

# A NEW VISION

## Newsletter & Chronicle

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE

January to March, 2022



## LENT A TIME TO FEEL GOD'S LOVE



There are many paintings of the prodigal son, but this one by Pompeo Batoni is my favorite.

In this painting, the father not only opens his cloak to cover his son but pulls him inside to rest against his heart. This image brings to mind the words of Jesus to Nicodemus, “unless a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom.” Covered by his father’s cloak and resting against his

father’s heart, the young man like a fetus can hear and feel the rhythmic beat not of a mother’s heart but of his father’s heart. Here the young man is safe and assured of his father’s unconditional love for him.

The young man is almost naked, again giving the image of an infant in the womb being nurtured to new life.

Weak and repentant the son needs the support of the father’s strong left arm. His father holds him tenderly until he is healed and ready to return to the world.

Batoni depicts a son who is deeply grieved by his sins, so much so that the son cannot even look at his father. The son buries his face in his hands as he presses against his father’s heart.

On the other hand, the father’s eyes are fixed lovingly upon his son, nothing can distract the Father from gazing on his son and protecting him.

Everything in the painting leads to and points to the “father’s heart.” And so, it is with Lent. Everything about Lent points to the heart of our God and Father who forever presses us to his heart. Lent reminds us that we are invited to lose ourselves in God’s heart and there be reborn. We are invited like a growing fetus to lay beneath the heart of God and let the loving rhythm of His heart reverberate in us. Lent invites us to listen to the heart of our loving Father and hear with each beat His tender and loving care not only for each of us personally but for every person. We are invited to hear God’s heart beating with love for not only the people who are our friends, but also for the people who judge or hurt us.

Perhaps the most difficult Lenten sacrifice God asks of us to is to open our “cloak” to those who misunderstand and hurt us. He asks us not only to open our cloak but to also press them to our heart daily in our prayers and kind actions.

*Lent is all about the Heart of God and from that Heart we learn all we need to know.*

*Sister Donna Marie, C.R.*

## **PROVINCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES’ CHRONICLES**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** Most of the Sisters participated in the Anointing of the Sick Service held in the retirement village chapel for all the residents. Four priests helped with the anointing of all the participants.



**November 16<sup>th</sup>:** Sister Donna had a meeting with the local superiors.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>:** In addition to celebrating the beautiful feast of Christ the King, the Province had a celebration in anticipation of Thanksgiving. Father John Schork, C.P., a long-time friend, celebrated Mass with the Sisters in the Ascension Resurrection Village Chapel and then joined the Sisters for a catered Thanksgiving Dinner in the Terrace Room. A group of alumnae from Resurrection College Prep High School own a catering company and they cooked and delivered full traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. It was delicious and a beautiful day to Thank God for all His love and goodness.

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.** On Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> a wake was held for Sister Mary Julianne Maciuszek, C.R. at Ryan Parke Funeral Home in Park Ridge. The next day, November 24<sup>th</sup> a beautiful con-celebrated funeral Mass was celebrated for Sister at Mary Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge. The pastor of the Parish presided at the Mass and three Resurrection Fathers joined him. After the Mass and burial at Saint Adalbert Cemetery the Sisters and the family of Sister Mary Julianne had lunch at the White Eagle Restaurant.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>.** Sister Donna Marie participated in a retreat day with other members of the Board of **Solidarity Bridge** and its Bolivian counterpart Board, **Puente de Solidaridad**, in Bolivia via Zoom. The theme of the retreat was, *Deepening and Sharing our Catholic Faith and Values as We Provide Surgical Assistance to the Poor of Bolivia and Paraguay.*

**December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Sisters of the Emmaus local community celebrated the December Birthdays and feast days with an evening recreation and treat. Sisters honored in December included: Sister Christine Maria, Sister Marilyn, Sister Gloria Marie, and Sister Stephanie.



**December 8<sup>th</sup>.** The feast of the Immaculate Conception was very special as our Province is dedicated to Mary under this title and so is the United States of America. We came together as a Province, prayed Vespers and renewed our Vows. Sister Donna Marie had a short open meeting at which time she provided updates on preparation for the Provincial and General Chapters. Afterwards there was a delicious dessert table and time for comradery.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>.** All the sisters of the Province joined together for an Advent Day of Retreat. The day started with Morning Prayer, a Communion Service, and several hours of quiet prayer. In the afternoon there was a twenty-minute video reflection by Bishop Barron on our *Advent Journey*, an hour and a half movie called *The Nativity Story*. The retreat ended with Vespers. After the retreat there was a pizza supper and time for visiting with each other.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Sisters of the Resurrection local community celebrated the Sister Mary Barbara's feast day with a Mexican themed dinner.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>** Provincial Office had a Christmas lunch with the one lay employee.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** Sister Donna hosted a Christmas thank you luncheon in the Archives for the Sisters who chair various committees and serve on various projects throughout the year.

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** Sister Donna hosted a Christmas thank you dinner for the Provincial Councilors in her apartment. The Councilors are very dedicated and generous with their time and service. Besides their duties as Councilors each has additional duties as Treasurer, Secretary, Archivist, Director, and Assistant Director of Apostles.

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>** Because we could not reserve the Terrace Room on December 24<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Wigilia as a Province on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The celebration started with Vespers and then a delicious catered traditional Wigilia supper. The supper included beet soup, pierogi, white fish, cooked fruit, herring, spiced apples, and several other side dishes. The meal ended with a delicious Polish dessert table.



Afterwards we sang English and Polish Christmas Carols and reminisced about past Christmases.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** The Resurrection local community joined for Morning Prayer in A 414 followed by a special breakfast prepared by Sister Carolyn, Sister Barbara, and Sister Hedwig. After breakfast and recreation, the local community went together for Christmas Mass to the Resurrection Village Chapel.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** In the evening the Emmaus local community come together for evening recreation and exchange of gifts.

**December 26<sup>th</sup>** Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie bought a wreath to place on the graves of our Sisters at Saint Adalbert Cemetery. When they arrived at the graves Sister Rosemary and Bishop Kurtz were there so all four joined in prayer for the deceased Sisters and then Bishop Kurtz gave a special prayer and blessing to all the Sisters buried on the site.



**December 30<sup>th</sup>** Sister Donna Marie hosted a holiday gathering with the three previous Provincials. After a short prayer and dinner, the Sisters shared some of their favorite experiences and stories about their experiences during their terms of office.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** The entire Province gathered in chapel for Vespers and a Holy Hour, thanking God for the many blessings of 2021 and petitioning God for blessings in 2022. After the Holy Hour the sisters gathered in the Terrace room for light refreshments and conversation.



**January 6, 2022.** On the 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Congregation Father Joseph Wojcik offered the Mass in the Resurrection Village Chapel for our Congregation. After Mass, all of us who were home went to the Atrium for a Continental Breakfast and recreation.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** The Resurrection local community celebrated the January Birthdays of Sister Barbara and Sister Marta. The Sisters had supper together in A 414 and then had recreation.

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** Sister Donna Marie met with students from Dominican University who are interested in pursuing health care careers. They asked Sister to tell them about social issues associated with the delivery of health care and the special needs of the poor.

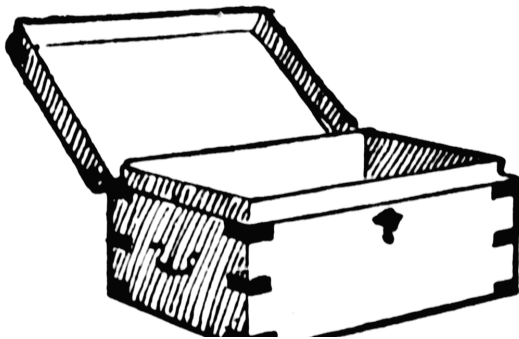
**February 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Was the 122<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of our apostolic work in the United States and the celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life. In the evening the whole Province came together in the Terrace Room for Vespers and the renewal of our vows. After we prayed, we had dinner together, a make your own sundae bar, prizes, and time for recreation.

**February 6<sup>th</sup>** The Emmaus local community had a special recreation to celebrate Sister Stephanie's birthday which is on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>** the sisters who serve on the Hermitage Charitable Trust Distribution Committee, Sister Carolyn, Sister Hedwig, Sister Virginia Ann, and Sister Donna Marie spent time interviewing the applicants for the first level of closeout grants. interviews with applicants for Hermitage Grant.

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** Resurrection local community had a Valentine party. Sister Carolyn made a delicious cranberry cake which everyone enjoyed.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Was the first session of the XIV Provincial Chapter. The work of this session was the appointment of officers, approval of the Regulations of the Provincial Chapter, and voting for the delegates to the XVIII General Chapter.



### From the Archives

Recently I came across a poem that Sister Georgine Marie Smolinski wrote. It is an Easter Poem, so it is a good time to share it.

**EASTER** by Sister Georgine Marie Smolinski, C.R.

I walk among the roses I once knew,  
And yet, I cannot smell their fragrant scent.  
Before me stands a column in bright hue,  
A figure firm and never to be bent.

So, fixed in awe I cringe before the wood.  
I try to find the fragrance of perfume.  
It once had been so strong where I had stood.  
A stench alone those petals would assume.

I stand among those roses I once knew----  
 Black blossoms, broken, and in lifeless sleep.  
 I fall beneath the weight of all that's true.  
 The crossbar gazes as I softly weep.

So, fixed in awe I grasp the blood-stained tree.  
 Its roughness chills my inmost heart and soul.  
 There cannot be more roses left for me—  
 A far-off garden is my being's goal.

I fall among the roses I once knew.  
 The thorns pierce the heart; pierce the head.  
 "Ah, come!" the garden pleads to me anew.  
 There dwells the Risen Lamb of Life once dead!

I stand erect and kiss each loving thorn  
 I fix myself upon the blood-stained tree.  
 And then, "I" die; the "Breath of Life" is born.  
 I LIVE, NOT I; 'TIS CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME.



## Something Beautiful



Look closely at the roses and you will see that they are the footprints of babies! Sister Maria Goretti made these beautiful roses at the day care where she works. After making the footprints Sister painted the stems, leaves and beautiful vases.

Sister Maria Goretti is a very talented teacher and artist.



After working with a Digital Marketing Agency for six months, Sister Stephanie, Sina Gates and Sister Donna Marie are pleased to announce that a new Website for the Immaculate Conception Province has been launched.

There are interactive sections for women wanting information about the Apostles of the Resurrection and/or information on discerning a vocation.

Visitors to the site can also input requests for prayers or ask to contact a sister.

Explore the new website at: [crsisterschicago.org](http://crsisterschicago.org)

Over the coming months additional new features will be added to the Website!

## **FEAST DAYS AND BIRTHDAYS**

January. 20<sup>th</sup>. Sister Maria Marta, Birthday

January 25<sup>th</sup> Sister M. Barbara, Birthday

February 6<sup>th</sup> Mother Dorota, Feast Day

February 28<sup>th</sup> Sister Stephanie, Birthday

March 10<sup>th</sup> Sister Virginia Ann, Birthday

March 25<sup>th</sup> Sister Donna Marie, Feast Day

March 26<sup>th</sup> Sister Carolyn, Birthday

