

A NEW VISION

Newsletter & Chronicle

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

May and June, 2021



May is one of the most beautiful months of the year. We are still in the Easter Season and all nature is awakening from a long winter's sleep. The beautiful month of May has for many centuries been designated as a month to honor Mary. There are so many reasons why May is a perfect month to honor Mary. I would like to share an ode which was written by Saint Anselm and that I believe expresses beautifully the real reason for honoring Mary, that is, for her role in salvation and the **recreation** of the world in God's love and grace.

Although Saint Anselm lived in the 11th Century his theology continues to speak to needs and concerns of our world today.

Sister Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

***Mary, Mother of God's Re-created World - An ode
to the Blessed Virgin by
Saint Anselm***



Blessed Lady, sky and stars, earth and rivers, day and night – everything that is subject to the power or use of man – rejoice that through you they are in some sense restored to their lost beauty and are endowed with inexpressible new grace. All creatures were dead, as it were, useless for men or for the praise of God, who made them. The world, contrary to its true destiny, was corrupted and tainted by the acts of men who served idols. Now all creation has been restored to life and rejoices that it is controlled and given splendor by men who believe in God.

The universe rejoices with new and indefinable loveliness. Not only does it feel the unseen presence of God himself, its Creator, it sees him openly, working and making it holy. These great blessings spring from the blessed fruit of Mary's womb.

Through the fullness of the grace that was given you, dead things rejoice in their freedom, and those in heaven are glad to be made new. Through the Son who was the glorious fruit of your virgin womb, just souls who died before his life-giving death rejoice as they are freed from captivity, and the angels are glad at the restoration of their shattered domain.

Lady, full and overflowing with grace, all creation receives new life from your abundance. Virgin, blessed above all creatures, through your blessing all creation is blessed, not only creation from its Creator, but the Creator himself has been blessed by creation.

To Mary God gave his only-begotten Son, whom he loved as himself. Through Mary God made himself a Son, not different but the same, by nature Son of God and Son of Mary. The whole universe was created by God, and God was born of Mary. God created all things, and Mary gave birth to God. The God who made all things gave himself form through Mary, and thus he made his own creation. He who could create all things from nothing would not remake his ruined creation without Mary.

God, then, is the Father of the created world and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made, and Mary gave birth to him as the Savior of the world. Without God's Son, nothing could exist; without Mary's Son, nothing could be redeemed.

Truly the Lord is with you, to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself.

The Icon Corner with Sister Kathryn Wocjik, C.R.

San Damiano Cross

One day when St. Francis of Assisi was wondering what to do with his life, he entered the church to pray for guidance. As he was praying, tradition says that he heard the voice of Jesus say, "Rebuild my house which you see is in ruins." Francis took this



message literally. He rebuilt the chapel and a few others that were in ruins. The church was named San Damiano after Saint Damian the physician.

The crucifix is in the style that is called an icon cross because images of the saints and other people associated with Christ's crucified are painted on the cross along with the figure of Jesus. The cross tells the story of the passion with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalen, Mary of Cleophus, and a rooster for Peter. The Ascension is also depicted with the angels welcoming the Risen Jesus into heaven.

PROVINCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' CHRONICLES

MARCH 15TH SOLIDARITY FIESTA The Catholic Bolivian Medical Missionary organization which Sister Donna Marie serves as a Board Member had a virtual fiesta to raise funds for their mission trips. The first evening of the fiesta there was a Zoom program featuring missionary physicians and nurses from the United States and their counterpart physicians from Bolivia. These missionaries gave testimonies about their work. It was very inspiring to hear.



Sister Florence and Sister Virginia Ann joined Sister Donna in her apartment to celebrate the fiesta with hors d'oeuvres and watch the Zoom program.

MARCH 19TH FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed this year a special *Year of St. Joseph*. The book "Consecration to St. Joseph" by Father Donald H. Calloway, MIC was made available in both local communities. Several Sisters in each community used the book as a 30-day preparation for the Feast of Saint Joseph. The book prepares a person to make an act of consecration to Saint Joseph, like the preparation Saint Louis de



Montfort's book provides to those wishing to consecrate themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Each Sister received a beautiful key chain with the image of Saint Joseph holding the child Jesus. The key chains were a gift from Mother Dorota. Each Sister also received delicious cheese sticks, a special pastry from the bakery on Canfield.

MARCH 25th FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

AND 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF VENERABLE

HEDWIG'S FIAT As part of the celebration each Sister received a red rose and a note from Sister Donna thanking the Sister for her yes to Jesus' call and for the many years of service she has given to the Congregation and to God's people.

The Emmaus local community invited Sister Donna for coffee and donuts since it was also her feastday.



PALM SUNDAY Palm Sunday was truly a blessed day as Sunday Masses resumed at Resurrection Retirement Village, after having been discontinued for almost seven months due to COVID. Holy Thursday and Good Friday Services were also held at the Village for all to participate in.

EASTER SUNDAY In the morning, Mass was once again celebrated in the chapel of the Retirement Village. In the afternoon two cars of sisters went to Saint Adalbert Cemetery to place a lily at the feet of the Resurrection monument and pray for all the deceased Sisters.

In the evening both Resurrection and Emmaus local communities celebrated Easter with gatherings in their community rooms. The various sisters prepared warm and cold snacks and the sisters spent time reminiscing and enjoying the opportunity to get together after so many months of limited socialization due to COVID.

EASTER MONDAY Easter Monday was the first time in a year that we were able to celebrate together as a Province. Because of the pandemic we were isolated for 12 months so getting together for Easter Monday was a real treat.

Since Resurrection College Prep High School was closed for Easter and Spring break, we were able to use the chapel and one of the study halls for the gathering. The day began in the chapel with Lauds followed by Mass. Father John Schork, C.P. was the celebrant. Father Schork opened the Lenten Season with the Sisters with a beautiful reflection via Zoom, so it was perfect having him celebrate Easter with the Sisters.

A special picture of the Risen Jesus was placed In front of the altar. This image of His head only, was all that was able to be saved from the original oil painting that covered the back wall of the original chapel in the Norwood Provincial Home.

After Mass there was a catered lunch from Panera's and time to enjoy talking together.

At 12:30 p.m. there was a surprise Zoom visit with Mother Dorota and the Sisters from the Mother House in Rome. Each Sister from the Chicago Province and from Rome had a chance to introduce herself. It was a great visit.



The event ended with each Sister receiving a book of meditations for Easter and Pentecost Seasons and other prizes.

APRIL 7TH CELEBRATION A friend of Sister Rosemary sent a large, delicious ham, mashed potatoes, and other side dishes for the Sisters to enjoy during the Easter Season. The Provincial Council arranged for the whole Province to get together to enjoy a delicious dinner treat on April 7th to celebrate Sister Donna Marie's Birthday. The Emmaus community room and the archive room were set up as dining spaces for the occasion.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY On Sunday, April 25th the feast of Christ the Good Shepherd, Sister Donna and the Council spent time together in prayer and reflection on the "call to shepherd." Time was spent reflecting on the qualities of Christ the Good Shepherd and how every leader is called to imitate those same qualities.

During the prayer service each Sister of the Immaculate Conception Province was prayed for by name, thanking God for the gift she is and asking for continued blessings upon her.

Sister Donna Marie and each of the Councilors signed a card for each Sister in the Province and attached it to a bud vase with red carnations. It was a small token expressing a commitment to serve the Sisters with the heart and spirit of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

The day ended with a meal and the gift of the book, *The Shepherd Trilogy* by Phillip Keller.

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER, MAY 1st Sister Donna Marie baked cupcakes and scones for both local communities and gave each Sister letter with Bistro Bucks.

MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 9th Sister Gloria Marie baked a variety of kolachky for all the Sisters and packaged them nicely!

VOLUNTEERING From the Emmaus local community, Sister Gloria Marie Fox has started back to her volunteer services at Amita Resurrection Medical Center.

From the Resurrection local community, Sister Hedwig Kuczynski and Sister Barbara Sniegowski are volunteering their services helping with Communion Ministry during Masses at Ascension Living Resurrection Village. Sister Kathryn Wojcik has started back to her visits of the residents in assisted living bringing them Communion and praying with them.

Sister Kathryn and Sister Kathleen are both volunteering in the Resurrection Village Library.

Coffee, Tea and Sainly Women

Coffee, Tea and Sainly Women is a new book club I am starting at the end of May. This book club is for any Sister who is interested in exploring the life and writings of courageous women saints.

The first book we will read and discuss is, “*Women of Hope: Doctors of the Church,*” by Terry Polakovic. Fifty years ago, Saint Teresa of Avila was the first woman named a Doctor of the Church. Since then, three other women saints, Therese of Lisieux, Hildegard of Bingen and Catherine of Siena were granted this distinction. Terry Polakovic’s book explores the lives and challenges of these amazing women.

We will meet the last Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Archives. If you are interested in sharing a cup of coffee, a pastry and discussing some inspiring lives and writings let me know so I can order a book for you! Whoever is interested in joining the book club please contact Sr. Donna by May 28th.

Sr. Donna Marie, C.R.

Mark Your Calendar

May 14th – 6:15 p.m. Open Meeting in the Terrace Room

May 24th - 5 p.m. in the Terrace Room. We will have a pizza supper and hear Ann Rhomberg, Executive Director of Solidarity Bridge tell us about their ministry to the sick of Bolivia and Paraguay and thank us for our support.

May 31st – Memorial Day Celebration at 12 noon in the Terrace Room. We will start with May Crowning, then have a picnic lunch and then bunco with prizes.

Select Wednesdays in June and July – Visits to Botanic Gardens for Butterflies in Bloom
(more information will be forthcoming)

August 15th – Jubilee



AGING WITH GRACE, Sister Hedwig Kuczynski, C.R.

I Am God's Child

God is so awesome, and I feel insignificant.
How can I know him as a close, loving
Father and personal friend?

When you look for me, you will find me.
Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,
You will find me with you, says the Lord.
Jeremiah 29:13-14

To all who received him, who believed in
His name, he gave power to become children
Of God. *John 1:12*

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he,
I am he who will sustain you. I have made you
And I will carry you; I will sustain you and I
Will rescue you. *Isaiah 46:4*

His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts,
And tells us that we really are God's children.
Romans 8:16

FEASTDAYS AND BIRTHDAYS

May 4th. Sister Mary Leonette Klafeta's Birthday

May 18th Sister Maria Goretti Piasecka's Birthday

May 28th Sister Mary Julianne Maciuszek's Birthday

May 31st Sister Laura Swedowski's Birthday

May 31st Sister Virginia Ann Wanzek's Feastday

June 11th Sister Christine Maria Moskal's Feastday

June 13th Sister Gloria Marie Fox's Birthday

June 15th Sister Rosemary Gira's Birthday

June 16th Sister Dominic Russell's Birthday

June 20th Sister Mary Florence Schultz's Feastday

June 29th Sister Paulette Pieta's Feastday

June 30th Sister Kathryn Wojcik's Birthday

A BEAUTIFUL CLOSING THOUGHT IN THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

- Sister Donna Marie, C.R.

Recently I read that Pope Francis has a favorite statue of Saint Joseph which he keeps on his office desk. The statue is a sleeping Saint Joseph. Pope Francis has had it for years and whenever he has a problem, he writes them on a small piece of paper and slips them under the sleeping Saint Joseph.

“Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: Pray for this problem!” Pope Francis said. “Do not forget St. Joseph who sleeps! Jesus slept with the protection of Joseph. We also must rest in prayer and dream,” says the Holy Father.

