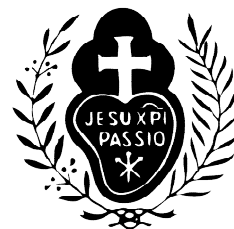


# From the Foot of the Cross



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

Summer 2012

## My Brother the Priest...

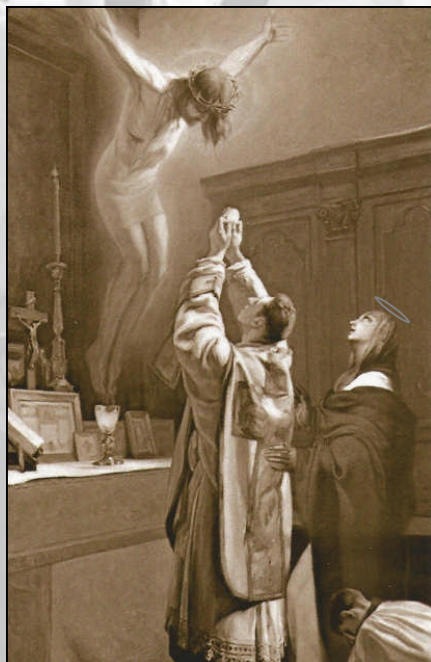
By Sr. John Mary, CP

Ten years ago I never thought I'd say that! Not that he did not have priestly qualities but because he had set his course on a different path. It was nine years ago and the evening of my Perpetual Profession of Vows, as I said goodbye to my 22 year old brother, Jeff Read, I whispered to him to stay close to our Blessed Mother. He became very solemn and said, "we don't pray the rosary enough." I realized then the Lord was awakening within him a desire to live his faith more fully. Two years later he entered Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary and seven years after that on June 2, 2012, he was ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ for the diocese of Evansville, Indiana!

He is only a man, this brother of mine, but a man chosen by God to be indelibly marked as an "alter Christus". *"The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone sees the priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest!"*

~ Blessed John Paul II

My brother, the priest...As I write this article he is one week old, a "baby priest" some say. As the days pass I find myself uniting my life to his priesthood. His offering of Christ and all of humanity to the Father. His call has called me to a



Fr. Jeff's Ordination Card



greater realization of my own priestly vocation as a baptized daughter of God, offering my life through, with and in Jesus to the Father by the Holy Spirit, to pray and do penance. To live Saint Paul's admonition to the Romans, *"...I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect."*

~ Romans 12:1 - 2

All the Sisters here have been just as delighted as I am over this wondrous gift of a priestly vocation in my family. As contemplative nuns, dwelling in spirit at the foot of Calvary, we take seriously our mandate to be Spiritual Mothers, especially of priests. To pray and do penance for the sanctification of priests following our Lady of Sorrows, Mother of the Eternal High Priest and Helper in his work of Redemption.

Cont.....Page 2

"...the community of the baptized...'by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, that...they may offer spiritual sacrifices.' This 'common priesthood' is that of Christ the sole priest, in which all his members participate...But 'the members do not all have the same function.' Certain members are called by God, in and through the Church, to a special service of the community. These servants are chosen and consecrated by the sacrament of Holy Orders, by which the Holy Spirit enables them to act in the person of Christ the head, for the service of all the members of the Church. The ordained minister is, as it were, an 'icon' of Christ the priest."

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church 1141, 1142

Photo Zoe Cannon



Fr. Jeff receiving the chalice and paten from his parents Bill and Bernadine Read as a symbol of the offering of their son to God.

Cont...page 1

Through fidelity to our daily hidden life we seek to help priests to be faithful in all their life of self-offering, prayer and duty. I think of the closing words of Bishop Thompson, who ordained Fr. Jeff and his classmate Fr. Brian Emmick, "Dare to be priests of JOY." Yes, we offer our lives for priests that they may know and show forth the joy of a life totally dedicated to Christ. I ask your continued prayers for my little brother, the priest - that he may be a holy priest. A holy priest means a holy people!



Photo Diocese of Evansville IN / Pee Wee Vasquez

Bishop Charles C. Thompson of the Diocese of Evansville, IN lays hands on Deacon Jeff during the Rite of



Fr. Jeff consecrates his priesthood to Our Blessed Mother during the offering of his First Mass.

The vocation to be a spiritual mother for priests is hardly known, barely understood and consequently, rarely lived, although fundamental and vitally important. It is a vocation that is often hidden, not apparent to the human eye, but intended to transmit spiritual life.

~ Adoration, Reparation, Spiritual Motherhood for Priests by the Congregation for the Clergy 2007



With special permission, Sr. John Mary was able to attend her brother's ordination. A joy-filled congratulations to Fr. Jeff's parents, Bill and Bernadine Read, and to his siblings (l-r) Doug, Patricia (Jarrod) Hess, Sr. John Mary and Mitch on the occasion of Fr. Jeff's ordination! (Doug's daughter Keirsten got in this photo too!)



Fr. Jeff seen here with cousin Anna Thompson, a consecrated lay woman with Catholic Corps of the Apostolate for Family Consecration.

Please remember The Passionist Nuns in your will. May God reward you!



## *In Gratitude to God for the Gift of the Priest-*



**Fr. Giuseppe Barbieri, C.P.** preached two Passionist Oblate retreats here in March. Before becoming a Passionist, Father served for 10 years in the diplomatic corps of the Holy See.

Currently, Father is director of spiritual formation at Regina Cleris seminary in Houston, TX.

A native of Canada, Fr. Giuseppe is a member of the Sacred Heart province of Passionists in Italy.



We thank God for **Msgr. Bernard Powers** who marked the 60th anniversary of his ordination on April 30. Since 1953, Msgr. has served our community as confessor, spiritual director, and retreat guide. In the last two years, Msgr. has given us monthly Passionist renewal days on the letters of our holy founder, St. Paul of the Cross, to the first Passionist Nun, Mother Mary Crucified of Jesus.



In January and February, we were blessed to welcome **Fr. Frederick Sucher, C.P.** (pictured above with Passionist Oblate, **Elmer Schepers**). We treasure Fr. Fred's spiritual teachings as he opens up Passionist spirituality to us in an ever deeper way.

Photos Larena Lawson



### *Evenings of Eucharistic Prayer for our Nation's Presidential*



Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM  
leads the May Prayer Service

*"It was a very beautiful time of prayer again and I am so happy that you all are continuing to invite us to come. Father had a wonderful homily last night...We definitely need to pray that hearts can change. Thank you all for the opportunity to pray with you." (comments from a friend)*

During this election year we are hosting Evenings of Eucharistic Prayer on the first Tuesday of each month. The service consists of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Scripture Readings, Sermon by a Father of Mercy, renewal of Consecration of our Nation to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary and Benediction.

JULY 3 \* AUGUST 7 \* SEPTEMBER 4 \* OCTOBER 2 \* NOVEMBER 6

~ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US IN PRAYER!** ~

## Passionist Oblates Welcome New Discerners



Because of many requests from interested persons, the Passionist Oblates welcomed into their midst this year approximately 19 men and women who are currently in a discernment program, prior to joining the Oblate formation group.

The Passionist Oblates are recognized by the Church as an Association of Christ's Faithful. They are men and women from every walk of life--married, single and the ordained--who desire affiliation with the Passionist Congregation and with our monastery. Sharing the Passionist charism of dedication to and love for our Crucified Lord, they commit themselves to strive for holiness according to their state in life, and to promote devotion to Our Lord's sacred Passion, death and resurrection according to their abilities and the duties of their state in life. Seeking to grow in understanding of the redemptive meaning of the cross in their lives and in the lives of others, they strive to cherish the memory of Christ's suffering love in their own hearts and to pray that it may bear abundant fruit in their own lives and in the lives of others.

On the feast of our Holy Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, October 20, 2012, the Oblates will celebrate the 15th anniversary of their founding. To mark this occasion, Most Rev. William F. Medley, bishop of Owensboro, will join us for a thanksgiving Mass, followed by a reception.

The Holy Spirit placed the desire for a kind of "Third Order" of Passionists in the hearts of Tom and Debbie Carter of Benton, Illinois, as they helped us during the relocation and building of our Whitesville monastery. Tom and Debbie are deeply dedicated to all things Passionist, and they serve as good role models for all the other Catholic laity who desire to make their own the Passionist spirit. The Oblates are to us a source of continual joy and edification as they share our community's charism.

Due to limited meeting space and the needs of the formation program now in session, the Oblates will not be receiving new members for approximately three years.

## Pray for Vocations to the Passionist Nuns!

Check out our website [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org) and while you are there click on the BLOG.



Two wonderful young women visited us this past January. Ruth (at left) plans to enter the aspirancy in August!

Please pray more young women join us in our contemplative mission in the heart of the Church.



This past spring Holly (Wathen) Edge and siblings donated a park bench in honor of their parents on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. Congratulations to Mike and Janet Wathen and a special thanks to their children for thinking of us!



May God bless **all our family and friends** who have shared their fruits and veggies with us.



# Great Friends - Hard at Work!



Den Schuhmann, Mother Catherine Marie's brother, spent a weekend here clearing the woods during a "work retreat". Thanks a million, Den!



Jamie Sloan (2nd from left) seen here with his brother Jack (far left), dad Bruce (far right), and friends built two covered benches and repaired several other benches as a project to obtain his Eagle Scout badge. Congratulations and many thanks, Jamie!



When Sr. Mary Therese asked her brother Lawrence Seitz (left) to build shrines to cover the outdoor Stations of the Cross we didn't guess all the effort he would put forth into the project. Not only did he build shrines but he (& family) cleaned each Station and got the brass shining once again! God reward you all! The rest of the crew above 3rd left to right: Robert Seitz, Danny Englert and Mike Kaufman. Our continued prayers for Lawrence as he recovers from brain surgery.



Since last fall Sr. Mary Andrea's parents Dave and Carol Niehaus have been here 3 times to help with yard work. In the photo above you can see they and grandson Craig Niehaus did some major tree pruning. Recently they were here taking down trees to provide more sunlight on the veggie garden.

Special thanks is also due to Anne and Chuck Hagan for their ready assistance in the garden



Jane and Tim Wynn, Sr. Cecilia Maria's parents, recently obtained a dump truck full of compost for us, along with the good fertilizer that should make those veggies grow!



Sr. Mary Andrea gets a feel of that good compost. God bless and reward you Tim and Jane!



# ~ Glimpses in the Monastery ~



Thanks to a benefactor we were able to purchase a new Nativity set for our chapel. The little Bambino being admired above was soon covered with kisses of love and adoration!



One of the happy points of fall weather is the ability to hike in the woods and not be bothered with ticks! Here the Sisters enjoy the smell of a Virginia Mountain Mint.



Sr. Mary Elizabeth and Mother Catherine Marie  
delight in a gorgeous bouquet of roses.  
In July Sr. Mary Elizabeth will celebrate 50 years

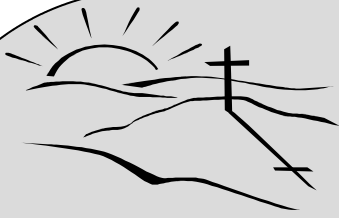


On Palm Sunday evening our community has the tradition of setting a place for our Lord to join us at supper as we recall Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany giving Him a place of rest as Holy Week begins.



Sr. Ann Miriam radiantly admiring her birthday poster after the





# A Loving Remembrance of Our Deceased

## BEVERLY ANN AULL CLARK

On October 18, 2011, Sr. Marie Michael's younger sister, **Beverly Ann**, went home to God. Born in Knottsville, Kentucky, Beverly moved to Texas in 1963 where her husband, **Dr. George Clark**, opened his medical practice. She and George had met while attending Brescia College in Owensboro. Beverly was a member of St. Jude Catholic Church in Allen, Texas.

Sr. Marie Michael remembers the acceptance and peace with which Beverly carried the cross of cancer for approximately 18 years. Sr. Marie Michael and our community had offered many prayers for Beverly over the years, as she lovingly cared for her daughter after a tragic auto accident, and for her husband George in his final illness.

It was also a special joy to Sr. Marie Michael that 4 months before she died, Beverly was able to attend a gathering of their siblings here at the monastery, during which they prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together. Sister noticed how eagerly Beverly placed herself before the image of Divine Mercy in the visiting room for the recitation of the chaplet.

Beverly is survived by her children, **Michelle, Steven and David** (Sharyn), as well as by her brothers and sisters: **Bill Aull, Bob Aull** (Nannie Mae), **Mary "Tommie" Higdon, Joe Aull** (Lena), **Sr. Naomi Aull OSU, Sr. Marie Michael, Joyce Dunn and Anna Carolyn Lydanne** (Joe). She was preceded in death by her parents, **Harry and Mary Pauline Aull**; her husband **George Clark**; and three brothers and sisters.



## RON GOLDEN



**Sr. Mary Agnes'** beloved brother-in-law, **William Ronald Golden**, 72, of Owensboro passed away on Monday, December 5, 2011, leaving three sons: **John Golden** of Owensboro, **Benjamin** Golden of Louisville, and **Nathan** Golden of Mount Orab, Ohio; and a grandson, **William Nathan** Golden.

Sister Mary Agnes and our community remember Ron's friendliness and fraternal concern for our community members. The staff at Carmel Home where he resided during his last illness remembers Ron as always the perfect gentleman.

Ron was married to Sr. Mary Agnes' only sister **Barbara**, with whom he had twin boys, **John** and **Ben**. After Barbara died, Ron made sure that he and his sons remained close to our community. Having watched John and Ben grow up, we cherish many humorous memories of their antics, and have been pleased to watch them become fine young men. It was a special joy this year to get to know Ron's oldest son **Nathan**, and his lovely wife **Missy** and their son **Nate**. May their hearts be uplifted in the hope of an eternal reunion with Ron and Barbara one day in heaven.

## MARK GAYHART

For years, **Mark and Janie Gayhart** had a desire to become Passionist Oblates, as they and their family of seven children became "family" to our community. Finally, the opportunity came as Mark and Janie attended the October and November 2011 Oblate inquiry meetings and were preparing to join the discernment group of Oblates in January 2012. But a mysterious Divine Providence had another plan. Our Lord came for His faithful servant Mark very unexpectedly on December 8th. Three days before his death, Mark had been busy making prayer card Christmas gifts for each of our Sisters! We are happy that Janie is continuing on in the Oblate program.

**Mark Edward Gayhart** of Chrisney, IN, was born in Baltimore on Jan. 23, 1961. He is survived by his wife, **Janie**; his sons, **David** and **Matt** (Sarah); his daughters, **Rachel, Maria, Katherine, Christina and Rebecca**; his brother, **Douglas Gayhart**; his sister, **Susan Spitz**.

20 priests, 10 seminarians, 3 deacons and a chapel packed full of family and friends attended his funeral. When our Passion Sign funeral pall was placed on his casket, we all knew that Mark was already now a Passionist Oblate! May he rest in peace!



**Mark and Janie** at an Inquiry meeting of the Passionist Oblates



# FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

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*Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give our country and ourselves to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pierced by the sword of sorrow prophesied by Simeon, save us from degeneration, disaster and war. Protect us from all harm. O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you bore the sufferings of your Son in the depths of your Heart, be our Advocate. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.*

From the U.S. Bishops' Consecration of our Nation on Nov 11, 2006  
to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary

Dear Friends, Relatives and Benefactors,

As we conclude this issue of "From the Foot of the Cross" we are happily preparing to celebrate Sr. Mary Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee of Passionist profession in early July. Our next newsletter will feature the story of her vocation.

In the meantime, we urge you to join us in earnest prayer that the Spirit of Truth may enlighten the hearts of all our U.S. citizens and turn us back to God and to the observance of His commandments.

Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for the many ways you help us to continue our contemplative life at the heart of the Church. Be assured of a constant remembrance in our prayers. Please pray for us too!

*Mother Catherine Marie  
and the Passionist Nuns*

## HAVE YOU MADE YOUR ANNUAL RE- TREAT?

Consider making reservations in our guest house. Join the nuns for the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass. Walk the trails.

Spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.  
Sit by the lake. Enjoy the peace of a monastic environment.

Visit our website [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org)  
to see photos and obtain more information  
Call 270 233-4571 or 270 302-8023