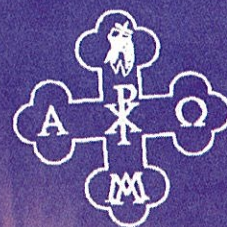


A NEW VISION

Newsletter & Chronicle

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE



Volume 9

September, October, November, 2022

The Reed of God – Still A Perfect Advent Companion



When I was a novice, one of the books I was encouraged to read during Advent was Caryll Houselander's *The Reed of God*. And ever since Novitiate this little tattered book has been my Advent companion.

No matter how many times I read this book I find something new to ponder. Caryll has a beautiful way of connecting with the heart of Mary as Mary gave her heart to God and prepared to become the Mother of His Son. And then Caryll draws these reflections into the reader's own life and own challenge to prepare our hearts to be resting places for God's Son and for each other.

With our theme this year of deepening our commitment to Community, I find myself drawn to Caryll's Advent Reflection on the Visitation and our call to recognize Christ in each other:

We must be swift to obey the winged impulses of His Love, carrying Him to wherever He longs to be; and those who recognize His presence will be stirred, like Elizabeth with new life. They will know His presence not by any special beauty or power shown by us, but in the way that the bud knows the presence of the light, by an unfolding in themselves, a putting forth of their own beauty.

It seems that this is Christ's favorite way of being recognized, that He prefers to be known, not by His own human features, but by the quickening of His own life in the heart, which is the response to His coming.

This Advent, this Christmas, may our hearts quicken as we come to recognize His presence in each other

Sister Donna Marie, C.R.

. PROVINCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES' CHRONICLES

August 31st Sister Dominic visited Lamb's Farm in Libertyville with a group of residents from Resurrection Village.

September 4th The Emmaus Local Community celebrated the August and September Birthdays and Feast Days.

September 18th The Resurrection Local Community celebrated the September Birthdays and Feast Days with dinner together in A 414 and then did some reminiscing.



September 24th Sister Donna Marie shared a reflection on the Virgin Mary and her role at Pentecost and as Mother of the Church. Sister used Scripture as well as tradition as captured over the centuries in icons and other art forms. Several Cenacle and Living Word Sisters who are residents at Resurrection Village also attended the presentation. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a pizza supper.

September 30th Sister Christine Maria and Sister Mary Dominic attended the funeral for Miriam (Mickey) Droske, a resident of our Resurrection Village. Mickey had been married to a nephew of Sister Mary Eleanore (who shortened his name). The family provided a chartered bus to transport the residents here to the Wake in Itasca, the Funeral Mass in Elk Grove Village and the cemetery and luncheon in Niles.

October 7th Sister Mary Dominic was able to take a trip with the Activity Department to Holy Hill, Wisconsin for Mass, and a tour of the Basilica. The scenic autumn view from the church, located on the highest elevation in Southwest Wisconsin, was spectacular.

October 12th Sister Mary Dominic enjoyed a tour with the Activity Department of the Maple Street Chapel, a historic site, in Lombard, Illinois. The Gothic designed Church, famous for its design and stained-glass "grisaille" windows, was built in

1870. After the tour the group had lunch at nearby "Rosemary and Jeans", a mansion converted into a restaurant, owned by the daughter of one of the residents of "Resurrection Village".

October 15th Two new Superiors were installed, and a new Local Community was blessed. Sister Virginia Ann Wanzek was installed as the Superior for the Emmaus Local Community. Sister Maria Marta Kurpiewska was installed as the Superior of the new Saint Joseph Local Community. The entire Province gathered for breakfast and Morning Prayer. During morning prayer, the installation took place and there was a special prayer and blessing for the sisters of the new Saint Joseph Local Community.



October 16th Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended Resurrection College Prep High School's ResFest. This was an outdoor event. Pumpkins were for sale as well as apple cider donuts and hamburgers. The event had a dual purpose: fundraising and providing tours for potential future students.

October 16th The Emmaus Local Community celebrated the Feast days and Birthday of the month. The Sisters from the Saint Joseph Local Community and Sister Donna Marie were invited to the celebration. Sister Virginia Ann prepared a delicious hot dish and the meal ended with an ice cream treat.

October 18th Our Book Club this year includes Sr. Stephanie, Sr. Kathryn, Sr. Virginia Ann, Sr. Maria Marta, Sr. Carolyn Marie, and Sr. Donna Marie. The book being discussed this year is *The Story of Ruth, Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life* by Joan Chittister. New members are welcome.

October 21st Maryville honored the Sisters of the Resurrection for the large grant from the Hermitage Charitable Trust that was granted to the Crisis Nursery. The Crisis Nursery provides support to families who are facing serious challenges and need short term assistance with the care of their children. The goal of the Crisis Nursery is to help sustain the family unit through difficult times.

In honor of the Sisters of the Resurrection Maryville planted a tree and placed a recognition plaque in front of it. Sister Dominic, Sister Virginia Ann, and Sister Donna Marie attended the event. Sister Donna was asked to say a few words about the Sisters of the Resurrection and our commitment and charism.



October 22nd Sarah, Sister Mary Evelyn's niece visited us and brought donuts and coffee. We enjoyed sharing stories and memories of her visits with Sister Evelyn in years past.



October 22nd The Resurrection Local Community celebrated the October Feast Days with dinner together in A 414 and then shared stories.

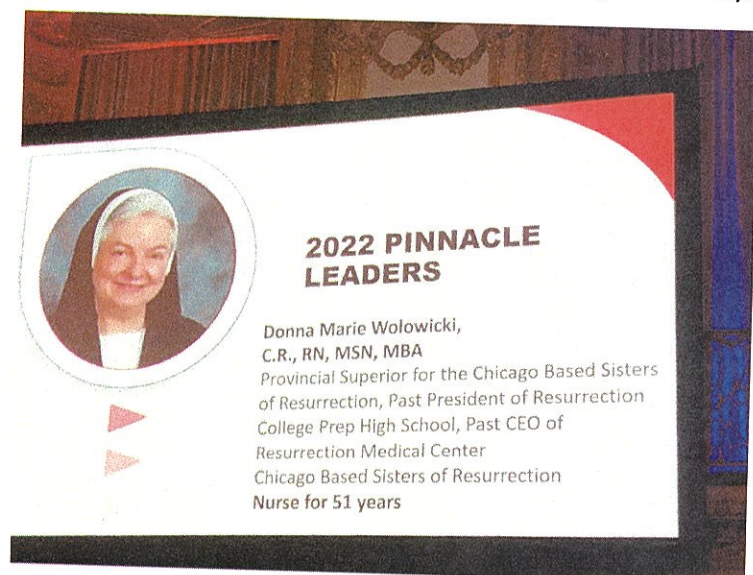
October 26th On the death anniversary of Blessed Celine, the Sisters from the local communities joined together for Vespers in the Resurrection Retirement Village Chapel.

November 1st Sister Virginia Ann and Sister Donna Marie attended the All Saints Day and Souls Day Mass at Resurrection College Prep High School. It is traditional at this Mass to have representatives carry up plaques with the names of alumnae, faculty, parents, grandparents, and Sisters of the Resurrection who have died. Sister Donna Marie was asked to carry the plaque with the names of the deceased Resurrection Sisters who taught at Resurrection College Prep and Sister Virginia Ann carried a candle in their memory. After the Mass Joe Lascon took the Sisters on a short tour to see some of the latest improvements in the school.

November 2nd At the invitation of Dean Lorna Finnegan Sister Donna Marie, Sister Virginia Ann, and Sister Mary Patricia attended a tour of the Simulation Lab at the School, a luncheon, and a presentation. The Sisters also had an opportunity to meet four nursing students who are benefiting from the Grant from the Hermitage Charitable trust. It was inspiring to meet these students who are committed to serving others, without the grant and endowment they would never have been able to make their dream come true.



November 4th Dean Lorna Finnegan invited Sister Donna Marie and Sister Virginia Ann to join her and three tables of Loyola Faculty at the Annual Power of Nursing Leadership Award Luncheon at the Chicago Hilton Hotel. The Power of Nursing Leadership is the premier event honoring the impact and achievements of Illinois nurse leaders. The goal of the event is to enhance and engage partnerships among leaders in academia, government, health care delivery and health care services. At the Luncheon Sister Donna was surprised by being named one of the the 2022 Pinnacle Leaders. Sister was nominated by Loyola University. (The screenshot was captured by Sister Virginia Ann).





Dean Lorna Finnegan is in the purple jacket

November 4th, 5th, and 6th the Province held its second of a three series Renewal Program, “Put out into the deep w Jesus in prayer, community & evangelization.” Weekend. This year’s topic was, *Community*.

Father Jack Clair, the Executive Director of Misericordia, was the Celebrant of the opening Mass on Friday, November 4th. Afterwards Sister Christine Maria shared a reflection on Blessed Celine’s vision of community life and her early efforts to build community.

Saturday, November 5th morning Sister Marie Pappas joined us via Zoom and shared her reflections on Mercy and our call to witness and share Christ’s mercy with each other in community.



Saturday afternoon Sister Donna Marie and Sister Hedwig reviewed and reflected on Scripture and the description of Jesus as the *Master Teacher & Designer of Community*. Both Sisters emphasized Jesus’ description of His relationship with the Apostles and Disciples as a friendship in which He shares everything He has learned from the Father.

On Sunday, November 6th Sister Stephanie and Sister Kathryn spoke on and led discussion on *Community – Diversity, the Apostles, and Our Own Experience*. Later in the afternoon there was a game of bunco with prizes, a Vesper

Service, and a delicious catered dinner from *Blossom Café*.

November 9th Sister Donna Marie attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Jen School. This school serves students who have behavioral problems and challenges in learning. The success rate for these students at Maryville's Jen school is amazing. Many of these students go on for further education and training as chefs, repair work and other trades and skilled labor. This new location for the school is directly across the street from Ascension Saint Benedict.

The school is being renamed to Charles H. Walsh Sr. Academy and Career Tech High School. The family of Charles Walsh made a donation of several million toward the school in his memory. Mr. Walsh was a successful businessman after spending most of his youth at Maryville. He never forgot the Maryville staff for all they did for him.

November 11th The administration at Ascension Living Resurrection Village sponsored a luncheon for all the residents who are veterans of any branch of the armed services. The celebration and luncheon opened with a prayer. Sr. Hedwig offered the prayer and afterwards Sister Hedwig visited with the men and women veterans and was inspired by their stories.

November 16th The Knights of Columbus set up a beautiful display in the Blue Room of the many Eucharistic Miracles over the years. The display had over fifty posters with pictures and written information about these miracles which occurred from the time of the early Church until today. The work is attributed to Blessed Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager who had a deep love for and commitment to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. If anyone missed the display and would like to read up on it, you can go online to:

www.carloacutis.com

International Exhibition

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD

Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis

GOD'S SERVANT CARLOS ACUTIS
(London, 3 May 1991 – Milan, 11 October 2006)

"My life plan is to always be connected to Jesus". With these few words, Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia when he was only fifteen years old, outlined the distinctive feature of his brief existence: living with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus". To quote Carlo's own words: "Our destination must be what is infinite, not what is finite. Infinity is our homeland. We have been expected in Heaven since time immemorial". He also said: "All are born with their own originality, but many die as photocopies".



Find a Sister – by Sister Stephanie Blasczynski, C.R.

It has been interesting to see the kinds of messages that we get through our new website. We have received a number of requests through our new website. A good number of them are seeking our business to hire them to advertise our website, offer different technical skills, etc.

There is a section on which people can request our prayers for particular intentions. We ask that they give their name, address, and list the prayer intention. My response to these is to acknowledge that we have received their request and that we will ask the Sisters to remember them in prayer. A few months ago, I did send a list of these prayer requests to both local communities. I will continue to do this on a monthly basis.

There is another section called “Find a Sister” for people who wish to know about a Sister they have known in the past. In this section, we ask for their name, address, the name of the Sister they wish to find, the setting in which they knew the Sister (school, hospital, relative, etc.) and the years that they knew the Sister. I have been surprised with the number of these that have come in. Most of the Sisters that they are looking for are already deceased. I respond to these requests by thanking them for their interest, and informing them when the Sister has died, where she has died and her age at death. If the request is for a living Sister or for a Sister who is no longer in the Congregation, I never give out any contact information regarding the Sister. My response is to tell them that I will share their contact information with the Sister or former member so that she can contact them. It is up to the Sister or former member to make the contact.

Recently, I was surprised to find someone looking for me. It was from a Chester Mikucki, a boy I taught in the 8th grade at Sister Mary of the Angels in the 1960-1961 school year. In my response, I told him about my living at Ascension Living Resurrection Village and gave him my email address. Within a few days, he wrote back asking if he could come see me and even suggested a particular day and time for the visit. I did not know what to expect from this 75-year-old former student with whom I have not had any contact during all those years. On November 15, I had a delightful visit with him and his wife, whom I met for the first time. He had

a folder with treasures like his 8th grade report card, his diploma, his red and white graduation ribbons, his 8th grade graduation picture, the Saint Mary of the Angels parish bulletin which listed all the names of the approximately 100 graduates and a picture from their 8th grade picnic.

It was wonderful to hear him actually list all of his teachers at St. Mary of the Angels from his first-grade teacher to Sister Immaculata, Sister Dorothy Marie and I who had him in the 8th grade. He only hesitated in trying to recall if it was a Sister Celestine who taught Polish at the school. He was so very grateful for the wonderful education he received at Saint Mary of the Angels and for all the Sisters of the Resurrection who taught him, all of whom are now deceased except for me.

His class was my first year of teaching and Father Brzezinski, the pastor, and Sister Mary Amata, the principal, allowed me to take over one of the rooms of the former convent as a little science lab room in which I could show them demonstrations and the students could do some simple experiments. It was encouraging to hear how much he appreciated our first attempts at some hand-on experiments, and he said that he even went on to use some of them with his Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

As we visited, it was good to hear about his various connections to Resurrection. He went to Gordon Tech for high school and had my brother for physical science in his freshman year. His wife was a nurse at Resurrection Medical Center for many years. They have four children, all of whom went to Catholic high schools. In fact, his two daughters graduated from Resurrection College Prep in the years that I was in Rome and Africa. He proudly showed me pictures of his children and grandchildren. One of his sons became a Knight of Columbus through a Newman Club in college and then, he followed his son and also joined the Knights of Columbus. When Chester found out that the Knights of Columbus were sponsoring their "Eucharistic Miracles" the next day at ALRV, he actually came back the next day to view the display. He showed me a picture of when he was a page in a liturgical procession for Cardinal Stritch and reminisced of having served as an altar boy once in our Provincial Home chapel and other times in our convent chapels at St. Mary of the Angels and Resurrection Day Care.

I was grateful to connect with Chester Mikucki after all these years and thanked God for his life-long dedication to strive to live his faith and the lessons taught by the Sisters of the Resurrection more than six decades ago.

The Evening I Rocked Nicholas – Sister Donna Marie



About 14 years ago, on a cold December evening I received a call from a nurse in the newborn nursery. "Sister, are you busy?" "We have a baby who needs a little TLC. Could you come and rock him?"

Minutes later I was in the nursery where I learned the story. "His birth mom," the nurse said, "in compliance with Illinois Infant Safe Haven Law, brought him to the ER and asked the staff to make sure he is given a good home". The mom handed them a bag with two infant outfits and a list of family illnesses. She kissed her baby one last time and left.

"We named him Nicholas, because he was born so close to Christmas," said the nurse.

The processes for foster care and adoption would begin in a couple of days, but for tonight Nicholas would be under the hospital's care. I was only asked to rock Nicholas for an hour, but I would carry his story with me for the rest of my life.

As I rocked Nicholas, I studied his face and pondered the Christmas message. Nicholas' birth will always be a mystery. Thinking of his mother, I whispered, "Nicholas, I hope someday you will realize how deeply your mother loved you. In what must have been a confusing nine months, she chose to give you a chance at life. She protected you, nourished and cradled you beneath her heart. She felt your every movement and respected your little personhood. She did not abandon you but rather entrusted you to a family who could love and care for you."

Continuing to rock Nicholas, I thought about Christmas and the depth of God's love. I marveled as I reflected on how much God trusts us. God's love and trust are so unconditional that He sent His only Son into our world, not as a strong and independent adult, but as a fragile and totally dependent infant! God's son would not be born in a castle or villa but in a stable where animals take shelter.

People will look at Nicholas and never comprehend the depth of the love story behind his arrival at the hospital. They will think he was abandoned and unwanted, but in reality, he was revered and respected by a mother who wanted him to live and grow in a family that could care for him. Likewise, people looked at Jesus and thought they knew where He came from, but they really didn't know. He was not the son of a carpenter as people thought, but the Son of God. Who can comprehend the depth of love that moved God to let go of His Son and entrust Him to our care. Could we ever love and cherish Jesus as much as God, His Father?

After an hour a nurse took Nicholas from me. It was then I realized that I had been holding more than baby Nicholas. That night I held the mystery of Christmas in a new way, I held the mystery of the gift of love and trust not in an abandoned baby but in a baby entrusted to the world.

Feast Days

November

4th Sister Carolyn

Sister Carolyn Marie

10th Sister Mary Leonette

December

4th Sister Mary Barbara

8th Sister Marilyn

25th Sister Gloria Marie

26th Sister Stephanie

Birthdays

November

4th Sister Mary Patricia

21st Sister Carolyn Marie

December

2nd Sister Christine Maria

8th Sister Dorota

Pictures From Our Home in Delavan this Fall

