



MERCEDARIAN
SISTERS OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

**“I have
come to set
the world
on fire.”
(Luke 12:49)**

Take a Look!

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Like the Dewfall



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FALL 2018



Sisters on the Maid of the Mist in awe of Niagara Falls

Dear Friends,

We are excited to begin Volume 2 of our Newsletter! In honor of this new beginning, we desire to reflect, once again, on the title of our Newsletter— *Like the Dewfall*:

In Eucharistic Prayer II of the Roman Catholic Church, the Holy Spirit is invoked to descend upon the gifts of bread and wine “like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is our prayer, as Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, to always remain under the transfiguring power of the Holy Spirit, and it is our hope, through this poor, printed word, to share some of the dewdrops that gather there.

We hope you enjoy the “dewdrops of grace” shared in this issue!

In the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,
Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
Formation House, USA

New Beginnings! New Postulant!

We welcome **Ashley Santora** to our religious family. She entered postulancy on August 15, 2018, during Lauds (Morning Prayer) where she received the white jumper, the Eucharistic medal with Our Lady of Mercy on the back, and the scapular of Our Lady of Mercy.

FUN FACT: Ashley is an alumna of our school in Cleveland, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Class of '10). Mother Jeanette Marie, HMSS, was even her math teacher!



(front)
*The Most Blessed
Sacrament of the
Altar*



(back)
Mother of Mercy



Back in March I was asked to be a chaperone for an 8th grade retreat for my brother and his classmates at my former grade school, which happens to be the same retreat I attended back when I was in 8th grade. During the retreat we had exposition and a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During this time they had praise and worship going on and there was also an opportunity for confession. During one of the praise and worship songs, "O Come to the Altar" by Elevation Worship, in the moment the song began, I became overwhelmed with tears, as if God was the one singing the song. The lyrics were "leave behind your regrets and mistakes, come today, there's no reason to wait, Jesus is calling, bring your sorrows and trade them for joy, from the ashes a new life is born" also the refrain "o come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide, forgiveness was bought with the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ." I didn't know what to do, there were so many thoughts in my head and I just couldn't stop myself from crying. I was afraid but also was excited because I knew that something wonderful but, at the time, unexplainable, had just happened deep in my heart. In the specific lyrics "the Father's arms are opened wide" and "leave your regrets and mistakes" I felt that God was right there in front of me, waiting to comfort me from all the misconceptions that I believed to be true, because in His eyes we are all beautifully and wonderfully made.

Entrance to Novitiate

Solemnity of Our Lady of Mercy
September 24, 2018



*Right before the
Novitiate
Ceremony!*



*Right after the
Novitiate
Ceremony!*

Our religious family joyously received two novices! Please keep **Sr. Raquel Gutierrez** and **Sr. Tonia Borsellino** in your prayers as they embark on the beginning of their religious life in our Institute!



Special thanks to Bishop Roger William Gries, OSB, for presiding and celebrating with us!



*"Teach us to be constant in prayer, to make the **Eucharist** and adoration the center of our lives."*



*"Teach us to live the **family spirit** of the **Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament**, to have only one heart and soul with you. ..help us to learn to love our sisters as Christ loves them."*

Reflection from a Brother...

Que es tener una hermana monja?

Es como tener a Dios en casa, es ese cuñado que muy pocas personas pueden tener.

Es como tener un jardín lleno de flores que embalsaman el ambiente, lo bañan de paz y seguridad. Tener una hermana monja es tener una rosa sin espinas una flor pura que no hace daño y uno la disfruta, y los demás también cuando la visitan.

Tenerla es saber que hay un jardín ultimo donde podremos reposar para siempre y que ella desde aquí lo cultiva y cuida para que nosotros podamos gozar de el en la eternidad

Nací con una? Puede ser que desde siempre lo haya sido, junto con las oraciones de mi madre, es como si Dios hubiera decidido en un momento regalarme un verso de su creación divina, y nos hubiera elegido como parte de su familia más cercana si se pudiera decir.

Sí tengo una hermana monja y estoy muy orgulloso de serlo, es además un compromiso de seguir su camino, de manera paralela pero que ella va alumbrando siempre por delante.

Te amo flaquita.

Hermano y tío Alex

What is having a sister who became a nun?

It's like having God at home, that brother-in-law that very few people can have.

It's like having a garden full of flowers that embalm the environment, bathe it with peace and security. To have a sister who is a nun is to have a rose without thorns, a pure flower that does not hurt and one delights in it, and others also when they visit.

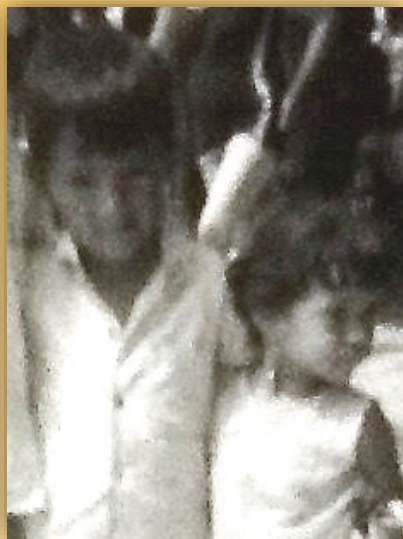
To have her is to know that there is a ultimate garden where we will be able to rest forever and that she cultivates and tends for us so that we can enjoy it in eternity.

Was I born with a nun for a sister? It may be that it has always been, along with the prayers of my mother. It is as if God had decided in a moment to gift me with a verse of his divine creation, and had chosen us as part of his closest family if it can be said.

Yes, I have a sister who is a nun and I am very proud to have one. It is also a commitment to follow her path, in a parallel fashion but she is always lighting it up ahead of us.

I love you **flaquita**.

Brother and uncle Alex



NB: The novices and postulants refer to her brother, Alex, as "tío"/"uncle." :)

(left) Childhood picture of Mother Jeanette Marie and her older brother, Alex.

(right) A recent picture of the siblings.



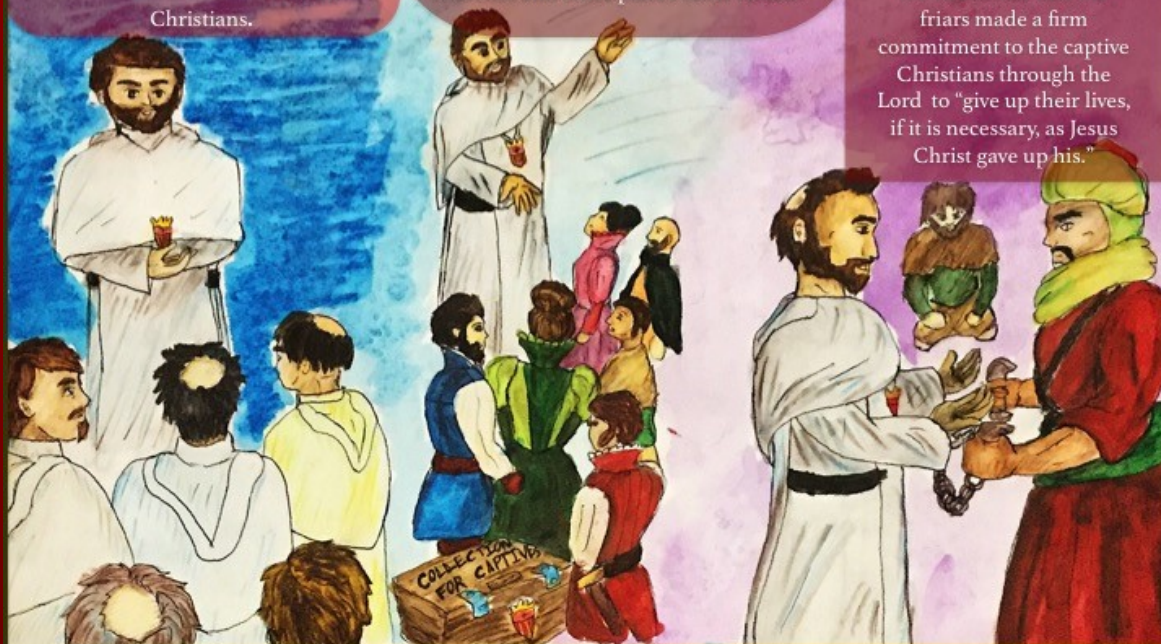
Mercedarian and Eucharistic—Part II

Our Newsletter Comic Series by Sr. Lourdes Furnells, Novice, Second Year

Within the first years of its foundation the Mercedarian Friars took on the white habit and were considered one of the Redemptive Religious Orders. Peter Nolasco held the title of "Master" and gathered laymen who were ready to give their lives for the freedom of captive Christians.

In their mission to free captives the friars developed different ways of collecting alms to pay the ransom for those captured. Money and goods would be collected for the redeeming efforts through preaching and the strategic placement of money boxes around churches and other places often visited.

In order to assure the safety of the captives the friars would hand themselves over as hostages in exchange for the Christians until the ransom was paid. It was in imitation of Christ the Redeemer that the friars made a firm commitment to the captive Christians through the Lord to "give up their lives, if it is necessary, as Jesus Christ gave up his."

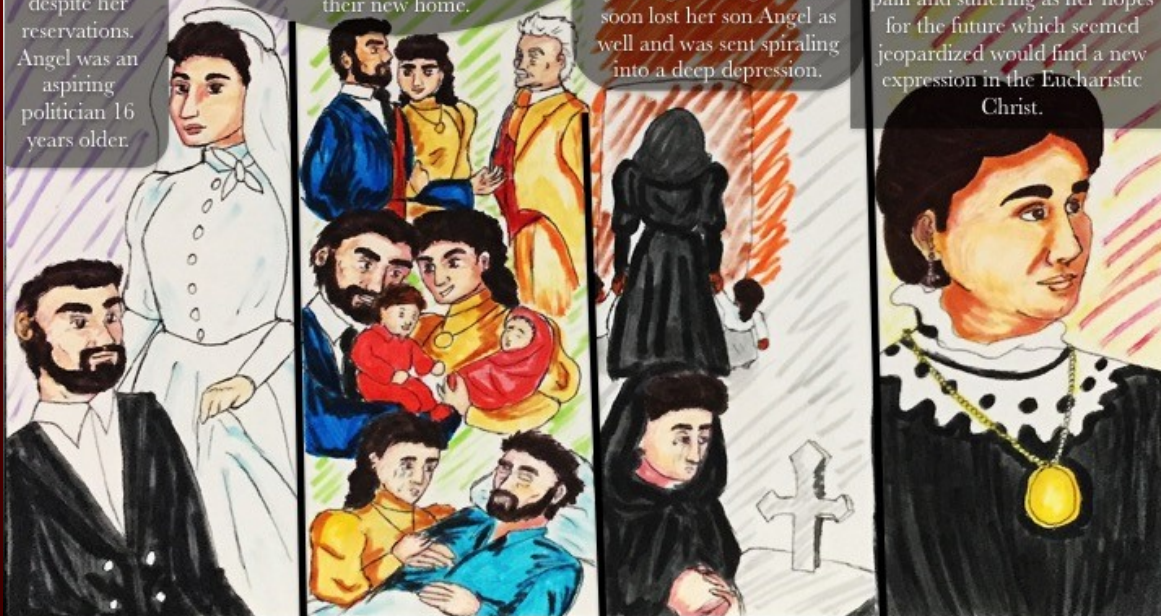


At the age of 20 María del Refugio, out of obedience to her father, was given in marriage to Angel Cancino despite her reservations. Angel was an aspiring politician 16 years older.

With time she did come to fall in love with him and they had two children, Angel and Cuquita. As a devoted wife and mother María del Refugio had the hopes of a normal life. This would come to an abrupt end as her husband died unexpectedly after a bad winter in their new home.

As a young widow with two children María del Refugio returned to her family's home now thinking that she would devote everything to the education and care of her children. Her sorrow had just begun though as she soon lost her son Angel as well and was sent spiraling into a deep depression.

This young widow, who lost both her husband and her first son and was left to raise her daughter on her own, would become the foundress of the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The road however would be marked by pain and suffering as her hopes for the future which seemed jeopardized would find a new expression in the Eucharistic Christ.

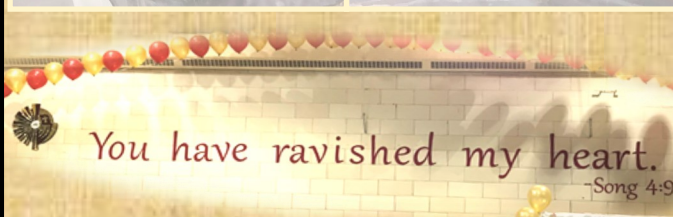


First Profession of Vows!

Sr. Yvelyne Marie Bernard,
HMSS



Sr. Kathryn of
the Holy Trinity
Cornista Lopez,
HMSS

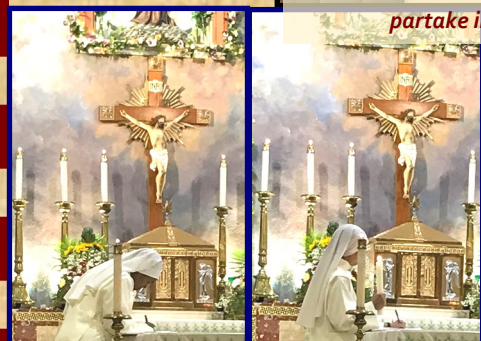


"I freely and joyfully ask to become a member of this religious family to live my consecration to God in fraternal communion."



"I promise, with the grace of God and with the help of Our Mother of Mercy, to strive for total receptivity to being perfected in the fire of Eucharistic love, so that I may partake in the redemptive mission of our Institute in the Church."

Sr. Yvelyne Marie & Sr. Kathryn of the Holy Trinity professed their First Vows on the Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15, 2018. They also received their religious names. Please keep them in your prayers as they transition into their new life as professed sisters.



Signing the Profession of Vows on the altar



Bishop Nelson Perez of the Diocese of Cleveland was the main celebrant.



Sr. Kathryn

Summer Camps!
Rapid City, SD & Rockford, IL!



*O Holy Spirit,
keep on fanning into
flame my desire for
holiness.*



Cimorelli!



Sr. Chiara &
Baby
Chiara!



Bocce Ball Night!



Our God is the God of Surprises!



*One of these doesn't
belong...*

*Make me bold to love
as the Trinity loves,
completely giving
and holding nothing
back.*

*Transform me into
Your own loving
presence for my
sisters and all I
encounter.*

Amen.

*(Inspired by a letter from
Mac Hill, seminarian of the
Diocese of St. Augustine)*



Pilgrims from St. Mary's in Hudson



XVII General Chapter



*Our newly elected General Council! (above)
Please keep them in your prayers.*



*The delegates from our Region
(Immaculate Conception, USA)*



A Time of Grace

Our XVII General Chapter took place during the entire month of July 2018. Thank you to everyone who poured out their prayers for this grace-filled time.

Here you will find some pictures from the Chapter. Please continue to keep our Congregation in your prayers as we strive to live out our redemptive mission in the Church and remain faithful to our charism.

May we let the graces from this XVII General Chapter unfold in our lives and in the entire life of the Institute.



Fr. Emilio
Herrera-Aguirre,
O. de M.



Upcoming Regional Chapter

Baton Rouge, LA



*Pictured: the current Regional Council elected in 2015 with Mother General.
A new council will be elected this upcoming Regional Chapter.*

Our Immaculate Conception Region (USA) will be having our Regional Chapter at the end of November. Please keep the Chapter Sisters in your prayers, and pray that they may be docile to the Holy Spirit working in our Region.

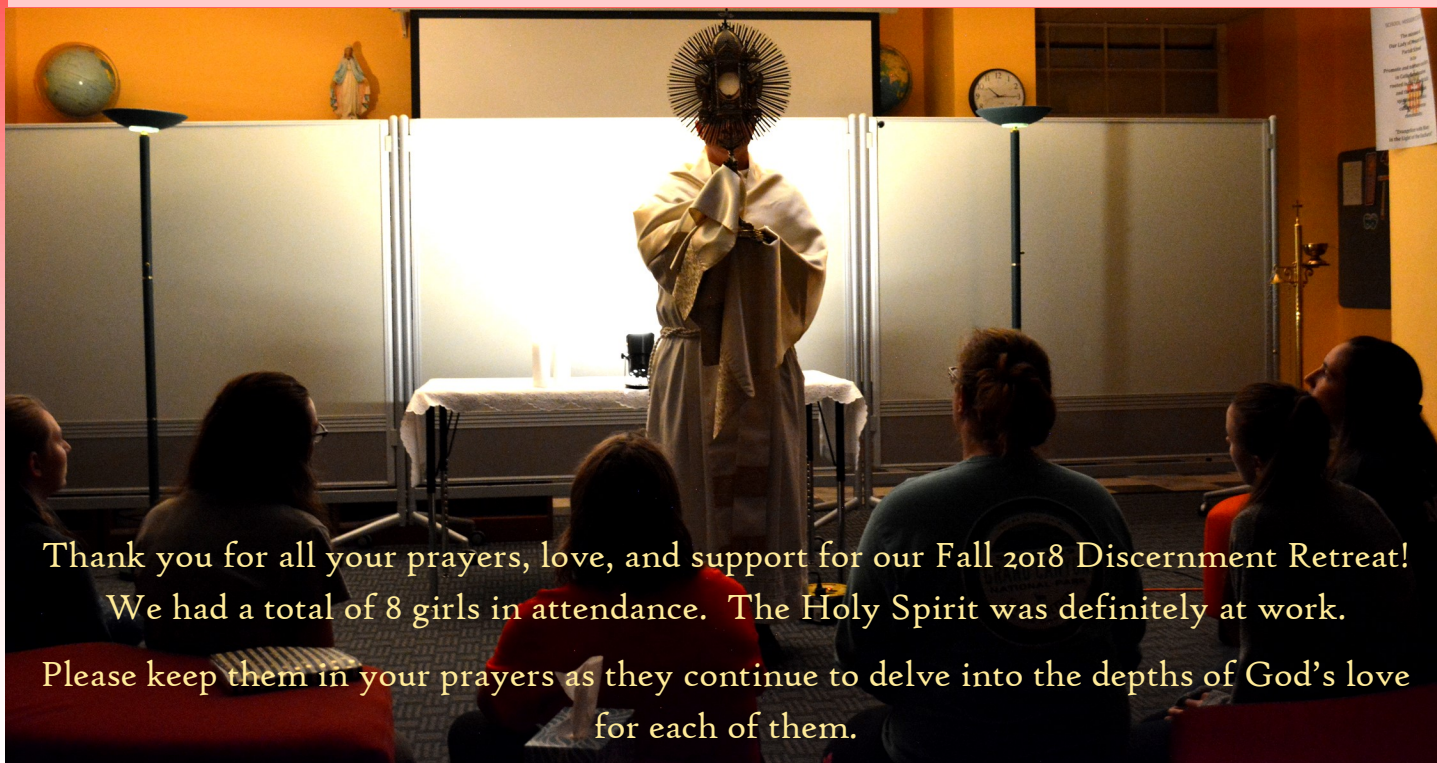


Sacred Heart Community update:

Sr. Ines de Jesús Soto-Gomez, HMSS, joined our Sacred Heart community in Jacksonville, FL, on August 17, 2018. Please pray for her and the entire Sacred Heart community and parish!

*Evangelize with Mary
in the light of the Eucharist*

Discernment Retreat Fall 2018





Retreat Testimony from Fall 2017

I came on the Discernment Retreat with the Mercedarian Sisters last Fall, and to say it changed my life would be an understatement. The date of the retreat, the cost of the plane ticket, everything aligned perfectly. I did not know what to expect, but I knew God was asking me to take the idea of religious life more seriously and this was my way of doing that. When I arrived at the convent, I was immediately welcomed with warm hugs from all the Sisters. There were only 6 girls, including me, who were on the retreat, so this allowed for a lot of personal interaction with the Sisters throughout the weekend. Jesus was always present, in the Blessed Sacrament, and I found myself constantly kneeling before Him. Regardless of where you are in your discernment process, this retreat provides a beautiful opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with the Lord, ask the Sisters any questions you may have, and to encounter other girls who are making the same journey you are! God bless, I will be praying for you!

—Gracie Kupiszewski



Our next Discernment Retreat is April 5-7, 2019.

NEW LOCATION: Jacksonville, FL.

For more information please contact
Mother Jeanette Marie Estrada, HMSS, at
sisterjeanette@hotmail.com or register
online at mercedariansisters.org.



*Are you searching for God's voice?
Do you need some time away to rest in God?
Maybe Jesus is inviting you to come on a
Discernment Retreat.*

**"You have a thirst for Love,
and your thirst is for Jesus."
(Archbishop Scicluna of Malta)**

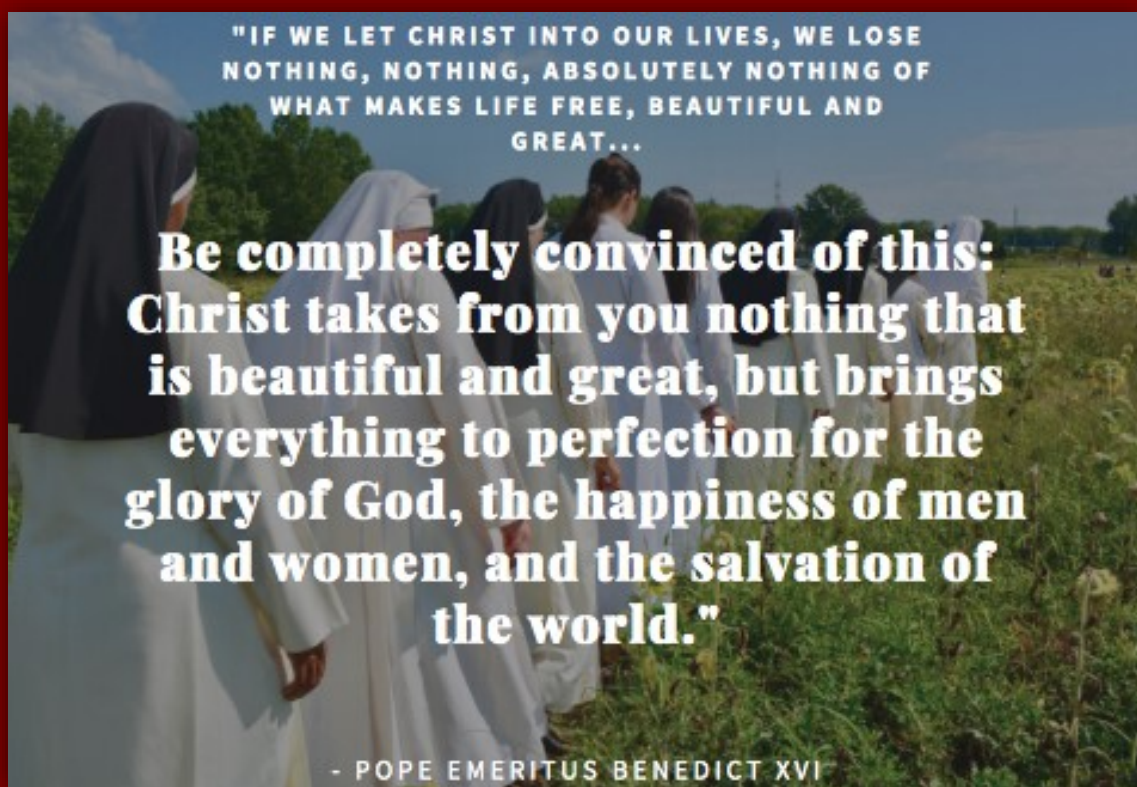




Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament



We, the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, consecrate ourselves to God, the source of all holiness. We conform ourselves to Christ the Redeemer in His Eucharistic Mystery through the profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and we work to spread the Kingdom of the Eucharistic Jesus throughout the world, under the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mercy. (Constitutions #5)



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