



From the Foot of the Cross



The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of Owensboro KY Christmas 2010

The Power of the Infant Christ in Us

In countless souls...Christ remains as an infant; He is in them but neglected, because they do not know the mystery of their own being.

There are many Catholics who are so intent upon exterior activities, and on activities which are divorced from what should be their daily life, that they allow no rest either to themselves or to those near them. God not only asks them to rest in Him, but asks of them that He may rest in them.

There is a huge force, a tremendous power for love, being neglected, not being used, at the time when it is needed as never before, and when every sign seems to be pointing to it and challenging it as the only answer—the power of the Infancy of Christ...

If everyone in whom Christ lives at all, in



whom He is an infant—which means anyone whose soul is alive at all—surrendered themselves to Him, resting in Him, that He might rest in them, in each one of them the world's redemption would begin as it began in Mary, the Mother of God.

Christ is formed in us, and we are formed into Christ, when we rest in Him and He rests in us. In Advent Christ rested in Mary - still, silent, helpless, utterly dependent. The Creator trusted Himself to His creature. This was a foreshadowing of what the Incarnation would mean for us: for in us too, Christ rests as He rested in Mary.

~ Taken from *The Passion of the Infant Christ*
by Caryll Houselander

This image has become in our time a pro-life symbol. These hand painted statuettes can be obtained from our online gift shop. www.passionistnuns.org

How the image of the Infant on the Cross originated in the heart of our Founder

"Many years ago I had an Infant painted on German paper that had him sleeping quietly on a cross. Oh, how much that symbol pleased me! I gave it to a crucified person of holy life who was directed by me as long as she lived...I wished, as I desire for you, for that soul to be a child in purity and simplicity and that she sleep on the cross of the gentle Jesus.

"So on Christmas you will have the Infant in your heart and be transformed entirely into him with love. Sleep with him on the crib of the cross, and at the divine lullaby that Mary Most Holy will sing go to sleep with the Divine Infant, being in union with his heart. The lullaby of Mary will be: *'May your Will be done on earth as in heaven'...*"

~ Saint Paul of the Cross





Bishop William Medley (center) along with Fr. Daniel Whalen (retreatant from the archdiocese of Louisville) Oblates Msgr Bernard Powers and Fr. Joe Mills and our Chaplain Fr. Ray Clark offer holy Mass on the Solemnity of our Founder Saint Paul of the Cross.



Sister Mary Andrea renews her temporary vows during the Mass of our Founder on October 20. Pray for more valiant women to join our ranks!



Faithful Saint Martin de Porres keeping the mice out of the kitchen!



Sister Marie Michael smiles during her surprise celebration in honor of her 60th anniversary of Passionist vowed life.



Sister Mary Magdalen crowned "Queen for a Minute" during an All Saints Day trivia game.



Fr. Andy Garner raises his hand in blessing over our Affiliate Christie Swanson as she makes a private vow of chastity on the Feast of the Birth of Mary

Live the Christmas Mystery

"Live Jesus, so live in me, that all I think and all I say, be T



When Ane Kirstine's mother went to work in our that didn't match. Shortly after her parents left,

As religious women in the Church we have surrendered our lives to Christ to be another "humanity" in which He may continue His redemptive work. In the ordinary events of daily life, as well as the bigger things that come our way, we pray to be like Mary who always gave God a whole-hearted "Yes, be it done!"

This yes, as difficult as it sometimes is, allows Christ to be formed more and more in us through the simple as well as the great things of daily life—the prayers, works, joys and sufferings of each day.



Our younger Sisters enjoyed a visit with the Fathers of Mercy) along with Fr their men in formation. May the Lo

Every Day of the Year

...that all I do be done by Thee,
...thy thoughts and words this day."



...garden she ended up with two old gloves
...a box of new garden gloves arrived!



Nothing is insignificant,
nothing is too small to be
used by God for the
salvation of souls. Our
Savior Himself chose
the life of growth and
work and suffering,
and He spent about
30 years in what
has been called His
"hidden life".

His life continues
in all the baptized.
This is a great
mystery—that
Christ is in us and
we are in Him.
Being aware of this
mystery can turn an
ordinary day into
treasure for the Church.



Ane Kirstine baking bread.
She looks a bit mischievous...
should we "beware of the
leaven" of the postulant?!?



Sister Mary Agnes gives a sweet
smile as she enjoys her dessert
during our anniversary celebration
for Sister Marie Michael.



September 17-19, Father Ben Cameron, a
priest of the Congregation of the Fathers of
Mercy, preached the inaugural retreat of the
Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy.

The Confraternity is a follow-up for post-
abortive men and women who have made
the Rachel Vineyard retreat. It provides
ongoing prayer support and networking with
others who are on the journey of conversion
and healing. The Confraternity also accepts
as members any persons who might wish to
join themselves spiritually to those who are
post-abortive and striving for holiness.

Cloistered Nuns in eleven monasteries were
invited to become associates who will pray for
the Confraternity members. For more information:
confraternityofourladyofmercy.org

Schedule your retreat for 2011

Our retreat schedule for next year
is already beginning to fill up!

For reservations call: 270-302-8023 or
email: retreats@passionistnuns.org



...with Fr. David Wilton (Superior General of
... Lou Caporriccio, Fr. Tony Stephens and
...ord send them many holy candidates!



Union with God in set times of
prayer is central to our
Passionist contemplative life



Sr. John Mary and Sr. Mary Elizabeth enjoy a festive
moment on Christmas day 2009. We pray that your
Christmas will be filled with the holiness and joy of Christ!

FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

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Each year as we get closer to Christmas, a crew of Nuns with creative artistry and loving hearts, transform the community rooms and corridors with reminders of the wonder of the birth of the Son of God from the Blessed Virgin Mary. These holy displays help us to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus and to enter this mystery of divine love ever more deeply. By simple means such as crib scenes and other Christ-centered decorations, all of us can fill our homes with the true spirit of Christmas, motivating us to love and gratitude to God, as well as to Christ-like works of charity toward others.

To you, all our relatives, friends and benefactors, we wish you an Advent and Christmas season permeated with the light, love and close presence of Jesus, the Emmanuel. May His holy Mother and good St. Joseph inspire you to keep Christ in Christmas, in order to reap the precious Christmas blessings and gifts of grace that God wants to bestow on you and your loved ones.

Again we express our abiding gratitude for the many ways you help to make our Passionist contemplative life possible, and we assure you of a special remembrance in our Masses and prayers throughout this season of grace. May you have a Christmas rich in God's love!

Mother Catherine Marie and all of the Passionist Nuns

The "touch" of a Passionist heart can be seen in this crèche. Note the gold crown of thorns at the top—a sober reminder that Jesus came as the true Paschal Lamb to take away our sins.

That we may continue our mission of prayer in the heart of the Church please consider remembering us in your will. God bless YOU!