

MOTHER MARY – THE GIFT OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND OUR WAY TO HIM

A meditation by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar (1842-1924)

“Among the privileges that God has so abundantly bestowed upon the Most Blessed Virgin,” writes St. Joseph Sebastian, “the greatest is this, namely, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God, He who is consubstantial with the Father, God from God, Light from Light, took from her human flesh. All her other privileges and graces –her Immaculate Conception, her protection from every stain of sin, her perpetual virginity, her fullness of gifts, her radiance of virtues and Assumption, all these are as rays from a glorious sun whose center is her Divine Maternity...He whom heaven and earth can neither contain nor encompass remained within the virginal womb of Mary...He who feeds all creatures was nourished with milk at her breast...He, at whose mere nod all things are subject, was obedient to her.”

Mary is a precious gift to us from the Divine Heart. Her motherly heart is a reflection of the Heart of Jesus.

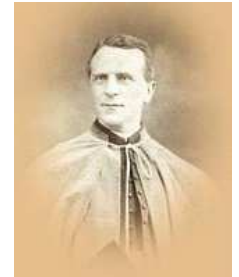
St. Joseph Sebastian continues, “She became Mother at the moment she conceived and gave birth to the Son of God, becoming Mother even to the entire Christian family since the Lord Jesus is our Head and we are His members. This motherhood was ratified on Calvary when Mary again gave birth to us by participating in the pain of the Redeemer. On that occasion, at His words: *Woman, behold your son* (Jn 19:26), the Lord Jesus conferred upon His Mother not only the name but the sentiments of a Mother; He imparted from His Heart to hers the fire of His love. From the height of the Cross, the Lord Jesus beheld His most beloved Mother—her heart pierced with the sword of suffering yet filled with love for humanity. So He desired that she would become the Mother of mankind and bequeathed this to us as His last will and testament.

The Mother of God exercises her motherhood to all people but especially for those who receive this truth with trust. She fulfills her office with such care that the love of all mothers upon

earth cannot compare with her motherly love.

“O, how great and how noble is this Mother! The Son of God was Himself obedient to her on earth; at her request He hastened His miracle at Cana and made her the mediatrix of heavenly gifts. The Fathers of the Church...assert that through her Son’s might, Mary is so powerful that nothing can resist her power as a *Mother on her knees* and her intercession is efficacious. Moreover, the saints testify that our prayers will be answered more swiftly if we entrust them to the hands of Mary since this merciful Mother joins her own merits to our prayers.”

This motherhood and intercession of Mary is an ineffable happiness for all people and thus to each one of us. How can we not give thanks then to the Lord? ☩



Statue of Our Lady donated through the kindness of Mr. Don Finnegan



*Letter from Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ
Provincial Superior*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each religious Congregation sees the formation of their members as a most important factor in the growth of the community. In this issue of the *Vine* we would like to present to you our novitiate and formation program and also introduce our novitiate and retreat house in Munster Township, Pennsylvania.

This subject of formation was also examined among many other areas of discussion during our recent General Chapter in Krakow, Poland this past summer. The delegates at the sessions reviewed the steps of formation—candidacy, postulancy, novitiate and juniorate. We were reminded as well that the formation of Sacred Heart Sisters does not end with profession of religious vows but is an ongoing, life-long commitment.

Knowing how important formation is, we turn to you for your prayers for many good religious, priestly and missionary vocations

in the Church, and for all those who are already in formation.

This newsletter also features our latest events, such as the silver jubilee of one of our Sisters,

From Vita Consecrata:

To say "yes" to the Lord's call by taking personal responsibility for maturing in one's vocation is the inescapable duty of all who have been called. One's whole life must be open to the action of the Holy Spirit, traveling the road of formation with generosity, and accepting in faith the means of grace offered by the Lord and the Church. Formation should therefore have a profound effect on individuals, so that their every attitude and action, at important moments as well as in the ordinary events of life, will show that they belong completely and joyfully to God.

a successful and enjoyable golf tournament, and a vocation story.

Certainly, so much is happening in our lives and even the change of seasons shows us the passing of time, and yet through all these changes, we hope to grow in ever greater love for God and neighbor and in friendship with one another.



You are a part of our life and mission which is for the greater glory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and we are so very grateful for your support and generosity on our behalf. May God bless you!

M. Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ

Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ
Provincial Superior



Delegate Sisters participating at the General Chapter, July 2010



To contact us:

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

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Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Newly-Elected General Administration of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

On July 13, 2010 at our Generalate in Krakow, Poland, in the presence of Bishop Jozef Guzdek, the General Chapter re-elected our General Superior, Mother Agnieszka Kijowska. On many occasions in previous years, Mother has visited our Province in the United States. We await her next visitation of our American province during the following year, which will coincide with the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of our Province dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I fall at your feet, Lord Jesus, and I entrust these Servants to your Heart. Vivify them with your love and give them a true religious spirit; bless their work, increase their number. I give this group to your Heart.
—St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar

Our Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, was founded in 1894 in Krakow, Poland, by Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and the Servant of God Mother Klara Szczesna.

Ours is a contemplative– active religious community of pontifical right, incorporated into the Franciscan family, whose aim is the worship the Triune God in the Mystery of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the spread of the Kingdom of that Heart in daily living.

The Sisters profess public vows of chastity, poverty and obedience and live family life in the religious community. As a sign of our religious consecration we wear the religious habit with the symbol of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on our scapular.

XVIII ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE CONGREGATION MEETS IN KRAKOW, POLAND

Every six years, our Congregation holds its General Assembly called the General Chapter consisting of Sisters representing the various countries in which we serve. The aim of the General Chapter is to evaluate the spiritual and apostolic activity in regard to the charism of our Congregation; the Sisters' formation at all levels; temporalities; and suggestions submitted by the Sisters for the future and growth of our religious family.



Moments of Recreation and Sharing...



Presently our Sisters are represented in eight countries where we perform works of charity on behalf of the moral formation of girls, the care of the poor and sick, religious training of children and youth, and work in parishes and church institutions. Our ideal and motto is:

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! ❧

THE INVITATIONAL 2010



On September 10, 2010, the Sacred Heart Sisters' Third Annual Golf Tournament *The Invitational* was held at Cresson's Summit Country Club.

Fortunately, as the weather is improving each year so also grows the excitement and participation

24 foursome teams took to the green to enjoy the game and to support the life and work of our Sisters.

The cup was won this year by the Mainline Pharmacy team: (Jerry Moschgat, John Zack, Mike Springer and Buddy DeYulis).

The Sisters are grateful for all the hard work of our Golf Committee:

Ward Prostejoveky; Richard Prostejovsky; H.C. Lang, Tiger Trim bath; TJ Trim bath; Jerry Moschgat, Steven Perove, and Sr. Mary Andrew Hooper, SSCJ.

After working up an appetite, our golfers enjoyed a delicious meal sponsored by the Jack Calandra Family of Cresson, PA.

The Sisters thank all who have contributed in any way to make our golf tournament, *The Invitational*, such a success. We offer our prayers and gratitude to all. God bless you all!

**Hope to see you at our next
Golf Invitational
To be held on September 9, 2011**

Special thanks goes to our

Angels of Assistance:

Mainline Pharmacy; Resta Home Health; Jack, Jenny, & Paul Calandra; Trish Hooper and the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.



Sponsors:

Resta Home Health; Mainline Pharmacy; Summit Country Club; Iron Masters; Laurel Toyota; Ebensburg Yamaha; Robert Allen; DelGrosso Family, T. J. Ostrom.

Tee Sponsors:

St. Aloysius Parish; Ralph J Albarano & Sons, Inc.; Bob Biter Electrical Enterprises; Brotemarkle Insurance; Cambria County Federal Savings and Loans; Cresson Steel Company; Damin Printing, Ebensburg; DeGol Carpeting, Duncansville; First Summit Bank; Franciscan Mission Store; James Drug Store; Jenmar Corporation; Kline Kimlin, CPA; Knights of Columbus 551, Altoona, PA; Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X Council, No. 3899; Knights of Columbus, St Anne Council 4259; Mainline Medical Associates; Mark A. Serenko Funeral Home; McAneny Brothers; Mikehavrx.com; Newborn Enterprises, Altoona; Next Financial; PEROVE Wealth Mgmt.; Portage Service Center; Pro Disposal



**Another Golf Tournament a great success!
Congratulations to the winning team
—Mainline Pharmacy!**

Inc.; Reilly Creppage, Inc. Altoona; Rezk Medical Supplies; St Stanislaus Kostka Brotherhood; Gary Sefchok & Associates; Servinsky Jewelers; Stager's Store; St. Francis University and Wilkinson Bus Lines, Inc.

In Kind Donors:

Amici's; Staples, Altoona; 1st Summit Bank; Bedford Springs; Ebensburg Country Club; Glengary Golf Links; Immergrun Golf Course; Iron Masters; Roaring Springs; King Valley; Parkhills Country Club; Seven Springs Mountain Resort; Scotch Valley Country Club; Sinking Valley Country Club; Summit Country Club; Windber Country Club Valenty Bottled Water.

Our golf tournament could never have happened without your kind and generous support! Thanks to one and all! 🍷

My Journey to Religious Life with John Paul II and Mother Teresa

Others sometimes ask me how I received my call to religious life. Though I am only just beginning the journey, I can see how mysteriously God has worked in my life through various circumstances. Two very important people who have influenced my vocation in a special way are Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa.

I like the fact that Pope John Paul II and I share the same birthday, May 18th. I have always felt a closeness to him but never really expected to see him in person. My dream came true in 1995 when my Mom and I attended his Papal Mass at Camden Yards in Baltimore. In his homily, the Pope encouraged the youth to “always be convincing witnesses to the truth” and to “light the world.” John Paul II was a special light in Maryland that day and another light was soon to come.



Sr. Teresita with her family at our novitiate house in Munster

About a month later my family received a call from a friend who informed us that Mother Teresa was in the area en-route and would be speaking at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. Of course, you can imagine our amazement when the next day we found ourselves seated in the front row of the small auditorium where Mother Teresa was to speak. My mind fails me in recalling what

she said, but a memory that has never left me is of the peace and joy that emanated from her tiny figure and touched my heart in a profound way.

Eight years later, I had the privilege of attending two silent weekend retreats run by the Missionary of Charity Fathers founded by Mother Teresa. This was a life-changing experience for me because it revealed to me the secret of Mother Teresa's spirituality. For the first time in my life I understood that Jesus' words on the cross “I Thirst” were not only a plea for my love but also revealed His infinite love for me and for each soul. From the day she received her “call within a call” to serve the poor until the day of her death, Mother Teresa was driven by the certainty that God and man thirsted to be loved. Her mission to satiate this Thirst became my inspiration and, in time, God led me in an unexpected way to discover how He wanted me to continue this work.

Shortly before I completed high school, a Missionary of Charity priest asked me if I had ever considered religious life. I guess I had never given it much thought until that time, and the more I prayed about it the more Jesus whispered to my heart that I was meant to be His. I began to call and write to various orders and I was convinced for a while that I was destined to be a Missionary of Charity. The Lord didn't waste time in letting me know He had other plans.

Ten years after Mother Teresa visited Mount St. Mary's, I began attending the same college. One day I was waiting in a lobby for my class to start and was looking at the literature on display. Among the campus activities fliers and job opportunity posters was a small pile of plain postcards addressed to the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. I had never heard of this order but the name was fascinating and they were right in PA so I mailed in my address and gave it little thought until later in



the year. Near the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady, I received a letter from the vocation director Sr. Mary Joseph, SSCJ. The descriptions of her own experience as a Sacred Heart Sister and the charism of the order immediately struck a chord in my heart. What better way to encounter Christ's Thirst than through His Sacred Heart! After my initial visit a few weeks later I knew where my home would be. Thanks be to God, I have just begun my second year of novitiate and I'm awaiting the day when I too, like my namesake, will be able to call Jesus “My Crucified Spouse.”

John Paul II canonized Bishop Pelczar, founder of our order on May 18th, 2003, the same year that Mother Teresa was beatified. The words that the Holy Father spoke to the Missionaries of Charity also ring true for our Founder. The Pope asked: “Where did Mother Teresa find the strength to place herself completely at the service of others? She found it in *prayer* and in *the silent contemplation of Jesus Christ, His Holy Face, His Sacred Heart.*” God works in mysterious ways in everyone's life. He determines our vocation from birth but He often uses human instruments to bring about its fulfillment. May we like John Paul II and Mother Teresa allow God to use us as instruments in fulfilling His perfect Will and satiating His Thirst for souls. ☕

By: Sr. Teresita Major

SAVE THE DATE-February 12th, 2011

Doors Open at 5 p.m.
Reception begins at 6 p.m.
Dinner served at 7 p.m.

*The Imperial Room,
2443 New Germany Rd., Ebensburg, PA*

*LIVING THE DREAM: The heritage of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the U.S.
This is also a great event to take that special someone to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.*

Dinner will feature delicious food, and a variety of items for silent and live auction, a drama, and the "Singing Sisters."

We need your help and support and there are different ways you can assist us. Please consider becoming a sponsor at the level of your choosing or by donating a gift for the silent and live auctions. Your monetary donations will support the Sisters' life and apostolates.

The Sisters are again offering their culinary gifts. For the silent and live auctions, we are collecting different baskets, gift certificates, vacation opportunities (for a week or weekend,) game tickets (Steelers, Pirates, Penguins, etc) or Golf Passes. Gift Baskets or single gifts should range between \$50 - \$200.00.

To contact us:

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Second Annual Dinner/Auction 2011
Mrs. Betty Sloan-Chairperson
856 Cambria St.
Cresson, PA 16630-1713
Ph: (814) 886-7961

THE SISTERS EXTEND
A SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO

Ms. Trish Hooper
who obtained
Pittsburgh Penguins Tickets
For our Sisters'
Annual 2010 Dinner

RAFFLE HOMEMADE QUILT

"Jacob's Ladder"

Donation \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Drawing held
February 12, 2011
at 9:00 PM
at our Second Annual Dinner

Winner need not be present to win



Quilt crafted and donated by:
Cathy McCoy of Arlington, TX

We would like to express our thank you to all those who remembered the Sisters on their trip to the store in purchasing needed paper products. Please know how helpful this is for us. We always appreciate your donation of:

- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- #10 Envelopes
- Bathroom Tissue
- Paper Plates
- 8 1/2 x 11 White Copy Paper
- Address Labels

Be assured of our gratitude

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Do You Have a Will?

Do you have a legal Will? This is a question that needs to be answered, because each year over 50% of Americans die without a Will. I think there are three main reasons why this happens and not necessarily in this order. 1. I don't have a Will because I don't have anything. 2. I don't know an attorney and besides it costs too much. 3. If I make out a Will, I'm tempting fate and I'm going to die.

The only correct assumption in any of these reasons is: yes, you are going to die. How, when, and where is only for God to know.

Please, seek out an attorney and draw up a Will. This is not only good planning; it's good stewardship and will be a great gift to your family. A Will is not that expensive and is not that time consuming. Most attorneys have a form to help you and it can be completed in the privacy of your home. It will greatly help you and the attorney to complete your Will in a matter of a short visit with an attorney.

As to not having anything – everyone has possessions and maybe when we take inventory of all the “stuff” we have we realize what really

owns us – stuff.

Making out a Will is a great time to evaluate how much stuff we have, and with whom we want to share it. Often a percentage is a good way, because you don't know when you're going to die or what the value of the estate will be worth. In most cases, family will come first, but also consider the Church and other charities. If not a percentage, then name them to receive the “residue.” Please consider the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in your Will.

Robert J. Allen

Wishing God's Blessings on
SISTER FAUSTINA
(Brigid Adele Prosser)
Who entered the novitiate on
August 14, 2010

INTRODUCING OUR NOVITIATE COMMUNITY, MUNSTER, PA

Professionals will often look back fondly on the early days of training: doctors recall medical school, teachers their college studies, priests, the seminary, and soldiers speak of “basic training.” So also we, as religious Sisters, remember the days of our novitiate, that beautiful time of grace and formation before our profession of vows. “God's boot camp” it's been called, and the novitiate serves the indispensable role of training and testing. It is at once arduous and ardent and must build a strong foundation to withstand the storms of life ahead.

Our novitiate house in the United States is located on 24 acres in Munster Township, Pennsylvania, a beautiful rural area that lends itself well as a quiet and peaceful haven for prayer and study for the novices. There is a beautiful chapel there, where the novice can encounter the love of God and discern her true self

before Him and the novitiate refectory where the Sisters share their day and themselves at common meals and recreations. Of course there is also the classroom for learning the many subjects of human, theological and religious formation that go into forming a religious after the Heart of Jesus.

Our novitiate house also includes a retreat house to accommodate our Sisters' community gatherings and annual retreats and is used year-round for weekend retreat for individuals or various groups.



The novitiate and retreat house setting includes fields, a pond and even a stretch of woods where Sisters and retreatants can meditatively ponder God's love and His goodness.

At present we have two nov-

ices at our novitiate preparing for religious profession: Sr. Teresita Major-Campsie (2nd year) and Sr. Faustina Prosser (1st year). We are grateful to God for their “Yes” to His call and we ask that you remember them in your prayers that they will grow in grace and wisdom.

The novitiate fulfills an indispensable role in formation and is conducted under direction of the novice mistress. Sr. Jacinta Miryam Hanley, SSCJ, serves presently as novice mistress, advising and instructing the novices in the living of the religious life in the spirit of our Congregation's charism. Having a full schedule with her obligation as local superior and novice mistress, Sister also helps in the local parish office and coordinates our lay associate program, *Rays of Merciful Love*. Sister can also be seen occasionally playing the organ in the local parish, but always and everywhere sharing her joy and smile.

(See NOVITIATE, p. 8)

*Please remember us when
making or revising your will.*

*Our name is:
Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of
Jesus*

Our federal ID # is:

75-236-912



We wish Sister Francis Clare all God's blessings and graces on her Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession!

Novitiate (Cont'd)



L to R: Sr. Jacinta Miryam & Sr. Klaudiana

Our novitiate grounds are maintained by the hardworking and enthusiastic gardener Sr. Klaudiana Jozefowicz who enjoys keeping the grounds at our novitiate and Provincialate looking beautiful. Her long years of experience as a surgical nurse have prepared her well to keep our flowerbeds, lawns and shrubbery in good order.

Sister is also a very good caregiver to our pets – our gentle dog, Dusty; our bird, Joseph; and to all outside creatures in need.



CONGRATULATIONS

**TO SR. FRANCIS CLARE FLAHIVE, SSCJ
ON HER 25TH JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION**

On August 2, 2010, together with invited priests and guests, our Province celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sister Francis Clare at our Novitiate Chapel in Munster Twp., Pennsylvania. Father John Francis Brezovec was main celebrant and homilist for the Jubilee Mass, after which a special dinner was held in Sister's honor. Sister Francis Clare belongs to the John Paul II Manor community where she has been serving for many years in the apostolate of personal care. 🌹



Nuns on Wheels Program

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 to the extent the law allows. The Sisters will be grateful.

Another Sister belonging to the novitiate house community is Sr. Maria Anna Melody, SSCJ who helps with household duties, sews for the Sisters, and organizes craft activities at our John Paul II Manor. Having a great talent in working with children, Sister participates in camps and retreat work.

During the novitiate, the formation program includes:

STUDY of the religious life and the understanding of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience as found in the Holy Gospel and in accord with canon law, the teaching of the documents of the Church and our Congregation's Constitutions. This also includes daily, required spiritual reading, opportunities to attend religious conferences and other events, workshops, and individual lectures.

DIALOGUE and sharing insights and questions with the novice mistress;

FIDELITY to prayer life, recollection and ongoing conversion through the sacraments and days of retreat;



L to R: Sr. Teresita, Sr. Maria Anna and Sr. Jacinta Miryam

COMMUNITY life, living in peace, mutual understanding and joy with the other members of the novitiate and local community.

The novitiate is a time of special graces and blessings. May our novices deepen their love and generous response to the Lord and give themselves unreservedly to His service! 🌹