

Volume 6, Issue 1  
Spring, 2012

# The Vine

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

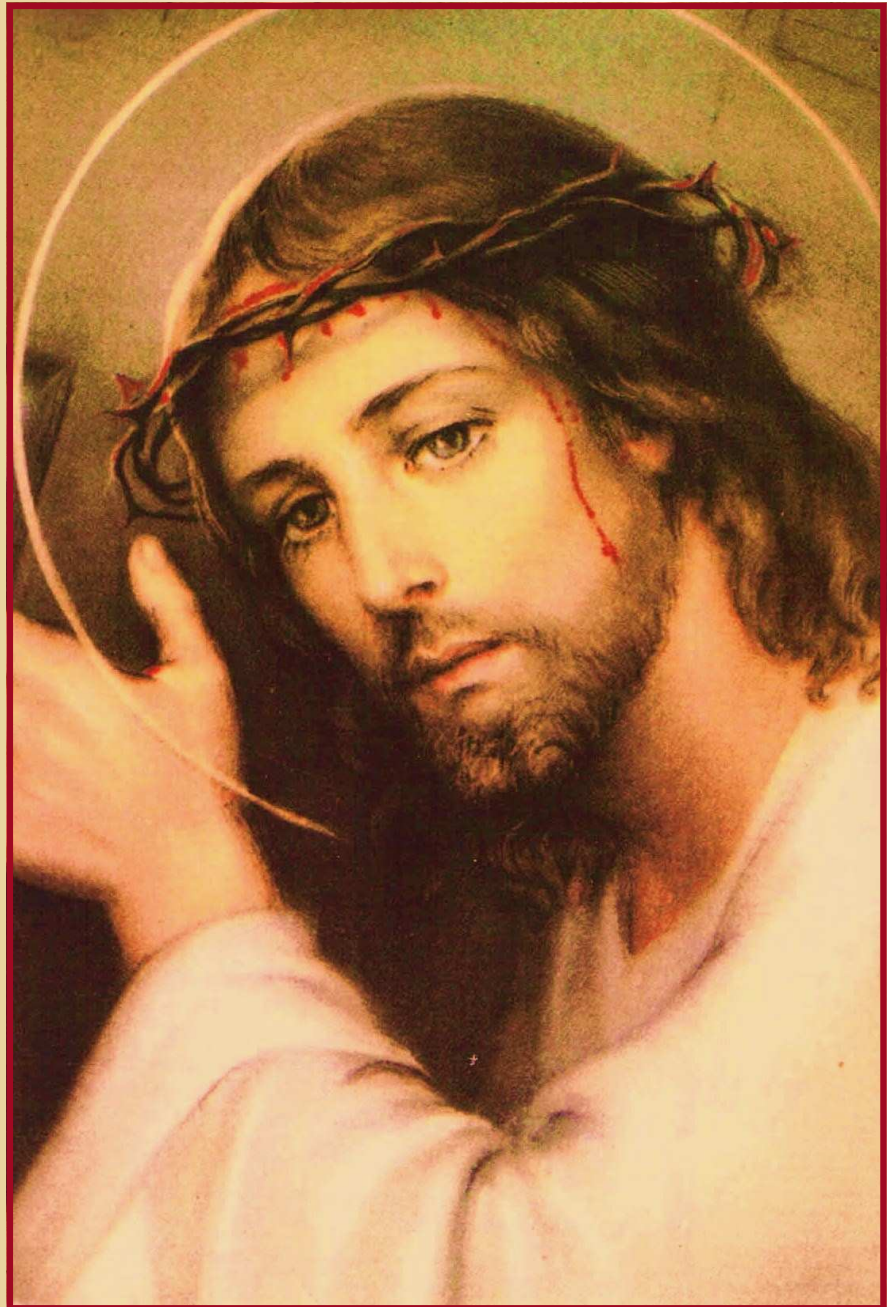
I am the Vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

*Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Save Us,  
**SAVIOR**  
of the World

For By Your  
**CROSS**  
And Resurrec-  
tion  
You Have  
Set Us Free





## Letter from Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ

Provincial Superior

### Making sense of suffering

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In my enclosed cover letter, I referred to the prayer of Our Lord that we find upon His lips in the Garden of Gethsemane. I also mentioned that so many of your personal intentions have made us want to cry out that the cup not have to be drunk by you.

The cup of suffering, ie., the crosses that befall each of us are a reality of life that has been a point of frustration that even finds many closing the door of their hearts to God. "If God is good, than why can this happen?" Questions like this have been asked throughout the history of the Church and even before the birth of Jesus.

I have found that St. Paul brings a wonderful insight and clarity to this question of suffering when he defines the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. We know that suffering entered this world with original sin. It is an immediate result of sin but in all truth it can also be seen as a gift. For example, let us consider a broken ankle. Because of the pain that accompanies the break we recognize something is wrong. Upon recognizing a broken bone we can than seek healing. At this point, we often voluntarily take on pain of a lesser intensity when we agree to use crutches to get around. For those of you, who have

used crutches, you know that all to often the use of crutches can cause the hands and arm to ache; sometimes we even develop blisters because the hands are taking on the weight of the body to allow the ankle to heal.

I find that if I consider this example, I have some insights into suffering.



Mother Jacinta Miryam with aspirants Abby Igou, Katie Hunter; postulante Abby Roy, & novice, Sr. Katherine Ostrom

The human race is truly considered one mystical body. In our example, we saw that pain accompanied the breaking of the ankle. We may take this for granted, but I met a woman looking at a possible amputation of her foot because she did not have pain receptors in her body. She had broken her ankle early in the morning, but never recognized this and walked around all day without attending to it, causing additional complication and an infection. The experience of pain or suffering can than be seen as a gift and this is especially the case where sin is involved. The pain of sin alerts us to the harm that it is causing our soul and impacting on others.

We also saw in the example that the arm and hands made it possible for the ankle to heal by taking on the weight of the body and making movement possible. But remember this involves inconvenience since the hands are limited with how much they can carry and do while working the crutches, and, in addition, the hands and arms often have to endure aches, calluses and/or blisters. Likewise, often God asks us to go the extra mile, endure pain or suffering brought on by someone else's sin so that the healing grace of God can be effective in them. Some of you do it exceptionally well and so God seems to call upon you continually to take on crosses to bring healing to other members of Christ' mystical body. Know also that just as taking an aspirin to assist the aching foot will also lessen one's headache, so your prayers and acts of charity bring strength and consolation to the Church.

To contact us:

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OF THE MOST SACRED  
HEART OF JESUS**  
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# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

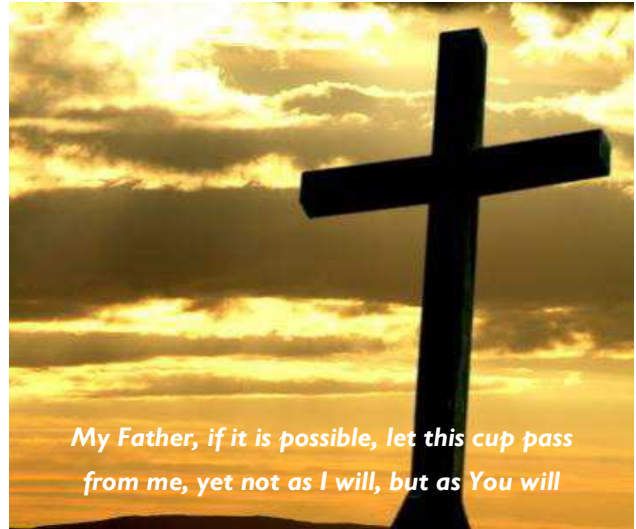
Continued from page 2

That aspirin or medicine that we referred to are made available to the Church in the form of thoughts words and deeds, or as the Church puts it during Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The foot may know nothing about the mouth taking medication or recognize the work of the hands, but it still benefits, so even should you be consigned to remain homebound or incapable of an active role in your community, your prayers, your kind words, your sacrifices are making it possible for souls, too broken to change on their own, to be forever indebted to you for your spiritual assistance.

However, in the light of Christ's Passion someone might ask, "Isn't the suffering Christ endured the means of our redemption? Aren't we making ourselves the savior when we attribute the healing of members of the Church to our sufferings and prayers?" Again I find the words of St. Paul coming to mind. He wrote "I make up in my body, what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ." Those words sound preposterous until we recognize that St. Paul is referring to the Mystical Body of Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ's Passion has obtained all graces but He has joined Himself to us as our Head. In our analogy of the ankle, Jesus Christ serves as the blood with all the means to heal the bone, but He gives us the privilege of joining with Him in making this blood effective through our cooperation. By 'making up' for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, we are referring to the members of Christ's body, not the Head. And so our ability to serve (like the hands and arm in our analogy) as the crutch, allows God's healing grace to restore and save the ankle, i.e., the sinful member of His body as only Christ can do.

So be of good cheer, stand firm in hope, and let us all take up our cross, believing that God's ways are above our ways and that He can bring good out of every evil, material or moral, in whatever form it takes and let us support each other in prayer.

*Mother Jacinta Miryam Hanley, S.S.C.J.*



## THE SISTERS INVITE ALL to attend LENTEN LAMENTATIONS (Gorzkie Zale)

in honor of the Passion of Christ, at the Sisters' Chapel, 866 Cambria Street, Cresson. Lamentations begin at 7:00PM on each Sunday of Lent, preceded by all-day Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and 6:30 Rosary.  
All are welcome!



The happy occasion of the January 26, 2012 visit of our Bishop, Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, D.D., J.C.D. at our Provincial House in Cresson, PA.



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



As we begin the New Year, we are excited to welcome Mary Kay Swenson as the new Director of Stewardship for the Sisters of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States. Mary Kay will carry on the fundraising efforts begun by her father, Bob Allen, with whom she has worked for the past six years.

Mary Kay holds a four-year certification in Comprehensive Biblical Studies from the University of Dallas School of Ministry. She has been married to her husband, Barry for 27 years and they have four teenage children. Their family resides in Arlington, Texas.

Mary Kay has worked with non-profit development for over twenty years. Her experience has included operating her own direct mail company, Piece by Peace; grant research and writing; capital campaign involvement; major gift funding and event planning. She is presently working also with the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Arlington, Texas, Saint Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Oklahoma and Saint Emma Monastery in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

When asked about her choice of work, she responded that to her this is a ministry, a response to God's call. She hopes to help tell the story of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and to invite others to respond to the needs of the community.

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**

## SUGGESTED READING

In this issue of *The Vine*, we would like to recommend the following for your spiritual reading, especially during the Lenten Season:

*Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI  
(Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection)  
© 2011 Ignatius Press

*What Jesus Saw from the Cross*  
by A.G. Sertillanges  
© 1996 Sophia Institute Press

## SUGGESTED VIEWING

**Catholicism DVD Series**  
by Father Robert Barron  
Information available at:  
[www.catholicismseries.com](http://www.catholicismseries.com)

We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Bob Allen for his mentorship and support of our Sisters in serving as our Development Director for many years. The Sisters are grateful for your insights and encouragement and we hope to treasure our friendship for many years to come. You and your whole family are in our prayers and we look forward to working now with Mary Kay, to continue to spread the glory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you and may God reward you!

We do not sell, rent or loan the names and addresses of our benefactors and friends to anyone.

### PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING DATA CURRENT:

- Address Change
- Please add my name
- Please remove my name
- Receiving more than one copy

Please send label indicating correction.  
Thank You!

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

(Based on the Writings of  
St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar)

As a manifestation of love, the Holy Eucharist is the masterpiece of the Heart of Jesus, present always in this Most Holy Sacrament, ever living and open to all. Devotion therefore to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is a most efficacious means to intensify our honor and love for the Lord Jesus hidden in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

For love of us, the Lord Jesus not only lowered Himself, veiling His majesty beneath the Sacramental Species, but He opened Himself also to human contempt and ingratitude. In various places in the world, there are many sacrileges being committed through people's contempt and ingratitude, by way of theft from churches or unworthy reception of Holy Communion. A great number of Catholics omit Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. More and more people become victims of murder, violence, robbery and fraud. Narcotics, abortion and pornography are destroying family life and society. The Lord Jesus patiently endures all this in silence.

St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar teaches: If you would worthily honor the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Most Sacred

Heart of Jesus, strive to expiate the insults committed against God:

If unbelievers insult Him, you then, believe and publicly confess the faith; if they blaspheme Him, you worship the Lord loudly and encourage others to do so; if some offend the Lord by sacrilege, you then, receive Him into your pure



heart with proper preparation and thanksgiving, with great love and with the intention of making expiation for unworthy Communion; if you cannot receive the Lord sacramentally, then do so at least spiritually.

If the wicked desecrate churches, you then, conduct yourselves within them with respect and humility, your joy being to dwell in the houses of the Lord and to adorn them. If many are indifferent towards the Most Blessed Sacrament, you then, think of Him as often as you can, enthusiastically read, speak and listen to Him, and, above all, long for Him ardently, desiring to be as a sanctuary lamp burning before the altar. As often as you are able, strive daily to participate fully in

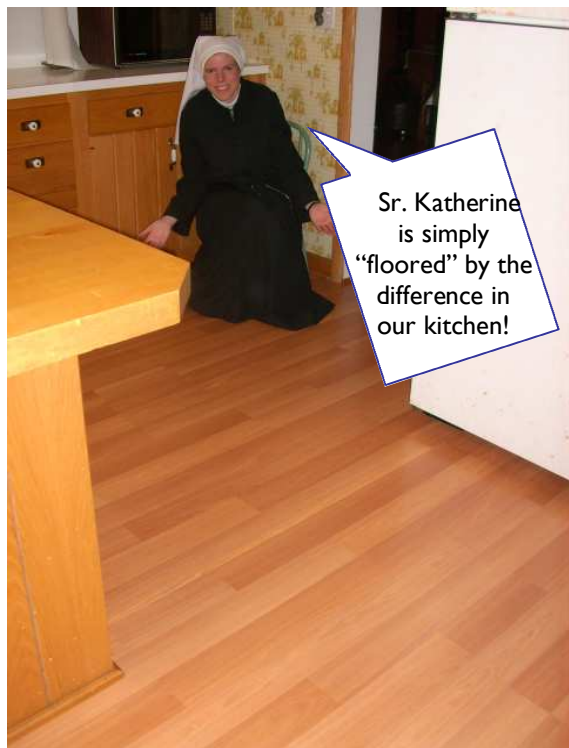
Holy Mass and to visit the Most Blessed Sacrament, or, if you are unable, at least turn to Jesus in your thoughts to send Him your ardent sighs or prayerful aspirations.

Try to participate in the First Friday Holy Mass of expiation. Make weekly or at least monthly adoration. Kneel before the Most Blessed Sacrament, greet and adore Him. To the furthest extent that you are able, promulgate the devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The practice of the Holy Hour is recognized by the Church and deserves still greater attention since its purpose is for us to unite ourselves with the experiences of the Lord Jesus in the Garden of Olives and to make expiation through the merits of the Lord's Passion. Each month, on the day before First Friday, from 11 p.m. until midnight, St. Margaret Mary practiced this Holy Hour on her knees before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Today the practice of the Holy Hour is observed in parishes and churches, and is usually joined with the evening Eucharistic Sacrifice as an expiatory adoration uniting us with the suffering Heart of Jesus.

In order to make expiation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for the insults that He continually receives from people, there is the need for deep renewal in our life and concern for our purity of heart.

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Sr. Katherine is simply "floored" by the difference in our kitchen!

We Thank all our Benefactors. Your kind support has enabled to replace the deteriorating kitchen floor at our novitiate house, In Munster Twp., PA



In our next issue of the Vine we will share other renovations we are undertaking due to your generosity and kind donations. May God reward you!

## 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:*

**20-8127262**

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

The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

## THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

The entire Christian community is invited to live this period of forty days as a pilgrimage of repentance, conversion and renewal. In the Bible, the number forty is rich in symbolism. It recalls Israel's journey in the desert, a time of expectation, purification and closeness to the Lord, but also a time of temptation and testing. It also evokes Jesus' own sojourn in the desert at the beginning of his public ministry, a time of profound closeness to the Father in prayer, but also of confrontation with the mystery of evil. The Church's Lenten discipline is meant to help deepen our life of faith and our imitation of Christ in his Paschal Mystery. In these forty days may we draw nearer to the Lord by meditating on his word and example, and conquer the desert of our spiritual aridity, selfishness and materialism. For the whole Church may this Lent be a time of grace in which God leads us, in union with the Crucified and Risen Lord, through the experience of the desert to the joy and hope brought by Easter.

*The Holy Father, Benedict XVI*

*General Audience February 22, 2012*

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Our Christian Mission By Robert J. Allen

Somewhere in each of us is a Missionary Spirit and the reason that spirit exists is from our Baptism. We are each called by name by God to care for His Church. The Church in this case is not the building you worship at daily or on Sunday, it is the living body of people who are Called by Name to be Catholic.

The care is for God and each of His creations. It may manifest itself in the local parish, the Diocese, the Worldwide Catholic Community and for each of the religious institutions within these definitions. Religious Communities, like the Sister Servants of the Most Sa-

cred Heart of Jesus are more than buildings and women who have taken sacred vows; this community is how we are nourished, remembered and loved.

Consider your personal experience or experiences when you met a Sister of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Need I say more? Well, I will anyway. The Spirit that lives in these Sisters and on these sacred grounds inspires us to want to do better and to be better. That is, in fact, the same Spirit that we were given at Baptism. Priest, Prophet, King...we are the Church. We must be responsible in ways that not only support this community but help it to grow in number and oppor-

tunities to serve all who come to know their ministries.

“We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.”  
Pope Benedict XVI

As you consider these inspiring words, take on a renewed spirit of how important you are, how necessary you are and know that through your prayers and donation, you give renewed meaning to how necessary the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are to the Diocese they serve and all who choose to call out for help. Never, bit never, consider you are not loved, or not necessary...because you are!

In December, over twenty young ladies attended a retreat directed by our Sisters at our Sacred Heart Center in Munster Twp, PA. And in February, our Sisters attended Mount 2000 at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD with 6 girls from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and also visited high schools and parishes in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

Have you received a Gift Card(s) for which you have no particular use? The National Retail Federation estimates that 10% of the approximately \$80 billion gift cards given this last Christmas season – or \$8 billion worth of gift cards – do not get redeemed.

Do you have any unused GIFT CARDS that you could please donate? If so, contact the Sisters at 814-886-4223.

## 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.



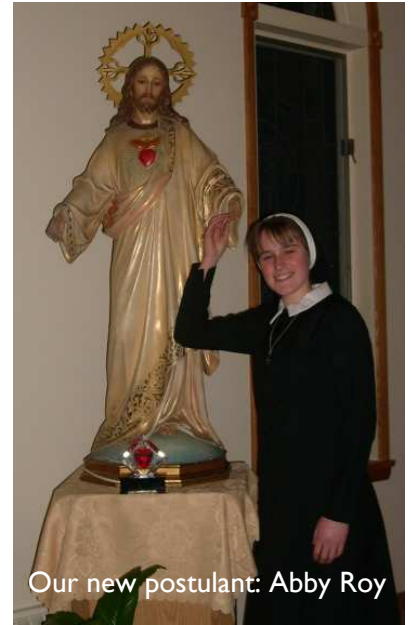
The Sisters  
will be grateful!



## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Sisters of the American Province are happy to announce that in January and February three young women entered our Congregation: Abby Roy of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Abby Igou of Freidens, Pennsylvania and Katie Hunter of Warren, Pennsylvania.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Abby Roy was received as a postulant. We continue to pray for our novice, Sr. Katherine Ostrom, and for all young women who are called to enter the service of God as Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Our new postulant: Abby Roy

### He who perseveres to the end...

*"It's the bounce that counts."* Those words have been reiterated throughout the years by a wonderful retreat master named Fr. Carbonaro, who has often blessed our sisters with his inspirational conferences and good example. In the midst of Lent these words can be very encouraging since we all too often find that resolutions of things we will do or give up have occasionally been neglected. Father had mentioned that in order to keep a balloon afloat, we have to be willing to tap it up into the air again and again. That bouncing back up is often the greatest protestation of love. Our willingness not to give up even when we fall short of our goal can entail renouncing our pride, self-pity and laziness. It calls for a renewing of our place in the race when we've fallen as we press forward with our goal being the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Braving the rainstorms, our Mother Jacinta Miryam, together with candidates Abby Roy and Abby Igou, participated on January 23, 2012 in the 39th Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. Our Sisters joined pilgrims from St. Aloysius Parish, Cresson, PA. They are pictured above with Father Michael Wolf, parochial vicar of St. Benedict's Parish, Johnstown, PA.

*May Our  
VICTORIOUS & RISEN  
KING  
grant you and your loved  
ones all joys  
and graces at Easter!*

*Sacred Heart Sisters*

