

# From the Foot of the Cross



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

Spring 2013

## *Veni Sponsa Christi!* *First Profession of Vows of* *Sr. Cecilia Maria of the Body of Christ*

As college girls from Minnesota's University of St. Thomas, led by women from the archdiocesan discernment house of Our Lady of Sorrows, pulled their van into our front drive, Angela Neumann said: "This is so exciting. One of us might have a Passionist vocation!" Then turning to Ane Kirstine Wynn, Angela added, "You might have a Passionist vocation!" In the next few days, her words proved prophetic, as Kirstine found herself being drawn profoundly to our contemplative Passionist spirit and vocation.

Having completed her masters degree in Catholic studies, Kirstine continued to discern with us by returning here two years later for her three-month aspirancy. One month later she was eager to begin her postulancy. After a year's postulancy, she received our holy Passionist habit and a new name, Sister Cecilia Maria of the Body of Christ, and entered a two-year novitiate to prepare for her religious profession as a Passionist Nun.

The longed-for day finally arrived on Feb. 2, 2013, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, as Sr. Cecilia Maria pronounced our five Passionist vows during a Mass offered by **Most Rev. William F. Medley**, bishop of Owensboro, and a number of priests. Two deacons also participated, while several Owensboro seminarians along with Dwayne Roby served the Mass.

Sister Cecilia Maria's parents, **Ret. Army Col. Tim Wynn** and his wife **Jane**, her sister, **Whitney Wynn**, and grandmother, **Anita Holmquist**, along with several close friends made the trip to Whitesville for this glorious event. Her sister, Whitney, played the violin exquisitely during the profession Mass.

*"Consecrated as brides of the Crucified by their holy vows, they live solely for Christ and for His Body, which is the Church....The Passionist Nuns vow to live in the light of the self-sacrificing love of Jesus."*

*~ Our Rule and Constitutions*



Photo Mrs. Larena Lawson

A radiant new bride of Christ Crucified with the Shepherd of our diocese **Bishop William Medley**.

A word of gratitude is due to **Fr. Joshua McCarty** and friends for his video and photography and also to **Mrs. Larena Lawson** for her photography and article in the *Western Kentucky Catholic*. God reward you all! See [lolekproductions.com](http://lolekproductions.com) for more of Fr. Josh's creation of high quality media for the New Evangelization.

Visit [passionistnuns.org](http://passionistnuns.org) to read Sister's vocation story. Click on the [blog](#) for more photos from this day.



Photo Mrs. Larena Lawson

## *Consecrated to God by His Divine Love...*



Photo Mrs. Larena Lawson

Our Holy Father, St. Paul of the Cross, for years longed for the establishment of the cloistered branch of his religious family. He knew, with the wisdom of the saints, how crucial you, the Sisters, would be for the Church and for the accomplishment of proclaiming the Passion of Jesus....

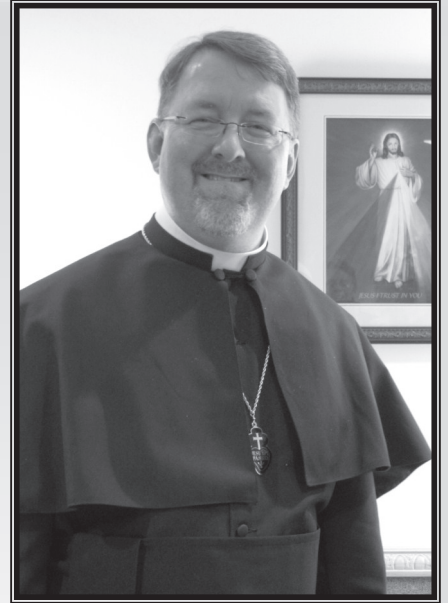
I leave you with the thoughts of a great doctor of the Church, Saint Therese of Lisieux, also a cloistered nun of our own time...your vocation will embrace every vocation. You will be associated with priests at the altar through your choir stall. You will be associated with missionaries around the world from your place in this cloister. You will be with the martyrs who give their lives for Christ and for the faith

because you are their support through your prayers.

Paradoxically, as you live your vow of enclosure, no place in the Church will be beyond you or your influence, for you will touch all by your prayer and by your life poured out at the foot of the Altar, at the foot of the Cross. God never allows Himself to be outdone in generosity, and your generosity will touch the very heart of God.

Yes, Sister, you have chosen the better part...for you will live at the very heart of the Church – and in the Church, you will be LOVE. Love for God, love for all humanity. The Savior's love will have a face, a voice, hands, and a heart in you, for His people, as you live in the very heart of God, who is your Beloved.

See the blog for the full text and also a beautiful reflection by Sr. Cecilia Maria, CP.



Below is an excerpt from the inspiring homily preached by **Fr. Rodger Hunter-Hall**, Professor of Theology, Passionist Oblate



Family bonding time! **Tim, Anita, Sister Cecilia Maria and Jane.**

**Whitney** (at right) had to fly back to Washington the day after the Profession Mass to get back to college and her classes.

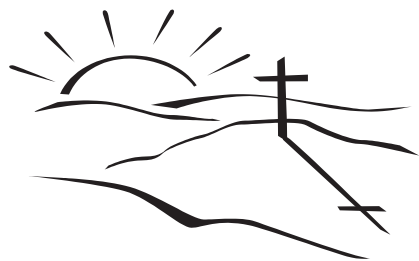




# Thank You



**W**e owe a special debt of gratitude to our Oblate community as well as friends for completely taking care of the reception on Sr. Cecilia Maria's Profession day. They purchased all the food, prepped it, served it and cleaned up! So sorry we cannot picture each one here but the Lord knows who you are and will be your reward!



## *A Loving Remembrance of our Deceased*

**O**n Dec. 13, 2012, Our Lord came for a dear friend of our community, **Doris Marie Mattingly Fulkerson**, the oldest sibling of our Sr. Margaret Mary (RIP). Doris was the loving and self-giving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of six children, 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Her life was spent in service of her family and Church community. A life-long Catholic and active member of her parish, she was buried from St. William's Church in Knottsville, KY. Doris had often told her family that no matter what time of year God took her, she wanted them to sing "O Holy Night." Her wish was honored, as the choir of which she was a member, together with family and friends at the funeral, sang this beautiful hymn in her honor.



Our Nuns cherish so many memories of Doris and her family from Sr. Margaret Mary's family visits. Doris loved to sit close to the cloister partition where "all the action" was! Having been close friends since childhood, Doris and Sr. Margaret Mary had no end of things to talk about. Family members have humorously wished they could now listen in on their conversation in eternity!

We extend loving condolences to Doris' husband, Stanley, to Garry (Debbie) Fulkerson, David (Margie) Fulkerson, Ricky (Suzanne) Fulkerson; to Debbie (Roger) Bellamy, to Mary Robertson, and to Dolores (Gary) Aull, as well as to all of Doris's siblings and family. May she rest in peace!

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

# FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

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We are  
preparing  
the soil,

planting the  
seeds of  
vocations by  
prayer and the  
spoken and  
written word,

and ready to  
nurture and  
water them....

but God must  
make them  
grow!!



So, let's  
beg the Lord  
of the Harvest  
for more  
vocations  
to our  
community!!

Put our vocation  
prayer on your  
refrigerator and  
pray it daily!!

P.S. That's Sister  
John Mary peeking  
around the statue  
of Our Lady.

*Dear family and friends, we thank you once again for your goodness to us, and ask your prayers for new vocations to our community. We have all made vows now, and our novitiate is empty for the first time in many years, so the novice directress is in great danger of twiddling her thumbs! Oh, not really, but we do invite you to offer daily prayer that many more young women may respond to the call of the One who died on the cross for us, and will give themselves completely to Him and to the mission of His Church in Passionist contemplative life. Through the maternal prayer of the Mother of Sorrows, may the graces of Lent and Easter unite your hearts more deeply to Jesus Crucified and Risen, and fill you with all the gifts and fruits of His Holy Spirit!*

*With much gratitude in Jesus Christ's Passion, Mother Catherine Marie and all the Nuns*