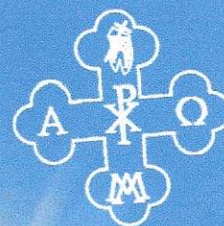


# A NEW VISION

## Newsletter & Chronicle

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

September and October, 2021



### *CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTERS MARY JULIANNE, ROSEMARY, LAURA, MARILYN, & KATHRYN*

August 15, 2021 the Province had a beautiful celebration for the Jubilarians of 2020 and 2021.

Due to the severity of the COVID Pandemic in the summer of 2020 group gatherings and even Masses

were severely limited. So, it was with great joy that we were able to have a beautiful Liturgy followed by a festive dinner.



The Mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Ascension Living Resurrection Village. The Jubilarians and all the Resurrection Sisters sat in the front rows of the chapel and after the homily all the Sisters renewed their vows. The letter from Pope Francis in which he bestowed his blessing not only on the Jubilarians but also on all those attending the Mass, was shared with the laity. All were deeply touched.

Following the Mass the Jubilarians and all the Sisters gathered in the Terrace Room for a delicious catered dinner. After dinner there was a slide show which featured each Jubilarian. There were pictures of the sisters as children,



young sisters and pictures of them today. The Jubilarians had fun reminiscing and telling stories about their parents, their childhood, their entrance to community, their formation and their years in ministry.

It was a day filled with blessings and great joy. Everyone received a copy of **Walking with Mary A Month of Meditations with Pope Francis**.

A special thank you is extended to Sister Hedwig for planning all the beautiful details of the Jubilee from the flowers to the delicious dinner and all the Jubilee decorations.

Since Jubilarian, Sister Mary Julianne, is at Resurrection Life Center and was unable to attend the Jubilee Celebration, Sisters Carolyn and Donna Marie visited with Sister the day before. They took Sister a plant and a copy of Pope Francis' greeting and blessing.

After visiting with Sister Julianne, Sisters Donna Marie, Virginia Ann and Mary Paulette took flowers to the Cemetery and prayed at the graves of the Sisters thanking God for the lives and vocations of all these Sisters who preceded us.

The administrative staff of Ascension Living Resurrection Village sent each of the Jubilarians a beautiful bouquet of flowers to help make the day extra special.



## RESURRECTION STUDIES - "THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS RENEWAL OF SOCIETY"

The perpetually professed Sisters of the Resurrection wear a chain that supports our Profession Cross. Each link in the chain can be regarded as a moment in time when we have been called to place our TRUST in God. The persons, situations, blessings,



assignments, illnesses, troubles, worries and graces of our lives have created a veritable chain that supports our daily dying and rising. Interlinking TRUST in God and in one another creates a sturdy support for a lifetime of spiritual transformations. Without faith, there can be no miracles. Without TRUST, how can Jesus heal? The current problems of our society are legion. Such painful experiences have parallels in the numerous challenges that confronted our Founders and Foundresses. Our C.R. charism is most relevant today. We live, die and rise in context.

"It was the best of times, and the worst of times . . . so like our own." - Tale of Two Cities. Looking back, we can see that Janski was a brilliant student led down a dark path by atheistic educators. However, he was "the first to see the light", the formation of "a new religious community called to work for the religious and moral renewal of society". His successor, Fr. Semenenko liked revolutionary books and at age 15 became one of the ten most wanted men in France, renowned for stirring up riots on the street corners. No monopoly of summer terrors here. Yet, by God's mercy, Peter would become an esteemed theologian and pastoral leader, author, confessor and counselor. Fr. Kajsiewicz, a cultured man, also a wounded veteran, became a gifted C.R. speaker and administrator. Sadly, he was recipient of erroneous information that resulted in the temporary expulsion of Semenenko from the Congregation. They trusted and healed that rift. To Fr. Semenenko, Celine Borzecka entrusted her soul and that of her daughter, Hedwig, who prayed her own trustful FIAT under Semenenko's guidance. Fr. Barczynski, veteran and novice under Fr. Semenenko became spiritual leader of hundreds of thousands of Poles in America. His TRUST in God and his heroic charity were legendary, even in his lifetime. At the turn of the century, Sr. Anne discovered new customs, new problems. Also, new graces, new vocations, new future. Norwood Park. TRUST. Five Tabernacles. TRUST. Death to self. TRUST. God blessed all of these leaders with His provident care and a spiritual harvest spanning centuries. The TRUST that plants seeds in faraway lands, Chicago, Tanzania, could even reap a harvest of vocations from an onion patch and a land scarce in natural water. Look around at the hardships, and the graces, of 2021 and see God's hand at work. Certainly, we live in painful and sinful times. Terrifying. We are called, as were our predecessors, to TRUST whatever Divine Providence sends us for our complete dying and thus our complete rising. If we TRUST, there is no limit to God's grace. Even NOW, as we hurt and struggle with covid and confusion, "Jesus I TRUST in YOU."

Sister Christine Maria Moskal, C.R.

Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross, September 14, 2021.



## PROVINCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES CHRONICLE

### **July 12-17 Annual Retreat**

Thirteen sisters made this retreat with Father David Colhour, C.P. The retreat took place at Ascension Living Resurrection Village. Some of the conferences were in Chapel but most were in the Terrace Room. Father David focused on the Scriptures as we experience them in our daily lives. On day one and two Father challenged us to Metanoia, to open our arms like Christ on the Cross, to receive the grace God offers us. He encouraged us to not only reflect on what we would like God to do for us but also reflect on what he has done for us.

On day three Father challenged us to read the gospel passage on Emmaus and focus on the way Jesus moves from stranger, to companion, to guest, and finally to host in the “breaking of the bread.” Jesus breaks into our lives the same way. The Emmaus story gives us a model of discipleship – before we see with our eyes, we see with our hearts that burn within us.

On day four Father reflected on Mary and how her Magnificat is a model for prayer. Mary teaches us to reflect on God’s presence and activity in our lives. Mary teaches us to open our eyes and our hearts to God’s Spirit directing us beyond our imaginings.

On day five Father spoke about how important it is to read and reflect on Scripture not simply as a historical document but rather to see it as God’s living and active movement in our personal lives. God’s Word is alive and active, it transforms us today as it transformed the prophets and as it transformed the apostles.

Finally, on day six Father discussed the book of Genesis and how it teaches us how special God’s relationship is to all He has created. God loves and treasures each person and each thing that He has made. God delights especially in seeing each human person.

For the closing of the retreat, we had the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

### **July 18 - Lumen Cordium Society Annual Eucharistic Liturgy**

Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the Annual Lumen Cordium Society Eucharistic Liturgy of Thanksgiving at Holy Name Cathedral. Cardinal Cupich was the main celebrant of this beautiful Mass. The Lumen Cordium Society was founded to strengthen the many good works and ministries of the Archdiocese among

the people needing assistance and support in the Archdiocese as well as to assist national and international Catholic Organizations that assist the poor throughout the world. Our Immaculate Conception Province has been a faithful supporter of Lumen Cordium for years.

### **July 20 – Ascension Commitment of Associates**

Several Sisters from both local communities attended the celebration and commitment service of the staff and leadership of Ascension Living Resurrection Village. The presence of the sisters was an affirmation and support to the staff who continue this ministry started by our sisters over forty years ago.

### **July 22 - Open Meeting and Ice Cream Social**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the feast of Mary Magdalene, Sister Donna Marie had an Open Meeting with the Sisters. The main topics included:

1. Review of the agenda for the first weekend of the Renewal Program which is scheduled for October 22, 23 and 24, 2021
2. Review of the process for and content of House Regulations
3. Slides of the Sisters in Formation in Tanzania were shared and Sister Stephanie spoke about the work of the Sisters there

After the meeting there was an ice cream social to celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene.

### **July 24 – Father James O’Brien Celebration**

On Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> Sisters Laura, Rosemary, Dominic, Virginia Ann, Christine Maria and Donna Marie attended a special Mass in honor of Father James O’Brien at St. Eugene Parish. Father O’Brien served as the pastor of St. Eugene Parish for many years and, also celebrated Mass at least once a week at the Provincial Home. Father was a good friend to the Sisters, and was always willing to serve at additional blessings and prayer services. He will now be a resident at St. Benedict.

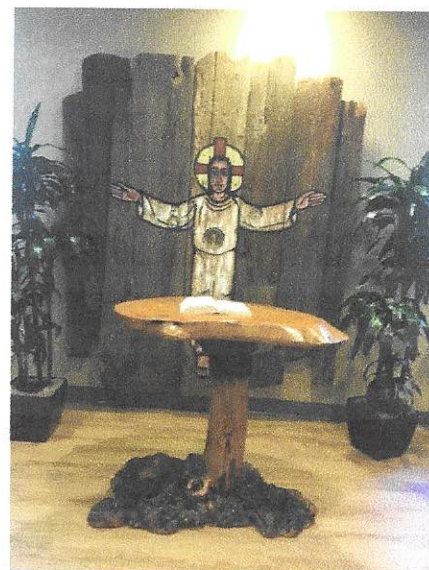
### **July 29 – Visit to Amita Behavioral Health**

On July 29<sup>th</sup> Sisters Marta, Virginia Ann and Donna Marie were invited to tour the AMITA Health Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital. The Hermitage Charitable Trust has given support to the various behavioral health programs and the administration of the Behavioral Health Programs wanted to show the variety of



programs they offer to people of all ages. The sisters found the tour and meeting not only educational and informative but also very inspiring. It is obvious that Catholic Values are the backbone of the programs.

The photo to the right was taken in the chapel of the Behavioral Health Hospital. Look closely at the painting of Jesus behind the altar and you will see a small tabernacle in the place where Jesus' heart is. The tabernacle has a glass front so you can see the ciborium.



### **August 1 – Emmaus Birthdays and Feastdays**

The Sisters gathered for Dairy Queen treats to celebrate the August Birthdays and Feastdays of the Sisters.

### **August 1 to 7 – Sister Mary Patricia Retreat**

Sister Mary Patricia made her retreat this year at the Redemptorist Retreat House in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

### **August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration**

Sisters who were available came together on this special Feast in E 225 for Morning Prayer and Communion Service. After praying the sisters had a continental breakfast and recreation together.

### **August 11- Ascension Living Resurrection Village Volunteer Appreciation Brunch**

On Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, residents who volunteer on a regular basis and residents who have volunteered during COVID were invited for an appreciation luncheon. Volunteers serve on a regular basis in the chapel, the library, the garden, menu service, at the main desk, assisting the Activities Director with posting and delivering notices, etc., in addition to the hall duty that was needed over the past 18 months at the building entrances. Sisters Stephanie, Kathryn, Kathleen, Hedwig, Gloria and Virginia Ann attended the brunch. Mr. Hornstein, Executive Director, and Ms. Nina Kremidas, Activities Director, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their services over the past two years since no Volunteer Appreciation Brunch could be held last year. Sisters



Carolyn, Barbara, Mary Patricia and Donna Marie also volunteer and were invited to the celebration but were unable to attend.

### **August 13 – Vespers and Dinner with the CR Fathers and Brothers**

The CR Fathers and Brothers invited our entire Province to join them for Vespers and supper. Sisters Gloria Marie, Carolyn Marie, Virginia Ann, Laura, Rosemary, Dominic, Mary Patricia and Donna Marie attended. It was a wonderful evening. It was very special to be able to join the Fathers and Brothers for Vespers. The Fathers and Brothers prepared a delicious supper and Sisters Virginia Ann and Donna Marie made special desserts.

### **August 19 - Supper with Previous Provincials**

Sister Donna Marie invited the three previous Provincial Superiors, Sisters Stephanie, Mary Barbara and Virginia Ann to prayer, supper and an evening of sharing. Each of the previous Provincial Superiors shared about the number of sisters, local communities, ministries, and other interesting information about the Province during their terms. Most helpful and inspiring was what each shared regarding their experience of God's grace and direction during their years in leadership.

### **August 21 - Entrance Anniversary Celebration**



On Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> the entire Province got together in the Terrace Room to celebrate their entrance anniversaries, most of which occur in August and September. The celebration started with Morning Prayer and a Communion Service prepared and led by Sisters Hedwig and Carolyn Marie.

After prayer Sisters Carolyn Sniegowski and Donna Marie served a home cooked breakfast of Polish Sausage, baked ham, cheesy potatoes, four kinds of bread, mini muffins, fruit and cheese skewers, and strawberries stuffed with sweet cheese.

Sister Stephanie calculated that the total years in Community of all the current Sisters in the Province is 1,314! Everyone took their own box of cookies home.



### **August 24 – Cheryl Heyden Learning Center Dedication**

Sisters Virginia Ann and Donna Marie attended the dedication of the new Learning Center at Maryville Academy. The learning center is named after and dedicated to the memory of Cheryl Heyden who spent over 40 years of her life working at Maryville. Cheryl was dedicated to helping children live in a safe environment, grow to their full potential and have every opportunity to grow in their faith. This particular learning center serves immigrant children.

### **August 29 - Resurrection Local Community Birthdays and Feastdays**

The Sisters gathered in the community room for a Chinese Dinner and recreation in honor of the sisters celebrating birthdays and feastdays in August.

### **September 5 – Emmaus Local Special Anniversary Celebration for Sister Rosemary 70 Years in Vows and September Birthday**

This local community celebration was primarily to honor Sister Rosemary on her 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This celebration also anticipated Sister Paulette's birthday on September 10<sup>th</sup> and Sister Marilyn's birthday on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Treats included egg rolls, fortune cookies, juice and two delicious ice cream cakes.



### **September 6 - Labor Day Celebration**

Labor Day was celebrated with an evening get-together of the entire Province in the Terrace Room. There was an opening prayer and reflection focused on God working through us. Prayer was followed by root beer floats, popcorn, and comradery.



## September 12 – Resurrection Local Community Birthday Celebration

The Sisters of the Resurrection Local Community came together for supper in their community room in apartment A 414. The Sisters celebrating Birthdays in September are Sister Kathleen and Sister Mary Florence. This year is a special Birthday for Sister Mary Florence, 90<sup>th</sup>!



### *Coffee, Tea and Sainly Women*

The little book club has been meeting once a month since May. In October we will complete our first book, *Women of Hope Doctors of the Church* by Terry Polakovic.

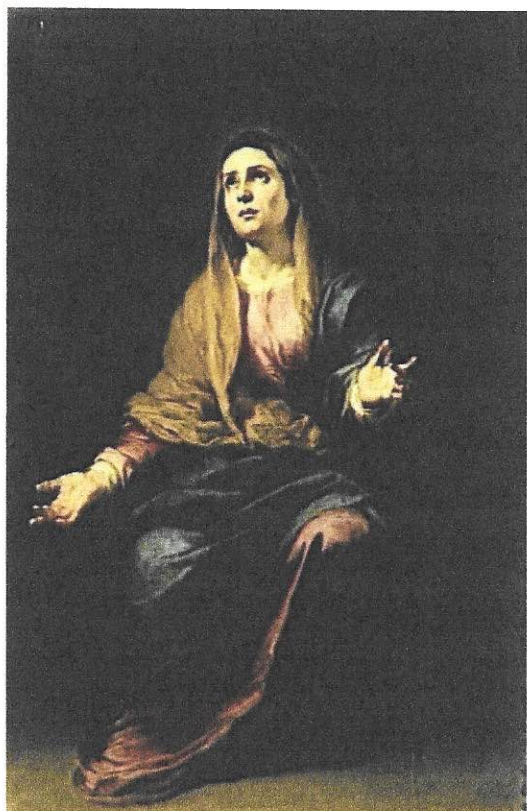
The next book we will be reading is, *Radical Saints: 21 Women for the 21st Century* by Melanie Rigney.

In the introduction to her book Melanie Rigney states: "Is there anything more radical than loving God with your entire being and loving your neighbor as yourself? How about loving those who look different from us or who have betrayed us, injured us, or persecuted us simply because we're told God loves them every bit as much as he loves us. Now that's radical."

Some of the women featured include Jacinta Marto, Elizabeth of the Trinity, Teresa of Calcutta, Marianne Cope, Mary Mackillop, Gianna Beretta Molla, Katharine Drexel, Josephine Bakhita, and Maria Faustina Kowalska.

The club meets each month on a Tuesday selected by the group. The group meets in A 414 at 6:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining the book club please let Sister Donna Marie know by September 30, 2021.





## Our Lady of Sorrows

There are many images of the Sorrowful Mother but, this is my favorite. Except for the expression on Mary's face, her posture and composure are quite similar to that often pictured in the Annunciation.

I first saw this image of the Sorrowful Mother on a website of the Servite Fathers.

I love this image because unlike other images of the Sorrowful Mother that have her looking down with her hands folded to her heart, this image shows her looking to God with trust and open arms.

Mary in the Annunciation and in her Sorrows is truly the handmade of the Lord. She is open and ready to participate in the Salvation Mystery of her Son.

Just like her Son whose arms were outstretched to embrace from the cross every man, woman and child with love and mercy, so is His Sorrowful Mother ready to embrace everyone with the loving and merciful heart of a mother.

In the eyes of this Sorrowful Mother one can see pain but in the posture of her body and her steady gaze toward heaven one can also see a woman steeped in hope, steeped in union with her Son and with every heart that is broken and every person who suffers.

Mary's experience of sorrow is less about herself and more about her children. Just as Jesus told the women of Jerusalem to not weep for Him but for themselves and their children, so Mary accepts her sorrow in order, to embrace each of us tenderly, fill our hearts with hope and convince us that our God is deeply in love with His people and each individual person.

Mary is a Mother par excellence. Her arms, her lap and her heart were always ready to welcome, embrace, protect and love her Son, Jesus. She embraced and protected Him at birth and as she and Joseph carried Him into Egypt. She embraced Him joyfully when she and Joseph lost Him and found Him in the temple. And when He made the ultimate



sacrifice on the Cross for us, Mary held her Son's dead body in her lap and pressed Him to her heart once again. At that moment she cradled in her lap and in her heart not only Jesus but each of us. Mary's arms and heart are big and she can hold all her children in our joys and in our sorrows.

When Simeon prophesied to Mary, "and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2: 35) could he have been acknowledging that Mary's call to Motherhood was to embrace all God's children? Mary's call is to be a Mother who cares about the secrets found in each of our hearts. She shares our joys but also our pains and sufferings. As a Mother Mary understands, intercedes for us and holds us to her heart. Our Mother of Sorrows is truly our Mother par excellence.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Sr. Donna Marie Wolowicki, C.R.

### **HOLD THE DATE**

The first of three weekends for our 2021-2023 Renewal Program, "Put out into the deep," is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. We have three outstanding speakers scheduled for the weekend:

1. Reverend Paul Voisin, C.R., who will speak on *The Resurrection Charism, What the World Needs Today*,
2. Jack Shea, who will speak on *Mary the Model of Prayer*,
3. Father Steve Bartczyszyn, C.R. , who will speak on *Icons and Prayer*.

### **Special Community Feasts**

September 15<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady

September 27<sup>th</sup> The 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Mother Hedwig

September 29<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

September 30<sup>th</sup> Day of Fast and Prayer for Vocations to Our Congregation



October 26<sup>th</sup> 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Blessed Celine Borzecka

October 27<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Celine Borzecka

### September and October Feast Days

October 7<sup>th</sup> Sister Mary Patricia, C.R.

October 16<sup>th</sup> Sister Hedwig, C.R.

October 19<sup>th</sup> Sister Laura, C.R.

### September and October Birthdays

September 1<sup>st</sup> Sister Kathleen, C.R.

September 10<sup>th</sup> Sister Paulette, C.R.

September 11<sup>th</sup> Sister Marilyn, C.R.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> Sister Mary Florence, C.R.



Here are a few pictures of the flowers on my balcony (notice the butterfly in the second picture).

Sister Donna Marie