



MERCEDARIAN  
SISTERS OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

# Like the Dewfall

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*Newly professed Sr. Ines de Jesús Soto-Gomez, HMSS (front middle) with sisters from the Congregation, Nuns of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, Sr. Mary Brendon Zajac, SND, and Sr. Rebecca (see page 7).*



## Happy Summer!

Enjoy this summer issue of our newsletter.

We are happy to share some of the dewdrops of grace we have experienced these past few months. Thank you for all your love and prayers!

*In the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,  
Formation House, USA*

*Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*



# Recap!

SLS18: Chicago! January 2-6, 2018



Ice and snow,  
bless the Lord!



Fire and heat, bless the  
Lord...  
Seas and rivers, bless the  
Lord!

Posada with Bishop Nelson Perez  
in December 2017!



Mr. George Foulkes,  
the historian of our  
Institute came to give  
conferences in the last  
week of December 2017



March for  
Life 2018!  
Prayed and  
visited with  
the  
Capuchin  
Friars!



Br. Saúl showing us  
the chapel at  
Capuchin College.

Please pray for the eternal rest of  
our dear friend, Br. Saúl Antonio  
Soriano Rodriguez, OFM Cap.,  
who died unexpectedly  
May 7, 2018.





# Discernment Retreat—April 2018



Thank you for all your prayers for our Discernment Retreat in April! It was a beautiful & grace-filled weekend! Look out for our Fall Discernment Retreat!



*"[Discernment] has to do with the meaning of my life before the Father who knows and loves me, with the real purpose of my life, which nobody knows better than he. Ultimately, discernment leads to the wellspring of undying life: to know the Father, the only true God, and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ."  
(Gaudete et Exsultate, 170)*



## DAD's Feeling of Love by Diony Lopez (Sr. Kathyne's father)

When I was in high school, I was so very happy and honored to see my Aunt, who entered religious life and joined the Dominican Sisters in the Philippines. Every time we visited my aunt at the convent, it's a huge celebration. But one thing I noticed that my grandmother looks sad but excited to see her daughter. Since then I was wondering why they were two extreme strange feelings and emotion between excitement and sadness.

I grew up in a Catholic faith and values- attending a Mass every Sunday, pray before and after meal, and practices so I raised my family in Catholic faith and spiritual values.

As typical parent, I sent my daughter, Sis Kathyne, to college to be able to get a good education to get better job. As a father, like a typical parent, I want my children to finish their education, and they build their own family in the future.

After Sister Kathyne graduated in college, she joined The Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel convent and things were changed. We miss Sister Kathyne so much. It was hard and very emotional when one family member unable to reach especially during the holidays; one plate is always missing at dinner time; another bedroom is always empty; there is always extra car in the garage. I could feel the emptiness and sadness.

Now I remember my grandmother when my aunt entered to religious life. She had that feeling of excitement and sadness - The same feeling that I had when Sister Kathyne entered into religious life.



*Sr. Kathyne Lopez pictured with her dad & mom.*

My dream and goal to Sister Kathyne went to a different direction. At that moment, I did not know what to expect. It was the most difficult feeling I ever had. It was a tear of joy because she with the Lord. It was sadness because I felt that I was losing a child - I didn't want to let her go.

I was very delighted and proud when I see my relatives entering religious life. But when I was directly involved to my daughter entered into a religious life, It was very hard to explain the feeling as a father.

Since I started visiting Sister Kathyne in Cleveland Ohio at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel convent, I met all sisters, young and old, postulants, novices, mother superior and spent precious time in the community. Involving in life of sisters and continuous communication, I'm beginning understanding their vocation, missions, goals and their sacrifices. As result it help me to overcome the obstacle and strengthen my faith to assist me in handling all the challenges.

My family and I continuously involve in the community and we always feel encircled with love and care. We are blessed we have extended family, "The Mercedarian Sisters" and never feel that my daughter left us. I'm so excited and proud on her first Profession of Vow this coming August 2018 and definitely our full support and acceptance for Sister Kathyne.

I know God and all the angels are cheering for Sister Kathyne. I'm very joyful and honored that Sister Kathyne is with the Lord. She is in life of beauty, joy, peace and happiness surrounded by Angels.



## Mercedarian and Eucharistic—Part I

### Barcelona, Spain

In the year 1218, a young merchant by the name of Peter Nolasco, lived in a time of crusades and pilgrimages. During this time, many Christians were being captured by the Moors and losing their Faith in God.

August 1<sup>st</sup>  
—The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Peter Nolasco in the night.

She asked Peter to found an order that would ransom the Christian captives from the Moors. She assured him that the king of Aragon would support him.

Upon learning that Our Lady had appeared to Peter, King James I and his advisors assured Peter of their support. They presented him with the shield characteristic of Aragon and the Holy Cross of the cathedral to allow him to travel freely in the mission to ransom captive Christians for Christ.

Peter acted fast, going to the young King James I for support.



### San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

In the year 1866, September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, María del Refugio Aguilar y Torres, who was born on the 21<sup>st</sup>, was baptized. She would be the eldest of 8 siblings.

The young child, nicknamed "Cuquita", would be taught to read from the catechism and would also learn how to sew, cook, play piano, and speak French. All lessons which she would then be able to share with her younger siblings.

She had a strong character, a love for works of charity, and pranks, which she would enjoy to play on her cousins and siblings. In 1878 she would receive her first communion and in her heart, promise the Lord to be at His service for her entire life.

This young girl would become a Mother of 2, and the foundress of the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. However, the road would not be easy. Growing up in a time of turbulence within Mexico, it would be only by the grace of God and the work of Divine Providence that María del Refugio would be able to serve God for her entire life.





# Community Life!



"Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humor." (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 126)



Dear friend & benefactor, Chef John Folse

We carry each other  
in love and prayer!



Meet Albee,  
our cockapoo!



Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you  
on your journey every day of your lives! (*Pope St. JP II*)





# First Profession of Vows!



Sr. Ines de Jesús, HMSS, with family and Bishop Nelson Perez (the main celebrant)

Let us give thanks and praise to God!  
Holy Church rejoiced on **April 17, 2018**,  
in the First Profession of Vows of **Sr. Ines de Jesús Soto-Gomez, HMSS!**  
Please keep her in your prayers that  
she may remain faithful and always in  
love with our Lord!

**“When you know how much God is in  
love with you then you can only live  
your life radiating that love.”**  
*(St. Teresa of Calcutta)*



*Sr. Ines de Jesús, HMSS, professing the vows  
on the altar!*





# Emmaus Nights

## Eucharistic Evangelization

How can I explain what Emmaus is? How can you put into words an experience of God kissing His children?

Let me begin explaining what Emmaus is on the objective level. It is an evening of street evangelization with a heavy Eucharistic flavor. It took its inspiration from the Nightfever movement, which was launched for the first time in Germany after the 20<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day in Cologne.

One night a month, as walkers pass by on their way to bars, shows, or parties, we stand on the sidewalk and invite them to light a candle to Jesus. If the passerby agrees, one of us personally ushers him/her inside the church where some sisters are praying. The Church is dimly lit, the main isle is illumined with tea candles leading to the main altar where Jesus is exposed. Praise and worship is going on intermittently during the whole evening with some of our sisters singing while the rest of us take turns remaining in the Church and going out to the street to encounter people. Objectively, this is it... simple.

There is so much more going on under the current. There are times of real spiritual tsunamis occurring when the silent, powerful glory and redeeming love of God gushes into our lives.



The group of sisters (at times accompanied by other young adults) maintaining the prayerful environment in the Church with their singing express with their voices the love that is consuming their souls. They know that it is not about them, in fact, they are in a way hidden in the choir loft, away from curious eyes, setting the Church on fire with beautiful Christian music. They just desire to set the mode to facilitate a prayerful environment.

The sisters in adoration are there, first of all striving to love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, interceding for all the people who are passing by so they may receive the grace that is being offered to them: an encounter with Jesus hidden under the Eucharistic species.

Finally, the sisters on the street are inviting whoever passes by to come and light a candle to Jesus.

Some people let us know that they are not interested in such a thing. But





many other people accept the invitation and come into the Church. Our job is simple, “to pass on the invitation of Jesus” and if they allow us, to do exactly what Jesus did on the path to Emmaus: we walk with them through the center isle to the main altar. Our job is done. Like the apostle Philip who brought Nathanael to Jesus, we have brought one of our brethren to Him. What happens in that brief encounter is just known to Jesus and to that person.

We have witnessed people praying, people crying out of joy, people crying when

confronted with their own brokenness, people wishing to be cleansed – there is always a priest ready to hear their confession or simply to lend a listening ear.

There is also a very funny, human side to it, and it also brings joy to our hearts and a smile to our faces. Many people hesitate coming into the Church because they are carrying something they consider inappropriate to bring into the Church. We offer to hold it for them as they enter to pray. We have held pizza, cigars, beer, dogs (especially pit bulls); have guarded their bicycles, and have waved down public transportation to stop and wait for them. Once, one of our sisters had offered to keep a phone conversation going while the person entered the Church!

It is truly a night of grace, an evening when God’s grace has the upper hand, when it is difficult to know the limits of heaven and earth, when God embraces the earth, when God-is-with-us in a very tangible way. He is truly Emmanuel.

*Reflection by Mother Jeanette Marie Estrada, HMSS.*

*Mother Jeanette Marie is the current vocations director and Mistress of Novices.*







# *Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament*



## *Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!*

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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To learn more about us visit  
[mercedariansisters.org](http://mercedariansisters.org)

For information regarding vocations contact  
**Mother Jeanette Marie Estrada, HMSS**  
[sisterjeanette@hotmail.com](mailto:sisterjeanette@hotmail.com)