

Volume 12, Issue 2
Summer/Fall 2018
A newsletter of the Sister
Servants of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus

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. Jn 15:5*

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



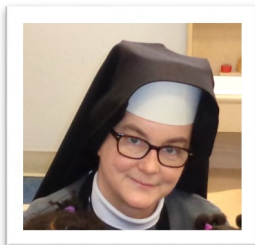
*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of Heart.” (Mt. 11:28-29)*

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Letter from Mother Klara, SSCJ Provincial Superior

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



"I have a ticket to Heaven. Would you like to have one, too?" The introduction to the devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for my little students was easy. They all loved Jesus, believed in His love, wanted to go to heaven. So a class usually continued this way:

"But you have to pay for the ticket. What do you think, how much it will cost?"

The answers were different, from "\$10,000" to "All my love".

"Well, paying with money would be quite simple, but Jesus asks to pay for the ticket in a different way." Here the story of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque followed, the promises of Jesus to those who venerate His Sacred Heart, and His requests for the First Friday devotion. It was such a beautiful image: the children waiting at church in lines for confession every First Friday, with their little books in their hands, and then receiving Communion with great joy.

As my students grew up and started to challenge their faith, an approach to the devotion to Jesus' Heart had to change also. So we talked about love, its symbols, and why human love is often pictured by a heart pierced by an arrow. From there it was only one step to another Heart, also pierced: the Heart of Jesus. As our human hearts mature in love by enduring difficulties and suffering, so the Divine Heart of Jesus shows us His incredible love by His unceasing forgiveness and patience. And once more the First Friday devotion could be presented, this time with more emphasis on perseverance than emotions, as the fulfillment of the first Fridays in nine consecutive months became more challenging.

The Heart of Jesus is open to all of us. Our understanding changes, as we mature and gain experience, but He is always ready to embrace us in every stage of our life. Lost or happy, mournful or successful, saint or sinner: to all of us Jesus cries through St. Margaret Mary:

"Behold this Heart that has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify to Its love."

Come, let us adore...

Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ

Sister Klara Slonina, SSCJ
Provincial Superior

Explanation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The CROSS

Jesus came to show that God loves even those who do not care about Him



The FIRE

God loves us so much that His Heart burns with love for us

The WOUND FROM THE LANCE

Blood and Water gushed out, showing us again how He loved us

The THORNS

Represents our sins that cause the Heart of Jesus to be pierced by sharp pain each time we choose to do wrong rather than good.

The HEART means love

From the Meditations of Bl. Klara Szczesna

Truly, Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. When we do not follow this Way we are outside the Truth and the Life. How numerous the transgressions against love and sweetness; receiving the Body of the Lamb of God you should live His life, imbued with His sweetness, throughout! He is so sweet on the altar and in your heart.



After receiving and adoring Him, remember to stay as long as possible in silence under this ineffable sweetness with which He is present within you. Ask him to calm all unrest in your soul, and give you the peace beyond all understanding. Having this peace you can be good, gentle and patient. Think about Jesus' sweetness; look at His sweetness in the Sacred Host. This sweetness will make you the master of your own heart, will give control over yourself and true victory. It will make you master of the hearts of others because this sweetness unites hearts, relieves and disarms them, converts souls and wins them for God. Finally, you will possess God's own Heart for nothing makes you resemble him more than this sweetness, and God, seeing this likeness in you, will not refuse His love.

The peace of a soul possessing itself is a participation in the glorious, unchangeable and serene calmness of God. God is the God of peace. His Spirit is sweet. In a particular way, he rewards sweetness, the virtue of Jesus, and listens to its prayers.



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



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

AN INVITATION TO THE DIVINE HEART

The voice of God calls joyfully to us: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest (Mt 11:28) and God invites us even here and now to a profound union with Himself in perfect love.

The Lord desires that we would bear all difficulties and sufferings in union with Him throughout our entire life for only then will such burdens become easier. He especially invites those experiencing difficulties –those suffering not only physically but spiritually, and sinners – and who among us can say he is not a sinner?

The Heart of the Savior invites each and everyone. He calls all to Himself, for He desires by means of such an encounter to reveal and thereby give Himself to us. Our assent to this invitation opens before us the vast possibilities of discovering, knowing and experiencing true love and happiness. It also introduces us into the mystery of suffering, something difficult for us to understand and accept.

It depends completely upon us whether we will take up His offer. St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar writes: “Do not excuse yourself on the premise that you are unable to know the truths and ways of God, for the Lord has indeed given you a heart capable of love. In fact, so that your heart would truly love, God discloses His love to it and bestows upon it His grace. Even the simple one is able to love perfectly and in the school of love can become wise in the things of God.”

As St. Margaret Mary has said, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is like an open book from which it is easiest to learn the art of love, particularly when one reads it beneath the Savior’s Cross, in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament, or after Holy Communion.

Why is it so difficult for many to see that everything a person most needs or most longs is to be found within the Heart of God? Perhaps it is because we think of this Heart as a mystery far removed from the affairs of everyday human life. While people like to discover and to learn the unknown, to conquer what is difficult, they are still lacking the essential connection between life and faith –that is, faith in God’s love and in entrusting themselves to this love unto the end. And yet there are countless visible and actual proofs of this love of God that He shows in so human a way. God is Love (1 Jn 4:16), the beloved disciple of the Heart of Jesus reminds us. In this name of God is contained His very essence. Whoever is without love does not know God (1 Jn 4:8).

We must continually learn this love because such knowledge leads to greater love. Mary, as she stands beneath the Cross, says: “Sons of men, as you have already caused suffering to my Son, quickly, hasten at once and find in His wounds the healing for your own. See His hands extended to you, behold His opened Heart. Come then with your hearts to this Heart – He will forgive you. I am interceding on your behalf, but I am also begging you: Do not crucify my Son again, but instead greatly love Him in union with me.”

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Saints of the Sacred Heart



Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
(July 22, 1647
– October 17, 1690)

St. Margaret Mary was chosen by Christ to arouse the Church to a realization of the love of God symbolized by the Heart of Jesus.

Her early years were marked by sickness and a painful home situation. “The heaviest of my crosses was that I could do nothing to lighten the cross my mother was suffering.” After considering marriage for some time, Margaret Mary entered the Order of the Visitation nuns at the age of 24.

A Visitation nun was “not to be extraordinary except by being ordinary,” but the young nun was not to enjoy this anonymity. A fellow novice termed Margaret Mary humble, simple, and frank, but above all, kind and patient under sharp criticism and correction. She could not meditate in the formal way expected, though she tried her best to give up her “prayer of simplicity.” Slow, quiet, and clumsy, she was assigned to help an infirmarian who was a bundle of energy.

On December 21, 1674, three years a nun, she received the first of her revelations. She felt “invested” with the presence of God, though always afraid of deceiving herself in such matters. The request of Christ was that his love for humankind be made evident through her.

During the next 13 months, Christ appeared to her at intervals. His human heart was to be the symbol of his divine-human love. By her own love Margaret Mary was to make up for the coldness and ingratitude of the world—by frequent and loving Holy Communion, especially on the first Friday of each month, and by an hour’s vigil of prayer every Thursday night in memory of his agony and isolation in Gethsemane. He also asked that a feast of reparation be instituted.

Like all saints, Margaret Mary had to pay for her gift of holiness. Theologians who were called in declared her visions delusions and suggested that she eat more heartily. Later, parents of children she taught called her an impostor, an unorthodox innovator. A new confessor, the Jesuit Claude de la Colombière, recognized her genuineness and supported her.

After serving as novice mistress and assistant superior, Margaret Mary died at the age of 43, while being anointed. She said: **“I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the Heart of Jesus.”**



St. Claude de la Colombière, S.J
(1641-1682)

promoted the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and was the confessor of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

Blessed Anna Magdalena Rémuzat
(1696-1730)

a Visitation nun, continued the work of Margaret Mary and, as we shall see, played a significant role in reviving the devotion to the Sacred Heart in Europe.



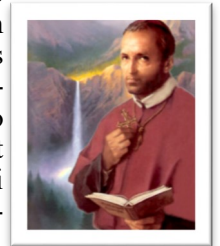
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort (1673-1716)



in addition to being one of the great apostles of Marian devotion, also propagated the devotion to the Sacred Heart. The congregation he founded, the Missionaries of Mary, popularized far and wide the use of paintings, shields and banners depicting the Sacred Heart.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

the enemy of Jansenism, the influence of which he reduced to a minimum in central and southern Italy was a zealous propagator of this devotion. He obtained permission from the Holy See to celebrate the feast of the Divine Heart in his own diocese of Saint Agatha dei Goti; he also composed the first Novena of the Sacred Heart.



Henri Ramière (1821-1884)



the French Jesuit author of 76 works, inherited and practically re-founded (in 1863) the association Apostleship of Prayer; the magazine of the Association, *Le Messenger du Sacre-Coeur*, was printed in 53 editions in 32 languages and had a half million subscribers, reaching about 15 million readers. The main task of this association was to promote the consecration of nations and families to the Sacred Heart.

Blessed Catherine Volpicelli
(1839-1894)

founded in Naples the Congregation of Slaves of the Sacred Heart, on the advice of Blessed Louis of Casoria and Father Ramière, promoting reparatory adoration by housewives of the Sacred Heart in the Eucharist.

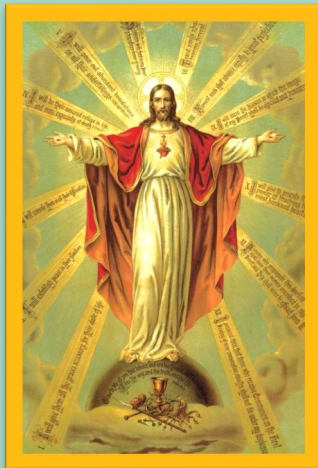


... and many more ...

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

12 PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Through St. Margaret Mary, Jesus gave us special promises for those who keep a loving devotion to His Most Sacred Heart.:



1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
12. **I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.**

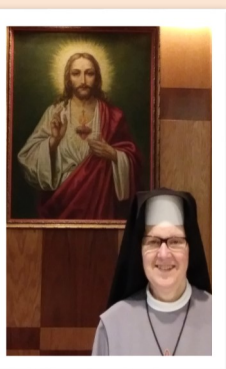
THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS OUR GREATEST TREASURE

By Sister Mary Elizabeth Guidry, SSCJ

"Behold this Heart which has so loved men."

At the very center of Christianity is Love - a sacrificial self giving love. This is the message of the Sacred Heart - laying down your life for the good of another. Our Catholic Church has dedicated the month of June to the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to remind us of the depths of God's passionate love for His creatures. We are called to imitate the Sacred Heart, which is self-giving to love those we encounter every day. Our vocation, our duty is to continually deepen our knowledge of our Lord Jesus and the mystery of His Sacred Heart. In our pursuit of perfect charity we must contemplate His Sacred Heart, His Love and Humility. We find this Treasure at Holy Mass, in Eucharistic Adoration, in the Gospels, in our sisters and in all of God's children - to find in Jesus an example in our service to others, fulfilling our duties with fervor, being ready to oblige our neighbor, seeing in him the Divine Image.

We should endeavor by our prayers to gain many people to the Sacred Heart so that they too may find for their lives - THE GREATEST TREASURE.



"Heart of Jesus, Burning Furnace of Charity"

By Sr. Mary Barbara Hoyt, SSCJ

There's a picture in our chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that was painted by one of our Sisters in Poland. The picture was brought to America many years ago. It has such a soft spot in many of our Sisters' hearts. Jesus' face is so gentle and, and His Heart looks, as the Litany to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus states, as it were a "burning furnace", but it is a burning furnace of charity. Flames are coming from the top of His Heart. If you have ever worked in a steel mill or seen a pictures of a flaming furnace, you get an idea of a "burning furnace". Jesus' Sacred Heart is a burning furnace of charity - love for His Heavenly Father and love for mankind.

Our motto as the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is: "Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus." As Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is our aim to spread the Kingdom of His love in daily living. Our hearts are not "burning furnaces", like Jesus' Heart, but by our little sparks of love shown in daily living, we hope to bring some of Jesus' love to others.

Coming back to our picture in the chapel, Jesus is there, represented in the picture, but also truly in His home on earth - the tabernacle. Every day we have an Eucharistic adoration in our chapel, and it is at these special moments that we can adore Him, thank Him, praise Him, talk with Him over problems, or just rest in His presence and listen to Him.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

25 years in the service of God's Heart **The Silver Jubilee of the Religious Vows** **Sr. Maria Anna Mellody, SSCJ**

“Do you love me. . .after 25 years I’ve washed your dishes, cooked your meals, cleaned your house, if that’s not love what is...” The lyrics of this song from *Fiddler on the Roof* express my deep sense of finding my home as a bride of Christ much more fully as I celebrate my jubilee. This celebration was such a formal wedding for me. More than anything else, with my whole soul, I was able to pronounce my vows with hope and conviction that Christ who has invited me to be His bride will bring to completion His great work as He called me to be a member of this Congregation. The food, decorations, music, Mass celebrated by the Bishop and my spiritual director, Fr. Jim Mormon, TOR, in the presence of almost every Sister from our province, my family, my dearest friends, all led to a complete celebration that in every way felt like my true wedding day. The eight day annual retreat following the very next day, was my treasured time with my Beloved Spouse in which I poured my whole heart into living that which my invitations and cards proclaimed, “Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.” It is my sincere intention to imitate Christ in these two most basic virtues as I strive to fulfill my vocation unto eternity.



65 years in the service of God's Heart **of Mother Amabilis Dębicka, SSCJ**

On August 2, 2018, Mother Amabilis Dębicka observed her 65th Anniversary of religious profession. Within those 65 years, Mother has distinguished herself as a faithful and dedicated religious Sister who was entrusted with unique responsibilities in her religious life.

Mother was the foremost pioneer for establishing our Congregation in the United States of America, where she served here as first superior, director of novices and later, first provincial superior.

God has certainly used Mother’s intrepid spirit, her optimism and warmth with people to further the designs of His Sacred Heart for the benefit of countless souls in the United States and Jamaica. We give thanks to God for the gift we have in our beloved Mother Amabilis.



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



She rested at the Heart of the Lord

Sr. Marietta Therese Hanley, SSCJ

June 11, 1962— August 3, 2018

Sr. Marietta Therese, SSCJ, a perpetually professed Sister of the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, entered into eternal life on August 3, 2018 at St. Joseph Convent, Munster Twp., Portage, PA after a lengthy illness.

Born Emmelia Marthamay Hanley on June 11, 1962 in Philadelphia, Sr. Marietta Therese was the daughter of Julia Teresa (Hack) Hanley and the late John Francis Hanley. She leaves behind her fellow religious Sisters who loved her dearly, as well as her beloved siblings, Teresa, Tom (Sandy), Raphael (Patty), Basil, Macrina (Denny) Hennessy, Miryam (Emil) Ghaly, Sr. Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ, Gregory (Maria), Justin (Jen) Lazarus, Albertus, Marthamary (Tom) Rinkavage.

Sister Marietta Therese entered the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on December 28, 1980, professed her first vows on June 21, 1983 and her perpetual vows on June 21, 1988 in Cresson, Pennsylvania. She observed the Silver Jubilee of her religious profession on June 21, 2008 at Sacred Heart

Province in Cresson, Pennsylvania. Sister Marietta Therese obtained a B.S. (summa cum laude) in Education from St. Francis University and an M.A. (magna cum laude) in Theology and Catechetics from Notre Dame Catechetical Institute (Christendom College).

Throughout her religious life, Sister Marietta Therese served the glory of the Most Sacred Heart with love and zeal in the areas of education, administration, pastoral care, youth, retreat, summer camp and music ministries in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Metuchen, Scranton and Wheeling-Charlestown. Sister will forever be remembered for her joy and enthusiasm. She loved with her whole heart and soul and was a true spiritual mother to all those who were privileged to know her. In her last illness, Sister Marietta Therese distinguished herself with the same beautiful spirit of trustful surrender and love that characterized her entire life.



The vigil for Sister Marietta Therese was held at St. Francis Xavier Church on Tuesday, August 7, led by Fr. Angelo Patti, with prayer throughout the day led by the Sisters and a Chaplet of Mercy led by All Saints Catholic School. Sister Marietta Therese's funeral Mass took place St. Aloysius Church Cresson, PA on Wednesday August 8 at 11:00 a.m., where, in the presence of the Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Most Rev. Mark Bartchak, the Celebrant, Very Reverend John Byrnes, JV, JCL, Homilist Rev. Dennis Carbonaro, nineteen priest concelebrants, Deacon Richard Golden, seminarians, religious, and family and friends, the church was filled to capacity, a tribute to the love and devotion of this Sister. The graveside prayers at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery were offered by Franciscan Friars Fr. Jim Mormon, TOR and Fr. Nathan Malavolti, TOR.

Mother Klara, Sr. Jacinta Miryam and all the Sisters, together with the family of Sr. Marietta Therese wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who showed such love and sympathy at Sister's passing, particular to our dear Bishop Mark Bartchak, to Fr. John Byrnes, Fr. Angelo Patti, Fr. Dennis Carbonaro, Fr. James Mormon, TOR and Fr. Nathan Malavolti, TOR, as well as to Fr. Leo Arnone and Fr. Matthew Reese and the Parishes of St. Aloysius and St. Francis Xavier and All Saints Catholic School, for your hospitality and support. We are also grateful to the staff of the John Paul II Manor and all friends for your hard work and preparations in this labor of love for Sister.

The Sisters also gratefully acknowledge the Masses, Memorial Remembrances, flowers and sympathy cards of so many. God reward you! May Sister Marietta Therese's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

*"The world needs God's madmen
who will go through the earth,
like Christ or Maximilian Kolbe,
who will have the courage to love
and will not turn back from any sacrifice."*

Bl. Klara Szczesna

Is God calling you?



Do you want to leave everything behind, and offer yourself totally to Him? Are you brave enough to love and suffer, to fall and get up, to smile and cry, and pray? Do you want to join us, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and proclaim the Kingdom of Jesus' Love everywhere? If your answer is yes! come visit us, experience the spirit of silence, prayer and sisterly life in community.

Our Congregation is:

- Pontifical
- Franciscan
- Contemplative-Active
- Devoted to the Sacred Heart
- Founded by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Bl. Klara Szczesna in 1894 in Krakow, Poland



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The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded in Krakow, Poland in 1894 by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Blessed Klara Szczesna are devoted to extending the Kingdom of Love of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus by prayer, community life and apostolic work in the areas of

teaching * catechesis * nursing * personal care
parish music ministry * retreats * youth ministry
and missionary work.

Internationally, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus serve in the following countries

- ♦ Poland
- ♦ Ukraine
- ♦ Italy
- ♦ France
- ♦ Bolivia
- ♦ Argentina
- ♦ Jamaica
- ♦ United States.

The United States Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is represented in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown, Harrisburg, and Grand Rapids and in Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

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