



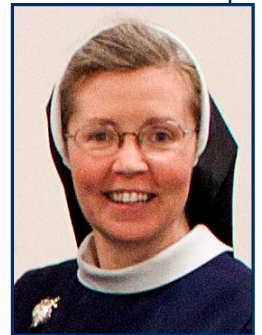
Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Summer 2019

Dear Family and Friends of Our Lady,

“**L**isten my people, and I will speak” (Psalm 50). Isn’t it amazing that God made each of us capable of hearing him, in our thoughts and in our hearts, and in our prayer? Saints write about it, scholars seek to explain it, and we experience it. Our foundress, Mother Joanne, would often hold up the Bible and tell us, “God has a passion to speak to us, the pages and pages of Scripture testify to this.” Praying with Scripture or before the Blessed Sacrament, we find ourselves immersed in a reality that is more real, more filled, more in touch with our souls. God speaks to us in our understanding, in our desires to practice virtue, in our need to love Him more and more, and does not disappoint. “Come now, let us set things right...”. He calls us to prayer and speaks to our heart.



It is our experience that Our Lord speaks to our heart: “Cor ad Cor loquitor”. It is sometimes likened to a whispering sound, an insight, a conviction. But prayer also includes being heard by God. St. Edith Stein, in her autobiography writes of her experience which I believe resonates with our own. She explains:

I spoke with the Savior to tell him that I realized it was his Cross that was now being laid upon the Jewish people, that the few who understood this had the responsibility of carrying it in the name of all, and that I myself was willing to do this, if He would only show me how. I left the service with the inner conviction that I had been heard, but uncertain as ever as to what “carrying the Cross” would mean for me.



Often, we look to prayer to effect changes in the external circumstances of our lives. Yet, we have ample evidence that the power of prayer effects real changes in our souls. Our lives are vivified in prayer, not by taking away our crosses but simply supplying the grace to help us carry our cross. We all have much for which to pray. Our families need our prayers, the conversion of sinners depend upon our prayers, the rebuilding of the Christian Catholic Culture demands a strength, determination and perseverance that comes from prayer.

continued on next page ...


Praying the daily rosary is key! Attending the school of Our Lady is essential! Meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life is indispensable! Our Lady has asked us repeatedly to pray it. Saints have conquered heresies with it, sinners have been converted by it, families restored through it, civilizations rebuilt, like Spain, Mexico, and France because Our Lady's requests were heeded. Blessed Pope Pius IX knew the power of the Rosary when he said: "Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." Your Rosary can make all the difference, in your life and the lives of others. May we all become an army of pray-ers made ready to carry out Our Lady's requests. Please join me in praying the daily rosary for our good and the good of all those we love and serve.

In the Heart of Our Mother,

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

Rebuilding a Marian Culture

Last month I read a book that I wish I had written. It is entitled *The Marian Option*, authored by Dr. Carrie Gress, PhD. Ever since picking up the book, my mind and heart have been soaring. In such simple and clear terms, Dr. Gress lays out for us a battle plan,  really original, it has been played out over and over again throughout the ages, through which mankind is saved from disaster and destruction and corrupt and crumbling civilizations are restored. The Key in this Battle Plan is Mary, the Woman from Genesis who will crush the head of Satan. Our current state of affairs is troubling to most. How can we save our civilization when it seems to be spiraling downward with great speed, to depths unimaginable?



History shows that "if we want to restore civilization to Christ, Mary is the Key. Not only is she keenly interested in assisting Christians, she has the ability to do so, even in the face of the gravest odds. We just have to ask" (inside cover). The remedy to our ills is plain and simple. Marian devotion especially the daily Rosary, prepares the way for Christ to reign. Rebuilding a Marian Culture is a matter of acknowledging our Heavenly Mother's role in showing us the Way, the Truth and the Life of her Beloved Son whereby the sacredness of families, marriage, motherhood and virginity, are restored and our culture renewed.

The beauty of this battle plan? It is so simple and it speaks so clearly to our hearts. Please join us in re-committing ourselves to this strategic plan of entrusting all to Our Blessed Mother, praying the Rosary daily, and honoring her each day through simple means like wearing the Scapular, praying the Angelus and striving to grow in the Marian virtues. We will have more on re-building a Marian culture in our next newsletter. ***Mary's Heart will Triumph!***

Our Lady of Fatima Procession - May 13



1: The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima greets the pilgrims as they arrive.

2: As always, the picnic dinner is well attended and enjoyed by all!

3: The Knights of Columbus lead the Fatima Procession to our Shrine.

4: The procession stretches from the Novitiate House to our Shrine!

5: With Our Lady of Fatima at the Shrine, Sister Cecilia Marie leads the singing.

6: The crowd gathers around and the Knights of Columbus stand guard for the recitation of the Rosary.



Corpus Christi Procession

We have often reflected how fitting it is that the Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary enfolds the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. At Fatima Our Lady was very clear, "My Heart will be the way that will lead you to God." Mary always points us to her Son, especially His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. This year we were especially blessed to have a Eucharistic Procession -- even with beautiful weather -- on the Solemnity.



1: The procession leaves the Chapel.

2a and 2b. The procession moves toward our Fatima Shrine



3. We enjoyed a period of Adoration with music provided by a variety of birds!

4a and 4b. As we returned to the Chapel, several travelers on North 167th Street West had a moment of adoration for themselves!



Icon Workshop

Sister Mary Ann, IHM conducted her first Icon Workshop at the IHM Novitiate, with several of the Sisters participating. The first two days of the workshop consisted of classes on the history of icons, technique and methodology of writing Icons, and lastly a lesson on the basics of painting. Needless to say, the participating Sisters were a little shy and nervous as the moment came to begin writing the icon. Yet, Sr. Mary Ann explained that writing an icon is theology not decoration. If we would only follow the technique, she guaranteed that that our subject would emerge from the board. Judge for yourselves ...



1: Sister Mary Ann introduces the participants to the history and meaning of icons.

2. The participants execute the first step: transferring the image to their boards.

3. and 4. The first layer of color!

5. Sister Mary Ann helps Sister John Marie decide some fine details of color.

6. The guardian angel is emerging and it is only half way done!



The Workshop is still in progress as the newsletter goes to print.



1

Sr. Mary Francesca, IHM Makes First Profession

On June 8, 2019, Sr. Mary Francesca, professed her first vows as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The ceremony began as Sister processed toward the sanctuary wearing the dress of the habit, the cincture and the Rosary of the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary that she had received the night before in a private clothing ceremony among the Sisters. The white veil of a novice would still be worn until she professed her vows, at which time the white veil would be exchanged for a black veil, worn as a sign of consecration.

As she processed holding the full scapular and black veil that would later complete the habit, her community and close family and friends joined in the joyful entrance hymn. During his homily Fr. Ken Van Haverbeke used Pope Francis' Epiphany address to encourage Sister to "look upward at the sky; to take risks and set our bearing gifts for Christ."

Shortly thereafter, Sr. Mary Francesca knelt in front of Mother Mary Magdalene who was seated on a chair in front of the altar. Placing her hands in the hands of the General Superior, she professed to live the vows

of chastity, poverty, and obedience for one year. The vow formula as written in the Constitutions of the IHM community continues as follows: "In seeking perfect charity in the service of God and of the Church, I give myself unreservedly to my Religious Institute, which invokes the protection of the Sorrowful Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Refuge of Sinners. I implore through her Immaculate Heart the grace of perseverance in this way of perfection."

Commenting after the Mass Sister Mary Francesca said, "When I professed my vows in Mother's hands, I was filled with great peace to commit my life to the Lord and to join my voice to that of my community through religious consecration. Receiving the full habit was also a special moment because it is a silent and continuous expression of everything we are and hope for, and everything we are called to share. I can't imagine answering God's call as quickly and joyfully as I did without the support from family and the encouragement from friends that I had surrounding me. Their example of courage to embrace God's will in my life as well as their own inspires me in my vocation, and I cannot thank them enough for their continued prayers."

Now that Sister had been completely set apart as a bride of Christ, she was given the full habit of the Institute to symbolize this change. The badge of the

Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pinned to the right shoulder of the scapular, would serve as a reminder for Sr. Mary Francesca to imitate our Blessed Mother in all things. In fact, every piece of the habit will be a daily reminder for her and for others of God's incarnate love as communicated through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

With her first profession, Sister Mary Francesca takes her place among the other first professed Sisters: Sister Mary Jane Frances, Sister Cora Marie, Sister Mary Teresa, and Sister Maria Kolbe. She will, as they are, be continuing her college education and formation for the apostolate. These young Sisters participate in the apostolate as opportunities present themselves,

such as giving vocation talks, visiting classrooms and helping with groups who visit the Novitiate House.

Since she has exchanged her white veil for the black veil of the professed, there are now two white veils in the house. Sister Julian Marie and Sister Maria Cabrini were received as novices in February and

are immersing themselves in the IHM charism and the principles and practices of religious life. Just beginning these studies, they spend their days trying to interiorize all they are learning, letting it form them into IHM's. Most of their days are spent praying, studying, working and enjoying getting to know all of the Sisters.



1: Sister Mary Francesca professed her vows of chastity, poverty and obedience in the hands of Mother Mary Magdalene.

2. The evening before her profession, Sister Mary Francesca requests and receives the dress of the habit, her cincture, and the Rosary of the Seven Dolors.

3. Shortly after her clothing, Sister Mary Francesca is joined by her fellow novices, Sister Maria Cabrini and Sister Julian Marie.

4. Having received the scapular with the Immaculate Heart badge and the black veil of the professed Sister, Sister Mary Francesca kneels before the altar during the song of Marian Consecration, Totus Tuus.

There is Only One Way

In our lives here on earth, there are very few human activities that fit the maxim: There is only one way. Yet, in relation to supernatural realities especially the gift of our salvation, we know through revelation that there is only one way, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In this regard, one consideration we can easily overlook is how the Lord Himself wants us to find and follow the Way. Fortunately, we do not have to look very far.

By divine arrangement, God has provided us with a way to the Way, which is so sublime that all of the angels and saints together fail to sufficiently offer their praise for it. Her name is Mary.

From all eternity, Mary was chosen by God to be the one through whom God Himself would come to us. God's ways are consistent. By divine design, in our return back to God, the Lord has ordained that Mary would be the best one to lead us to Jesus and through Jesus to the blessed life of the Trinity. If we think that we can do better than God's divine plan, then we have succumbed to the greatest folly.

From the very beginning God promised, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers. He will strike at your head while you strike at her heel" (Gen. 3:15). The woman and the child of the promise would conquer satan, man's greatest enemy, through their total enmity with sin and by their total union with God.

In the fullness of time, Jesus revealed to us that He was the Child and that Mary was the promised Woman. Jesus referred to Mary as "Woman" at the wedding feast at Cana and at the culminating moment of his paschal mystery on the Cross. Mary's role as the promised "Woman" coincided with her unique preparation as the one who is "Full of Grace." From the



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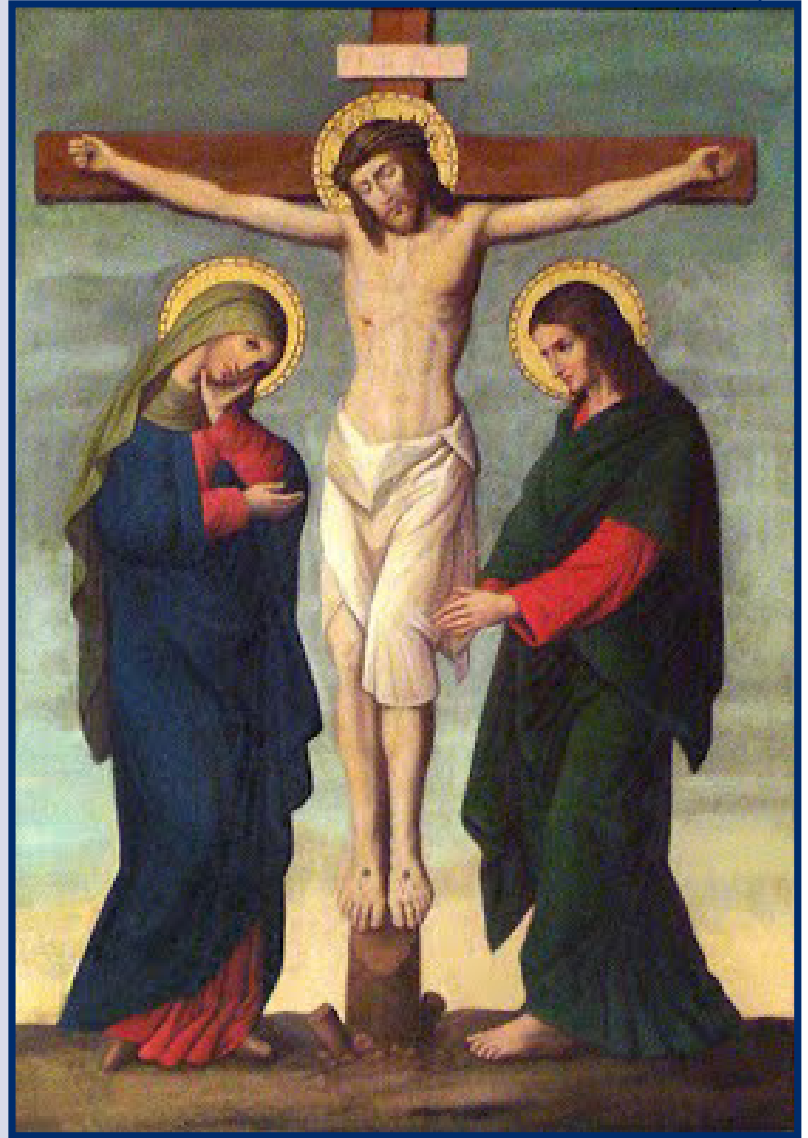
There is Only One Way

first moment of her conception, her heart, mind, soul, and body were completely given without reserve to God, and she was preserved from all stain of sin.

Her spoken “Fiat” at the Annunciation, her “let it be” to becoming the Mother of God, manifested the mystery of her undivided heart, which would always resound with an unfailing “Yes” to everything God desired for her and for the entire human race.

In no way is Mary in competition with Christ. On the contrary, in the whole of human history, there is no one more conformed to Christ and united with the will of God than the one who God himself in time and now in eternity calls Mother. The Son of God willed for all of God’s children to also recognize Mary as their mother. He proclaimed this truth from his pulpit on the Cross when he said to Mary and the Beloved Disciple, “Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother” (John 19:26).

Mary did not create this relationship nor did we. The Lord himself established this profound spiritual and supernatural relationship for our sake. How could we not be indebted and deeply grateful to the Lord who knows what we need the most? The only fitting response we can make is to give ourselves completely to Mary and, in doing so, to offer our loving response to God’s divine plan. He has provided us with the gift of salvation through Christ and He has given us Mary who is the smoothest, shortest, surest, and most perfect way to find and follow the Way.



*“Woman, behold
your son ...
Behold your mother”
(John 19:26).*

Resources

IHM NOVENA PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE IN AUDIO

Hoping to more widely spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in the year 2000 the Sisters began offering an annual novena in preparation for her feast. When we started, the talks were in the basement of the former convent on the campus of Bishop Carroll; after the talks and refreshments, attendees would squeeze into the Chapel for a Holy Hour. Each year, the novena brought new faces into the convent, and the Sisters were delighted. Some of our most faithful friends we have met through their attendance at our novenas. Our Lady's friends have a way of finding each other at such events!

The novenas have always included a talk and Holy Hour with the recitation of the novena prayer. The Sisters continued the IHM Novena during their time at St. Joseph Parish in Wichita, using the parish Church and hall; now we are thrilled to be able to invite all to our IHM Novitiate House of Formation on our Motherhouse property. The culmination of the celebration is Holy Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, often celebrated by the Bishop.

This year marks the 20th year of our novena – a milestone that brings great joy to the hearts of the Sisters because the novena, and all the preparation for the talks, helps us in our devotion as well. In fact, it has been expressed that even if no one else came, we would still have the novena! Being able to provide it for others, though, is humbling privilege. It is moving to see the love for the Blessed Virgin Mary of the faithful who attend.

Though our nightly presentations we hope to inspire those in attendance with an ever-deepening

devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For most of the years the talks have been available on our website in print format, this year we have added a new feature ... the talks are now offered in audio! Please go to the website to find these inspiring talks (<https://sistersihmofwichita.org/novena-talks-2019>).

The talks are not the only resources you will find on the website. Please visit our site often and see what we have to offer!

BELOW: Sister Marie Bernadette speaks to a Chapel full of novena attendants on the most important word ever voiced by a human person: Mary's "Fiat".



Save the Date!

OCTOBER 13
Our Lady of Fatima
Procession
6pm - Picnic Begins

NOVEMBER 
Memorial Mass
8am

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

4,076,436

*Memorares
for Our Lady
to Date*

Remember the Church

PROVIDING FOR THE BLESSINGS



There are now 28 Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita: 28 testimonies to God's wonderful plan, 28 blessings to all of us, and 28 reasons for all of us to support this religious community, which has grown (and with your help, will continue to grow!) in the fruitful soil of Wichita's ardent Catholic community.

Each of these Sisters, by nature of their Apostolic work, helps us to strengthen our own Catholic devotion and shows us how to put God and family first in our lives. They passionately instruct our youth in the truths of the Catholic faith and the glorious history of our Church. The Sisters' teaching mission is like the mustard seed: as our young people grow up and have families of their own, they, in turn, pass this knowledge of their faith to their children.

The cost of educating the Sisters is one of their greatest expense. The typical young woman entering has little or no college education. Those novices that do have college degrees generally do not have the type of degree that would allow them to be certified as teachers by the State of Kansas. Moreover, in keeping with their focus on formation and education, each summer the Sisters send a few of the perpetually professed teaching Sisters to enrich their own knowledge of our faith by obtaining Master's Degrees in Theology. This is an immediate, urgent and ongoing need. A gift of any amount to this vital aspect of the Sisters' life and mission would help reduce the overall expenditures of the Sisters allowing them to use their funds for long term needs.

While education expense is high on the list of the Sisters' short-term needs, a Motherhouse building is the number one long-term need. As you plan your charitable giving each year, or are reviewing your estate planning, I urge you to start including gifts to the Sisters for the Motherhouse

building in your estate plans. As the pace of vocations increases for the Sisters, it will only be a few years until the need for a Motherhouse building becomes imminent. By starting to save for it now, the task of building in the future will be more easily achieved.

Giving is easy. Depending on your circumstances, gifts can be made that might benefit you as well as the Sisters. With stock prices, mutual funds, and land values all at near-record levels, using these assets to make appreciated gifts can be very appealing. So, please consider:

- Making a gift of land ... land that has appreciated greatly in value for you
- Making a gift of stock or mutual funds that have appreciated greatly in value for you
- Sending a check
- Making a recurring gift...through electronic funds transfer (or ACH)
- Making an IRA rollover gift
- Making a bequest (in your Will or Trust)

The Catholic faithful have always been at the heart of charity in this country, supporting the works of religious life as well as other important missions. We can accomplish so much when we come together, whether through our prayers or through our generosity. Look at what happened with the help of your Memorare prayers in 2013 - 2015 when, as a community, we beseeched Our Lady to help build the Novitiate House of Formation – and, it was built!

Carpe diem! Please, seize the moment. Every gift is the perfect gift...because it comes from your heart!

Check with your financial advisor or attorney for the most beneficial way for you to give or contact me at the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita (316) 722-9316.

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

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COLWICH, KS 67030**

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www.sistersihmofwichita.org

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