were held in May and September, 2013.

The American Province of our Congregation is particularly indebted to the French Province, as our first Sisters to set foot on American soil were Sisters who were sent from France during the Communist era in Poland.

It was a joy for some of our Sisters from the United States to visit places in France dear to our spirituality, such as the tomb of St. Vincent de Paul and, above all, the place of Apparition of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary at Paray le Monial. Sisters also visited the graves in France of several of our first Sisters to come to America.



On pilgrimage with our General Superior Mother Agnieszka Kijowska (far left) and the French Provincial Superior, Mother Antonina (far right) are (L-R) Sr. Ryszarda, Sr. Francis Clare and Sr. Mary Barbara.

## VISITATION BY OUR GENERAL SUPERIOR MOTHER AGNIESZKA KIJOWSKA



What a time of graces and renewal for the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States February 19-April 7, 2014 as we welcomed our beloved Mother General Agnieszka Kijowska and her Assistant and Secretary, Sr. Sebastiana Choros for visitation to the houses and apostolates of our Province.



The Franciscan TOR Fathers & Knights of Columbus led us in honor of our Lord's Most Holy Body and Blood on Corpus Christi while the Triduum of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was directed by Fr. Louis Kolenkiewicz of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (seen above). There was a Solemn evening Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart followed by a social and fireworks display presented by Fr. Michael Wolfe, of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and his brother Matt, licensed pyrotechnicians. PA! May the Sacred Heart be honored everywhere, even in the skies above Munster Twp, PA!

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Anticipating our upcoming Sacred Heart Sisters' Golf Invitational 2014, we fondly recall the great time enjoyed by all at last year's *Invitational*. The Sisters would like express our sincere gratitude to all who supported last year's tournament. Your concern for our life and work & your love for the game have made this tournament a success each year! May God bless our committee chairs Ward & Richard Prostejevsky & all event facilitators!

## **THANK YOU to the Sponsors of our 2013 GOLF INVITATIONAL**

### *Driving Range Sponsors*

**Allan Diehl, State Farm Insurance  
Ebensburg Yamaha  
Heating World, Cresson  
Next Financial, Don Popovitch**

### *Tee Sponsors*

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Cresson Steel Company  
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1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank  
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Kline Kimlin, CPA 266.8804  
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Knights of Columbus, St Anne Council  
Knights of Columbus, St Pius X Council  
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Miller's Tire and Service Center  
Msgr. John R Sasway  
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Ron Davidson Chevrolet/Buick  
Serenko-Claar Funeral Home  
Portage Service Center  
Pro Disposal Inc., Portage  
Saint Francis University  
Saint Stanislaus Kostka  
Servinsky Jewelers  
Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc

### *In Kind Donations*

Altoona Curve – Rob Egan  
Bedford Springs  
Don Popovitch, CFP  
Ebensburg Country Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank  
Glengarry Golf Links  
Immergrun Golf Course  
Iron Masters, Roaring Springs  
Lena Café, Altoona  
King Valley Golf Course  
Off the Rak  
Park Hills Country Club

### *Sponsor of Titleist Golf Balls*

**Ebensburg Insurance Agency**  
129 E. High Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
814-472-9557

### *In Kind Donations*

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Portage Service Center  
Randy Repko  
Sam's Club  
Sinking Valley Country Club  
Scotch Valley Country Club  
Stager's Store  
Summit Country Club

### *Special Angels of Assistance!*

## **Mainline Pharmacy**

Cresson, Portage and Ebensburg



**Northern Cambria** (814) 948-2848  
**Cresson** (814) 886-6992

**Locally Owned: John Rezk and Terry Bonatesta**  
**24 Hour Service Available**

#### **Services Include:**

**Skilled Nursing (RN & LPN's) - Physical Therapy**  
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Hospice



(814) 946-5017

**Jack, Jenny and Paul Calandra**

**Paul and Marcella Cooney**

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



St. Aloysius Parish, Cresson, and the Bob Biter Electric foursome once again refused to relinquish the Sacred Heart Sisters' Golf *Invitational* Annual Trophy in another undefeated season! Seen here with Mother Provincial Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ the winning champs of our 2013 Golf *Invitational*! Congratulations, Gentlemen!

## THE SACRED HEART SISTERS

invite you to participate in their  
7th Annual Golf Tournament

*The Invitational*

on Friday, September 12, 2014  
at Cresson Summit Country Club.

For more information or to register,  
please call Richard Prostejovsky  
@ 814-472-5928



## IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A SISTER SERVANT OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS?

- Our religious Congregation was founded in Krakow, Poland in 1894 by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Venerable Servant of God Mother Klara Szczęśna.



- We are devoted to contemplation and works of mercy, extending the Kingdom of the Love of the Heart of Jesus everywhere, following St. Francis of Assisi.



- We are a pontifical Congregation who are faithful to the Holy Father and Magisterium of the Holy Church.



GIVE LOVE FOR LOVE!

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Prayer through the intercession of  
Venerable Servant of God  
Mother Klara Szczesna

God, Almighty Father, you willed that your Servant, Klara Szczesna would love You with her whole heart, and imitating the meekness and humility of you Son, would serve the needy and abandoned. Through her intercession, grant me the grace of...which I ask of you, and by this mercy toward me, show that her virtues, together with her hardships and sufferings undertaken for the glory of the Most Sacred Heart of your Son, were pleasing to you, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



## MAY GOD BLESS OUR SR. KLARA On her 25th Jubilee of Religious Profession



“What you hold, may you always hold. What you do, may you always do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust, go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, believing nothing, agreeing with nothing which would dissuade you from this resolution or which would place a stumbling block for you on the way, so that you

may offer your vows to the Most High in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you.” —Saint Clare of Assisi

**THANK YOU** to all at UPMC Altoona Regional Hospital, Health South Rehabilitation, Altoona & Garvey Manor (especially Sr. Joachim and fellow Carmelites of the Aged and Infirm) who so beautifully served our beloved Mother Amabilis! We rejoice in her improved health and remarkable recovery. At 88 our dear pioneer Sacred Heart Sister to America is still going strong and is a “Living Rule” for all of us!



Are you seeking residential, 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: **814-886-7961**  
[www.johnpaul2manor.org](http://www.johnpaul2manor.org)

## LIKE CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THE POTTER: RETREAT/RENEWAL OPPORTUNITIES

**SACRED HEART CENTER**  
1872 Munster Road, Portage, PA 15946  
Registration by the Monday preceding Retreat  
To register or for more information  
Please call Mother Jacinta @ 814-886-4223

October 3-4-5, 2014  
Young Ladies (ages 18-29)

November 28-29-30, 2014  
Year of Consecrated Life begins  
Young Ladies (ages 18-29)

January 30, 31 & February 1, 2015  
Girls Retreat Grades 7-High School

**DR. SCOTT HAHN LECTURE**  
Sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Society Peter Lemke Cncl.  
Mt. Aloysius College, Cresson, PA  
September 13, 2014  
\$5 registration, includes food. For more information or to register, please call 814-472-8814.

**MATTHEW KELLY EVENT**  
St. Francis University, Loretto, PA  
September 27, 2014 — 8:15-1:00PM  
Tickets \$39 per person (Youth \$15) obtained through the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown  
@ [www.ajdiocese.org](http://www.ajdiocese.org)

**END OF LIFE ISSUES: The Dignity of Human Life in our Sick and Elderly**  
Sponsored by Pro-Life Alliance.  
St. Francis University Loretto, PA  
November 15, 2014.  
Provides continuing Ed Nursing Credits.

**MARRIED COUPLES CONFERENCE  
THE COURAGE TO BE FAITHFUL**  
St. Francis Xavier Parish,  
211 Powell Avenue, Cresson, PA 16630  
February 7, 2015