

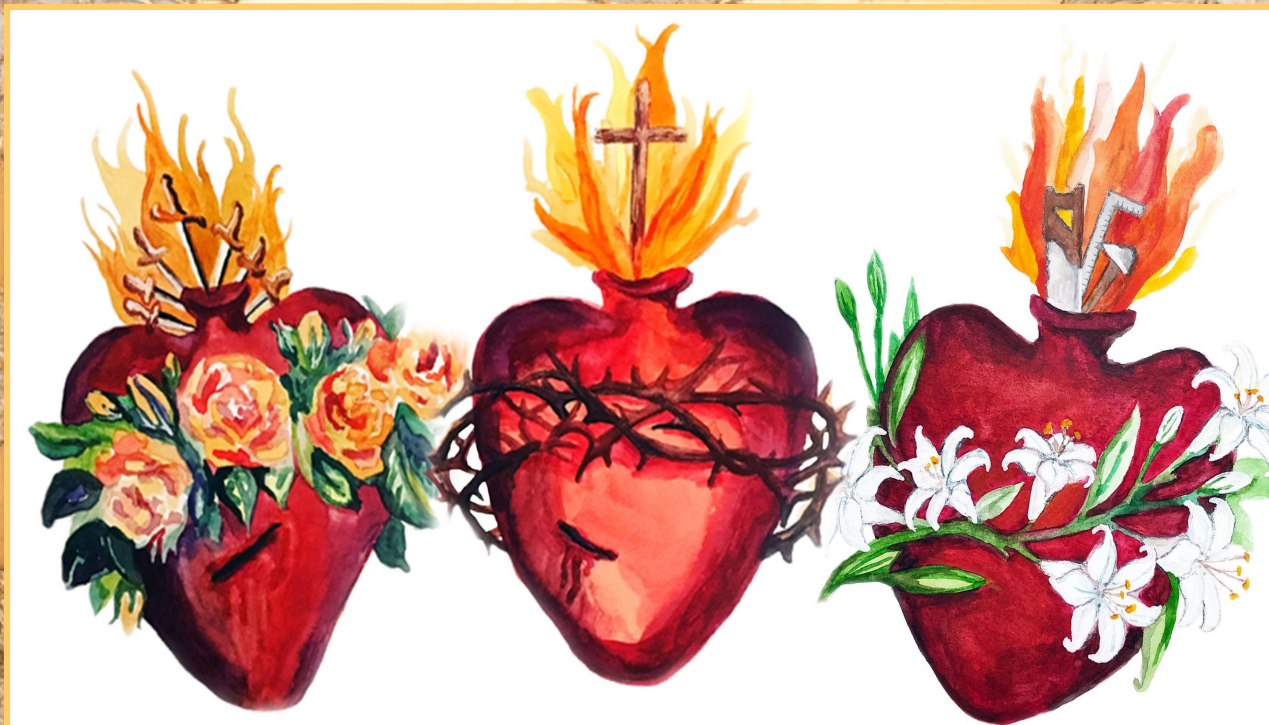
Volume 21, Issue 2
Summer/Fall 2021
A newsletter of the Sister
Servants of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus

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

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.
Most chaste Heart of Joseph, pray for us.*



Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may my soul rest in peace in You.

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*

Many years ago I heard the expression: *"Only garbage flows with the current, a valuable fish swims against it."* It was a sort of consolation for me, as quite often I didn't fit in. It never appealed to me that "everybody is doing it." I wanted to find my own way, to discover a different solution to a problem. When God called me to the religious life, it seemed like a contradiction: we all dress alike, pray alike, and work alike, until slowly I learned that the most important part of our life is hidden. God doesn't make carbon copies, we really are His handwork, unique in so many ways. So I don't have to blindly follow any of the Saints; I love and admire them, but I can find my own way through life, a way created by God just for me. I dress like all my Sisters, I look like all my Sisters, but inside I am different. In many ways I still don't fit in, but I am now in good company—many of the Sisters feel the same. We don't swim with the current—taking the easy way of gossip, lying or breaking promises. We don't want to swim with waste, but if we do, we cleanse ourselves in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Strong with God's grace, surrounded by Jesus' love, we learn every day how to swim against the current, how to pray and forgive, and how not to give up! And what a wonder: *We are happy. I am happy!*

"It takes a strong fish to swim against the current, even a dead one can swim with it."

—John Crowe



Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ

Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ
Provincial Superior

The fish, which many may have seen in this form <>, originates from the Greek word for fish, "ichthys/ichthus."

I – Iota or **I**esous (which means **J**esus)

X – Chi or **C**hristos (**C**hrist)

N – Theta or **T**heou (**G**od)

Y – Upsilon or **Y**idos/**H**uios (**S**on)

Y – Sigma or **S**oter (**S**avior).

From a Biographical Sketch of Our Sisters' Co-Foundress Blessed Klara Szczesna: "All for the Heart of Jesus"

(M. Karolina Kasperkiewicz)



Blessed Klara Szczesna's motto was, *"All for the Heart of Jesus."* Every day, she gave all that she was, all that she possessed, and all that

she accomplished to the Sacred Heart. This was evident throughout the memoirs of the Sisters who witnessed her life.

Mother Klara constantly remained in God's presence because of her own steadfast faith and undivided love. This constancy of presence was nurtured by her complete obedience to God's will, by her total dependence on God's Providence, by her concern to spread His honor, and by gratitude for her religious vocation.

Mother Klara made reparation to the Most Sacred Heart through prayer and penance. She also accepted humiliations, spiritual sufferings, and chronic illness without complaint. She was motivated by the Sacred Heart to love her neighbor and always maintained an attitude of generous service to the needy.

Mother Klara's devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary was complemented by her honor and love for St. Joseph, the meek and humble Protector of Jesus and Mary. She found in this patron saint of the Congregation an unfailing help in providing for the spiritual and material needs of the community in its early years. St. Joseph was also the confidant of her personal worries and sufferings, and before her death, the herald of future joy.

Basically, the fish represents the phrase of "Jesus Christ, Son of God, is Savior." In the first centuries, during times of persecution by the Romans, the fish symbol was used among hiding Christians to mark their meeting places for gathering and worship. The symbol could be spotted on trees or doorways.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



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

Excerpt of Meditation 48 The imitation of Saint Joseph in the interior life

Imagine that you see Saint Joseph in the home at Nazareth, at the stable in Bethlehem and in exile in Egypt.

With what virtues did the interior life of Saint Joseph radiate?

Consider that the entire life of Saint Joseph was interior and hidden in God; so little known to the world that but a few holy writers mention him in some few places; and of his death give no information. This was a life of prayer, quiet work, and constant sacrifice, and at the same time, a life shining with the splendor of all virtues.

Ponder only that by having married the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph renounced the dignity of fatherhood - so dear to the Israelites, and voluntarily lived in lifelong virginity so that he could belong totally to God. This was a life of mortification and chastity. While a descendant of the royal family, he worked every day for a living in the craftsman's workshop - Jesus being all his wealth.

Behold his life of self-denial and poverty. Saint Joseph, as the highest of the patriarchs and a witness to the mysteries of God, could convert the world, and yet he enclosed himself in a small town, being completely devoted to Jesus. This was a life of humility and prayer.

Saint Joseph was such a great lover of God, but was afflicted by much suffering which he endured with a wonderful fortitude. This was a life of love for the cross and submission to the will of God. Do you have similar virtues?

If you want to know the faith of Saint Joseph, observe in the stable of Bethlehem his worshipping of the Incarnate Word, venerating in him his Lord and God.

If you want to know Saint Joseph's love for Jesus and Mary, behold how he devoted every moment of his life to them.

If you want to know Saint Joseph's obedience, look at how he rose at night at the angel's voice and, giving no care to hunger, hardships or cold, went to Egypt where he led a hard life until the next command of God.



Do you have similar virtues?

Consider that God demanded much of Saint Joseph, but he also generously rewarded him on earth and highly exalted him.

For his purity, God made Saint Joseph the spouse, companion and guardian of the Blessed Mother of God. For his self-denial, he gave him the sweet consolation that with his own eyes he could gaze upon the Savior of the world and take him up in his arms.

For his obedience, he elevated St. Joseph to such an ineffable dignity that he made him guardian and foster father of his Son, Jesus.

For his love for Jesus and Mary, he endowed St. Joseph with the great grace that after his holy life he died peacefully in their arms.

And God demands much from you, but he will favor you generously on this earth, and will exalt you, if you will but imitate Saint Joseph in his virtues.

Do you sincerely desire this?

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Rededication of the Enthronement of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

On June 11, 2021, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Sisters of Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the United States, after spiritual preparation, renewed



their self-offering and the enthronement of the Sacred Heart as King of the Province, a consecration first made in 1997.

Very Reverend Father Stanislaw Dailey, Vicar for Religious of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, offered Holy Mass at St. Joseph Convent in Munster Township, Portage, Pennsylvania, and afterward led the Rededication of the Enthronement at the Province Chapel in



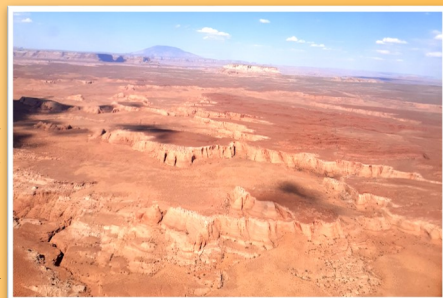
Cresson, PA, praying before the Sacred Heart image painted by Sr. Bernarda Sidelko, SSCJ. Afterwards, the Sisters signed the Act of Dedication Certificate, and renewed their Marian Consecration of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe.



Sisters' Summer Apostolate in Page, Arizona

By Sr. Mary Joseph Calore, SSCJ

From July 3-18, 2021, Mother Provincial Klara Slonina and Sr. Mary Joseph Calore were in Page, Arizona in the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico. The pastor, Fr. Thomas Maikowski, a very zealous priest in the home missions, invited us to catechize the children of his parish and prepare them for the sacraments of initiation. Despite the blistering temperatures in the high desert region, we were able, by the grace of God, to catechize 28 children, prepare 6 children for the sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Communion and Penance, and even welcome two Navajo children to the sacrament of Baptism!



Fr. Maikowski was very receptive to the idea of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the homes of his parishioners - and after a crusade of speaking during the Masses for three weekends, 100 households welcomed the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the Lord of their homes and hearts. Fr. Maikowski took us to see the beautiful sights of the Grand Canyon and historical places in Gallup, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico. We are so grateful to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that we could be His ambassadors and instruments among Navajo, Mexican-American, Filipino-American and American children!

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



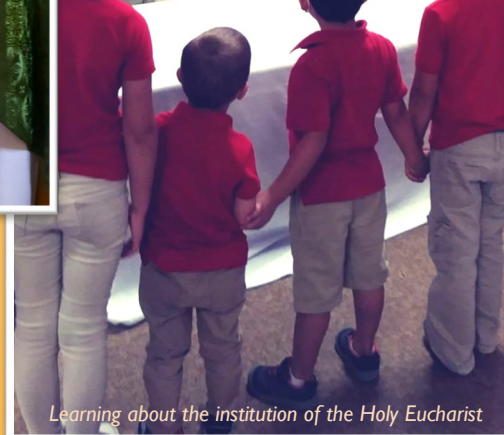
Thanksgiving after First Communion



Sacrament of Confirmation



Time for work ...



Learning about the institution of the Holy Eucharist



... and time for rest.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Silver Jubilee of Religious Vows

By Sr. Mary Joseph Calore, SSCJ

On June 12, 2021, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at noon at St. Francis Xavier Church in Cresson, Pennsylvania, Sr. Mary Daniel (Juanita Francine) Jackson, SSCJ and Sr. Mary Joseph (Joan Ann) Calore, SSCJ observed their Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession. The celebrant of the Holy Mass was the pastor, Fr. Leo Arnone and the homilist was Fr. Aron Maghsoudi.



Left to Right: *Sr. Mary Daniel, SSCJ*
and Sr. Mary Joseph, SSCJ

Father Maghsoudi based his homily on the phrase of Blessed Pope Pius IX that so motivated our Father Founder, "Be as torches burning in the fog." The Mass was concelebrated by visiting priests, Very Rev. John Byrnes, Judicial Vicar of Altoona-Johnstown; Chaplains Msgr. Bernard Przybocki and Fr. Jerzy Auguscik, OFM Conventual; and Fr. Douglas Ondeck of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Sr. Mary Daniel and Sr. Mary Joseph were received into religious life in 1993 by then Mother Provincial Amabilis Debicka, the final candidates Mother received and her last formation class as mistress of postulants. Their novitiate and juniorate was directed by Sr. Theresa Marie Kukla.



From the Eucharistic Table to the earthly one



Sr. Mary Daniel and Sr. Mary Joseph are so grateful to Almighty God for this grace and for the motherly support of our Reverend Mother Olga Podsadnia and Reverend Mother Provincial Klara Slonina. The Sisters are also thankful for the beautiful dinner following the Jubilee Mass in the church hall, decorated so nicely for the occasion, attended by our Sisters, priests and the family and friends of the Jubilarians. Deo gratias!



*Bride of Christ, receive the
Crown and Light of Christ ...*



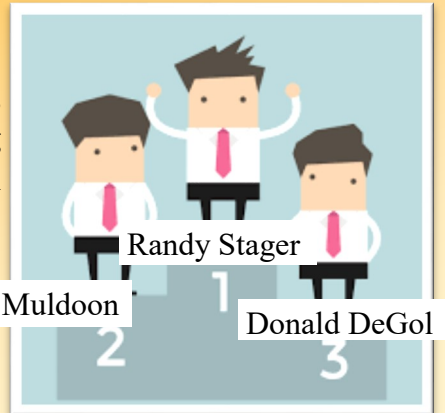
Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sacred Heart Raffle

On the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jun 11, 2021, the drawing of our Sacred Heart Raffle was held, with the winning tickets pulled by Fr. Stash Dailey. Proceeds benefited our John Paul II Manor. Thank you to all who participated!

The winners of the Raffle were:

**Third Prize Donald DeGol * Second Prize Ron Muldoon *
First Prize Randy Stager**



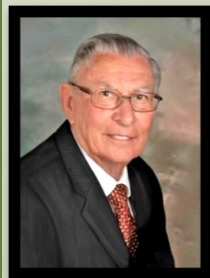
Recently, several of our dear friends have been called for their heavenly reward:

Louise C. Machowski (1931-2021)

Louise Machowski, 90, a dear friend and supporter of our first Sisters in America and longtime housekeeper for Msgr. Bernard Przybocki, died on June 25, 2021 at Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg, PA, having dedicated her life working as a Priest's housekeeper - secretary for 58 years.



Robert J. Allen (1937-2021)



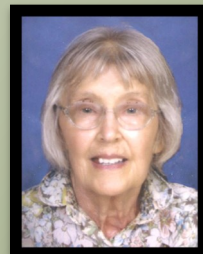
Our Sisters were saddened to learn that our former development director, Mr. Robert J. Allen, 84, of Arlington, passed away on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, after a prolonged illness. As a development consultant, Mr. Allen assisted our Sisters, along over fifty other religious communities, establishing this publication, which he named *The Vine* and other development mailings and projects that continue to this day. We pray for the repose of this devout man's soul and the consolation of Bob's wife Dorothy and family.



*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O LORD
and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May their souls and the
souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.*

Betty Jean Carriger (1932-2020)

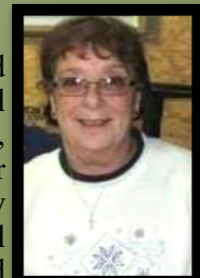
**CSM Harley
Carriger
(US Army-Ret)
(1930-2021)**



Our Sisters send heartfelt sympathy to our Sr. Clare Marie Carriger and her family on the recent deaths of her parents, Betty Jean Carriger, 88, who passed away on April 1, 2020, and had her funeral on June 26, 2021, and also on the death of her father, CSM Harley M. Carriger (US Army-Ret), 90, who died on July 13, 2021 in Bel Air. Both Mr. & Mrs. Carriger were very dedicated to their Catholic faith, their life of prayer, and promotion of the culture of life.

Ronna J. Burda (1957-2021)

Our dear Ronna Burda, who worked with such dedication at our John Paul II Manor, passed away on July 16, 2021. Our Sisters are grateful for her love and service and prayerfully remember the repose of Ronna's soul and the consolation of her husband Michael Nemec and family.



Kathleen C. "Kathy" (Sloan) Davis (1968-2021)



Another dear member of the John Paul II Manor Staff went to God on July 14, 2021, Kathy (Sloan) Davis. Kathy was a great blessing to us at our Manor, for whose selfless service we give thanks. We remember the repose of Kathy's soul, and pray for consolation for her husband Raymond and her sons, as well her parents Paul and Betty Sloan and family.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOUR INTENTIONS?

Please call our Sisters with your prayer intentions — 814.886.4223
or send us word via our website
www.sacredheartsisters.org.



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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Blog: <https://sscjusablog.wordpress.com>

Our Federal ID Number is: 20-812762

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, Buffalo, Columbus and Grand Rapids and in Mandeville, 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

Or see their website for more information on our Manor residence and employment opportunities.

www.johnpaul2manor.org

