



Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Spring 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

Children love their parents. Children emulate the way their parents treat others, how they build up trust, the way they show reverence for the Lord. They watch to see how parents love one another, and how eager they are to grow in their own knowledge and love of Christ. They witness their parents' gratitude for the gift of faith and their desire to pass it on. It's the way a family works.



In many ways, religious communities such as the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are like families. When a young woman enters our community as a postulant, she watches, observes and learns how to live religious life, how to be a Sister. After a time, the postulant becomes a novice: watching, practicing, living our religious life, learning the Church's teachings and how to balance her life of prayer and work. It has been nearly forty years since teaching Sisters were abundant in the United States; essentially four decades of our children have never encountered a teaching Sister. Providentially, our foundresses, Mother Joanne Brummel, Sister Eileen MacDonald and Sister Giovanni Oliveri, became a beacon of hope, a little spark if you will, for the growth and development of teaching Sisters in Kansas. In an act of faith, in the year 1976, they came to Wichita to live authentic religious life, praying and teaching.

I was among the first group of young women in Wichita to discern a vocation to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, founded by these remarkable women. As a postulant, I witnessed their love of the Church, their love of Jesus, the way they lived and taught, and, most importantly, the way they radiated joy in their lives ... and ours. Soon, many others followed. We now number 22, our median age is 38, and we are establishing the first Motherhouse and Novitiate in the state of Kansas in over 100 years. Nearly two years ago we purchased 80 beautiful acres in the Colwich area, and have built the necessary buildings to allow us to have an immediate presence...including a shrine for Our Lady of Fatima and a home that hopefully one day will house a resident priest. We are beekeepers as well!

Our vocations will soar once the Novitiate is completed. Why is this so? What is it about a Novitiate that will make the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary more of an option for the many young women who are discerning a vocation to the religious life? Why does not having a Novitiate make it harder for us to attract these young women? The simple answer is that one of the most important qualities these young women are looking for is an authentic communal life in a setting where the Sisters attend Mass together every day, have Eucharistic adoration together, pray the Liturgy of the Hours together, enjoying meals together, just to be together as a religious family united in the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

While we are most grateful for what we have, for years we have literally been bursting at the seams, living in 4 buildings in 3 different places. Our Chapel is
continued on next page...

832,848

*Memoraries
for our Lady
to Date*

not large enough to hold all of us at one time, the classrooms and dining facilities we have are inadequate for our needs, and we have too few guestrooms to house the young women who visit us discerning a vocation. Moreover, we do not have a place for communal recreation, or a place where we can retreat for quiet contemplation. The young women can feel and sense this missing component ... a Novitiate changes all of that, it becomes that welcoming beacon to the communal life they are looking for.

Ironically, the building of our Novitiate rests in a special way with you, the primary educators of your children. Just as your children witness the way you treat others, the way you love and trust one another, the reverence you show for the Lord and the way you practice your faith, they will also be keenly observant of what things in life are important to you.

We hope that religious life is important to you, and that in some small way, in some corner of your heart, you will embrace us in front of these children of yours that we are teaching ... that you will make sure they know that part of your legacy will be your love and support of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We also pray that you will support our Novitiate project with a financial gift, that you will help make it possible for us to grow, and grow, and grow ... that someday we will have Sisters teaching in each and every Catholic school in the state of Kansas. Unless you are over 100 years old, this will be your first opportunity to support the building of a Motherhouse and Novitiate in Kansas, the first time to demonstrate to your children and grandchildren and to all around you that this is an important part of the legacy you wish to leave behind.

It is my prayer and my hope that we are not alone in our quest – that you are there also, standing with us, together as one Body of Christ, helping and bearing each other's burdens.

As Sister Giovanni would often say... "Let's be saints together".

In Mary's Immaculate Heart,

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM

In Grateful Praise and Joyful Thanksgiving

*The Sisters
of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary*



Welcome



*Bishop Carl A. Kemme
as the 11th
Bishop of Wichita!*

Another Bride of Christ!

On February 22nd, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Sr. Mary Lucia Stuhlsatz, IHM, made her first profession of vows. Family and friends of the Community joined the Sisters at St. Anthony's Parish in Garden Plain for the joyful celebration.

For the Mass of Religious Profession, Fr. Samuel Pinkerton officiated, Fr. Thomas Hoisington was the homilist, and several other priests concelebrated. Sister Mary Lucia professed her vows during the Mass and received the habit and the black veil, a sign of her consecration to God.

"It was a beautiful ceremony" commented one of her friends afterwards. "It's encouraging to see something so good and beautiful as a profession in contrast to the bad things happening in the world right now."

"Every time we looked at her during the Mass she was just beaming" observed both Sr. Mary Lucia's mother, Janet, and Kay Schauf, her grandmother.

Sister Mary Lucia, IHM, is the daughter of Perry and Janet Stuhlsatz, and grew up on a farm outside of Garden Plain, KS near St. Mary's Parish in Aleppo, the third oldest in a family of eight girls and two boys. She graduated from Garden Plain High School in 2006 and from Pittsburg State University in 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Biology, Secondary Education. After teaching science for a year at Wichita Heights High School, she entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a postulant

on August 15, 2011 and was received as a novice on February 11, 2012. After two years of formation, Sr. Mary Lucia requested and was admitted to First Profession.

"I was ready to make my vows," said Sr. Mary Lucia, "to give all to Jesus. Now I am His bride, and I can spend my life, joyfully, for Him."

Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM, received Sister Mary Lucia's vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience for one year according to the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. Sister Mary Lucia will renew these vows each year for a total of three years at which time she will be eligible to make perpetual profession. In the meantime, she will begin working in the Sisters' teaching apostolate and is now beginning preparations for her first teaching assignment at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

Following the Mass, the Altar Societies of St. Anthony, Garden Plain, and St. Mary, Aleppo, provided and served refreshments during the reception.

On a final note, Sister Mary Lucia added, "I truly appreciate everyone's prayers, without them I would not have been able to take this huge step; now, please pray for my perseverance!"

Father Thomas Hoisington's homily is posted on our website: SistersIHMofWichita.org.



1: Sister Mary Lucia, carrying her black veil and scapular, waits to process in to the Mass of Religious Profession.

2: Sister Mary Lucia publicly declares her willingness and desire to profess the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience

3: Sister Mary Lucia professes her vows in the hands of Mother Mary Magdalene

4: Mother Mary Magdalene, assisted by Sister Marie Bernadette, exchange the white veil of the novice for the black veil of a professed Sister



PARISH MISSIONS

Sister Maria Jacinta gave two parish missions, St. John in Clonmel, KS, and St. James in Augusta, KS, this past Lenten season, both entitled "Encountering Jesus Christ." Gathering for three consecutive evenings, those attending the mission were challenged to allow themselves to encounter Jesus in a deeper way, to bring Jesus to all they meet, and to enliven their parish through the practice of charitable works. Both missions were very well attended and the attendees expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the deeper insights into what it means to see Jesus in all circumstances and live their faith on a daily basis.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Sister Marie Bernadette led Holy Family Parish of Marion County, KS, in a day of recollection based on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. The day of reflection followed the parish's 33 days of preparation for Marian Consecration, thus illustrating how Mary always leads us to Jesus. The day began after Mass and the Marian Consecration and consisted of instruction on the ancient method of praying with Scripture (lectio divina), three talks, time for reflection and the praying of the Stations of the Cross. The participants were grateful for the opportunity to begin their Holy Week with Jesus' Last Words, providing them with much material for further reflection.



Father May thanks the Sisters and the participants of the recollection day on the Seven Last Words

LENTEN SATURDAYS

Inviting the IHM Auxiliary to the Motherhouse for five consecutive Saturdays, Mother Mary Magdalene presented the DVD series "Living the Discerning Life" by Father Michael Gallagher. Each Saturday there was a full capacity crowd of 20; everyone was amazed at how great an impact the Ignatian rules for the discernment of spirits can have on one's life. These rules of discernment of spirits make clear God's loving action in our lives; He is always communicating with us, guiding us along our way to growth in holiness. Many others have expressed interest in future showings; if you would like to participate in a group viewing of the DVD's and discussion please watch the web site and future newsletters for up-coming times.

"SEE LOVE" RETREAT

The Sisters provided and directed a Lenten retreat entitled "See Love" for college age ladies. The 40 hour retreat, reflecting the 40 days of Lent, led the retreatants through the Old Testament prophecies and types of the Passion, Jesus' physical sufferings as displayed through the Shroud of Turin, and then helped them realize that Jesus did all of this because of His great and personal love for each of us. When we look at Jesus' sufferings, we should not be distracted by them, for He did not suffer for sufferings sake. When we look at Jesus' sufferings, we should see the reason behind them: love. The more we know of His love for us, the more compelled we should be to love Him in return for Love is repaid by love alone.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights have become our knights in shining armor! Many of the Kansan Councils have committed to sponsoring at least one fund raiser a year for our building project. We have been busy with fish fries (during Lent), pancake breakfasts, and chicken fried steak dinners! God bless the Knights!



Mr. Herman Colvin presents the Sisters with a donation for the educational needs of the Sisters

NOVITIATE CHAPLAIN KAPAUN DAY

Sister Marie Bernadette and Sister Mary Agnes accompanied Sister Rose Marie, Sister Mary Lucia, Sister Maria Josephina, and Sister Mary Monica to Pilsen, KS, the hometown of Servant of God Chaplain Emil Kapaun. The novices were given an informative and inspiring tour and presentation on the life and virtues of Father Kapaun. A special treat was seeing the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Father Kapaun posthumously. For more information regarding this heroic Korean War Chaplain, visit the website of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. There is also an excellent video on his life entitled, "The Miracle of Father Kapaun," sold by Ignatius Press.



1: Sister Mary Agnes poses with the novitiate at the Father Kapaun statue in Pilsen, KS

2: The novitiate with Father Kapaun's Congressional Medal of Honor

SAVE THE DATE UP-COMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

June 19 – 27, 2014:

Public novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

June 28, 2014:

The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

October 13, 2014:

Fatima Procession and offering
of Memorares to Our Lady



Wanted: Memorares

The response we have received from our request for Millions of Memorares for Mary has been amazing! We are so grateful! The count is growing, but we are realizing more and more that 5,000,000 is still far, far away!

The next three months are extremely critical for our fund raising. Please don't stop saying those Memorares – there will always be sinners to pray for and our Novitiate and Motherhouse are not yet built. We need Mary's help for both.

Your Memorares will play a huge part in helping us achieve our goals. Please help Mary help us by praying your Memorares. Another card is included in this mailing. If you need some to hand out, give us a call.

Heritage Series: The First Decades of the 1900's



1: Early photo of the California IHM's Hollywood Motherhouse

2: First elected IHM superior in California

3: A very young Sister M. Eileen



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3

As the number of Sisters grew, so did the number of parishes they served. Many were in Los Angeles proper but not exclusively. The most distant assignment began in 1911. Seven Sisters (five of the original Spanish Sisters and two Californians) opened a school in Mazatlan, Mexico. Unfortunately, only six years later the Mexican Revolution forced them to flee for their safety. Returning to California they passed through Tucson, Arizona and were invited by Bishop Henry Granjon to remain there. With the necessary permissions given, they accepted the invitation and began building schools and accepting postulants. Within 30 years they had grown large enough to become their own province of the Spanish community.

The land for the Motherhouse was purchased with the assistance of Bishop Thomas Conaty in 1903 and the groundbreaking ceremony in 1905. On the 15 acres, then outside the city limits of Los Angeles, would eventually be built the Motherhouse of the Community, a high school and the first Catholic women's college in Southern California, all under the auspices of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1937, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters

staffed 23 elementary and junior high schools, four high schools, two boarding and day academies, and a college, only 66 years after arriving from Spain.

Beginning as early as 1893 there were questions and difficulties regarding the authority of the Spanish community over that of the California community. It was noted by the Bishop of Los Angeles that the Bishop of Gerona had transferred his authority of the missionary Sisters to the Bishop of Monterey and Los Angeles when the Sisters sailed to the New World. After the death of Fr. Masmija there were discrepancies regarding the relationship and the authority between the two foundations. This became most notable when the Spanish Community sent a newly approved Constitution to California that had no accommodations for their life in the New World. Mother Raimunda had no desire to break from the Spanish community so she asked Bishop Montgomery to delay his response to these Constitutions and instead modify them for the California Sisters. This he did. Mother Raimunda did not live to see the situation resolved; she passed away in 1900.

When Bishop Montgomery was transferred and replaced by Bishop Conaty, he realized that it would be impossible for the Sisters to continue in an American diocese under Spanish direction and so he

carried an appeal to Rome in 1909 for the separation of the Californian houses from the Spanish community. Instead, an agreement was proposed between Bishop Conaty and the superior in Spain. The following year the Spanish superior, Mother Josepha Vila, became the first of the Spanish superiors to visit the California houses.

During her two-year visitation the need for separation became ever more apparent. The Sisters were asked in 1923 to state their position individually, secretly and in writing. 97% of the Sisters stood in favor of separating from Spain. The Holy See was again petitioned; in 1924 separation was granted and the California Institute of the Sisters of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary were established as a new pontifical institute on May 15, 1924. Mother Genevieve Parker was elected the first Mother General of the newly established California Institute.

A note of interest for all those who knew the foundresses of Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita: Sister M. Eileen MacDonald professed her vows in California in May of 1923, when it was still a daughter house of the Spanish Community, thus not only is she one of our ties to California, but to the Spanish Institute as well.



Remember the Church

GIVING SECURITIES: A WIN-WIN SITUATION

BY BRONWEN LEWIS

If you have decided to make a gift to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, it could be advantageous for you to give appreciated securities instead of cash.

Giving appreciated securities may be a terrific way for you to make a gift without having to pay capital gain taxes on the appreciated value. Typically, if you have owned the securities long enough to qualify for long-term capital gain treatment, you could be entitled to claim a charitable deduction for Federal Income Tax purposes equal to the fair market value of the securities on the date of the gift, subject to a limitation of 30% of your contribution base (adjusted gross income computed without regard to any net operating loss carryback). You may carry forward any unused deduction in excess of the limitation for a maximum of five ensuing years. State laws concerning deductibility of charitable gifts vary, and you should consult your own tax advisors to determine the effect of state law in your case.

Some donors give appreciated securities and then purchase similar securities with the cash they would otherwise have used to make the gift. In this manner, donors are able to make a significant gift, receive a charitable deduction for the full value of the securities transferred and obtain a new, higher basis for the purchased securities.

Donors are encouraged to consult with their own advisors to make certain the securities selected for a gift will be of the win-win type described above. For example, in most cases it would not be advisable to donate securities that are worth less than their original cost. In this case, it would usually be more advantageous to sell the securities, deduct the loss, and make a gift out of the sales proceeds. Also, in some circumstances, gifts of appreciated securities can give rise to Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) treatment because the untaxed appreciation is a "tax preference item" for purposes of calculating AMT – your advisor can help you with this analysis also. In most cases, AMT will not be an issue, but donors are encouraged to consult with their own advisors.

How To Give Securities

It is not necessary to transfer securities into the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita's name. Doing so can cause excessive delay and the stock could decrease in value during this process.

If the stocks are in your possession, you can mail them safely first class to:

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita
Attn: Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
145 South Millwood
Wichita, Kansas 67213

Endorse the certificates over to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita by writing this on the assignment line on the back of the certificates and sign exactly as your name appears on the face. A signature guarantee is not required. The certificates are then negotiable only by an authorized officer of the Sisters. If a certificate represents more shares than you intend to give, simply include written instructions for the Sisters to keep a specified number of shares and a certificate representing the balance will be reissued to you.

If you hold the securities with a brokerage, custody, trust or agency account, notify your broker or banker in writing that you are giving a specified number of shares to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. Instruct them to transfer those shares to the Sister's brokerage account pending instructions from the Sisters. Your broker or banker should notify the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita about the transfer by calling (316) 722-9316. Instructions for the transfer of the securities will be issued promptly.

If the date of the gift is important to you (for example, end of the year), the date of receipt of the gift by delivery is important to keep in mind. If you deliver the stock in person to the Sisters, the date of the gift is the date of delivery. If you mail the stock certificates using the United States Mail to the Sisters, the date of gift is the postmark date.

If you re-register the securities into the Sister's name, the date of gift is the date upon which the company enters the registration upon its books. This may pose excessive delays.

If you transfer the securities to the Sisters through a brokerage account or depository, the date of the gift is the date upon which the securities are placed in the Sister's account.

Please note:

- If the securities are restricted in any manner, the Sisters will need to know the type of restriction and any additional pertinent information.
- Donors who contribute securities in excess of \$500 should complete a copy of the I.R.S. Form 8283 to be filed with their Federal Income Tax returns.
- If the securities are not traded on a public exchange, an appraisal may be required to substantiate the Federal and State Income Tax charitable deductions.

Ideally, you should send the Sisters a copy of the instruction to the broker/banker along with a notification of the purpose for which the gift is to be used.

Your gift to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita has enormous impact. There are many ways to make your gift, and giving appreciated securities is just one way in which you could make a difference for the Sisters.

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

145 S. MILLWOOD STREET
WICHITA, KS 67213-4057

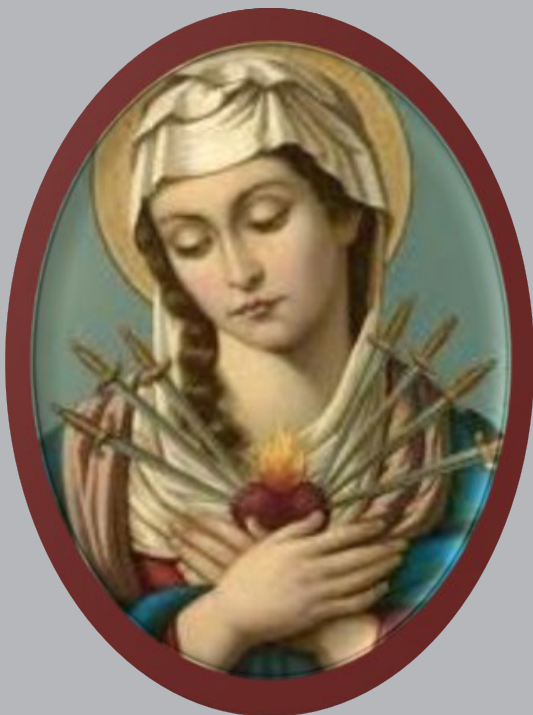
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May the angels lead them into paradise.



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Gifts have been given in memory of

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Chris Simon*