



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Summer 2024



Dear Family and Friends,

When we purchased our current Motherhouse property, our first two additions were a guest house with the same exterior look as the 100-year-old Simon homestead (which served as an interior space for the Sisters to use until other buildings were completed) and the Capelinha. This outdoor chapel is modeled after the chapel in Fatima that sits on the site where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francesco and Jacinta in 1917. With this chapel we wanted to honor Our Lady, to

continue to spread devotion to her Immaculate Heart, and provide a place of prayer for our Sisters and our guests.

During the period of the Eucharistic Revival in the United States, we began the process of adding another place of prayer – one that depicts the little-known prelude to the Fatima apparitions, the apparition of the Angel of Peace to those three same children in 1916. The project was envisioned by Sr. Mary Magdalene when she was our General Superior. Working with Tom Stroka and Caroline Cole at Duncan Stroik Architecture, she was able to come in contact with our sculptor, Cody Swanson. Working together to capture the look of the figures involved in the apparition, Cody would send the Sisters conceptual drawings, models, pictures and even short videos of the work as it progressed. The Sisters always looked forward to these sneak peeks of what would be the final product.

Finally, the statues were crated and on their way – by boat. This gave time for Jenny and the Dondlinger Construction team to consult with Cody and Tom Stroka about how to secure the statues in the newly built shrine area. Much time was given to discussing the movement, placement, and anchoring of the very tall and heavy Angel statue – particularly so that it can weather the winds of Kansas farmland. With much anticipation, the shipping crate arrived via truck in November, and a group of excited Sisters spent a few hours watching the crates be unpacked and unloaded. The joy of the Sisters was not daunted by the bitter cold day or the fact that all you could really see were packing crates. Finally, on a much warmer day in December, the statues were uncrated and placed. The excitement was only matched by the beauty of the revealed statues. The angel statue may not have wings, but we all watched as the Dondlinger crane lifted the Angel statue into the air and moved it into place. There was a large sigh of relief when the angel was back on the ground and in its place. Landscaping the area waited until spring, and the entire area was blessed by Bishop Kemme on May 7, a few days prior to our annual Fatima procession on May 13. It is fitting that this project was completed in May, Our Lady's month, during this final year of the Eucharistic Revival and in the Year of Prayer begun by Pope Francis in preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025.

May the lessons of the Angel of Peace on reverence, prayers and sacrifices for those who are far away from the Lord, and loving adoration offered in reparation to our Eucharistic Lord bear fruit in all our lives. Rejoice!

Mother Cecilia Marie, IHM

Mother Cecilia Marie Hammersley, IHM
General Superior



The Angel of Peace

The Message of the Angel of Peace –the Prelude of Fatima

BY MOTHER CECILIA MARIE HAMMERSLEY, IHM

In May of 1917, three children were tending their families' flocks in the Portuguese countryside when suddenly they saw a beautiful Lady descend from heaven. After talking with her and asking questions, the Lady, before departing, asked them to return to the same location at the same time for the next six months. Those familiar with this story will know that I am referring to the approved apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.



Detail of the statue of the Angel of Peace.

However, many do not know of the great prelude to this apparition, in which God prepared the souls of the three children to receive the visit and the message of Our Lady.

Throughout Salvation History God often prepared his people for the blessings and graces He intended to bestow upon them by sending messengers. The Greek word for “angel” in the New Testament is *áγγελος*, which means “messenger.” As Pope St. Gregory the Great explained, “the word ‘angel’ denotes a function rather than a nature. Those holy spirits of heaven have indeed always been spirits. They can only be called angels when they deliver some message.’ In other words, when God sends one of the heavenly spirits (like Gabriel) to deliver a message, we call that spirit a “messenger,” or “angel.” (Heschmeyer, *Catholic Answers*).

In the Old Testament Abraham was visited by three angels who told him his wife would bear a son. Jacob wrestled with an angel. An angel guided Tobias. Joshua, Gideon, the parents of Samson – the Old Testament is replete visits of angel messengers. The visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation is probably the most well-known angelic visit in the New Testament. Yet the New Testament also records angelic messengers sent to Zechariah, Joseph, the shepherds, Mary Magdalene and the women at the empty tomb, the Apostles, Philip, and Cornelius. The Old Testament prophets, St. John the Baptist, the Apostles – all were sent to prepare the people so that they would have the dispositions necessary to receive God’s grace. At Fatima, an angel who called himself the Angel of Peace visited the three children in 1916 in order to prepare them for what was to come.

Many Catholics are aware of the three great secrets of Fatima. These secrets were parts of Our Lady’s message to the children that she told them not to reveal until a particular time. Some, however, would consider the three visits by the angel to be the first great ‘secret’ of Fatima, because at the time of the apparitions of Our Lady, none of the children mentioned these visits. Lucia finally revealed the Angel visits 20 years after they happened.

The Message of the Angel of Peace—the Prelude of Fatima

THE FIRST APPARITION OF THE ANGEL

In the spring of 1916, three shepherd children, Lucia Dos Santos, age ten, and her two cousins, Francisco Marto, age 9, and his sister Jacinta Marto, age seven, were tending their family's flock of sheep near their home, at a place called Cabeço. The children ate their lunch and then said the rosary as quickly as possible, saying on each bead only the first two words of the Hail Mary or the Our Father. The children had begun to play a game, when a strong wind shook the tree tops. They saw "a young man, about fourteen or fifteen years old, whiter than snow, transparent as crystal when the sun shines through it and of great beauty." (AA 22)

Lucia records in her memoirs:

Then the angel spoke "Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me."

Kneeling on the ground, he bowed down until his forehead touched the earth. Led by a supernatural impulse, we did the same, and repeated the words which we heard him say:

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!" Having repeated these words three times, he rose and said: 'Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.'" (Dos Santos 170-171)

What can we learn from this apparition?

First—reverence in prayer. Not everyone can kneel with their heads touching the ground. Yet we can learn that we need to be reverent when we pray. We need to always remember to whom we are speaking: Almighty God. "This means we should pray with respect for his infinite holiness and majesty, avoiding deliberate distractions, daydreaming, slouching, or any form of laziness or indifference." (AA 23)

Second: This prayer, usually referred to as the Pardon Prayer, becomes a powerful introduction to intercessory prayer for sinners. Praying for the salvation of souls is at the very center of our Lady of Fatima's message. She would tell them in the August 1917 apparition: "Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them." (AA 24) "When we pray the Pardon Prayer we are praying for faith, hope and charity to be renewed in the world. We need [these virtues] in our own day as desperately as they were needed

in 1917. If we heed the words of the Angel of Peace and pray the Pardon Prayer each day, or as often as we feel moved to do so, we have no idea how many souls will be brought closer to God. By praying for those who are not praying for themselves, we can hope that God will grant to those souls the graces [they need] to begin praying on their own. We can trust that Jesus and Mary will always be attentive to this prayer!" (AA 25)

THE SECOND APPARITION OF THE ANGEL

The second apparition of the Angel took place at the height of summer of the same year. The three little Shepherds, who had tended their flocks in the morning so as to avoid the hot afternoon sun, were playing during the siesta hours in the shade of the trees that surrounded the Santos well. Suddenly, the same Angel appeared:

"What are you doing?" he asked. "Pray! Pray very much! The Hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy on you. Offer prayers and sacrifices constantly to the Most High."

"How are we to make sacrifices?" (Lucia) asked.

"Make of everything you can a sacrifice, and offer it to God as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. You will thus draw down peace upon your country. I am its Angel Guardian, the Angel of Portugal. Above all, accept and bear with submission, the suffering which the Lord will send you." (Dos Santos 171)

The angel stressed the need for the children to pray even more than they had been doing. "The angel reminded them again that Jesus and Mary had plans for their lives. They needed to develop a strong prayer life to have the courage and generosity to respond to those plans. (AA 27)

Let's briefly break down the statement of the angel, for it contain some of the most important and basic elements of the Fatima message.

Sacrifices – "When the angel said to, 'make of everything you can a sacrifice', he was saying to make use of the many opportunities that come our way during the day to surrender our will, our preference, our desire, or our comfort, giving it to God, and possibly extending it to another person, as an

The Message of the Angel of Peace –the Prelude of Fatima

offering of love. We deny ourselves in this way in order to give God a sign of our love for Him. Everything we have comes from God's love for us. When we make sacrifices, we tell God we love Him for Himself, and not only for the good things He gives us." (AA 28)

Reparation – The children are taught to offer their sacrifices to God in reparation for the sins by which He is offended. Reparation is an act of love to God to help make up for someone's failure or refusal to love him.... When Christ offered his life on the Cross, he was making up for all the sins of mankind by his perfect obedience, out of love, to the Father. We are invited by Christ to share in His act of reparation by uniting our sufferings and sacrifices with His to atone for the sins of the world." Not only would these sacrifices make reparation for sins, but they would also obtain the conversion of those who committed those sins. (AA 28-29)

Bearing sufferings humbly – One of the most powerful, but difficult, graces one can receive from God, is "to bear patiently, for the love of God, the trials and difficulties that come our way. This grace given by God is usually given to persons who are coming close to God.... God allows suffering to purify us from sin, to help us resist temptations and to strengthen us in the practice of virtue. Sufferings are often God's way of purifying our love, drawing us away from attachments to the temporary things of this world so that we can seek after the eternal things of heaven." (AA 29)

The Fruit of Peace – The angel told the children that peace would be the result of offering their sacrifices in reparation for sins and for the conversion of sinners. When everything is in right order - my relationship with God, within myself and with others- then I will have peace. Peace can only come from within, from personal conversion of heart, from right ordering.

From then on, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco began to offer to the Lord all that mortified them. Their favorite sacrifice was to pray for hours on end kneeling with their foreheads touching the ground and repeating the prayer the angel had taught them.

THE THIRD APPARITION OF THE ANGEL

The third apparition of the Angel was in the fall of 1916, possibly at the end of September or in October. The three little Shepherds were grazing their sheep at the Cabeco. After the second apparition the children were very faithful in praying the Pardon Prayer. They had been kneeling down with their heads on the ground, praying the prayer a number of times. Then, an extraordinary light shone upon them. When they looked up, they saw the angel....

"[...] holding a chalice in his hands, with a host above it from which some drops of blood were falling into the sacred vessel. Leaving the chalice and the host suspended in the air, the Angel prostrated on the ground and repeated this prayer three times:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners."

Then, rising, he once more took the chalice and the host in his hands. He gave the host to me, and to Jacinta and Francisco he gave the contents of the chalice to drink, saying as he did so: 'Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God.' Once again, he prostrated on the ground and repeated with us three times more, the same prayer. 'Most Holy Trinity...', and then disappeared." (Dos Santos 172)

The angel gave the children a powerful lesson in Eucharistic devotion. This apparition would instill in the children a very ardent devotion to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our Lady of Fatima's first appearance on May 13 was, at that time, the liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Since heaven's choices are never made randomly, our Lord chose this last apparition to stress the importance of Catholic Eucharistic devotion.

"The angel held aloft the Body and Blood of Christ for the children to adore. He himself bowed profoundly before the Lord's Eucharistic presence and taught the children to do the same. Eucharistic adoration and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, along with attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, are the essential elements of our Catholic devotion to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament." (AA 36)

The Angel of Peace taught the children a prayer that focused on the Holy Eucharist. The prayer begins by adoring the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. While saying this prayer, the children worshiped the Most Holy Trinity with great reverence. The prayer then goes on to offer the Eucharistic presence of Jesus in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for outrages, sacrileges and indifference. What exactly is meant by outrages, sacrileges and indifference?

The Message of the Angel of Peace—the Prelude of Fatima



The Fatima Angel shrine after the landscaping and benches were added.

Outrages refer to serious acts of blasphemy and dishonor in regards to the Holy Eucharist. This can refer to the satanic profane use of the Eucharist, desecration of the Holy Eucharist by those who vandalize or destroy Churches and their tabernacles, or even the blatant disregard of consecrated Hosts that are found on floors, pews, or in other areas of Catholic Churches after Mass. Reparation for these offenses consists of acts of adoration, love and faith to make up for the dishonor shown to the Eucharistic presence of Jesus. (AA 40)

Sacrileges occur when the faithful fail to give the Lord proper honor, especially when receiving him in Holy Communion. St. Paul in his 1st letter to the Corinthians says, “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.” (1 Cor 11:27) Catholics must be in the state of grace to receive the Eucharist worthily. One who receives Communion while conscious of a mortal sin on his soul would be guilty of the sin of sacrilege. Regular confession helps us to remain in the state of grace, so that we are always ready to receive the Lord worthily. Saint John Paul II remarked that it was good to see a lot of people receive Holy Communion, but where were these same people when it came to Confession? He was afraid many of them were receiving the sacrament unworthily. The angel’s prayer provides a way to offer reparation for those who are receiving unworthily and to pray for their conversion. (AA 40-41)

Acts of indifference include times when we do not show proper respect and care toward our Lord in the Eucharist. Allowing

ourselves to be distracted during Mass, talking needlessly in Church, dressing inappropriately, or sitting passively through Mass are only some examples. Behaviors such as these reveal a lukewarm heart. They indicate that we need to become more ardent in our love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. (AA 41-42)

“Through the angel’s three visits, the children were instructed in the ways of prayer; the importance of reparation, intercession and suffering; and the beauty and power of the Eucharist. Over the course of the next six months, the children put into practice all the angel had taught them. They were then ready to receive the first visit of their Blessed Mother”. (AA 42)

By learning the lessons of the Angel of Peace, may all our prayers and sacrifices make loving reparation to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, help bring souls closer to God (including ourselves!), and be a means of bringing peace into our own hearts and our world.

May Mary’s Heart Immaculate, be forever praised!

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Dos Santos, Lucia. *Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words*. Edited by Fr. Louis Kondor, SVD. Translated by Dominican Nuns of Perpetual Rosary. 15th edition. Secretariado Dos Pastorinhos, Fatima, Portugal. August 2005.

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Installation of our New Statues



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The statues arrive from Florence, Italy!

They were shipped in their own cargo box to prevent any damage that could be incurred moving them from one cargo box to another en route from Florence, across the Atlantic, and then from one semi-trailer to another across the eastern half of the United States.

The crates containing the statues were then stored in one of our sheds until they could be installed in the shrine area which had been completed the summer of 2023.

On November 8, 2023, the statues were moved to the shrine area, uncrated and installed.

The large, 7' statue of the Angel of Peace, is moved to his determined spot with a crane.

On May 7, 2024, Bishop Kemme blessed the statues. Many of our friends and families were able to attend the blessing.

Reflections on our New Statues

A Sculptor's Insight - *Cody Swanson, the sculptor of the statues in the Angel Shrine, shared his comments in a recent presentation on this work:*

Obviously we are not in 17th century, so why would anyone attempt to sculpt this way today?

The composition was approached in theological continuity with the intent to represent a fiery immaterial being who dwells in light inaccessible¹, while emphasizing the divine action of this event. The Angel appeared to these shepherd children in 1916 to prepare them for reception of the Host and for their encounter with Our Lady, communicating designs of mercy upon them, and inciting them to prayer.

The iconography was strictly based upon the writings of Blessed Lucia who described the angel as appearing after a strong wind with bright light, and his drapery resembling a brilliant diamond². How can cloth be carved to look like diamond? It cannot be smooth or generalized so I attempted to delineate movements with multifaceted folds. The projection of light is also associated with fire; which in this case is represented with curvilinear rhythms, suggesting the liveliness of burning flames.



The group of statues were arranged in preparation for their installation.

Purifying fire in reference to angels and the divine presence of Our Lord has great precedence in scriptures and tradition: Ezekiel detailed his visions of living creatures moving among burning coals of fire³, Paul states in Corinthians which is considered a description of Purgatory that “he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire”⁴, and of course there is Moses and the burning bush which burned but was not consumed⁵. Furthermore, Saint John of Damascus writes of angels that God “brought them out of nothing into being ... an incorporeal race... of immaterial fire... He makes His ministers a flame of fire.”⁶

For this subject it should be stressed the necessity for idealization, as angels are clearly not meant to resemble an ordinary person.

According to Venerable Lucia’s account the angel did not have wings, presenting a challenge to render the angel recognizable, reinforcing the necessity for theological grounding to help the viewer differentiate between an angel or an ordinary adolescent. This is also clarified by the comparatively more naturalistic depiction of the children, which was based upon historical photographs to represent their individual physiognomy.

¹ – 1 Tim 6:16 “who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, and whom no human being has seen or can see....”

² – 2nd and 4th Memoirs of Ven Lucia dos Santos

³ – Ezekiel 1:13 “And the appearance of the living creatures seemed like burning coals of fire. Something indeed like torches moved back and forth among the living creatures. The fire gleamed intensely, and from it lightning flashed.”

⁴ – 1 Cor 3:15 “But if someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.”

⁵ – Ex 3:2 “There the angel of the LORD appeared to him as fire flaming out of a bush. When he looked, although the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed”.

⁶ – An Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, Book II Chap. 3

Reflections on our New Statues

Inspired to Adore Our Lord like the Children of Fatima - *Sister Cora Marie recounts her experience sharing the message of the Angel of Peace with her second grade students*

Children have a great capacity for prayer. In His ministry, Jesus held up children as an example for how we are to receive the Kingdom of God and trust in the Father, and throughout history, Mary has appeared to children and entrusted them with important missions and messages.

As a second-grade teacher, I have witnessed my students' capacity for prayer, and their desire to know God and have a relationship with Him.

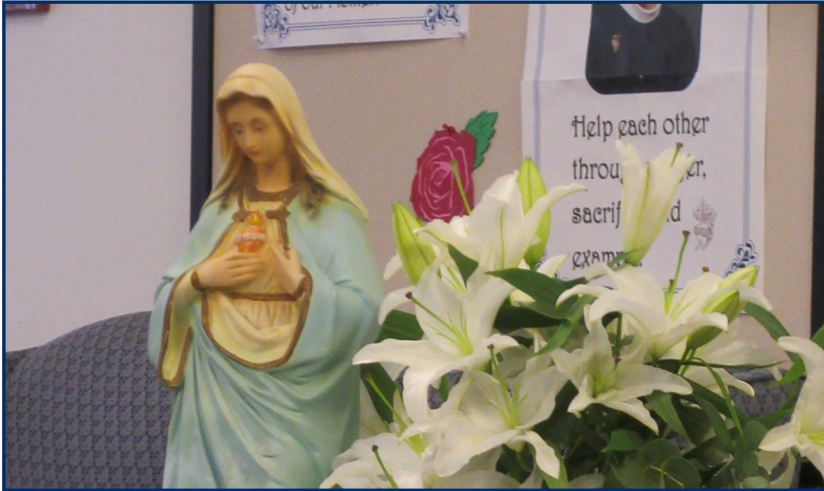
At the beginning of April, I brought my second-grade students to our Motherhouse property for their First Communion retreat. The retreat was focused on the Eucharist through the lens of the Fatima message. The students rotated through stations at various parts of the property: Francisco's Cave, Our Lady of Fatima shrine, and the statue of the Angel with the three shepherd children.

At the statue of the Angel with the children, I told the students about the three appearances of the Angel. When telling them about the first apparition, we prostrated ourselves (as the Angel taught the three children to do) and prayed the Pardon Prayer. When telling my students about the third apparition, we looked at the statue of the Angel holding the Eucharist and we prayed the Reparation Prayer.

During the next few weeks, my class prayed the Pardon Prayer daily in the classroom. At the beginning of May, my class went to Eucharistic Adoration for the first time since learning these prayers. As soon as my students had the opportunity to prostrate themselves before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, they did. From the back of the group I gazed at them, their foreheads to the ground and their little lips moving in almost silent prayer: "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you..." I couldn't help but be reminded of three other children, 100 years ago, who are now looking down upon these children and interceding for them.



Blessed by Sr. Benedicta Marie, IHM



At her reception into the IHM community as a novice, the postulants, along with their religious name, are given a medal of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the white veil, the Rosary of the Seven Dolors, and the Constitutions of our Religious Institute.



TOP: Mother Cecilia Marie gives Sister Benedicta Marie the Rosary of the Seven Dolors.

BOTTOM: The Constitutions are given to Sister Benedicta Marie by Mother Cecilia Marie, as Mother reminds her that her faithful living of the Constitutions is her way of holiness as it is for the whole community.

On February 11th, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Sisters celebrated the reception of a new novice: Sr. Benedicta Marie, IHM. During the private ceremony among the Sisters, postulant Lilly Timmermeyer read her letter of request to continue her discernment as a Novice with the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She was clothed in a white veil to symbolize “newness” and was given her religious name, marking the official start of her religious life. She was also given a copy of the IHM Constitutions so that she can more deeply study and live the unique charism entrusted to the Sisters.

To reflect this charism, every IHM takes Mary as her primary patroness, thus the new name given to the novice contains some form of the name of Mary; additionally, their new name would include their choice of a secondary patron. After much prayerful consideration, Sr. Benedicta Marie felt called to request the name “Benedicta” after Pope Benedict XVI. She was inspired by this “master teacher” and “shepherd of priests” who, with great clarity, taught the truth in charity. She also liked the fact that since “benedicta” means “blessed,” her name also means “Blessed Mary.”

Over the next two years of formation, Sr. Benedicta Marie and her fellow novices will continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus as they are guided to ponder and appreciate the mystery of the religious life—in particular, the living of the life and charism of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita—which they have so faithfully begun.

Remember the Sisters

THE GOOD THAT YOU DO...THE GOOD THAT YOU CAN DO.

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...”

– 2 Timothy 4-7

“For Aquinas, to love means to choose and will the good of the other...”

– Bishop Robert Barron on Saint Thomas Aquinas.

Culture is a buzzword --- it strikes a chord in each of us. Laboratories use it...to “culture” a bacterium... to make it “grow”. Remember sticking your tongue out so the nurse or doctor could “swab” your throat to see if you had strep, resulting in a lab “culturing” sample looking for the strep bacteria? Yogurt is another form of “culture”- it’s all about the “good bacteria” and the “bad bacteria”. Kombucha, a type of “fermented” drink, is a “symbiotic culture of good bacteria and yeast”.

In primary school and high school, we learned about cultures, typically focusing on geography, dress customs, food customs, and traditions such as national holidays and religious customs. The various religious customs and traditions coupled with unique accents from region to region, often define the “culture” of a country, and the regions within a country. For example, in the United States the term, “Howdy” from Texas, or “y’all” from most of our southern states, would define the “south”. The term “bible belt” would refer to a large region of the United States running throughout the south and most of the Midwest.

Our home - where we live, and where the tradition of family is formed - becomes “our culture” that forms each of us. In my case, culture was formed from the roots of paternal Italian grandparents who came to America from Italy, along with the roots of my maternal grandmother from the country of Wales and my maternal grandfather from Kentucky! The tradition of God, country and family was steeped in everything we did. I remember vividly listening to our old crank top record player as it played one patriotic tune after another, undoubtedly influenced by World War II and my family’s involvement in that war. I was very young and liked the music, but blessedly one fine day my dad brought home an “electric record player”. From that day on the patriotic music was replaced with Eddie Arnold, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Bing Crosby, and the Living Strings, along with the tunes each of the military branches used to promote. Sunday was spaghetti and meatballs, and the rest of the week was meat and potatoes, except for Wednesday and Friday...no meat! Confession on Saturday, Mass on Sunday.

There were six of us kids. Schools, sports, and other “influences” become part of our culture too. Growing up in Colorado, we were Denver Bronco and Air Force Academy fans, but my dad could never shake his love of the Vince Lombardi Green Bay Packer team! Mom and dad were big readers...BIG! If we had all our chores finished - not just finished but done well - we (my five siblings and I) were “treated” to the local public library. We could each check out 3 books...good books only as Mom was vigilant in her watch over what we were all reading! In much the same way as my culture was formed, our beautiful Catholic faith has been richly woven into the American culture. The Catholic Church started the first schools. Public schools were its counter. Catholic hospitals were superb. Sisters from around the country were the founders of these schools and hospitals, and nursing students were largely taught by the sisters. Catholic colleges and universities were founded by religious men and women. It was these “cultural” giants, these religious men and women, who helped to form our young nation.

If you went to a Catholic school, you were taught by “the sisters, the brothers or the priests” in an environment of good values, strong religious beliefs, and simple kindness and goodness. Our Catholic faith, the strength of our families, is a very strong “good culture” in society.

Our IHM Sisters in Colwich are a part of this “good culture” that I have been talking about. We are so blessed to have them. From their beginnings in California in the 1900’s when they educated large numbers of Catholic children there, to their presence in our Catholic schools in Wichita now, they are, and always have been, beacons of true light for their Catholic students. Bishop Michael Jackels said, “*The*

Remember the Sisters

IHM Sisters have shown themselves a great powerhouse of prayer.” He further stated, “The best teacher cannot give what an IHM Sister gives in a school...that is the religious witness that comes from their consecration that is supported by their community life and by their personal prayer.”

What’s ahead? Our Sisters need a Motherhouse Building. The future of our Sisters is bright no matter what, but their growing numbers make a new building essential. Navigating the line between opportunity and timing will be determined in the next 5 years.

Ten years ago, the Sister’s House of Formation was built as a “build it and they (vocations) will come” dream, and come they have. God’s goodness is never outdone - the House of Formation is full to the brim, which makes for the “healthy tension” to build the Motherhouse.

I ask all of you to remember the Sisters always ... now as well as down the road. Your support can continue to help pave the way for vocations and for more and more teachers in our Catholic schools. Remember the Sisters in your charitable giving and estate plans ... take advantage of tools such as Wills, Trusts, or Bequests and other types of specially designed financial instruments to do so. And, of course, give cash gifts and gifts of land and other assets to the Sisters whenever you can.

The Sisters can only continue to do what they do through the generosity and commitment of all of you, their friends and families. As I think you all know, but it always bears repeating, our IHM Sisters, although a part of the wider Catholic Church, must be self-sustaining through their teaching stipends and through the generous support of their friends. They receive no financial support from the Catholic Church, nor do they receive any government funding.

Your gift is needed and vital in anchoring the beacon of hope that the Sisters radiate in an ever-changing world, teaching the truth and the beauty of the Catholic Church and being living witnesses to its goodness. They are the icon of the joy of surrendering everything to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“Culture the good”. The Sisters were founded over 175 years ago. Two years from now in 2026, these wonderful, visionary, courageous and holy women will have been teaching in Kansas for 50 years ... teaching, praying for the conversion of sinners and for the sanctification of priests, all for God’s great glory and honor. God. Family. Country. One Goal...one destination...heaven!



Sister Mary Teresa, IHM, with her first graders.

*Thank you for all the prayers!
Keep reciting those Memorares!*

6, 248, 207 Memorares for Our Lady to Date

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

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COLWICH, KS 67030**

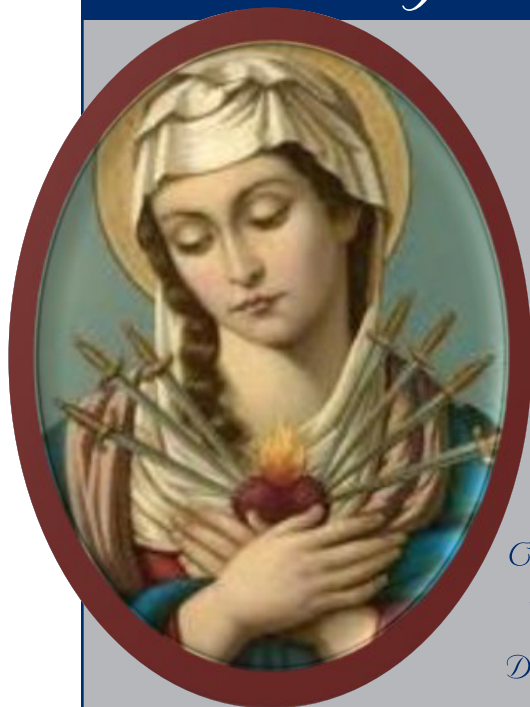
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May the angels lead them into paradise.



Memorials established for:

*Carol Brenner
Carol Carroll
Arlene Girrens
Dianne Haas
Angeline Harris
Roger Harris*

*Kay Martin
Reverend H. Michael Peltzer
Heidi Peltzer
Betty Rausch
Lawrence (Shorty) Rausch
Millicent Wong*

Gifts given in memory of:

*Charles Baker
Ruth Anne Baker
Catherine Petersen Brady
Mary Zwenger Burton
Reinaldo Cabrera
Denise Marie Dusek Karst
Jordan Leigh Estrada
Jay Gallagher
Mike Gann
Myrtle Gitchell*

*David Gittrich
Robert James Higgins
James Hofer
Ray J. Langlois
Leo Borg
Anna Mae Metz
Irene Metzinger
Nataliya Minnestrina
Genrose O'Halloran*

*Leo O'Halloran
Jimmy Oliveri
Sister Giovanni Oliveri,
IHM
Ann Patton
Arnold Reichuber, Jr.
Evelyn Sienko
Peter Seaton
Alex Staton
Richard Tucker*