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## The God of the Impossible

Praised be Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament now and for ever! Amen! This Newsletter Issue is long overdue. So much has happened, and now we are in our current, tragic situation of the pandemic. Yet, we believe in a God who can take the tragic and transform it into a blessing because our God is the God of the impossible! Only the living God can do such a miracle! We pray that these "dewdrops" bring hope, joy, and peace to your heart. These grace-filled moments we share are merely a taste of the glory of the God! May the spiritual blessings given to you in Jesus Christ increase, and may our Mother of Mercy be your guide and protector.

"I have come to set the world on fire."

*Luke 12:49*

## COVID-19 Experience

Our Sisters in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel community in Cleveland, OH, were impacted by the novel coronavirus in April. All eight sisters in the community contracted the virus with three of them falling ill and were isolated for three weeks. Our community gives thanks and praise to God for all His solicitude and Divine Providence that He blessed us with during this very uncertain and dark time. Light always overcomes the darkness. We are most grateful for all who aided us with prayers, love, and support.



## Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the eternal rest of Fr. Arcangelo Manzi, O. de M., who fell ill with COVID-19, and on April 21, Papa called him home. He was a beloved priest and brother of the Mercedarian Order. He was a spiritual father to many of our sisters and very much loved by our community. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him!



## Bishop Edward C. Malesic!

Our community in Cleveland recently celebrated the installation of Bishop Edward Malesic. Please pray for Bishop Malesic and the Diocese of Cleveland.



## Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy

The Mercedarian family celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mercy on September 24 also known as Our Lady of Ransom.

On this day we celebrate our Blessed Mother under the title of "Our Lady of Mercy." We renew our personal and communitarian consecration on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mercy (Constitutions #21). As Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, we choose to do all things with our Blessed Mother in our mission to evangelize in the light of the Eucharist and in our partaking of the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ the Redeemer in the Blessed Sacrament. Also by Divine Providence, our Mother Foundress Venerable Maria del Refugio Aguilar y Torres was baptized on September 24!

"We find in our Mother of Mercy the model of total giving to God in complete freedom and disposition as an example of faith" (Constitutions #8). In our contemplation of Mary, the Mother of Mercy, we find ourselves beside her at the foot of the Cross. It is at this specially designated place that we remain with Mary, Our Mother, to come to know today's captivities (including our own) and to learn how to receive the love of Jesus Christ poured out from His pierced side on the Cross.





# Profession Day!





# First Profession of Vows!



**SR. TONIA OF THE HEART OF JESUS  
BORSELLINO, HMSS**



**SR. RAQUEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
GUTIERREZ, HMSS**



We celebrated the First Profession of Vows of Sr. Tonia of the Heart of Jesus, HMSS, and Sr. Raquel of the Holy Spirit, HMSS, on August 15, 2020, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Archbishop Nelson J. Perez of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*Please keep them in your prayers as they live out their total consecration!*



# Entrance into Postulancy



**CHELSEA PARZA**



**GRACE KUPISZEWSKI**

On August 14, 2020, Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe, these courageous women entered postulancy. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their religious life!



The main objective of the formation of the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament is that the candidate centers her life on following Christ according to the Eucharistic-Mercedarian charism.

*Constitutions #101*



# Wisdom from the Cloister

## SR. ASHLEY SANTORA



I really wasn't sure what Papa had in store for this year, but what a gift it has been. Yes, it has had its up and downs, but with God's grace, I am able to reflect and see that it was all worth it. Being an active/outgoing person, there was this fear of losing myself or the person I thought I should be with being cloistered. I know that seems crazy, but that was where I was at. That was the biggest lie though. Through this First year of Novitiate, I learned more than I could have ever imagined about myself but more importantly how Papa sees me. This is only the beginning of the beautiful journey that God has called me to, to learn who I am as his Beloved daughter and Bride and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

## SR. MONICA WATERS



When I entered religious life, I knew I didn't know anything about what I was getting myself into. Reflecting on that, it's probably a good thing that I had no expectations about how my first year of novitiate was going to go, because there is no way I could have ever imagined what God had planned for me. The paradox of our Christian faith was played out in a wondrous and mysterious way, where in the most intense sufferings we undergo, we are somehow united most closely with Our Lord during these times.

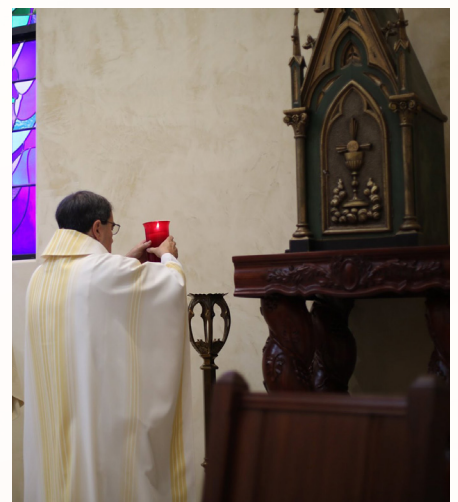
A quote that I have been reflecting upon lately comes to mind: "Every man must live, irrespective of whether he decides for or against Christianity, in a situation marked by the outward, and therefore also inward, "absence of God", a situation which corresponds to Golgotha and Gethsemane in the life of Jesus, where life is to be found in death, where abandonment implies the deepest proximity to God, and where the power of God parades itself in weakness" (Karl Rahner, 'Some Theses').

This year has been a period of maturation and purification both personally and spiritually for me, and I still have a long way left to go. I live in the hope of what lies ahead, and learning to let go of what was left behind, including the scars of my past, which we all have in some form or another. There is pain in the process of letting go of my past, my relationships, and even my own will, but by willingly uniting myself to Christ and His sufferings, my own sufferings are redeemed and are not futile. United to Him I am free to live as a child of God. I am free to go forward into the future, learning from my mistakes and rejoicing in the patience, mercy and love that God has shown towards me as I learn how to live as His beloved daughter, and called to become His spouse. Without Him, my life would have no meaning, but in Him I find my identity, my purpose for existence, my beginning and my end.

I'll close this reflection with another quote: "How is such joy and freedom possible? It is precisely through this letting go, and in the purification of the heart that follows, that the deepest yearning of the human heart are awakened: infinite love enduring beyond death, mercy that heals all wounds, and certain hope in eternal life." (The Foundation of Religious Life by the CMSWR).



## November 2019 - Divine Providence Chapel Blessing at Cypress Springs Mercedarian Prayer Center (Baton Rouge, LA)







## The Waters Speak

A reflection from Mrs. Anne Waters,  
mother of second year novice, Sr. Monica  
Waters.

It is impossible to overstate the impact our daughter's entrance into religious life has had on our family. Upon learning of her acceptance into the community I felt such tremendous awe that God would bless us in this way. Practically speaking however, the first thing we needed to do was prepare our 20 year old son with Down Syndrome and Autism that this was happening. He was very attached to Monica, how could we best explain this to him? Our framework for our response to Monica's vocation is closely tied to our Albert. Our Lord called him home in July of 2019, just six months after Monica became a postulant.

Even prior to Monica's entrance as a postulant the Sisters were incredibly kind and generous in giving us opportunities to help Albert understand this change in our lives. We arranged

a visit and took pictures so I could create a social story. [A social story is a short text accompanied by pictures that explains a concept and can be easily reread.] (photo below) We are extremely blessed that the formation house is local so family visit Sundays mean face to face time and not just video chats. This helped all of us, not just Albert!

Monica had her 2 week home visit coincide with Albert's graduation from high school. God in his infinite mercy also saw to it that she got to see her brother the day before he died. The last photo we have of him is Albert sitting on Monica's lap. She is embracing him in love and now Jesus is giving our sweet boy an eternal hug. (photo on left) Our life here on earth is priceless, but this is not our home. As my 5 year old granddaughter says, "Heaven is our home."

The community has been extraordinarily kind and generous in the ensuing months. We have certainly been lifted up by their prayers. We have felt such consolation in the celebration of the Eucharist, a gift uniting heaven and earth. As Monica entered her first novitiate year, she and her fellow novice gave us the beautiful example of surrender to the Lord. This surrender doesn't mean you won't experience sorrow and pain, but can always trust in the Lord's faithfulness and love.





# Joy in Christ!







## Congratulations!

Sr. Lourdes of the Holy Eucharist Furnells, HMSS, graduated with a Master of Arts in Theology this past Spring at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. Her symposium was on martyrdom in the Eucharist and its expression in the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. What a grace and blessing!

## The 30-Day Spiritual Exercises

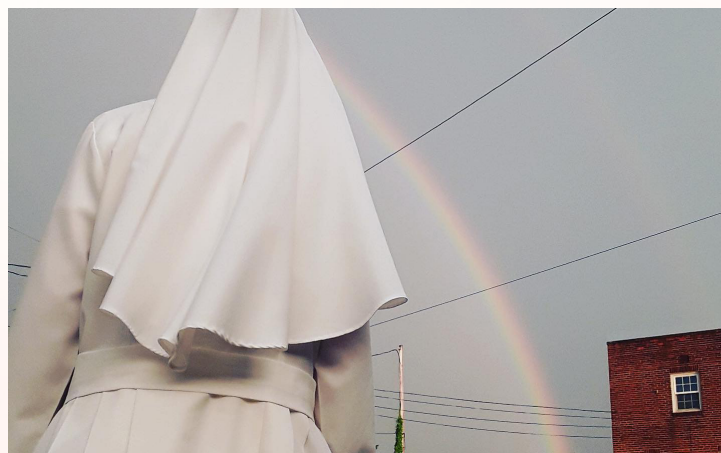
Five of our junior sisters had the gift of going through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in the month of June. We are grateful to God and to those who made this retreat possible for our junior sisters. They were able to do them at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center in Venice, FL, which is staffed by the Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Each sister had an experience that was unique to her relationship with Jesus. Simply put, they spent thirty days just being with Him. Please continue to pray for them as the graces from the retreat unfold in their lives and bear fruit in their total consecration to the Lord through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

## Prayer for Generosity

by St. Ignatius of Loyola

Eternal Word,  
 only begotten Son of God,  
 Teach me true generosity.  
 Teach me to serve You  
 as You deserve.  
 To give without counting the cost.  
 To fight heedless of the wounds.  
 To labor without seeking rest.  
 To sacrifice myself without thought  
 of any reward save the knowledge  
 that I have done Your will.  
 Amen.





# To Evangelize with Mary in the Light of the Eucharist



## UPCOMING EVENTS

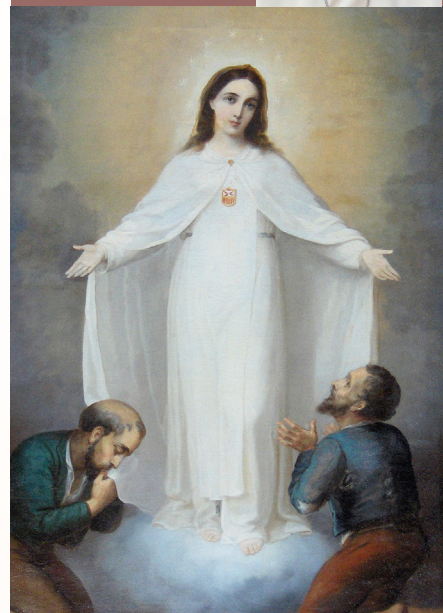
**January 2021**

9-10 Virtual Discernment Retreat

### Contact

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*Our Lady of Mercy,  
pray for us!*