

A NEW VISION

Newsletter & Chronicle



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

March-April, 2021

140th Anniversary of Venerable Hedwig's Fiat

The feast of the Annunciation is a vital feast in the salvation history. The Virgin Mary's "yes" welcomed the incarnation of God among us in the being of Jesus Christ. Hedwig's "yes" provided a strength, courage, insight and contemplative spirituality in the birthing of a new congregation.

This year on the feast of the Annunciation we also celebrate the 140th Anniversary of Venerable Hedwig's fiat. As the Angelus Bells were ringing, on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1881, Hedwig Borzecka, at the age of 18 made her personal "fiat" to answer Christ's invitation to follow Him and to courageously help her mother in founding the Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection.



Hedwig celebrated March 25th of each year very solemnly. Hedwig, reflecting on the anniversary of her "fiat", once wrote: "I feel possession of Jesus! And I see it as a great grace, this giving myself to Jesus, that there is none greater in heaven itself."

In her book, The Daughter, Sr. Teresa Matea Florczak states that "From then on, Hedwig celebrated March 25th of each year very solemnly."

"A New Vision" *Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.*

Following the example of previous Provincial Superiors, I have decided to develop a Province Newsletter that will also serve as the chronicle of the Province and the local communities. It will also have information about the Apostles of the Resurrection, Ongoing Formation, Resurrection Studies, Reflections on the Grace of Aging, upcoming events, ministry activities of the Sisters and more. In fact, we will have a couple of columns that will be fun as well as informative. One such column in each issue will have a recipe column written by Sr. Mary Patricia and another by Sr. Kathryn on icons.

I chose the title, “A New Vision,” because it correlates with the invitation, I believe God is extending to us right now, “Put out into the deep...” (Luke 5:4-6). When we go out into the deep to meet the Lord, we will experience a new vision of prayer, a new vision of community and new vision of evangelization. When we leave the shoreline, we leave our vision behind. When we meet God out in the deep, we receive a new vision, God’s vision. With a new vision we see the hand of God in nature and we see the face of Christ in each other. What once seemed impossible is now possible. What seemed like the closing chapter of the book becomes the opening chapter of a brand new book.

Singing Mary’s Song (Excerpt from Reflection on the Magnificat by Jack Shea)

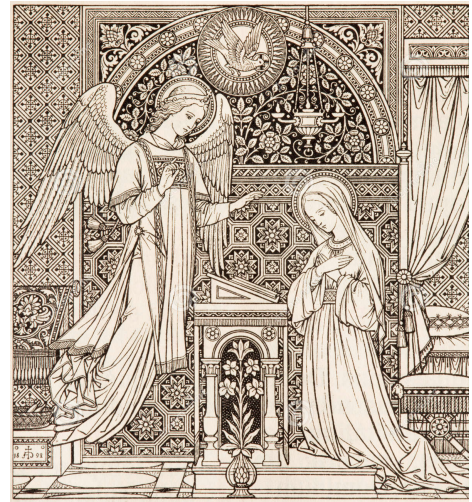
When I sing the song of Mary,
I feel she takes my hand and leads me,
looking ahead at a path I cannot see.
Then she looks back,
checking my willingness,
making sure I am not pulling back.
Or worse, turning back.

...The umbilical cord to God is uncut,
and divine life flows into us,
turning our lowliness into largeness,
magnifying the life that blesses us.

“Mercy,” she says,
and the word expands,
filling space and time
until everything is pregnant.

And I know now
how we keep ourselves from this fullness –
how proud thoughts scatter us,
how riches bring us to famine,
how ruling over others keeps us from service,
how from generation to generation
we seek but cannot find
the promise that fired the hearts
of Abraham and Sarah.

I look around.



Mary is gone.
Her work is done.
She has been called
to guide
another singer of her song.

Only the memory of her hand in mine
keeps me aware
that I am meant to cooperate with the love
that is reshaping the world.

© John Shea

Anyone interested in a copy of the entire reflection
contact Sr. Donna Marie, C.R.

Thank You Sister Virginia Ann Wanzek C.R.

*A truly great leader is hard to find, difficult to part with
and impossible to forget!*



The Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province are grateful to Sister Virginia Ann for her generous and loving service as our Provincial Superior for the past twelve years.

Over these years Sister Virginia Ann led the Province through many challenges. There were mergers and transfers of the sponsorships of our healthcare and educational ministries, the sale of our Provincial Home, the move of all the Sisters from the Queen of the Resurrection House of Prayer to the Resurrection Life Center and the move of all the rest of the Province to Resurrection Retirement Center.

All of these changes were difficult. The letting go of ministries was painful for all of us but necessary. Many of these changes were complex and required a lot of Sister Virginia Ann's time, planning and work with civil and canon lawyers in order to accomplish.

Through all of these challenges Sister Virginia Ann was a leader who inspired trust and confidence in God's presence and guidance. She believed that "Through the Cross and Death" we could and would come to "Resurrection and Glory." Her courage gave us courage.

God has gifted and blessed Sister Virginia Ann in countless ways and she has generously shared those blessings with all of us, her Sisters.

Sister's twelve years were filled with unusual challenges and so was the Province's thank you celebration on December 20, 2020. Because of the COVID Pandemic the celebration was totally virtual with a prayer service conducted via conference call and each Sister calling Sister Virginia Ann during the day to extend a personal thank you.

Thank you, Sister Virginia Ann for twelve amazing and grace-filled years of service to our Province and to each of us your Sisters. May God bless you and keep you in His watchful care.

Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

Thank You Sister Stephanie Blaszczyński, C.R.



Thank you to Sister Stephanie for eleven years of service as the Treasurer for the Immaculate Conception Province. Sister has done outstanding work on all the financial challenges that came with the sale of the Provincial Home and the move of the entire Province to Ascension Living Resurrection Village and Resurrection Life Center. Sister had to design new ways of managing the financial needs and expenses as we transitioned from convents to senior living apartments. She did a great job and has left future treasurers an excellent

process.

We are grateful to Sister Stephanie not only for the way in which she managed our finances, buildings, grounds and all that we have as a community, but also for the way in which she “treasures” and cares for all her Sisters. Sister Stephanie is a “community” person and always puts her sisters first.

Sister Stephanie, thank you for your dedication, hard work and service. Know that you are loved and appreciated. May God. bless you.

Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

Aging with Grace: by Sister Hedwig Kuczynski, C.R.

In an address at the end January, 2021 Pope Francis spoke about the special grace the elderly are to the Church, to their families and to society. Pope Francis stated, "Today I want to tell you that the elderly are the present and tomorrow of the church. Yes, they are also the future of a church, which, together with young people, prophecies and dreams. That is why it is so important that the old and the young talk to each other. It is so important."

"In the Bible, longevity is a blessing," the pope noted. It is a time to face one's fragility and to recognize how reciprocal love and care within a family really are.

"Giving long life, God the father gives time to deepen one's awareness of him and to deepen intimacy with him, to draw closer to his heart and abandon oneself to him," the pope said. "It is a time to prepare to consign our spirit into his hands, definitively, with the trust of children. But it also is a time of renewed fruitfulness."

A copy of the full article is posted in E 225 and A 414

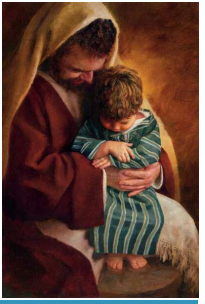
A Tribute to Saint Joseph in the Year of Saint Joseph



As part of the tribute to Saint Joseph, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter, “*Patris Corde*” (With a Father’s Heart). It is a beautiful tribute to Saint Joseph as a husband, father, and Patron of the Universal Church.

Here are a few quotes from Pope Francis’ Letter.

A tender and loving father



Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour” (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” (Ps 103:13).

An obedient father



In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat”, like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father.

An Accepting father



The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning.

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is...

(a copy of the full Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* is in E 225 and A 414)

Province and Local Communities Chronicle

LENTEN SERIES In an effort to make our Lenten Experience a little more special during the COVID19 Pandemic we had a Lenten Series of Reflections by five priests over Zoom. Father John Schork, C.P. spoke about the challenges of COVID being a source of Grace and Hunger for the Sacraments on February 24th. On March 3rd Father Paul Sims, C.R. shared his reflection on the Pathways to Prayer. Father Rich Grek, C.R. spoke on Jesus the Center of Lent on March 12th.

Later in March Father Dennis Sanders, C.R. and Father Steve Bartczyszyn, C.R. will provide Lenten reflections.

EUCCHARIST Brother William Halas, C.R., Superior of the Saint Joseph local community had Father Paul Sims bring us two ciboria of Consecrated Hosts. This enabled the sisters in both of our local communities to have Holy Communion three days per week during Lent. This was a special grace for which we are grateful to the CR Brothers and Fathers.

OPENING OF THE RESURRECTION COMMUNITY ROOM On Sunday, February 21st the Sisters of the Resurrection Local Community met in their new Community Room on the 4th floor in the A building. Now this local community has a space to gather for Vespers, for meetings, reading, recreation and celebrations. This new space will help strengthen the bonds of community.

SISTER ANNE DAY March 5th is the death anniversary of Sister Anne and is traditionally a day for the whole Immaculate Conception Province to celebrate the gift of Sister Anne. This year Sister Christine Maria Moskal, C.R. prepared a lovely reflection on Sister Anne and planned and distributed the makings for root beer floats.



TOUR OF AMAZING GRACE On March 5th eight Sisters visited the new Amazing Grace Assisted Living & Memory Care facility that was once our Provincial Home. The staff toured the Sisters and treated them to lunch. The facility is beautiful and designed to provide sensitive and quality care to seniors and especially those with memory challenges. Being that the tour was on Sister Anne's death anniversary the Sisters all commented that



“Sister Anne can be proud and pleased that the land she bought and the home she built are serving so many people in wonderful ways.”
(pictures at the bottom of page 6 are the private dining room to the left and the main dining room to the right. Picture on the top of page 7 is the Bistro which is what we called the Sister Anne Room).

VISITATION In February Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R. completed visitation with the Sisters in the Emmaus Local Community. In March Sister completed visitation in the Resurrection Local Community. Although the individual

visitations were face to face the closing gatherings with the full communities were conducted via Zoom because of COVID.

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the Sisters have found ways to reach out and bring hope to each other and to the other residents. Amidst the challenges the Sisters have grown in their love, faith and friendship with Jesus.

CONSECRATION TO SAINT JOSEPH As part of the celebration of the Year in Honor of Saint Joseph several of the Sisters in both local communities have been using the book, *Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonder of Our Spiritual Father* by Donald H. Calloway, MIC to prepare for their Consecration. This book provides a thirty-three day preparation similar to St. Louis de Montfort’s book *True Devotion to Mary* and its preparation for consecration to Mary.

CENTER FOR RESURRECTION STUDIES: Sister Christine Marie Moskal, C.R.

As I begin my term as the chair of the Center for Resurrection Studies, I am happy to share some of the goals for the year.

Our first emphasis will be to be mindful of the days and seasons throughout the year that mark our Paschal journey and to commemorate them in a prayerful and educational manner. Secondly, we have accessibility to written resources of our C.R. heritage, as well as those which are more current, so that we ourselves might grow stronger through our assimilation of these heroic examples and methodologies of Resurrection living. Copies of selected volumes will be available in E 225 and A 414. Links to articles available on C.R. websites will be highlighted. Printed articles will be made available on a quarterly basis.

Thirdly, our Baptismal call to evangelize leads us to the particular sharing of our vocational Charism with others. A special celebration of the Anniversary of Blessed Celine and Mother Hedwig’s coming together with the first Sisters of the Resurrection to live community life will

be planned for 2022. These efforts will be coordinated with the Province Ongoing Formation Program.

All of the Sisters and Apostles in our Province are encouraged to welcome the informal occasions that present themselves to witness to Christ Risen. Please contact me if I can assist you with any concerns or questions, personal initiatives, contacts or ministries. Thank you for your perseverance and enthusiasm for living and sharing our Resurrection way of life.

The Recipe Box: *by Sr. Mary Patricia Volz, C.R.*



I would like to share my all-time favorite recipe. I think this one is perfect for Lent.

One of Life's Recipes

2 cups of sacrifice for others	1 cup of good thoughts
3 cups of forgiveness	1 cup kind deeds
2 cups well beaten faults	1 cup of consideration for others

Mix thoroughly. Add tears of joy, sorrow and sympathy for others. Fold in 4 cups of prayers for faith to lighten the other ingredients and to raise the texture of great heights of Christian living. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with the heat of human kindness. Serve with a smile.

March and April Birthdays

March 10	Sister Virginia Ann Wanzek, C.R.
March 26	Sister Carolyn Sniegowski, C.R.
April 7	Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

March and April Feast Days

March 25	Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.
April 29	Sister Kathryn Wojcik, C.R.
April 29	Sister Kathleen Skrocki, C.R.

