



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Spring 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

I decided it's time to take the **Teresa Challenge**. You ask, "What is the **Teresa Challenge**?" You can discover it as I did when reading the voluminous materials coming out on St. Joseph in this wonderful Year of St. Joseph. St. Teresa of Avila in her frank and direct manner tells us what we can expect to receive from St. Joseph, and if we don't believe her, then to put it to the test. When I read the following excerpt from her autobiography, I was convinced that I needed St. Joseph in my life, and that I would take the Teresa Challenge. What will you do? St. Teresa writes:



"I took for my advocate and lord the glorious Saint Joseph and commended myself earnestly to him; and I found that this my father and lord delivered me both from this trouble and also from other and greater troubles concerning my honor and the loss of my soul, and that he gave me greater blessings than I could ask of him. I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favors which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which He has freed me, both in body and in soul. To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succor us in some of our necessities but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succors us in them all and that the Lord wishes to teach us that as He was Himself subject to him on earth (for, being His guardian and being called His father, he could command Him) just so in Heaven He still does all that he asks. This has also been the experience of other persons whom I have advised to commend themselves to him; and even to-day there are many who have great devotion to him through having newly experienced this truth." "I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to this glorious saint, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God. I have never known anyone to be truly devoted to him and render him particular services who did not notably advance in virtue, for he gives very real help to souls who commend themselves to him. For some years now, I think, I have made some request of him every year on his festival and I have always had it granted. If my petition is in any way ill directed, he directs it aright for my greater good.

"I only beg, for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me will put what I say to the test, and he will see by experience what great advantages come from his commending himself to this glorious patriarch and having devotion to him. Those who practice prayer should have a special affection for him always. I do not know how anyone can think of the Queen of the Angels, during the time that she suffered so much with the Child Jesus, without giving thanks to Saint Joseph for the way he helped them. If anyone cannot find a master to teach him how to pray, let him take this glorious saint as his master and he will not go astray." (Autobiography Chapter 6).

Also, the enclosed Encyclical on St. Joseph by Pope Leo XIII is exquisite. May your devotion, trust and reliance upon so great a provider bear much fruit in your life.

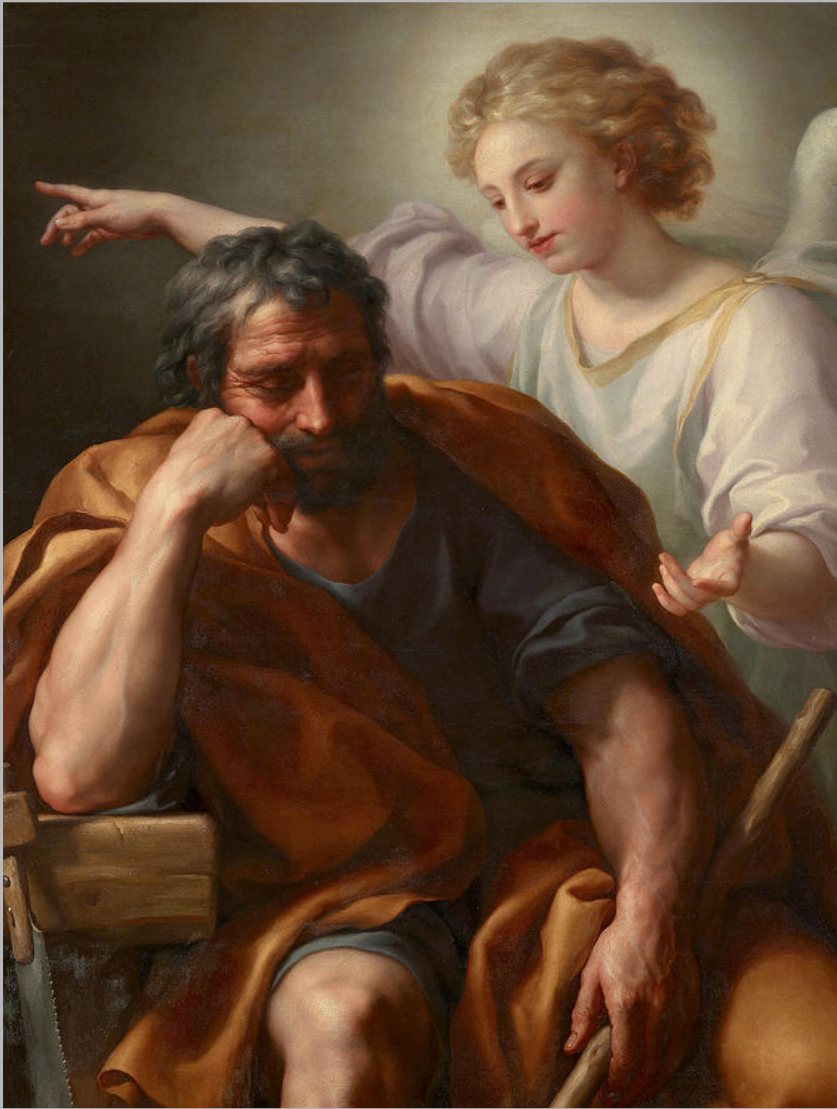
Please join us in praying to St. Joseph the Provider for IHM Vocations! There are many strong, holy and dedicated young women who are called to our community. Please help them by your prayers to answer their call to follow the Lord as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

Honoring St. Joseph



The Year of Saint Joseph is such a gift! Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, “With a Father’s Heart,” tells us that his aim in writing the letter was to “increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.”

What a wonderful opportunity!

Truly an example for us, regardless of individual vocations, in his “eloquent silence” Joseph shows us how to love without possessing. His actions were never decided upon with himself as the rule or the object. His focus was always, every time, on the lives of Jesus and Mary. In every Gospel account Joseph does exactly what God commanded without hesitation and without considering personal cost or inconvenience. As God’s will was progressively revealed to him, Joseph, by becoming

the protector and provider of the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of God, and of her Child, the Word Incarnate, “placed himself,” as Saint John Chrysostom says, “at the service of the entire plan of salvation.”

One Old Testament verse seems to particularly describe St. Joseph. Quoting from the sixth chapter of the prophet Micah: Yahweh is speaking through the prophet and He says, “Only one thing I ask of you: to act justly, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” This ‘one thing’ He asks of us is simple, but not easy. It does, however, beautifully describe St. Joseph. He can teach us how to act justly, for that is how Scripture describes him: a just man, a righteous man. He can teach us how to love tenderly, for who else has loved Jesus with a father’s heart and His Mother as his own most chaste spouse? He can teach us how to walk humbly with our God, for he taught our God how to walk!

It can be said that the virtues of Joseph are summarized in that one phrase from Scripture, “he was a just man.” In Scripture this is the ultimate compliment. Justice means good, up-rightness, exemplary, virtuous. This is what God wants from us, too. We can’t, however, learn about Joseph’s virtue by what he said, for there are no words of Joseph recorded in the Scriptures. That is fitting, for the best way to prove virtue is not in words anyway, but through action. Joseph did. His virtue is brought before us by his actions, by his life. Anyone can talk about it, but not everyone lives virtue.

Joseph’s all-encompassing virtue is obedience; in his silence he teaches us unquestioning obedience to the will of God. Over and over again Joseph acted as soon as God’s will was made manifest. The virtue of obedience is not the obedience a dog has to its master. The virtue of obedience requires submission of our free will in love, faith and humility. It requires the use of our intellect and our gifts. St. Joseph put himself completely at the service of God His Father in the whole-hearted living of his vocation. Joseph, ever obedient to the will of God, was just, good, exemplary and generous.

Honoring St. Joseph

With the possible exception of the flight into Egypt, Joseph wasn't given extraordinary feats to accomplish. His holiness was increased through the faithful, diligent workings of everyday life: the fulfillment of his daily duties in his workshop in Nazareth, earning his daily wages to support his family; providing for and protecting his Son, Jesus; in the living of his vocation of husband and father. That is how we, too, will grow in holiness! By obediently living our own vocation, by fulfilling our daily duties as a means to holiness, which means out of love for God and out of humble obedience to His will as it is made manifest in our own individual lives. What we are aiming for is the sanctification of our daily life; St. Joseph is proof that there is no need for the accomplishment of great and extraordinary things to be holy, "it is enough to have the common, simple, and human virtues" (RC 24).



In his daily concern for the Child Jesus and Mary, His Mother, Joseph knew how to love tenderly. Joseph was betrothed to the Virgin Mary as a young man, a strong man – who could walk to Egypt! – a tender, loving man. Pope Pius XII taught that it was Joseph who showed Jesus "all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know." Joseph was given a share in the love that has its origin in God Himself.

Coming to a deeper realization of Joseph's vocation as husband and father should lead us to a fuller understanding of his greatness. Time and time again, Joseph was needed: who else could protect Mary's reputation when she was found to be pregnant before they came together as husband and wife; who else could have protected and provided for her on the way to Bethlehem and then again later on the way to Egypt, a journey which allowed for no preparation; who else could have brought her safely home and then a few years later, helped her find her missing Child in Jerusalem? Mary needed Joseph. Jesus needed Joseph. Joseph, responding to the grace and strength offered him by the Heavenly Father, loved, protected and provided for his family, his special family, his Holy Family.

And finally, we honor Joseph by following his example as he walked humbly with His God. Joseph walked day in and day out with the Incarnate Word of God, he even called Him "Son." He lived with Him, he provided for Him, he trained Him in his trade. Joseph was truly a father to the Child Jesus. He lived with God even before he went to heaven! Truly, Joseph was intimate with God.

Everything I have said so far supports that statement. His generous obedience and his love for Jesus and Mary show his desire to do only the will of God, and therein lies the secret of holiness. Out of love for Him, to desire only the will of God, to do only the will of God, that is the way of holiness. That is the means to union with God. That is walking with Him.

There is no other way to holiness than seeking the will of God and, motivated by love, generously working to accomplish it. Humbly ask to walk with Him to be with Him, to love Him.

Walking humbly with God also speaks of the interior life of Joseph. Walking humbly with our God implies a relationship. Remember the account of the original sin? After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God in the Garden. He called to them in

Joseph's tender love was not only given to His Son, Who was also the God Whom he adored, but also to Mary, his true Spouse. Again, "the silence of Joseph has its own special eloquence" (RC 17). He doesn't speak of his love; he shows it. He "loved the Virgin of Nazareth and was bound to her by a husband's love", though not expressed physically (RC 19). "Through his complete self-sacrifice, Joseph expressed his generous love for the Mother of God" (RC 20). Their love as husband and wife was real.

Honoring St. Joseph

the cool of the evening, to walk with Him in the garden, and they would not show themselves out of shame. After they sinned, they could not remain in the intimate presence of God and were banished from the Garden. We must stay right with God, we must seek to do His will, to have a relationship with Him, if we are to walk humbly with Him.

This relationship is key. Joseph had this relationship in a real, deep, profound way. His silence speaks to this. A man of few words, he was a man rich in the interior life. All of this takes place in silence. John Paul II said that Joseph's silence is "a silence that reveals in a special way the inner portrait of the man. The Gospels speak exclusively of what Joseph 'did'. Still, they allow us to discover in his 'actions' – shrouded as they are – an aura of deep contemplation" (RC 25).

Joseph learned God's will and had the strength to cooperate with it through a deep life of prayer, an intimate life with Him Who is the Source of all Life. Let us follow Joseph's example in this as well. He can teach us how to pray, how to be in union with God amidst all of our daily duties and trials, concerns and obligations. Go to Joseph. He acted justly, he loved tenderly, and he walked humbly with our God.

There could be no more powerful intercessor, protector, or provider (other than Our Lady!) than Saint Joseph, a man who lived a discreet and hidden presence, and yet the man chosen to provide for and protect the two greatest Treasures of heaven and earth. As a support in our Catholic life and guide in the life of prayer, the world can find in Saint Joseph the example of self-gift which far surpasses self-sacrifice, and in that very fact find the basis for a lasting joy.

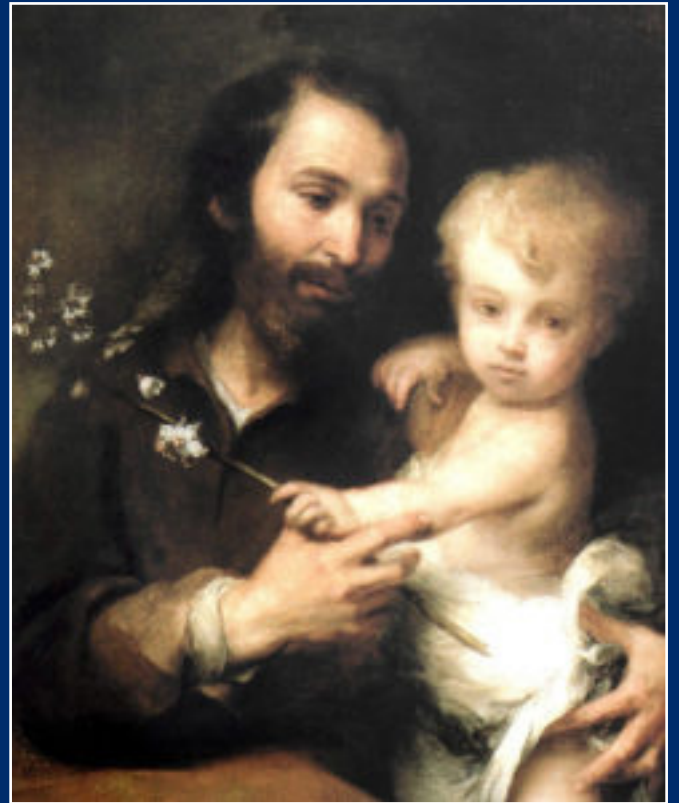
To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you

embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



Honoring St. Joseph

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH INDULGENCES

Granted by the Holy See from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Below is a summary of how you can receive the special indulgences granted by the Holy See for the Year of St. Joseph.

The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father) to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on the occasions and in the manner indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father
- Participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph
- Perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
- Recite the Holy Rosary in families and between the husband and wife
- Entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph and to all believers who invoke with their prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth
- Pray the litany of Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph, in its entirety or at least part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, typical of the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all persecuted Christians
- Pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example “To you oh blessed Joseph,” especially on:
 - March 19th (Solemnity of St. Joseph)
 - May 1st (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)
 - December 26th (Feast of the Holy Family)
 - The Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition)
 - The 19th day of every month
 - Every Wednesday (a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition)



The gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to —

- The elderly
- The sick
- The dying
- All those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their home
- — who, with the spirit detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in your own home or wherever the impediment holds you, pray an act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, consolation of the sick and patron of good death, confidently offering God the pains and difficulties of his life.

First Profession of Vows by Two Sisters of the IHMs

By Sister Mary Francesca, IHM

On March 13th, Sr. Julian Marie Swantek, IHM and Sr. Maria Cabrini Sponsel, IHM professed their first vows at Sacred Heart Church in Colwich, with Father Jason Borkenhagen as the main celebrant and seven concelebrating priests. By doing so, they became brides of Christ and vowed to live consecrated chastity, poverty, and obedience for one year. The Church requires religious to live the vows for a period of at least three years with a temporary commitment before professing perpetual vows. After this three-year period of temporary profession, the religious can request to make her perpetual profession when she would be solemnly consecrated and perpetually vowed to belong exclusively to the Lord.



Sister Julian Marie Swantek, IHM, and Sister Maria Cabrini Sponsel, IHM show their joy at becoming Brides of Christ as professed members of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

By making their first profession, Sr. Julian Marie and Sr. Maria Cabrini took their first official step in this process. Their consecration was made externally visible by the reception of the full religious habit as well as by the exchange of the white veil for the black veil which represents consecration, being set apart for a holy purpose. Commenting on her profession, Sr. Julian Marie said, “I am so grateful for my vocation to be a bride of Christ as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! I could not be happier to give my life to the Lord. I look forward to seeing where He takes me and how I will be able to make Him better known and loved through my consecrated witness.”

In his homily at their profession Mass, Father Jason Borkenhagen summarized this well. He said, “Sisters, you are professing your vows in an institute that immediately places you under the maternal protection of our Sorrowful and Immaculate Mother. It joins you to these other Sisters already professed who are seeking the same thing you are: the perfection of charity through poverty, chastity, and obedience in the community of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. Sister Julian Marie, Sister Maria Cabrini, on this day of your first profession of vows, I’d like to remind you, and Mother Mary Magdalene, and all the Sisters, of something Bishop Jackels wrote to you fourteen years ago. “Your success in this endeavor is measured by your fidelity to your way of life enshrined in your Constitutions and by your repeating with heartfelt sincerity the *fiat* of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Sister Julian Marie is the daughter of Marc and Annette Swantek of Genoa, Nebraska. She, with her four siblings, grew up on a farm. After graduating from high school she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and studied engineering and animal science. She frequented the Newman Center and soon was drawn to daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the community spirit offered at the Newman Center. As she spent more time in prayer, she began to feel the Lord inviting her away from worldly pursuits and to a religious vocation. Sister Julian Marie first moved to Wichita in the summer of 2017 to work as an engineering intern. When she returned to Lincoln for her third year of college, she began to discern religious communities and felt drawn back to Wichita. She began visiting the IHM Sisters and realized that the Lord wanted to draw her to His Heart through that of His Mother. She entered the next fall on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, August 15, 2018.

First Profession of Vows by Two Sisters of the IHMs

Sister Maria Cabrini, daughter of Theodore and Susan Sponsel of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Schulte, is the fourth of eleven children. Having first attended St. Joseph School, Wichita, then St. Peter, where she first had an IHM as a teacher, she then attended and graduated from Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, where she was again taught by IHM's. Following high school graduation, she attended Newman University for 2 years. The Sisters were very present in her life even as a young child. Her family would attend the yearly novena for the Immaculate Heart of Mary, First Saturday devotions, and the May and October Fatima processions. With the encouragement of the Sisters and her family, for over 10 years, she continued to ask God to reveal His will to her. A mission trip, Teens Encounter Christ (TEC), **Fiat** discernment retreats, prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and the sacraments led her to respond joyfully to the Lord's call. Finally realizing that she did not want to wait any longer, that she had found what she wanted since she was in fourth grade, she entered the convent on, August 15, 2018, the Assumption of Mary.

The two Sisters began their formation together as postulants. At that time, they kept their baptismal names and wore a simple navy-blue dress. They prayed and worked alongside the Sisters though they were not yet official members. They began their formation by taking classes at the convent taught by the Sisters. These classes helped them to learn more about religious life by studying Church documents such as *Essential Elements in the Church's Teaching on Religious Life* and *Redemptiois Donum*. They also studied the foundational truths of the faith such as the Creed, the Old and New Testaments, and the Sacraments. Not surprisingly as future IHMs, the Sisters also grew in their knowledge and love of the Blessed Virgin Mary by taking a Mariology class and studying the Church document *Redemptoris Mater*. A full schedule of classes gave the Sisters much to pray about as they spent part of their day working outside, gardening and watering the new trees around the property. As IHMs are a contemplative-active community, postulants also learn how to work in silence so that they may learn how to practice

recollection and how to commune with God within their hearts. It is this interior life of prayer that will enable them to devote themselves to the urgent mission of saving souls through their future apostolic work as teaching Sisters. Sr. Maria Cabrini said, "I want my life to be a witness of God's love and to spread to all I encounter, especially the youth. There is a fire in my heart to lead souls to Christ and to form Saints."

After about a six-month postulancy, young women can request to be received as novices whereby they transition out of the lay life and become official members of the community, signified by taking on a new religious name. Along with receiving a copy of the Constitutions of the community, the new Sisters also receive a white veil to represent "newness." At this stage, the Sisters' commitment is similar to an engagement before marriage. The life of a novice is much like that of a postulant but classes are more directed toward learning about the charism of the community and about the vows in preparation for their future profession, and studying additional Church documents on Religious Life, such as *Fraternal Life in Community* and *The Consecrated Life*.

After two years of formation as novices, the Sisters can then request to profess their vows, after which they will be more formally oriented toward the community's active apostolate. For most Sisters, this involves continuing college in order to earn their teaching degrees. They also engage in ongoing formation by taking catechesis classes from the Sisters in order to learn how to teach the Faith. The period of initial formation from the postulancy to first profession is a vital time for each Sister in order to be fully equipped to serve the Church as a faithful and dedicated religious. As Sr. Julian Marie and Sr. Maria Cabrini experienced, their journey has not ended with profession but has moved to a deeper level; they will continue to respond daily to the Lord's invitation to "follow Him wherever He goes," but now, they follow Him as brides, with a singularly-devoted heart in imitation of the Blessed Mother.



Sister Julian Marie and her family.



Sister Maria Cabrini and her family.

First Profession of Vows by Two Sisters of the IHM



1: The evening before first profession, those to be professed receive the dress, cincture, Rosary of the Seven Dolours of Our Lady, and the profession Crucifix. Here Mother Mary Magdalene speak to Sister Maria Cabrini, Sister Julian Marie and the entire community on the meaning and beauty of the religious habit.



2: Mother Mary Magdalene listens to the request of Sister Julian Marie and Sister Maria Cabrini to receive the habit of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



3: Sister Maria Cabrini and Sister Julian Marie receive the dress and cincture.

4: After donning the dress of the habit, Mother Mary Magdalene assists the novices in putting on the Rosary of the Seven Dolours.



5: At the profession Mass at Sacred Heart, Colwich, the next day, the novices carry in the entrance procession the scapular with the Immaculate Heart badge and the black veil and place them in the sanctuary.



First Profession of Vows by Two Sisters of the IHM



6: Sister Julian Marie professes her first vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience as a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the hands of Mother Mary Magdalene as Sister Marie Bernadette and Sister Cecilia Marie witness their offering of self.



7: As Mother Mary Magdalene listens intently, Sister Maria Cabrini professes her first vows, becoming a Bride of Christ.

8: Father Jason Borkenhagen blesses the scapulars and veils of the newly professed Sisters.

9: Sister Maria Cabrini (left) and Sister Julian Marie kneel at the entrance of the sanctuary as the IHM Sisters sing the consecration hymn, Totus Tuus.



Remember the Sisters

MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH – SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

“THE FISHERMAN’S PARISH”

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

I love a good story, particularly one that makes me proud to be Catholic, and one that has ties to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the same time. This is one of those wonderful stories!

The borough of San Pedro, California, sits on a peninsula at the southern tip of Los Angeles, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Immigrants from Croatia, Portugal and Italy settled there, bringing with them great skill as fishermen as well as devout Catholic faith. In 1888, despite differences in language and culture, the community came together to construct a small wooden structure that served as the original Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church. In 1905, a larger church was built on nearby “Vinegar Hill.” Both structures were funded entirely by the fishermen and their families, putting aside money from their catches.

The current church edifice includes a towering belfry crowned with a ten-foot statue of Our Lady of Grace, her hands outstretched toward the Pacific Ocean, to guide the faithful fishermen out of the harbor in the mornings, to protect them during the day, and then to guide them home at night. The statue is a powerful symbol of their faith in Mary as a protector against all the storms of the sea and of life.

In 1914, the parish opened an elementary school and in 1951 a high school. The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart taught at both from their inception, providing an excellent Catholic education for the children of the parish. One of the “daughters” of Mary, Star of the Sea Parish was Sister Giovanni Oliveri, who along with Sister Eileen MacDonald and Mother Joanne Brummel, came to Wichita in 1976. Sister Giovanni taught at “Mary, Star”

for several years before coming to Wichita.. Sister Giovanni was much beloved here in Wichita, particularly among the students she taught at Bishop Carroll and their parents, where she would greet every class, every day with the sung words, “Good morning my doves, my loves, my beautiful ones!” How can you not fall in love with your Catholic faith when your teacher, a professed Sister, greets you that way every day with a cheery smile on her face and joy in her voice?



The radiant 10' high bronze statue of Mary standing atop the bell tower of the “new” church built in 1958, with Her arms outstretched towards the Port of Los Angeles, was a gift of the parish’s fishermen who set aside \$7,000 from their tuna catches to pay for it. The magnificent statue is lit every night so the fisherman can see Her when they enter or leave the harbor on their boats.

The stained-glass picture is located in the church right of the altar – it depicts Jesus speaking to the fisherman.



Remember the Sisters

The story of Mary Star of the Sea should resonate with us here in Kansas. Around that same time period, Catholic immigrants from Germany, Ireland, Croatia, and Poland forged a living farming the wild plains of Kansas. They brought their own traditions and dotted the prairies with Catholic churches that were beacons of faith for the newcomers just like the statue of Mary atop the Church in San Pedro.

Another story worth telling about Mary Star of the Sea is the story of the “Miracle of the Giant Fish.” The San Pedro fishing industry reached its peak in the 1940s and then began a steady decline as foreign competition resulted in cannery closures and poor markets for the fishermen’s catches. The industry reached its nadir in the mid-1980’s, so that in late 1987 their pastor at the time, Monsignor Gallagher, told them in a sermon: “Times have changed. The fishing industry is not what it used to be. But yet we’ve seen this remnant of people ... who adjust to the changing conditions, who persevere in the face of adversity. We pray in a very special way for the abundance of the fish in the sea, for the fishermen, that they will truly have a great catch.” Within a year, the fishermen’s prayer was answered as they had a record tuna catch including almost 1,000 of the biggest Pacific blue fin tuna ever taken by a commercial fishing fleet, each fish weighing between 300 and 1000 pounds, a size never seen or caught before. (Blue is, of course, Mary’s color).

You may have noticed that a common theme in the story of Mary Star of the Sea parish is the constant support of the good fishermen of San Pedro and their families over the years, support that continues to this day, even as new waves of immigration, from Vietnam, Mexico, and elsewhere, have brought new Catholic traditions. I liken that support to what has happened here in Kansas over the last 150 years, and while we in Kansas would all starve to death if we had to rely on catching fish, family after family and generation after generation of Kansas families have put aside a portion of their farm crops to keep their Catholic churches vibrant and meaningful.

As you know, if you read my articles in the Rejoice magazine each quarter, the Sisters are heading towards a day in the near-term future when their growth will require them to build a

Motherhouse. The Sisters are diligently planning and saving for a day when the House of Formation will be bursting with new vocations. They have placed their trust in God’s providence and in your goodness. With the hope that you, just like the fishing families in San Pedro, and the farm families in Kansas...in the heart of America, will set aside a portion of your earnings each month to help the Sisters. I encourage you to remember the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita in your Wills and Estate plans, gifts that, while not immediate in nature, will add up and make a huge difference in the future.



“Stella Maris”, the Virgin Mary, the Star of the Sea – front entrance to Mary Star of the Sea Parish.

In closing, I would like to return to the story of Mary Star of the Sea parish in San Pedro. As you view the wonderful picture of Mary atop the bell tower lit up with lights with her arms welcoming the fishermen and all who view Her, think about the same possibility for the new Motherhouse. As I dream about what the Sisters might be able to build, I pray the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita Motherhouse property will have its own “Mary” tower. A towering statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary ... illuminated with lights at night and welcoming all who see Her into Her heart. Imagine...Our Lady who is a beacon of hope for religious life, a beacon of hope for marriage and the family, a beacon of hope in the triumph of her Immaculate Heart.

I pray that all of you will have a “Miracle of the Giant Fish” in your lives and will remember the Sisters in the same way the fishermen gave to Mary Star of the Sea for so many years.

This is the same number as was in the last newsletter because we have not had a Fatima procession since then. We would really like to break the 5,000,000 number with the May 13th procession! Please, pray those Memorares!

4,629,066 Memorares for Our Lady to Date

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

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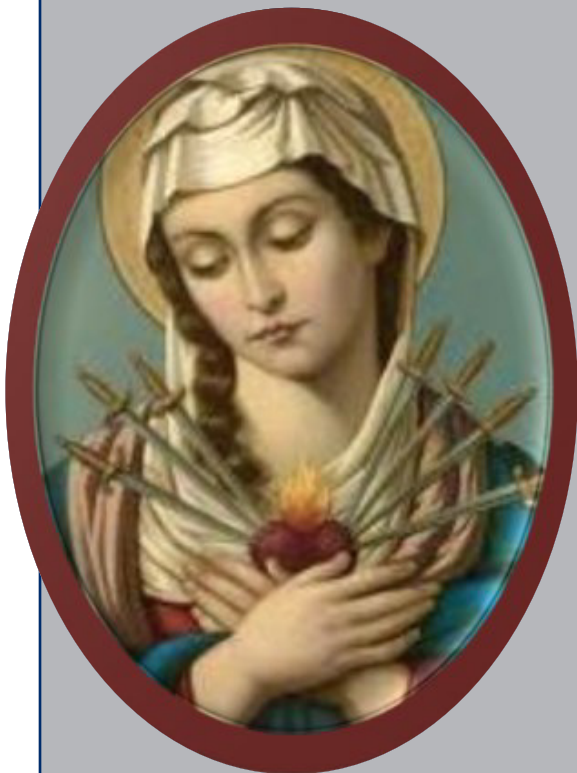
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