

Volume 13, Issue 3  
Christmas/Winter 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*

*O come,  
let us adore  
HIM,  
CHRIST,  
THE LORD*

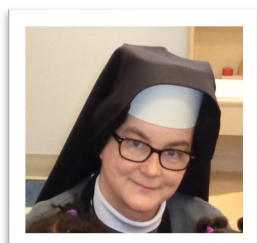


## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



### *Letter from Mother Klara, SSCJ Provincial Superior*

*Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*



Recently I heard a story: A family invited friends for a dinner. Suddenly, a violent thunderstorm started. The lightnings crossed the sky, and the thunders were deafening. One of the guests approached a window, and peeked through the curtains. A little boy, the son of the hosts, stood next to him and quietly admired the storm.

“Aren’t you afraid?”, the guest asked.

“No. My dad is home”, the boy said.

During Christmas time, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, I think of the quiet presence of St. Joseph. His family felt secure as He guided them through the close doors of Bethlehem, the escape through the desert, the exile in Egypt, and years of work and life in Nazareth. His protection gave His wife and God’s Son stability, peace and joy.

I pray that all the Fathers - blood, foster and spiritual - be able to give such a confidence to their children, as this little boy had in his dad.

And one more thing. Now, when much thunder and lighting is threatening our home, the Church, I quietly repeat: “I am not afraid. My Father, God, is with me. He is with us.”

Sister Klara Slonina, SSCJ

*Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ*

*Provincial Superior*



### **From the Meditations of Bl. Klara Szczesna**

In giving us his commandment of fraternal love, the Lord Jesus desires that our love would take the form and likeness of His own, that is, it would be supernatural – a love for God and in God, not arising from nature and the senses. Worship the image of God and the great ransom of God’s Blood within the soul of your neighbor. Love him, and if for the good of his soul you must make some unpleasant reproof, do not hesitate. Even should he forget his salvation, you must love his salvation.

Love should be universal since Jesus died for all. Even his worst enemies had a share in his charity.

He prayed for his persecutors. If we love God in our neighbors, we acknowledge that there is not one who is so miserable that he could not have access to your love. However not everybody has the same access. Have a threefold love. Have a maternal toward those whom providence places under your care, a childlike love toward your superiors and a sisterly love for your Sisters in God.

Have a grateful love. The Holy Spirit says that love is stronger than death. What kind of love is it that does not sacrifice, and is discouraged and despondent with the smallest things?





# 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 GOD-MAN**

St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar writes, “What can be more wonderful in heaven or on earth, what more worthy of honor and love, than the Heart of the God-Man and thus the Heart of Supreme Wisdom, of holiness itself and infinite love, the Heart of our Creator... Savior ... King ... Friend ... Brother ... and Father.”

This Heart is the most perfect of God’s masterpieces, encompassing within itself the ineffable treasures of God’s wisdom and love. This Heart is the seat of the holiest emotions, the school of the noblest virtues, the exemplar and font of sanctity. The Lord Jesus, being God-Man, has two wills, and therefore has a twofold love: Divine and human. This Divine love is infinite since it is an attribute of the divine nature belonging to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. Who can comprehend it? No one can even put into words the human love of the Savior. It is higher than the heavens, deeper than the ocean, wider than the universe and longer than eternity. If we would combine the love of all the Apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins, in a word, of all the saints who throughout the ages adorned God’s Church; if we would gather all the ardent desires and enclose them in one heart; adding to it the whole ardor with which the choir of Angels burns toward their God; if we would crown all these with the marvelous fire that burns within the Immaculate Heart of the Most Holy Mother of God, we will then see only a faint reflection of the love the Lord Jesus has toward each one of us, regardless of our malice and unworthiness.

In the Bethlehem manger, this love shone with an ineffable radiance, for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten one, that this Son of God - taking upon Himself a human body from the Immaculate Virgin Mary, could manifest Himself as an infant in swaddling clothes. This love was even more radiantly revealed on the cross. Thus, did not the Savior say: *There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends* (Jn 15: 13), and He Himself gave His life for His enemies, that is, for sinners. However it was not enough for the love of the Lord Jesus that He has offered Himself upon the altar of the cross. He desired to remain with us at every moment until the end of the ages and thus He allowed Himself to be locked in churches as the prisoner of love. The Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar is the summit of the love of the God-Man. According to the words of St. Augustine, God, although most wise, knew not how to give more; though most powerful, was not able to give more; though richest, had nothing more to give. He could demand that we build for Him temples of marble and jewels and yet He does not disdain even the poorest of churches, if only human hearts would resemble His Heart that is full of love. This Most Sacred Heart, reigning now upon a throne of glory in the glorified Humanity of Christ, is the throne, center, and sign as well of His Divine and human love.

O what great happiness that in our churches, both day and night, the Lord dwells in all His power and in all His love!

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Christmases Past and Present

By Sr. Augustine Marie Molnar, SSCJ



When I first entered religious life, I often compared holiday traditions in my religious family to what I would have been doing with my family if I were at home. When it came to Christmas, I noticed a number of similarities, of course —extensive cleaning prior to decorating, days of food preparation, a family meal (which decimated that food in less than thirty minutes), and taking down decorations shortly after Epiphany. As I progressed through the various stages of Formation, I began to look deeper and more fully appreciate the new practices

introduced to me by my religious family.

Among these, one particular custom truly caught my attention. On Christmas Eve, at the beginning of the Wigilia, we approach each Sister, break off a piece of her opłatek (or Christmas wafer), and consume it. While doing this, we ask forgiveness for any way in which we may have hurt or wronged her, and then offer forgiveness for anything which has hurt us.

In a world so often plagued by blame, anger, and bitterness, this beautiful practice of mercy, approached with sincerity and love, offers an opportunity for new beginnings—a tradition I pray to embrace more deeply with every passing year!



It is a custom to display a Nativity scene at the church and at home: Joseph and Mary, Baby Jesus in a manger, a donkey and an ox, the shepherds who represent the Jews, and the Magi who represent the rest of the world.

Where does the tradition of manger come from? The birth of the Nativity scene goes back to the 13th century and St. Francis of Assisi.

The Franciscan friar Thomas of Celano said Christmas was always a particularly joyous day for Francis: “If I knew the emperor — he said often — I would beg him to order that wheat is thrown to feed all birds, especially sparrows, and to command all those who have animals in barns to feed them more generously, in memory of the birth of Christ on a manger. I also wish on this solemn day all the rich welcomed the poor at their table!”

In Greccio, John of Velita, a friend of the saint, had offered Francis a highland surrounded by the woods, so he could dwell in there. In 1223, close to Christmas, Francis said to his friend, “Look, I would like to celebrate Christmas with you. I have thought of this: In the woods, close to our hermitage, you will find a grotto: You will display a manger with hay and a donkey and an ox, just like in Bethlehem. I hope at least once I can see through my eyes how the Divine Child slept in the manger, how the Lord surrendered himself to contempt and to extreme poverty out of love for us!” John of Velita gladly accepted. Having gotten approval from the Holy See, Francis built an altar with the aid of the friars and invited people from all around.

By midnight, numerous groups of people arrived holding torches in their hands, while the friars lit candles around the grotto. During Mass, “when it was time to sing the Gospel”, Francis appeared, with his deacon vestments on. With ineffable sweetness, he spoke about Baby Jesus, the Great King who took upon the human nature, the Christ born in the city of David. At every moment, when Francis mentioned the name of Jesus, the inner flame of his heart put these words in his lips: ‘the Child of Bethlehem’; and this expression found in his lips an extraordinary fascination. “When the rite was over, everyone left with their hearts filled with a celestial joy.”



This was the first midnight Mass celebrated before the first Nativity scene. The Franciscans, spread through the earth this way of venerating Baby Jesus.

As we contemplate our Nativity scene at home this Christmas, may we witness — as Francis did — how Jesus surrendered himself to contempt and to extreme poverty out of love for us.



## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

### In the Presence of God

By Sr. Margaret Mary Hill, SSCJ



Prayer, for me, is loving to be in the presence of God, especially before His Eucharistic Presence in chapel. I love to pray to our Blessed Mother, to pray for the Souls in Purgatory, and to pray for all the people in the world, especially for the dying.

If, at times, I find my prayer to be dry (for example during adoration), I simply take Scripture or a spiritual book, and say to God: "The important thing, Lord, is just being here with You." I desire to be united to God now and for all eternity; to love and console the Heart of my Jesus.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen."

*St. Francis of Assisi*

"In prayer you become one with the source of our true light – Jesus Himself."

*St. John Paul II*



### Blessed Mother Mary,

#### My Companion to the House to the House of the Lord

By Sr. Mary Barbara Hoyt, SSCJ



"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord", says the hymn. The Blessed Mother Mary has been a life long companion on my way to the Lord, especially as I pray the Rosary.

From May altars in our family home, to May Crowning in our convent, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has been quite strong in me.

I went to a catholic college for one year, and in the dormitory was a small chapel. I used to go there and pray the Rosary. Much later on in life, as a member of the Legion of Mary, the Rosary was the focal prayer of the weekly meeting. Now, in the convent, we say the Rosary daily, and the big black Rosary is a part of our religious garb.

The Blessed Mother, as our spiritual Mother, loves us as Her very dear children, and attends to our needs. As the Mother of Jesus, She is worthy of our love and devotion.

So "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord", where we hope to sing forever the praises of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

**The Invitational Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament**

**September 14, 2018**

**Benefits the mission & works of the Sister Servants  
of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**



**Mainline  
PHARMACY**

**RESTA**  
HOME HEALTH  
*for a better quality of life*

**St. Stanislaus Kostka  
Brotherhood**

**ALPHA**  
POWERSPORTS  
AND SPECIALIZED VEHICLES

**EBENSBURG  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY**

**Sam's Club**

**365 Hospice**  
"CUSTOMIZED CARE EVERYDAY"

**Jack, Jenny and Paul Calandra**

**Paul and Marcella Cooney**



**ALL OUR TOURNAMENT  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PLAYERS, SPONSORS & STAFF!**

*Thank you!*





# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Special Sponsors:

Allan Diehl, State Farm Insurance  
Kline Kimlin, CPA  
NEXT Financial Group, Don Popovitch  
Ophthalmic Associates  
Perove Wealth Management  
Roy & Lynn Holtz

## Tee Sponsors:

1st Summit Bank  
Ralph J Albarano & Sons  
Biorunup.com  
CME Engineers  
DeGol Carpet  
DeSepio Institute for Rural Health & Wellness  
Dr. A. R. Morris  
Eckenrode Septic Tank Cleaning  
E.G. and Associates Group  
HC Lang Insurance Agency  
Hines Equipment  
Home Design Concepts  
IGOU BROS. Welding and Fabrication Shop  
Jacobs Oil Company, INC  
Jeff Ball Plumbing and Heating  
K of C Council #551, Altoona  
Keystone Environmental Health and Safety  
McCall Motors  
Miller's Tire and Service Center  
Munster Auto Service and Sales  
PennCrest Bank  
Portage Service Center  
Pro Disposal, Inc  
Saint Francis University  
SERVPRO of Ebensburg  
Spangler Subaru  
Msgr John R Sasway  
Wagner and Finn

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR ELEVENTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2018: JERRY MOSCHGAT, JEFF MOSCHGAT, JACK MOSCHGAT AND JOHN ZACK.



*Above: Jerry Moschgat and  
Sr. Klara, Provincial Superior*



# 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



To us: contact

**Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
**Sacred Heart Province**  
866 Cambria Street  
Cresson, Pennsylvania 16630

Phone: (814) 886 4223  
Email: [secretarysscjusa@yahoo.com](mailto:secretarysscjusa@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.sacredheartsisters.org](http://www.sacredheartsisters.org)  
Facebook: Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Twitter: @sscjusa

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 Man-deville, Jamaica, West Indies.

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](http://www.johnpaul2manor.org)**

