

Volume 6, Issue 2
Summer, 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

I am with you always,
until the end of the age

Mt 28:20



O Sacrament Most Holy

O Sacrament Divine

All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine

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

Dear Friends,

It seems like yesterday when I last wrote and yet I realize how many things have transpired since the last issue of the Vine. It has been a busy time, but richly blessed with various opportunities to grow in our Faith and worship together. Divine Mercy Sunday was a truly grace-filled day that found our Chapel filled with persons during our Divine Mercy Hour. A simple procession to honor the Divine Mercy Image, readings from Sacred Scripture and St. Faustina's Diary, musical meditations, a reflection given by Fr. Matthew Russick, TOR and confessions offered during and after the Holy Hour allowed all present to unite together with prayers of petition, gratitude and trust in our Merciful Savior.

A few weeks later we found ourselves hosting our first Women and Girls Retreat (a form of a Mother/Daughter retreat) which was blessed to have Molly Kelly and Peg Luksik as speakers. The TOR Franciscans from Loretto assisted us with Mass and Confession and words of wisdom; and the Sisters gave some talks as food for the soul and provided special dishes as food for the body. It was a graced-filled weekend. Participants came from as far as Easton, Pittsburgh, State College and Latrobe. Some participants are members of our Lay Associates – Rays of Merciful Love and some are hoping to soon join the ranks as they take on the spiritual commitment to pray the rosary daily, attend an extra Mass each week, pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart daily and make a holy hour of adoration once a week for the intentions entrusted to them and also for their local pastor and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In all these spiritual undertakings it is hoped to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart.

June held for us more spiritual benefits as we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi and the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Both of these feasts are considered Solemnities and so we were happy to make these solemnities occasions to honor our Lord with greater tribute.

Each year the Church extends to us the opportunity to focus our minds and hearts on the greatest gift God has left us - His very self in the Blessed Sacrament by having us celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Being that the commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist takes place on Holy Thursday during the Easter Triduum which is a time of much reflection on our Lord's Passion, the Church has given us this special Solemnity of Corpus Christi to allow us to show forth our great joy and appreciation for such a treasured gift. Over the centuries in various parts of the world, it has become a custom to hold a Corpus Christi Procession on this day. We chose to invite the faithful from our area to be able to participate in such a procession here at our Cresson Provincial House and John Paul II Manor. We were blessed to have Father Robert Yetsko, TOR to be our main presider accompanied by a number of our Diocesan and Franciscan priests and brothers.

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We had young ladies strew the path where Jesus would be carried with flower petals making it vie with any red carpet that could have been rolled out. We also had young men who served as crossbearer, thurifer, and torch holders lead the way. In addition, we were blessed with four Knights of Columbus who held the canopy over the Blessed Sacrament as we processed to various altars where all knelt to receive the Lord's benediction following a reading from Sacred Scripture. Beautiful Eucharistic hymns were sung by all. Our final stop of the Corpus Christi Procession was at our John Paul II Manor where residents gladly greeted our Lord.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was another wonderful occasion. On this day, we had two solemn Masses: One to celebrate Sr. Klaudiana's 50th Anniversary of Vows and the other to honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Mass to celebrate the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus included a procession, act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart, numerous priests to celebrate Holy Mass, a chapel filled to overflowing, torch bearers, incense and sonorous voices singing the praises of God.



Amongst all devotions, after that of receiving the sacraments, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament takes the first place, is the most pleasing to God, and the most useful to ourselves....

Oh, what a beautiful delight to be before an altar with faith...

to represent our wants to him, as a friend does to a friend in whom he places all his trust.

Saint Alphonsus



Truly it was time to be spiritually renewed. It is my hope that each day, may find us making an act of faith in which to renew our belief and deep appreciation of God's love shown to us in all creation and especially in the gift of the Church to whom Our Lord has entrusted the Sacraments as the main means of communicating His many and powerful graces.

Mother Jacinta Miryam Hanley, SDC



Sr. Klaudiana and Mother Jacinta Miryam stop to take a picture before the beautiful vine covered archway canopied the statue of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. With Sr. Klaudiana's green thumb, the vine became the theme so there was a light twist put on the scripture verse which read: I am the Vine you are the vinedresser.

Happy 50th Anniversary of Vows Sr. Klaudiana Josefowicz

June is a month dedicated to the Sacred Heart and being Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, it seemed most appropriate to celebrate Sr. Klaudiana's 50th Anniversary of Vows. Her actual anniversary date is August 2nd, but by celebrating on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we were able to make this celebration a surprise. Sister had a crown of gold roses placed on her head by Mother Jacinta Miryam while the sisters gathered around and sang a favorite Sacred Heart song. Numerous friends joined us for the renewal of vows and Holy Mass at which we were blessed to have 10 priest concelebrate. Fr. Jim Mormon, TOR was the homilist, while Fr. Robert Yetsko served as our MC. The Mass was followed by a dinner at our Munster Convent. It was truly an occasion of much joy. Sr. Klaudiana was all smiles – truly she appreciated everyone's presence, kind words and wishes, gifts and cards; and calls from those unable to attend.

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

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Reflection on the Gift of Anniversaries to Renew Ourselves

For any of you celebrating an Anniversary, we ask God's blessing. Anniversaries are a great time to renew ourselves spiritually. I think a form I recently read by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, who summarized St. Ignatius Loyola's examination of conscience is a wonderful outline. He used the acronym B A K E R. B-blessings: How many blessings can you see as you reflect on your life, your marriage, even just of this day? A- ask: Asking the Holy Spirit to help us seek truth and see how we may have cooperated or failed to cooperate with God's grace. K-kill: Are we aware of any actions, facial expressions, dispositions, words or thoughts that may have deadened the working of the Holy Spirit in us and through us negatively influenced our neighbor? E-embrace: In the midst of finding ourselves guilty or filled with gratitude can we and/or will we allow God to embrace us just as we are. Believing in His love and living in His Love can sometimes be painful when we think we must earn this love, but it is ours and how sad we can make our Lord by refusing to trust in His unconditional love. R-resolution: Being that we are still alive means that God isn't finished with us yet. God wishes us to still have further chances to love Him. Can we think of one concrete way we can more resolutely serve Him?

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

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.

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With Grateful Hearts

The closing of June found us the recipients of a hard working group of a youth from Sacred Heart Church in Haworth, NJ. under the leadership of the pastor, Fr. Stephen Fichter and hosted by Msgr. Swope at St. Michael's Basilica , Loretto PA. This Sacred Heart youth group called VITA volunteered their services in the area for a week and we were happy to receive their generous help. Due to their efforts we were able to have a few rooms in the convent painted as well our large hall in our retreat house and then undertook a few jobs on the grounds. Throughout they were polite, hard-working and joyful. We remain grateful for all who helped to make this possible.



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when making or revising your will.

Our name is:

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

Our federal ID Number is:

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

Save the Dates

Please read our websites for further updates

Golf Tournament

September 14th

September Family Day Retreat:

October 13th

Come and See

January 4th—6 th

Ages 18—35yrs. Old

Gala Dinner

February 9th

Girls' Retreat

March 8th—10th

Rays of Merciful Love

(Women's Retreat)

April 12th—14th

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Guaranteed Income for Life

By Mary Kay Swenson
Director of Planned Giving

If you are interested in a guaranteed income, a break on your taxable income and a way to help a charity, you may want to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity. This gift you make to your favorite charity will guarantee you (and one other person if you choose) will receive a fixed income for

the remainder of your lives. Also, a portion of your income will be tax-free. Plus, you will be helping the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus continue their ministries to those in need.

We offer fixed rate Charitable Gift Annuities beginning at 5% for gifts of \$10,000 or more. Your payment can be monthly, quarterly or annually. Since this is a charitable gift and the donation cannot be returned, you will also have the initial amount removed

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If you would like more information and a free, confidential Educational Illustration without obligation, call (814) 886-4223 or write to Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ so that the Planned Giving Officer can send you the information to review in the privacy of your home.

Rates may vary from month to month. NO ONE will contact you unless you request it.



Impression Taken From The Retreat

Our God works mightily if we call on Him and give Him full permission to act! I had the awesome privilege of giving two of the talks at the retreat held May 18-20, and I so much felt the presence of the Holy Spirit working in my life and in the lives of each woman present. It was a retreat for women, but also for mothers' and their fourteen year old daughters. You know how sometimes you plan a meal and you forget to add a certain ingredient and, as a result, the meal tastes bland? Well, many prayers were said for the success of this retreat and God provided all of the ingredients which made for one delicious, yummy, and spiritually healthy and holy happening! The women and the teens heard words from the different speakers, had the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and most, if not all, received it! Father said Mass on Saturday and Sunday and he gave very meaningful homilies. We also had a "late night" Rosary candle walk, and, as always, the "Light of the world, the Son of God, let us find our way in the jet black darkness, and gave us great joy in the challenge. I came home with a heart full of joy and hope, and I feel sure that the women, as well as the teens who were there, received those same gifts from God! What a privilege it was for me to be there, praise be to Jesus Christ! Have a wonderful Christ-filled summer.

Molly Kelly (*Ray of Merciful Love*)

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O Come Let Us Adore The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus

Having mentioned in my opening letter how many spiritual events were able to grace the Spring months, I would like to qualify it by stating that should each of these events have been perfectly planned and carried out, they mount to nothing if they remain only external. God does not glory in sacrifice as in a contrite and humble heart. They are occasions to express our love and enkindle our devotion, but they are only occasions of joy if Our Dear Lord is the King and Center of our hearts. We can have a glorious procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi, but do we truly believe in our Lord's Real Presence? How do we show this? Are we reverent in His presence? Although it is true He is everywhere, He is physically present in our Churches. Do we bless ourselves with any thought of it being the sign of the cross on which He died to save us?

Do we genuflect (when our health allows) with a straight back and our right knee actually touching the ground or does it look more like we tripped before we went into our pew (as I remember Bishop Sheen once mentioning in some book)? Do we keep conversations in the Church limited to necessity respecting this prayer space for others? After all, God does speak to us in the quiet of our hearts and noise can prevent Him from being heard. Do we make visits to our Churches outside of Holy Mass to speak with our Lord? He chose to stay among us, to strengthen us, to counsel us and to allow us to demonstrate our love for Him.

I often think that if a soldier were home on leave from Iraq or from wherever for perhaps a week and we were able to walk or drive to his house but we chose only to call him on the phone just as we did while he was oversea so that he returned to Iraq without being visited by anyone, how tragic that would be. Well, Our Lord is physically present in the tabernacle. Will we argue He is everywhere and never make the effort to visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament when He has made this great miracle possible because He loves us? And on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we invoke Him as the King and Center of our lives – ah, let us live this by making His standard of love our standard. St. Augustine wrote: "Love God and do what you will." I love that statement. As we better know God, the more we realize how wonderfully demanding such a love is. Nevertheless, God gives us Himself as the Way so that we will not despair. He strengthens us in the reception of the Holy Eucharist and shares with us that He is a merciful Shepherd

more anxious for our salvation than we are for ourselves. His patience and persistent call can be summarized for us in His Eucharistic Presence and with this as 'the measure' of love to which we are each called, we know that each day holds for us new challenges and opportunities to grow in a love like unto His.

To contact us:

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

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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!

