

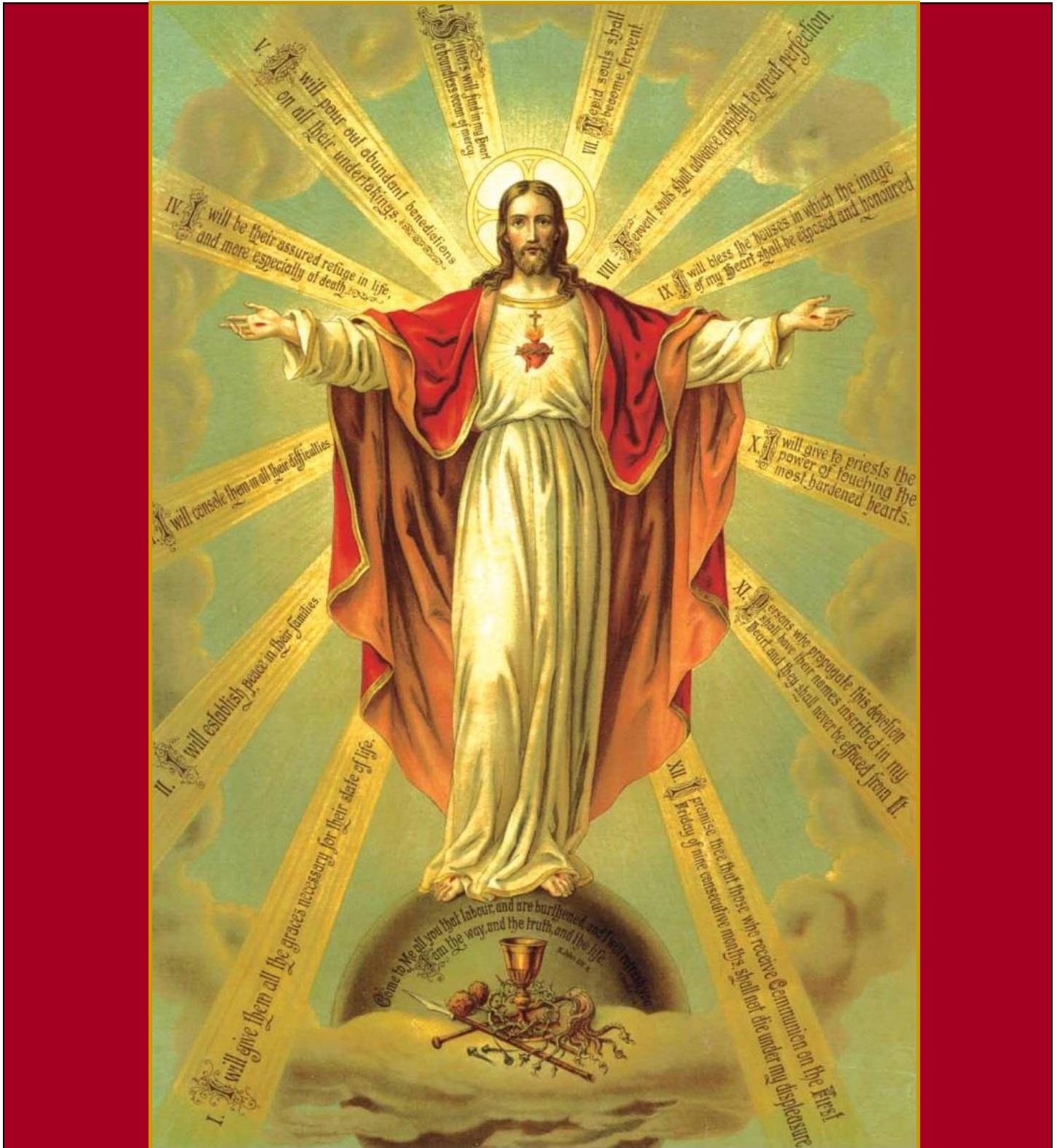
Volume 9, Issue 2  
Summer, 2015

# 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*

**Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Letter from Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ  
Provincial Superior*

Dear Faithful Friends of the Sacred Heart,

During this year of Consecrated Life and probably throughout the history of the Church, we find some people who view our life as a waste. This viewpoint makes me wonder what the definition of life is for them. Sadly, for many, it begins and ends with only temporary goods: fleeting power, positions, money, friends and a taste of unconditional love tainted with human weakness. None of these are evil in themselves, but all too often the human heart tries to find that deep longing and desire for fulfillment in these and become increasingly disillusioned and disappointed. St. Augustine walked along that same path until emptiness in fleeting happiness, finally drove him to discover that our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in God for our hearts are made for you O Lord.

In the Epistles it is written that those who are married should live as if they were not married and those who are rich as if they had none. St. Paul explains that this world is passing and what is seen is transitory. It is in this light that I see the call of consecrated life as a gift and a clear focus on our true purpose for which God made us.

But even with the knowledge that we are made for God and this life is our opportunity to freely choose God, sometimes the temporary pleasures are so available and immediate that we can fail to keep our eyes and hearts focused on the eternal. It is for this reason that God wishes for us not only know about Him but to really know Him. This knowledge would and must awaken a love for Him. When love enters our life, we find ourselves doing what normally we could not find the energy to do. Love makes even the mundane pleasant as our focus is bringing joy to the one whose love and happiness we desire and treasure. Love makes no sacrifice too great nor any act of charity too small.

It is our hope that the pictures and articles in this edition of the Vine may help you to know God not only as the Supreme Being Who created the universe, but as the God who made us solely to share His happiness with us for all eternity; a God who was made flesh and dwelt among us; who died and rose, and who offers Himself to the Father for us at every Mass and allows us to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist.

Entrusting you to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

*Mother Jacinta Miryam Hanley, SSCJ*

## RETREAT & RENEWAL OPPORTUNITIES

**SACRED HEART CENTER**  
**1872 Munster Rd. Portage, PA 15946**

Please register by the Monday preceding the Retreat by calling Mother Jacinta at 814-886-4223 or at via email [sisterjacinta@gmail.com](mailto:sisterjacinta@gmail.com)

- ♦ **HIGH SCHOOL** October 16-19, 2015  
Rev. Michael Wolfe & Rev. Matthew Baum
- ♦ **GIRLS WEEKEND**  
(Grade 7-High School) January 15-17 2016  
(\*College peer helpers welcome)
- ♦ **MARRIED COUPLES** February 6, 2016
- ♦ **YOUNG WOMEN'S WEEKEND**  
(ages 18-29) February 26-28, 2016
- ♦ **WOMEN'S RETREAT** April 8-10, 2016

## FIRST ANNUAL MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LORETTO

**Basilica, St. Michael the Archangel, Loretto, PA**

March 6-11, 2016

Mission opens on Sun March 6 Mission with Evening Mission Prayers, homily and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions (9 confessors) will be available following the devotions on Sunday evening.

Morning Mass with Mission Prayers and homily each day Mon-Fri (time TBA) and again at 7 pm each night. Confessions each night at 6. Eucharistic Adoration each day between the two Masses.

## DIVINE MERCY NOVENA 2016 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, CRESSON, PA

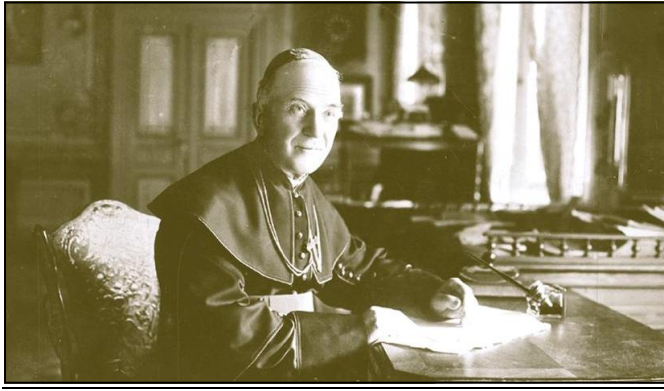
Good Friday	Mar. 25	7:00pm	Novena Prayers
Holy Saturday	Mar. 26	3:00pm	Novena Prayers
Easter Sunday	Mar. 27	7:00pm	Novena Prayers
Easter Mon-Sat	3/28-4/2	7:00pm	Mass & Novena

## MERCY SUNDAY —APRIL 3, 2016 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, CRESSON, PA

2:30-4:00 PM—Procession, Holy Hour  
Followed by Confessions & Social



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



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

## THE HEART OF THE MOST TENDER FATHER

From the creation of the world, God has shown Himself to be a Father to the whole human family, but in a special way towards His chosen people. Nevertheless, it was only the Lord Jesus who brought to earth the most joyful news: that God is our best Father. He knows what we need and what is good for us. God the Father cares for us incomparably more than other creature, and He loves us infinitely. The Heart of the Son of God was always most closely united to His Heavenly Father. This was shown especially in His prayer in Gethsemane.

Jesus Christ not only taught about His Father but He also showed Himself to be the best Father to us. With what great love He taught the ignorant, healed the weak, consoled the afflicted and fed the hungry with spiritual and earthly bread. In the parables of the Good Shepherd, the lost sheep and the prodigal son, the Lord Jesus revealed the depths of His Heart filled with love toward sinners and the desire for their conversion. Longing to give His children supernatural and eternal life, He died for them, enduring the most horrible pains and insults. Can there be any greater love? He has loved us to the end, to the end of the ages, and beyond all measure, for He has remained among His children ó remaining not simply in one place, Palestine, but remaining upon all the altars in so many churches. He remained not in the radiance of glory as on Mount Tabor, but clothed Himself instead in the garment of the greatest humiliation, so as not to terrify His children, but rather by meekness to draw them to Himself. He remained with us, although foreseeing that many of His ungrateful children would reject and even insult Him. Jesus stayed not only to live among His children in churches but also to visit them in their homes and to enter their souls. O Lord, how good a Father you are! Truly, you have kept the promise that you made to us at the Last Supper: *Do not let your hearts be troubled* (Jn 14:1). *I will not leave you orphaned* (Jn 14:18).

For the sake of His children, this Father has built a great home ó the Catholic Church, with which He has supplied everything that serves their good and salvation, that

is, light, warmth and nourishment. He lives and acts continually in this home; He governs this home; and He protects this home that the waves of the ages will not carry it off or fill it with error or sin. As our Father, the Lord Jesus is providing food for us His children, since He has left in His home the spiritual bread ó the bread of truth and bread of Sacrament ó and which will never be wanting.

The Heart of the Father loves all children although He does not provide for them all in the same way. Those who serve Him faithfully or try to serve Him better, He exalts and showers with supernatural gifts and sweetness, as we see in the lives of so many Saints. Unfortunately, there are also blind children who run from Him and thereby perish forever out of hunger. Oh, how His Heart grieves over them!



**PLEADING FOR MERCY ON THE WORLD**  
We are Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
**JESUS IS OUR LIFE!**

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

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

866 Cambria Street \* Cresson, Pennsylvania 16630

Phone: (814) 886-4223

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

Facebook: Sister Servants of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our federal ID Number is: 20-8127262

## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

### WHAT IS DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART?

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as we know it, began about the year 1672. On repeated occasions, Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, in France, and during these apparitions He explained to her the devotion to His Sacred Heart as He wanted people to practice it. He asked to be honored in the symbol of His Heart of flesh; he asked for acts of reparation, for frequent Communion, Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the keeping of the Holy Hour.

When the Catholic Church approved the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she did not base her action only on the visions of Saint Margaret Mary. The Church approved the devotion on its own merits. There is only one Person in Jesus, and that Person was at the same time God and Man. His Heart, too, is Divine -- it is the Heart of God.

There are two things that must always be found together in the devotion to the Sacred Heart: Christ's Heart of flesh and Christ's love for us. True devotion to the Sacred Heart means devotion to the Divine Heart of Christ insofar as His Heart represents and recalls His love for us.

In honoring the Heart of Christ, our homage lingers on the Person of Jesus in the fullness of His love. This love of Christ for us was the moving force of all he did and suffered for us -- in Nazareth, on the Cross, in giving Himself in the Blessed Sacrament, in His teaching and healing, in His praying and working. When we speak of the Sacred Heart, we mean Jesus showing us His Heart, Jesus all love for us and all lovable.

Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's infinite love. The Human Nature which the Son of God took upon Himself was filled with love and kindness that has never found an equal. He is the perfect model of love of God and neighbor.

Every day of His life was filled with repeated proofs of "Christ's love that surpasses all knowledge" (Eph 3:19). Jesus handed down for all time the fundamental feature of His character: "Take My yoke upon your shoulders and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of Heart" (Mt 11:29). He invited all, refusing none, surprising friends and rivals by His unconditional generosity.

The meaning of love in the life of Jesus was especially evident in His sufferings. Out of love for His Father He willed to undergo the death of the Cross. "The world must know that I love the Father and do just as the Father has commanded Me" (Jn 14:31).

The love that Jesus bore toward us also urged Him to undergo the death of the Cross. At the Last Supper, He said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13).

The Heart of Jesus never ceases to love us in heaven. He sanctifies us through the Sacraments. These are inexhaustible fountains of grace and holiness which have their source in the boundless ocean of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/heart/meditation.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/heart/meditation.htm)



### THE 12 PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families and will unite families that are divided.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. I will be their refuge during life and above all in death.
5. I will bestow the blessings of Heaven on all their enterprises.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise quickly to great perfection.
9. I will bless those places wherein the image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored and will imprint My love on the hearts of those who would wear this image on their person. I will also destroy in them all disordered movements.
10. I will give to priests who are animated by a tender devotion to my Divine Heart the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be effaced.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence: they will not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their Sacraments. My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Litany in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercyô Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercyô Christ, hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.  
God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us\*

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mother,

Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,

Heart of Jesus, of Infinite Majesty,

Heart of Jesus, Sacred Temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven,

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all treasures of wisdom & knowledge,

Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of divinity,

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased,

Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,

Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,

Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke Thee,

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,

Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium,

Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,

Heart of Jesus, obedient to death,

Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,

Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,

Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,

Heart of Jesus, our peace and our reconciliation,

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

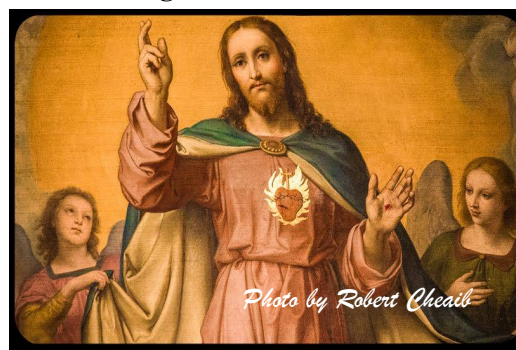
V. Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

R. Make our hearts like to yours

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of your most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which He offers You in the name of sinners; and to those who implore Your mercy, in Your great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, You Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

## You Are Our Refuge, Lord!

*Sr. Mary Joseph Calore, SSCJ*



It was the summer of 1972 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The fury of Hurricane Agnes had unleashed torrents of rain upon Northeastern Pennsylvania, causing widespread flooding. Safe in the higher elevations, my family kept a heart-breaking vigil for news of the fate of their homes and businesses, located now somewhere beneath the muddy waters of the Susquehanna River.

When it became apparent from the news reports that the Valley had suffered catastrophic damages and people had lost everything, my grandmother's initial reaction was, "Oh Joe, our wedding dishes!" lamenting the loss of a prized heirloom, while grateful nonetheless that everyone had survived.

The river crested, the waters receded, and the National Guard gave permission for residents of Wilkes-Barre's flood plain to return to their neighborhoods to assess damage and begin clean up. What a shock awaited them with the discovery of all earthly possessions destroyed and covered in mud!

Arriving at their home and surveying the damage, relatives stared in disbelief at what was left of the house, wondering how they would ever recover! Scanning the destruction, it was impossible to take it in. But, wait a minute! They stopped and looked in amazement. There in the corner of all that devastation stood my grandmother's china cabinet, still intact, holding her beloved wedding dishes! Overjoyed, they saw that although there was an inch of mud on the saucers, they were secure, and miraculously, even the tea cups hanging precariously from the hooks of the cabinet, were not broken or chipped despite the house's close proximity to the river!

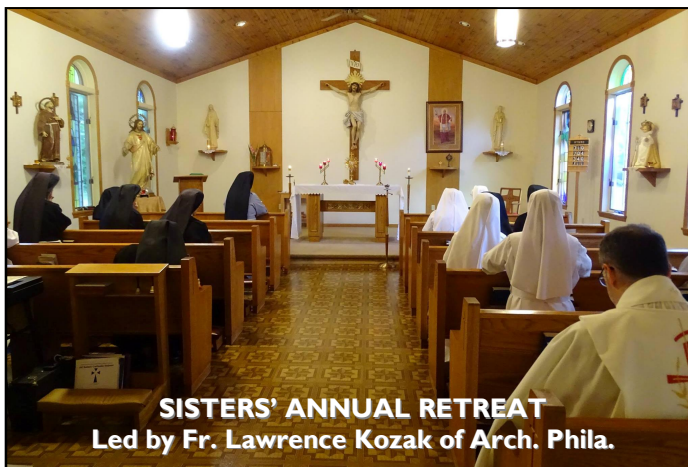
They began to carefully remove the dishes and box them, relieved that at least something of the past was preserved. Dish by dish, plate by plate, they began their process of recovery, by which, armed with faith and a dogged determination to survive setbacks, they would rebuild with God's help.

Finally, the last dish was carefully stored away, and they breathed a sigh of relief, when suddenly, the entire china cabinet came crashing to the floor! A plastic Sacred Heart Badge was clinging with water to the glass of the cabinet. Surely the Heart of Jesus had been holding that cabinet together, preserving what was precious, even as He securely holds all of us! Truly, the Heart of Jesus, Heart of the best Father, is with us!



# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## SCENES FROM THE SISTERS' LIFE SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE VINE



### 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



**FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE  
MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS,  
I VOW TO GOD  
CHASTITY, POVERTY & OBEDIENCE  
FIRST PROFESSION OF RELIGIOUS VOWS  
SISTER ANGELA MARIE IGOU, SSCJ  
AUGUST 15, 2015**



### Receive Me

Rev. Jean Galot, SJ

Heart of my Lord, take me with everything I have and am; take what I own and do, all my thoughts, my whole life.

Take my soul that it may be yours; take my will that it may seek you, and you alone.

Take my whole heart that it may love you alone.

Heart of my Lord, take my innermost desire that you may be all I desire, my only goal, my boundless love and my perfect and supreme happiness. Take me in your goodness which draws me, in your gentleness which accepts me, in your love which unites me with you.

Heart of Jesus, immerse me in your sorrows and joys, in your life and death, into the night of the Cross and the glorious, never-ending day of your Resurrection.

Take me with your blazing power which raises me, by your blazing fervor which inflames me for you, by your sublime grandeur to be absorbed by you.

Heart of Jesus, accept me as your servant and slave, but also as your friend, be I ever so unworthy.

Accept my complete devotion, never to falter nor to expect reward. Accept me as a helper in your mission, as a victim for the salvation of human souls in the service of those who are yours.

Heart of Jesus, take me so completely that nothing remains in and for me; take even my failures in your service; do not return what you have ever accepted. Take forever all that is in me, so that someday I may embrace and possess your heart as my very own.

Are you seeking residential, personal care for your loved one? Please consider our **JOHN PAUL II MANOR** in Cresson, Pennsylvania 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)**

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## AWAITING THE BEATIFICATION OF OUR CO-FOUNDRESS

Our Congregation of Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus rejoices that on June 5, 2015, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, promulgated the Decree concerning the miracle attributed to the intercession of our Co-Foundress, Venerable Servant of God, Klara Louise Szczesna (1863-1916). As this publication goes to print, we are presently awaiting the Holy See's announcement by the date of her beatification.

## WHO WAS MOTHER KLARA?

Louise (Ludwika) Szczesna was born on July 18, 1863 in Cieszki in the Diocese of Plock, Poland, the fourth of six children born to Antony and Franciszka Szczesni. Her mother died when Louise was only 12 years old. Already at a young age, Louise decided to give her life totally to God.

Under pressure by her father to enter into an arranged marriage, Louise Szczesna left her family home secretly and went to the larger city of Mlawka. In 1886, she entered an underground religious Congregation known as the Servants of Jesus, since at that time religious orders in her region were forbidden under Russian suppression. Founded in Warsaw by Blessed Honorat Kozminski, OFM Cap, the religious Congregation's apostolic mission was to work especially among servants. In 1893, when Father Joseph Sebastian Pelczar needed Sisters to work with servants in Krakow, the superiors of the Servants of Jesus sent Louise, who was known to always fulfill her obligations with great zeal and love.

Always open to the needs of others and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Louise shared the concerns of St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar about the lot of the servants, the poor and the sick. From this charitable apostolic initiative, came the new religious Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, of which Mother Klara became the Co-foundress, first member and superior. God's inspiration to her as well as the directives she received from the Founder of the Congregation, found permanent expression in the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Sacred Heart Sisters. Mother Klara died on February 7, 1916 at the Sisters' Motherhouse in Krakow, Poland.

The Venerable Servant of God was a visible sign of Divine Love. Her personal motto and program of life were the words, **All for the 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.

## ***Quotes of Ven. Mother Klara Szczesna***

**T**he peace of a soul in possession of itself is a participation in the glorious, unchangeable and serene calmness of God. God is the God of peace.

(From Meditation II Charity)

**B**ecause God is the highest holiness, a person's holiness depends upon his union with God and his conformity to God's will. Indeed, true love—and therefore true holiness—rests upon this."

(From Meditation I Obedience)

**J**esus himself is the strongest reason for us to love our neighbor, since he himself loves him.

(From Meditation II Charity)