

From the Foot of the Cross



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

Christmas 2009

**FROM THE WRITINGS OF
POPE JOHN PAUL
THE GREAT**

"God entered the history of humanity and, as a man, became an actor in that history, one of the thousands of millions of human beings but at the same time Unique!"

"He, the Son of the living God, speaks to people also as Man: it is his life that speaks, his humanity, his fidelity to the truth, his all-embracing love. Furthermore, his death on the Cross speaks—that is to say the inscrutable depth of his suffering and abandonment."

"By his Incarnation, he, the son of God, in a certain way united himself with each man. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin."

"This revelation of love is also described as mercy; and in man's history this revelation of love and mercy has taken a form and a name: that of Jesus Christ."

~ Redemptor Hominis



*"You shall call His name Jesus
for He shall save His people from their sins."*

Mary's Heart was filled with gratitude for the Father's gift of Jesus. For us too, gratitude is at the heart of our Passionist charism. We are called to keep a loving and grateful memory of the life, passion and death of Jesus and to share this with others in a style compatible with our contemplative life. With Mary, we fix our gaze on the Face of Christ and try to see Him living, working, suffering and dying in others. This grateful memory of all that Jesus has done and suffered for love of us flows over into the joys and sorrows, the hopes and endeavors we share together as a religious community, and with you our friends. It is in this spirit that we send you our newsletter.

Highlighting Community

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY LIFE?

My favorite part of our community life is the conscious fostering of one another's happiness. So often in our world there is a tendency only to look after oneself, to the neglect or even detriment of those around us. Here, I find all the Sisters making a deliberate and loving effort to build each other up, truly holding all things in common, especially those "things" that cannot be seen or measured.

~Aspirant (soon to be a postulant!) Ane Kirstine



Our Lady of Sorrows played a crucial role in the call of both Ane Kirstine and Sr. Rose Marie to our cloistered Passionist life.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT OUR PASSIONIST CHARISM?

When I discovered the Passionists, I was immediately drawn to their charism of intimate and profound union with the total self-giving Love of Jesus. I was personally drawn to the purity and intensity of Jesus' love as He offered His Passion and death for love of us. I couldn't imagine a love more pure and I wanted to learn how to embrace and participate in this beautiful mystery with all my heart. Finding out about the Passionists, for me, was finding a clear and practical way of living this out.

~ novice Sr. Rose Marie

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT OUR LITURGY?

What I most love about it is that it is the center of our lives, with the Eucharist at the center of the Liturgy. Throughout the day we return again and again to the Liturgy where we join Christ and His Church in praying for souls. Repeatedly coming back to this "backbone" of our life, we are less likely to forget our mission: bringing souls to Christ Crucified through the merits of His Passion which we have the privilege of offering to the Father.

~ Sr. Mary Andrea, CP



Organist Sr. Mary Andrea accompanied by Sr. Rose Marie and Ane Kirstine

PASSIONIST NUNS ON EWTN!



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copy and
promote
Passionist
life!

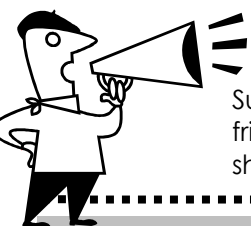
Fr. Mark Mary, MFVA

Sr. Rose Marie

Sr. John Mary, CP

Doug Barry of Radix

Thanks to your prayers Sister John Mary and Sister Rose Marie's appearance on "Life on the Rock" turned out great! Get your copy and watch as they share how Jesus Christ transformed their lives and, to their surprise, called them to cloistered Passionist life. Check out our blog to get the full story and see all the pictures. www.passionistnuns.org/blog/



Support our community by obtaining multiple copies to share with priests, seminarians, family and friends and also teens and young adult groups. Obtain your professionally made DVD at \$12.00 plus shipping. You can mail us a check or order on-line at www.passionistnuns.org May God reward you!

Some Monastery Visitors



Special thanks to **Father Fred Sucher, CP** who offered Holy Mass for us while our chaplain was away on retreat. As always Father's words of wisdom left us with a greater understanding of our Passionist charism.



Msgr Michael Palud, MSM visited us briefly. He is Prior General of a new part of the Passionist Family - the Mission Society of Mandeville. Visit Msgr's blog <http://journeyofayoungpriest.blogspot.com/>



While our Sisters were at EWTN they met one of the friars there - **Brother Pio Mary, MFVA**. Son of our friend Jerry Burton, he recently visited us while home in our diocese with his family. Come again Br. Pio!



Earlier this summer **Fr. Chris Forler** of the diocese of Evansville IN and **Marianne Webster** brought a delightful group of young ladies to learn about Passionist life. Over the years we have learned again and again the importance of the parish priest promoting knowledge and appreciation of religious life. God reward you Fr. Chris!

FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



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Come Lord Jesus!



Dear Family and Friends in Christ,

We will be especially close to all of you in prayer during the Advent/Christmas season, inviting you to join with us from your own homes and parishes to take time to reflect deeply on the "reason for the season" — the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He took our human flesh that we might not perish but have eternal life.

Traditionally, Christians have marked this season with religious practices. Attending Holy Mass more frequently is a good place to start. With every Mass there is a coming of Christ that is stronger than all the evil in the world.

The crosses, hardships, material and spiritual needs you bear in your hearts for yourselves and your loved ones will be held in particular prayer during our pre-Christmas novena. I wish to take this opportunity to thank each of you once again for your prayers and financial help. St. Joseph has taught us how to make your monthly offerings of love go a long way!!! We both need and appreciate your gifts. May God bless and reward you. Have a joyous and grace-filled Advent and Christmas!

Mother Catherine Marie and the Passionist Nuns