



# Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Fall 2017

*Dear Friends of Our Lady,*

*Praying for sinners begins with Mary at the Foot of the Cross.*

With every Hail Mary we pray, we implore Our Lady to pray for us who are sinners in need of conversion. Our Lady not only hears and answers our prayers, but she asks that we join her in this work of redemption at the Foot of the Cross. Our Blessed Mother's prayers of intercession for her children are indisputably powerful and efficacious, however, we too, have a mission to pray and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners. Mary never tires of pleading with her children to pray the Rosary for the conversion of sinners that we might begin to grasp the price of our salvation, namely the life, death and resurrection of Her Son. It was the conviction of our Founder, Father Joaquin Masmitja, that Mary's greatest suffering was the knowledge of souls who would refuse the graces wrought through Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross. He wrote: "This Institute of the Immaculate Heart meditates on the cruel sword of sorrow that pierces this Heart at the sight of sinners renewing the passion and death of her Son and despising the merits of the blood shed for them with so much love. It seeks especially, through prayers and other pious practices to obtain from the Divine Mercy an interior grace for sinners, so that abandoning the state of sin, they will turn to God, the center of all happiness." This month we celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, the great work of Christ's redemption of mankind. On the following day, we celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows who reminds us that we too, have a role in Christ's redemptive act by praying for souls, first my own and then for everyone else's.

Praying for the conversion of sinners begins with my own ongoing conversion. Countless saints and scholars, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Adolph Tanquery, Garrigou-Lagrange, to mention only a few, have written in great detail on the stages of the spiritual life. I think in our present situation we could begin with the basic question posed by our beloved St. John Paul the Great: Am I living as a practical atheist, one who says he believes in God, but lives as if God did not exist? This is basic, but how often do I remember to pray, to seek God's help, His will, His counsel, His grace, or to thank Him for His steadfast love and mercy? Conversion is the work of everyday life, every day. In the spiritual life, if I'm not progressing, I'm regressing. An excellent spiritual tool to keep us attentive to the Lord throughout the day and honest with ourselves with regards to our progress, is the *Ignatian Rules for Discernment of Spirits and the Examen Prayer*.



*continued on next page ...*

Father Timothy Gallagher, OMV has masterfully written on these subjects, and has made these time-tested tools easy to practice in our busy everyday lives. With all my heart, I encourage you to look into purchasing these books for your spiritual growth.

As a teaser, or perhaps a vehicle to spur you on, the following is an outline of the Examen prayer which you will find in Fr. Gallagher's book on the Examen. However, this does not take the place of reading *Discernment of Spirits*, which I believe can change your life.

*An Outline of the Examen Prayer:* This is a prayer, not merely an exercise or examination of conscience.

**TRANSITION:** As I begin this Examen, I place myself in God's presence as I become aware of the love with which God looks upon me.

**STEP ONE: GRATITUDE.** I note the gifts that God's love has given me this day and I give thanks to God for them. I call to mind the large and small blessings received. I let the Lord tell me the concrete story of his love in the hours of this day.

**STEP TWO: PETITION.** I ask God for an insight and a strength that will make this examen a work of grace, fruitful beyond my human capacity alone.

**STEP THREE: REVIEW.** I look concretely at my activity, my work, my prayer, my service, as the day unfolded, hour by hour. Again, what was stirring in my heart? Spiritual consolation? Spiritual desolation? What can I recall of my thoughts? What was God showing me in these events? What decisions did I make, in response to this person whom God placed in my life this day, in handling this task, in my life of prayer this day?

**STEP FOUR: FORGIVENESS.** I ask for the healing touch of the forgiving God who, with love and respect for me, removes my heart's burdens.

**STEP FIVE: RENEWAL.** In the light of all that I have seen looking over my day, I now look to tomorrow, and seek God's light on how he is calling me to grow spiritually in the specific circumstances of the day that awaits me.

**TRANSITION:** I prayerfully conclude the examen with an Our Father or another prayer.

As we live out each day with more attentiveness to God, the Examen Prayer will be the tool which will help us recognize God's action in us. May you be as surprised as I was when you become aware of God's presence within you and His loving attentiveness throughout your day. Praying for the conversion of sinners begins by looking intensely at our own spiritual life and asking Our Blessed to pray for us. With every rosary we pray, let us remember Our Lady's request and know that our own conversion, and the conversion of all sinners, is included in every "Hail Mary."

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,

*Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM*

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM  
General Superior

*Thank you so very much!  
Please keep praying!*



# *A Reflection on Silence*

*What often awaits someone in a waiting room? Television programs, piped-in music and multiple conversations on cell phones bombards the waiting room inhabitant. As you wait, do you find yourself becoming interiorly agitated?*

*With all this constant noisy activity, it's a small wonder that we are able to think clearly at all. Should we be surprised that we suffer from stress and anxiety if we never have even one moment of quiet? Exterior silence is an aid to foster interior silence.*

The quiet, the stillness, the silence is necessary not only for our physical well-being but maybe more importantly our psychological, emotional, and spiritual health. Nature can teach us this lesson. Notice how the grass, the flowers, the trees grow. They grow in silence; they do not make noise. The sun rises and sets in silence. There is order, a calming, soothing order in the silence of nature which has a healing effect on us as it helps restore the calm and order within us. *(An interesting fun fact: experiments done with plants show that certain stimuli, like music, affected their growth. Playing loud abrasive music actually harmed the plants, causing them to wither.)*

We all yearn for the peace that surpasses all understanding, the calm and order that is only possible when we are quiet...still...silent. To do this means we must seek out opportunities or even create ways for silence. The following are only some suggestions.

- Make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and let His Silence embrace you. Just sit quietly for a short time, opening your heart to His Love.
- Go outdoors and "breathe" in nature. Marvel at the formation of the clouds; see the strength of the trees; feel the breeze or wind on your face; be warmed by the rays of the sun; wonder at the rising and setting of the sun. Every moment is a masterpiece never to be repeated!
- Find a place where external noise is at a minimum or better yet, completely absent. Read a passage from Scripture and let it quietly penetrate your mind and heart.
- Go into your room, shut the door and imagine Jesus with you (He really is, you know). Have a heart to heart conversation with your Lord and Savior. The key in anything we might do is to be silent, calm, quiet for at least five minutes or more.

When we stop the revolving door of our mind, when we stop our running around, when we stop and allow ourselves to be quiet, then we give ourselves an opportunity to listen to God as He speaks to us in the silence of our hearts.



# Our Lady of Fatima and the Errors of Russia

On July 13, 1917, the three Fatima children—Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco—arrived at the Cova da Iria, knelt down, and began to pray the rosary. After revealing a vision of hell, Our Lady of Fatima predicted that “Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, raising up wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated.” While this prophecy confused the simple shepherd children... their response was, “Who is Russia? Is she an evil lady?” ... any 21st century observer will plainly interpret Our Lady’s words as referencing the rise of Stalinist dictatorships.

But with the Cold War over, how does this relate to us now in 2017?

The main error of Russia, of course, consisted in the Marxist philosophy of Communism, which strips the human being of his dignity and gives the state supreme power to restructure society. In the name of “equality” or “class solidarity,” Communism accepted an “ends-justify-the-means” ideology (such as condoning the murder of “class enemies”). But alongside implementing communist economic systems, Marxist leaders such as Stalin (Russia), Mao (China), and Calles (Mexico), promoted atheism, repressed religion and slaughtered millions of their citizens they felt as threats to their communist beliefs.

Karl Marx famously called religion “the opiate of masses,” reasoning that—like a drug— it served to dull the lower class’s awareness of their exploitation by the rich. Secularism, deriving from the Latin “*saecula*,” meaning world, is defined by Merriam-Webster as “indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious

considerations.”

In 1995, as the Soviet bloc was collapsing, Saint John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* that “We have to go to the heart of the tragedy being experienced by modern man: the eclipse of the sense of God and of man, typical of a social and cultural climate dominated by secularism.” Sadly, Saint John Paul saw, even in a world where communism had been defeated, humans still suffered, unable to find meaning in a world so divorced from God.

In the fifty years after Our Lady’s July 13, 1917 apparition there were more Christian martyrs than there were in all the previous years of Christian history combined. Sadly, during the past decade, over 1.2 million martyrs have given their lives and that number continues to increase each year. Secularism also has its martyrs. The horrific deaths of the innocent through abortion and euthanasia have taken their toll on human dignity.

In Western democracies like the United States, so instrumental in halting the spread of communism, we have lost our sense of God’s teachings and have succumbed to agnosticism and base materialism. As the prominent prelate Bishop William Lori, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, warned, “For some time now, both *life* and *liberty* have been under assault by an overarching, Godless secularism, replete with power and money, but sadly lacking in wisdom.”

Let us decide now to give both our hearts and minds to God and conquer by unconditional love the “errors of Russia” still present in our society. In 1981, after the assassination attempt, Saint John Paul II told the world, “One



hand shot the bullet but it was Mary’s hand that guided the bullet.” The bullet was documented to have missed fatally killing the Pope by the width of one human hair. The world was consecrated to Mary’s Immaculate Heart in 1984 by Saint John Paul II. Lucia confirmed to Saint John Paul II that the consecration fulfilled Our Lady’s request.

Now what remains is for each of us to fulfill Her requests of praying the daily rosary and practicing the devotion of Five Consecutive First Saturdays (Mass, the Rosary and 15 minutes of meditation in reparation and for the conversion of sinners). Mary’s Immaculate Heart will triumph over these “errors” in our world today, only if She first triumphs in each of our hearts and minds. For this we Sisters pray! Won’t you join us in adhering to Our Lady’s request by praying the rosary every day and practicing the devotion of First Saturdays? May Mary’s Immaculate Heart triumph!

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*“There is the danger of replacing Marxism with another form of atheism which, praising freedom, tends to destroy the roots of human and Christian morality.” John Paul II, May 12, 1991 (Fatima, Portugal) on the ten-year anniversary of the near fatal assassination attempt*

# Our Lady of Fatima and the Errors of Russia

## The Spreading of the Errors of Russia

Why was Mary's message at Fatima—that Russia would "spread its error throughout the world"—so timely? In 1917, Russia would have been considered "Holy Russia," its people deeply devoted to their Orthodox faith, starting with the Tsar himself. Contemporaries who heard from the children that Mary had identified Russia as a source of atheism would have been surprised and puzzled. But less than a month after the last apparition of Fatima, the Bolsheviks would shock the world with their successful revolution.

Although the USSR had the goal of world domination for Communism, the real error that it spread through the world was atheism, a practical atheism, a society where there is no place for God because He does not even come to mind.

The Russian Revolution of course has its historical precedents. The Renaissance brought the secularization of knowledge, making man "the measure of all things" instead of the "apex of God's creation." Soon after, during the Enlightenment, atheism began to deny God's existence.



The French revolution brought the first "Godless" state and the Reign of Terror. The country of Spain followed with its own reign of terror and persecutions resulting in thousands of martyrs, including Blessed Carmen, Rosa and Magdalena Fradera, members of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary among the martyrs of the Spanish Revolution.

In 20th century Mexico, the Calles government persecuted the Cristeros. Portugal experienced a similar regime. State-sponsored anticlericalism meant that only in the small county parishes such as Fatima were a few priests free to exercise their ministry.

We see in our own times, the loss of faith and hope in Western culture. The Pew Research Center reported in 2015 that Catholics have dropped from 23.9% of the U.S. population to only 20.8%. For every two converts, there are five Catholics leaving the faith.

But there is still hope. In those places where the message of Fatima was heeded, the "errors of Russia" have been stopped. On May 13, 1931, Portuguese bishops consecrated their country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and a year later, Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, the new prime minister, built a new government inspired by Catholic social teaching.

Similarly, in 1946, Cardinal August Hlond, SDB led the Polish church in consecrating Poland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and promoting first Saturdays among the people. Saint

Pope John Paul II, a native of Poland consecrated the world to Her Immaculate Heart in 1984. Sister Lucia confirmed that this act completed the request of Our Lady at Fatima. Five years later, the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union was peacefully dismantled.

When the Portuguese Communist Party took control in 1968, a group of Portuguese women founded the National Rosary Crusade to save the country. Unexpectedly, the Communist Party was defeated in 1975. In Thanksgiving, the Rosary crusade continues today.

The world's present darkness and violence must be met with believers living lives of repentance, prayer, and sacrifice of daily duties and sufferings for the conversion of sinners, consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary, and making the five First Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, thus doing what Jesus told us to do, having a devotion to Her Immaculate Heart.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita hope you have enjoyed the articles about Fatima we have written for both the Catholic Advance and for our Rejoice Newsletter. The Fatima story is riveting and suspenseful ... like a good book that is hard to put down once you start reading it. The apparitions of Our Lady to the three young children are emotional ... and spiritually important. The instructions from Our Lady to pray the Rosary, pray for the reparation of sins and to pray for the conversion of sinners are for the most part straightforward and hard to misinterpret. However, Our Lady's comments about the "Errors of Russia" are more difficult to understand unless one has a background of the events taking place in the world at that time. The following articles hopefully will give you pause for prayer and thought.

# Fatima Related Historial Highlights

**February, 1848**

Communist Manifesto written and published by Karl Marx

**July 1, 1848**

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded in Olot, Spain

**March 28, 1907**

Birth of Lucia

**June 11, 1908**

Birth of Francisco

**March 11, 1910**

Birth of Jacinta

**July 28, 1914**

Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, WWI begins

**August 1, 1914**

Russia enters WWI

**1916**

The Angel of Peace appears three times to the children of Fatima. Over the course of his visits, he taught them three prayers and gave them Holy Communion

**April, 1917**

The U.S. enters the War



**May 5, 1917**

Pope Benedict XV exhorts the world to beg Mary, the Mother of Mercy for peace

**May 13, 1917**

First apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to the three children. She asked them to return on the 13th of each month through October, to offer sufferings for the conversion of sinners and in reparation, and to pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace and the end of the war



**June 13, 1917**

Second apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, revealing her Immaculate Heart

**July 13, 1917**

Third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima; Mary reveals three secrets to the children

**August 13, 1917**

The three children are kidnapped and prevented from going to the Cova da Iria

**August 19, 1917**

Fourth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima at Valinhos where the children were shepherding their sheep. Mary told them, "Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." Mary also asks that a Chapel be built.

**September 13, 1917**

Fifth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.

The children were told that heaven was pleased with the sacrifices, to continue to pray the rosary and some details of the coming miracle in October.

**October 13, 1917**

Sixth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, Miracle of the Sun with 70,000 witnesses present. Additionally, the Holy Family, Our Lady of Sorrows with the Jesus crowned with thorns, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel also appear to the seers.



**November 7, 1917**

the Bolsheviks seize power in Russia

**Fall, 1918**

Francisco and Jacinta fall ill with the Spanish influenza

**November 11, 1918**

WWI ends

**April 4, 1919**

Francisco dies

**April 29, 1919**

the first shrine on the site of Mary's apparitions is completed

**February 20, 1920**

Jacinta dies

**June 15, 1921**

Mary appears to Lucia and tells her to go to the Dorothean Sisters for schooling, she will join them as a Sister in 1925.

# *Fatima Related Historical Highlights*

**December 10, 1925**

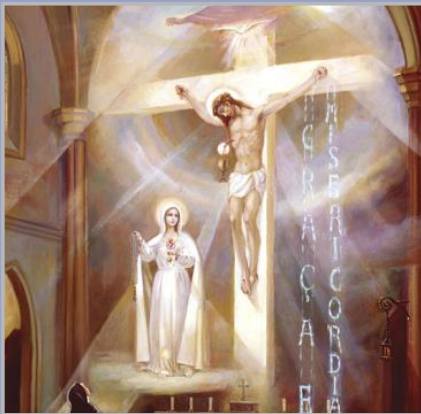
Our Lady and the Child Jesus appear to Sister Lucia in the convent chapel and request the spread of the First Saturday Communions of Reparation

**February 15, 1926**

The Child Jesus returns, repeating His request for the First Saturday Communions of Reparation

**June 13, 1929**

Sister Lucia receives a vision of the Holy Trinity in the chapel. Our Lady appears and requests the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart



**October 13, 1930**

Fatima apparitions approved

**August 19, 1934**

Hitler takes political control of Germany

**July 18, 1936**

Spain's civil war begins

**January 25-26, 1938**

An unknown light illumines the sky, a red glow seen in Spain, Portugal and as far away as Bermuda and Florida. A few days later, Hitler gains control of Germany's military

**March 1938**

Germany takes Austria

**March 2, 1939**

Pope Pius XII's pontificate begins

**March 15, 1939**

Germany invades Czechoslovakia

**September 1, 1939**

Germany invades Poland

**September 13, 1939**

Mary's request for the First Saturdays is made public

**June 22, 1941**

Germany invades Soviet Union

**December 7, 1941**

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

**December 8, 1942**

Pope Pius XII consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**January 3, 1944**

Mary appears to Sister Lucia

**April 15, 1945**

Pope Pius XII encourages prayers for peace during May

**May 7, 1945**

Germany surrenders

**August 5, 1945**

Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Church of Our Lady's Assumption undamaged, the eight resident priests uninjured despite the 100s of thousands who died instantly. The Fathers attribute their survival to the fact that they were living the Fatima message. A similar protection was given earlier to the Franciscans in Nagasaki, who also attributed their safety to the living of the Fatima message.

**August 14, 1945**

Japan surrenders

**1947**

Cold War begins

**March 25, 1948**

Sister Lucia enters the Carmel

**February 4, 1956**

The Vatican authorizes the recitation of the Fatima prayer after each decade of the Rosary

**October 9, 1958**

Pope Pius XII dies

**October 28, 1958**

Pope John XXIII elected

**1959**

The Marxist government in the Soviet Union reaches the height of its power

**November 21, 1964**

Pope Paul VI renews the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**May 13, 1981**

Pope St. John Paul II survives an assassination attempt



**May 13, 1982**

Pope St. John Paul II visits Fatima to thank Our Lady for saving his life

# *Fatima Related Historical Highlights*

**March 25, 1984**

Pope St. John Paul II consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with the Catholic bishops of the world; Sister Lucia confirms this consecration was accepted by heaven



**May 13, 1984**

An explosion destroys 80% of the Soviet Union's munitions and two thirds of its missiles

**December 13, 1984**

An explosion in Siberia destroys the Soviet Unions largest ammunition base

**April 26, 1986**

Meltdown at Chernobyl

**August 15, 1989**

Poland moves toward a government led by non- Communists

**October 7, 1989**

Hungarian Communist party votes itself out of existence

**November 9, 1989**

Berlin Wall falls

**May 13, 1991**

At Fatima, Pope St. John Paul II thanks Mary for the fruits of the 1984 collegial consecration and renews the consecration of the world to her Immaculate Heart

**August 22, 1991 (Feast of the Queenship of Our Lady)**

The Communist Party is defeated in an attempted coup

**December 8, 1991**

The Soviet Union is dissolved

**February 12, 2005**

Sister Lucia dies

**October 13, 2013**

Pope Francis consecrates the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



# *Save the Date!*

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events.

**SISTER CORA MARIE**

*Feast of Holy Rosary*

October 7, 2017

*Please pray for an increase of vocations!*

**FATIMA DEVOTION AND PROCESSION**

*Our Lady of Fatima*

October 13, 2017

6:00 p.m.

*Picnic and procession*

**AUXILIARY MEETING**

*Third Sunday -*

*Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila*

October 15, 2017

2:00 p.m.

**MEMORIAL MASS**

*Souls of the Faithful Departed*

November 11, 2017

9:00 a.m.

**ADVENT RETREAT**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

December 12, 2017

9:30 a.m.

*Make reservations at [www.retreatihm.org](http://www.retreatihm.org)*

*Limited Seating*

# Remember the Church

## THE FUTURE OF TEACHING SISTERS

BY BRONWEN LEWIS

Growth in vocations is a prayer intention each of us must share. Many have heard the phrase, “the youth are our future”. How true that phrase is. Planning for the fruit of such growth in the coming years for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita is something I hope you will engage in ... with a gift of prayer for such new vocations, as well as a monetary gift to help the Sisters support their apostolate of teaching our children, and praying for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of priests.

The heritage we leave the Church will be the hope of those who follow in the hallowed halls of the Sisters, and the very Catholic tradition we all hold so dear. We, as the laity, have a critical and vital role in ensuring that religious vocations are vibrant in the future. We owe that to the youth who are our future.

There are 27 Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, five of whom are Novice Sisters in formation of religious life. These five Novice Sisters must have a formal college education to bring them into the full Teaching Apostolate of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, which simply means they must fulfill the educational requirements to be certified to teach in the state of Kansas. This college education, though necessary, is costly. It is a small price to pay if we are to have teaching Sisters in our Catholic schools, in my view perhaps one of the most important things we as Catholics can do to help families with the faith formation of our youth. The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are a beautiful example of the vocation to religious life.

There are numerous ways the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita will benefit from your gift.

- Providing educational needs
- Proving for the future Motherhouse
- Providing for everyday needs.

We have all heard, or read, to pray ... to ask God to help us discern. This is especially true for the young women who are being called to religious life, but if you think about it, it is equally true for those of us who want to make a gift to Sisters, to make a difference through their good works.

There are many ways you can make a gift...through electronic funds transfers; gifts of stock/securities;

retirement plan assets from which you can make gifts during your lifetime, oftentimes with tax benefits to you and your heirs; and bequests such as those made through provisions in your Will or Trust. When considering any of these types of charitable gifts, naturally you should consult your own legal and financial advisors.

Every gift is a gift of self, and it is a wonder to behold when, collectively, these gifts create the foundation for the future of religious life...through the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita.

The Sisters tell me that when they prayed about their own vocation...“God let me know. It became very clear. He was calling me to be a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita”. I can attest, that if you pray about how God is asking you to help the Sisters, He will let you know ... without a doubt. And, you will know what to do.

In summary, pray for vocations, encourage vocations ... and support the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in any way that you can. Vocations come from all over the country, and the Sisters will eventually attract vocations from other countries as well. Keep your eyes open for young women whose current circumstances might be leading them to discern the religious life, and give them encouragement. Pray. Ask God to assist you in all aspects of your life, and ask Him how you can best help the Sisters. You won't be disappointed.



# *Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Celebrate!*

*The complete gift of self: the greatest of all joys, the supreme expression of love, and the most sublime of all human acts ... for the glory of God, the joy of the individual and the redemption of the world ... This summer two of our Sisters, **Sister Mary Lucia Stuhlsatz and Sister Mary Jane Frances Jackle**, took their next step in the offering of this complete gift of self to God.*

Sister Mary Jane Frances professed her first vows and became a bride of Christ on June 17, in the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows in the Novitiate House of Formation; Sister Mary Lucia professed her perpetual vows and was solemnly consecrated, now and forever belonging solely to her Spouse, Jesus Christ, on June 24 at St. Mary Parish, Aleppo, Kansas.

The religious profession of our young Sisters is a joyous occasion: each Sister remembering her own profession, renewing their own act of love and rejoicing with the new bride; the Church is presented with another young, life-giving witness to her own inner nature as bride, reminding all the faithful who and what they are called to be; our Religious Community is again assured of the Lord's desire that we continue Our Lady's work throughout the coming years, carrying on our charism of prayer and forming and informing the faithful, fulfilling our ecclesial mandate of contemplation of the Word and educating, especially in the Faith. Religious professions truly are a cause for rejoicing!

God calls whom He wills to be His intimate companions, but today's culture does not encourage young women to listen and respond. Today's culture does not encourage commitment, it does not encourage prayer, silence, solitude, or a life given to God. At the same time, the world needs the hope that the witness of joyful religious offer; the Church needs more religious vocations to further Christ's mission according to His plan; we need more young women formed to carry on our charism and to continue the work with which Our Lord and Our Lady have entrusted us.

A life, vigorous, energetic and zealous, given exclusively, generously, and whole-heartedly to Our Lord is truly a beautiful thing. We know that more young women would respond to the compelling call of Our Lord, if only they were given a little nudge. Praying the rosary, especially the family rosary, for religious vocations could easily give the strength, courage, and impetus so many young women need to follow the Lord's call to a life of loving Him intimately and undividedly.

We are very grateful for all of the young, strong, holy and persevering vocations with which the Lord has blessed us. Each of them is truly a gem and each will be an instrument in His hands ... but we need more! Please join us in praying for vocations to our community. May God's will be done in all things and may Our Lady show those called the way of love and sacrifice, the way to follow Her Son by a narrower path and with undivided love as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



# *Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Celebrate!*



**1:** As part of the profession ceremony, the scapular and badge of the Community are blessed by Fr. Pat York, main celebrant. Sr. Mary Jane Frances is then clothed by Mother Mary Magdalene and Sr. Marie Bernadette

**2:** Sr. Mary Jane Frances receives the black veil as a sign of her profession.

**3:** A joy-filled Sr. Mary Lucia after her perpetual profession with her parents and Bishop Carl Kemme.

**4:** Sr. Mary Jane Frances professes her vows in the hands of Mother Mary Magdalene

**5:** Sr. Mary Lucia signs the document of her perpetual profession on the altar of sacrifice. This document is placed under the corporal, a symbol of uniting Sr. Mary Lucia's sacrifice with that of Jesus on the Cross.



SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

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