

From the Foot of the Cross



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May Christmas joy and peace be yours!



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we conclude another Year of the Lord, we wish you the gift of Jesus—the joy of man's desiring. "And the angel said to them: 'You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day a Savior has been born to you.'" (Lk 2:10-11) We pray that Jesus who is the true spiritual joy of our hearts will make hope and holy joy spring up in your hearts and homes at Christmas and throughout the New Year. We thank you warmly for your prayers and help, which enable us to continue our ministry of prayer for the Church. As an aside, if you are still looking for that perfect gift, try visiting our modest "gift shop" at www.passionistnuns.org. Our "Infant Resting on the Cross" and rosaries were just featured in the National Catholic Register Christmas Gift Guide!

Wishing you abundant Christmas joy in the Lord,

Mother Catherine Marie and all the Passionist Nuns

P.S. I invite you to make a retreat in our Guest House in 2009. Just call 270-233-4571 or visit our website.

From the Foot of the Cross

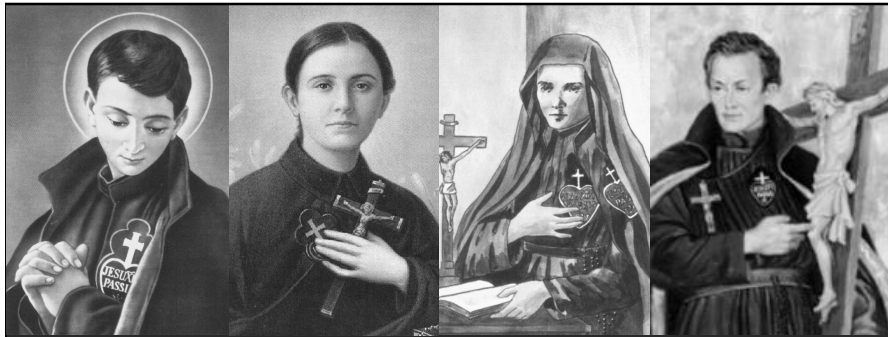


The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of Owensboro KY

Christmas 2008

Turning a page of our history

Sister Mary Bernadette
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
1912 - 2008



St. Gabriel
1838 - 1862
Passionist seminarian
Feastday: Feb. 27

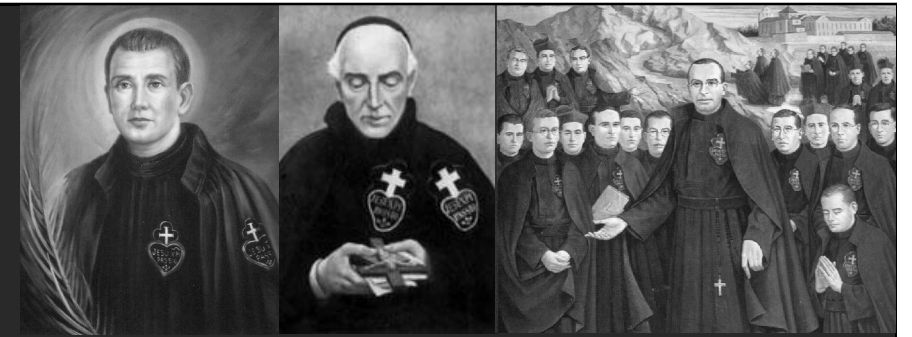
St. Gemma Galgani
1878 - 1903
Passionist lay woman
Feastday: May 16

Venerable
Mother Mary Crucified
1713-1787
Co-Foundress of the
Passionist Nuns

St. Paul of the Cross
our Founder
1694 - 1775
Feastday: Oct. 20

“Make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles, and with all the saints
who have done your will
throughout the ages.”

- Eucharistic Prayer II



St. Innocencio Canoura
1887 - 1934
Martyred in Spain 1934
Feastday Oct. 9

St. Charles Houben
1812 - 1893
Gift of Healing
Feastday: Jan. 5

Bl. Nicephorus and 26 companions
Martyred in Spain 1936
Feastday: July 24

HOW MANY PASSIONIST SAINTS, BLESSED AND VENERABLES DO YOU KNOW?

In the opening prayer for the Passionist Votive Mass of “All Saints of the Congregation of the Passion,” the Church places these words on our lips:

*Lord, pour out on us the spirit of holiness
that is your gift to so many saints,
members of our Congregation.*

*May we come to know the love of Christ
that is beyond all knowing,
and be filled with the fullness of God.*

The Passionist Congregation has an array of holy men and women who lived the Passionist charism with heroic virtue in the challenges of their time. Quoting Fr. Roger Mercurio, C.P. we can “discover from their stories what the memory of a crucified Christ meant for each one of them. The stories of these great and little Passionists, the veterans and the youthful, the mystics and apostles and martyrs - their human but so inspiring stories are our history, our patrimony. Taught by their examples, encouraged by their experiences, the Passionists of today can look to the future with hope that the same God who was at work in them is at work in us.”

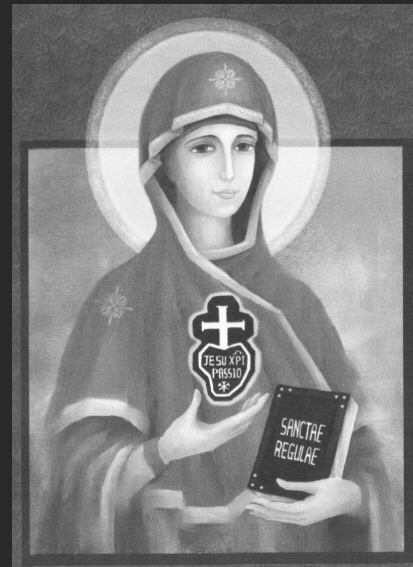
“The spiritual goods of the communion of saints [are] the Church’s treasury.” Catholic Catechism #1476 This treasury is primarily the infinite merits of Christ. It includes the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as those of all the saints who have been faithful to Christ in this life. May we join the company of the blessed one day in heaven!

“I shall await each of you in Paradise.” We have every reason to believe that these words of our Holy Founder were fulfilled for our beloved **Sister Mary Bernadette of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, as she passed from this life on October 16, 2008 after a long illness. For years, Sister had longed for her Divine Bridegroom to come and take her with Him into the eternal embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Sr. Mary Bernadette was just 3 weeks short of her 96th birthday when she went home to God, having lived 76 years in religious life. She was the last of the original founding group who came from the Passionist Nuns’ monastery in Scranton, PA, in 1946, to begin a new community in the diocese of Owensboro. Truly, with her death, a chapter in our community history has ended, and we begin a new phase.

Because of her uncomplaining acceptance of being bed-ridden and helpless for about 7 years, we believe Sr. Mary Bernadette “graduated with honors” from the school of suffering, and has joined the ranks of the Passionist family in heaven. Always devoted to our Holy Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, she fittingly died during the solemn novena before his feastday! Not only has she seen the God whom she loved and served in

QUEEN OF THE PASSIONIST CONGREGATION



This beautiful icon was recently sent
by our Passionist Nuns in Korea.

an exemplary way, but she has met at last our Holy Founder and the many holy men and women Passionists whose lives were such an inspiration to her on earth. On his deathbed, St. Paul of the Cross said he would await us all in paradise, and so we can only imagine the joy our dear Sister knew when she was greeted by our founder, whose life and spirituality she had interiorized and lived for so many years.

In Sr. Mary Bernadette’s funeral homily, Fr. J. Edward Bradley put these words on the lips of St. Paul of the Cross:

“Sr. Mary Bernadette, you have meditated your entire religious life on the Passion of our Lord, and by this sacred Path you have reached union with God. In this most holy school, you have learned true wisdom, for it was there that all the saints learned it. Indeed, our Lord Jesus has planted its roots deeply in your heart. You have lived your vocation in such a way that all may know that you bore outwardly, as well as inwardly, the image of Christ Crucified, the model of all gentleness and humility.”

Sr. Mary Bernadette was a Passionist to her fingertips. May she now experience the joy of Christ’s glorious resurrection!

There wasn’t time for us to put together in this newsletter the full story of this beautiful soul, and so we hope to do that in 2009.

ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM

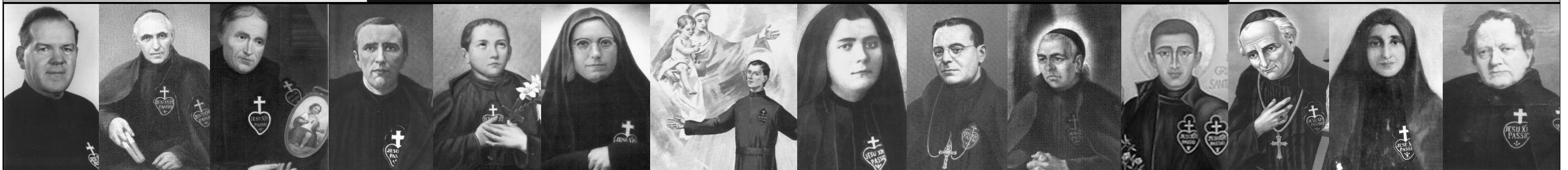
The month of October brought us three other powerful reminders that this earth is not our permanent home. **Tony McKimmy**, Sister Mary Veronica’s only brother, was killed in a motorcycle accident on October 1st. In mid-October Sr. Marie Michael’s brother-in-law, **Dr. George Clark**, died after a long illness. Then, shortly after Sister Mary Bernadette’s funeral, Sister Mary Dolores’ oldest sibling, **Sister Barbara Hornbeck, S.C.N.**, died from head injuries suffered in a bad fall.

Because a religious community is a true family gathered together by the Lord, we felt all these deaths profoundly. The community experience was all the more intense because all these deaths came so close together.

In the Catholic Church’s prayers for the dying, we say: *“May holy Mary, the angels and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life....May you see your Redeemer face to face.”* We pray that this consoling prayer had its perfect fulfillment as Sr. Mary Bernadette, Tony, Dr. George and Sr. Barbara departed this life. May they rest in peace!

And now we hold in our hearts the precious lights and graces received as we supported each other and walked through it together.

Check out our website for stories about our Passionist saints www.passionistnuns.org



Servant of God
Fr. Theodore Foley
1913 - 1974

Bl. Bernard Mary
Silvestrelli
1840 - 1921
Superior General
Feastday: Dec. 9

Bl. Lawrence Salvi
1782 - 1856
Outstanding preacher
Feastday: June 12

Bl. Isidore De Loor
1881 - 1916
Passionist brother
Feastday: Oct. 6

Venerable
Galileo Nicolini
1882 - 1897
Passionist novice

Servant of God
Mother Magdalena
1888 - 1960
Foundress of Passionist
Nuns in Madrid, Spain

Bl. Pius Campidelli
1868 - 1889
Passionist student
Feastday: Nov. 3

Servant of God
Sister Addolorata
1920 - 1954
Passionist Nun

Bl. Eugene Bossilkov
1900 - 1952
Bishop & Martyr
Feastday: Nov. 13

Bl. Dominic Barberi
1792 - 1849
Founded Passionists
in England
Feastday: Aug. 26

Bl. Grimoaldo
1883 - 1902
Passionist Student
Feastday: Nov. 18

St. Vincent Strambi
1745 - 1824
Bishop
Feastday: Sept 24

Servant of God
Mother Leonarda
1908 - 1953
Passionist Nun

Servant of God
Fr. Ignatius Spencer
1799 - 1864
Famous preacher