

From the Foot of the Cross



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

Summer 2016

Meet our New Mother Superior



Mother John Mary of the Indwelling Trinity



*In the name of the
Church, I declare
you canonically elected as
superior of this community.*

*Encourage and guide
your Sisters by your
example and your fidelity to
the Will of God manifested
by the Rule and discovered
in the life of your Sisters
and of the Community.*

*May the Blessed Virgin
Mary, whom your holy
founder wanted to be the
genuine superior and
Mother of the Nuns, assist
you and obtain God's help
so that you can fulfill your
ministry with simplicity,
humility and truth in the
charity of God."*

On June 22, 2016, our community began a new chapter in the history of our monastery as we elected Sr. John Mary Read to serve as our Mother Superior. The daughter of Bill and Bernadine Read of Elberfeld, Indiana, she has a sister and three brothers, one of whom is a priest, Fr. Jeff Read. Mother began her religious vocation in 1995 in the midst of the construction of our new monastery. Her postulancy was quite an unusual one as she was often seen driving back and forth to the construction site in our 45-mile-an-hour truck full of paint buckets and painting equipment. Her first profession had to take place in the lower level of the guest house, as work was being done on the main monastery chapel. All this was like a Passionist form of boot camp training, and was part of the Holy Spirit's preparation of her heart to serve the community in leadership.

Mother John Mary is known for her vocation work and particularly her blog on our website at passionistnunsblog.com. We hope and pray that even with her new duties, Mother will find time to continue the important work for the future of our monastery.

We share now a recent interview with Mother:

What do you most love about being a Passionist Nun? The fact that God called me to this particular path so that I can become all He desires me to be. Truly, were the words accurate which my Novice Directress whispered in my ear on the day I entered the cloister, "Welcome to the School of Jesus Crucified.", although I did not understand them at the time—not many 22 year olds do! But now I have a glimpse of the mystery and am eternally grateful to be called to this School of Love. It is a gift to dwell in spirit on Calvary with Mary, mediating the grace of God to the world.

How do you feel being the superior of our monastery? My whole being trembles! But I seek to stay closely united with our Lady so that I can sing her canticle of praise, "My whole being rejoices in God, my Savior!" I beg your prayers as I shoulder the responsibility as guide and mother in the common search for the carrying out of God's will for our monastic community, so that we can be at the Service of the Reign of Christ Crucified and Risen in all hearts. Although I have many faults and defects, and will make my share of mistakes, I am confident in the graces that come with this Office and that our Lady will continue her "mothering" role of this community.

In addition, it is a blessing to have Sister (formerly "Mother") Catherine Marie, as my Vicar (assistant superior), a woman of experience and wisdom, a woman of deep prayer. It is a joy and privilege to be in this role of service for the future of this monastic community. Please pray for us - may God reward you!

"You are a Priest Forever"

With a grand celebration of his 25th ordination anniversary on June 12, 2016, we bade farewell to **Fr. Ray Clark** who served as our chaplain for 13 years. Fr. Ray's jubilee Mass was a powerful witness to the priesthood of Christ, with 16 priests concelebrating, and Fr. Ray's close friend, Deacon Dirck Curry participating. We are deeply grateful to Father Ray for the countless ways he served our community during these years, not the least of which was the priestly kindness extended to the families of the Sisters and the several whom he brought back into the Catholic Church. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless Fr. Ray's priestly ministry here in our diocese.



Special thanks to all who made this celebration possible and to Larena Lawson who made the gorgeous and delicious cake. (see pic above)



Courtesy Larena Lawson

A New Chaplain in Residence

Not only did the Holy Spirit give us a new Mother Superior this summer, but also a new resident chaplain. Fr. "Lou" Caporiccio is already well known to us from his retreat work and spiritual direction here over the years. He entered the Fathers of Mercy (in Auburn, KY) in 1992, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. He served for 16 1/2 years as novice master of the Fathers of Mercy. We feel so blessed to have Father Lou serve as our chaplain.



Courtesy Veda Mattingly

A smiling Jubilarian visiting with some of the Sisters



Fr. Louis Caporiccio, C.P.M. with Sr. Mary Veronica and Sr. Mary Therese after a community visit at which we presented him with a gift of a 2nd class relic of the Servant of God, Fulton J. Sheen.

Evenings of Eucharistic Prayer for our Presidential Elections!

September 5 * October 3 * November 7

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Mark your calendars
Invite Friends and Family
Join us in Prayer!



Saint Joseph's Helpers

Our warmest thanks to all who helped us refurbish the chaplain's residence: **Steve Mills, Dwayne Roby, Mike Roby** (at right), **Bruce Hagan** (not pictured), **Ethan Hagan, Chuck Hardesty, Daniel Hardesty** and **Chuck Hagan** (bottom right), **Patsy** and **Ronnie Mayfield** (bottom left), as well as the benefactor who purchased new carpet for the living room and master bedroom! May God reward them abundantly!



A Loving Remembrance of Our Deceased

MAJOR (RET.) MARY KATHLEEN SEITZ— AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S MERCY



Sr. Mary Therese' sister, **Kathy**, was suddenly called home to God on June 21, 2016, a merciful person dying in the Year dedicated to God's Mercy. Sr. Mary Therese is so grateful to God she saw Kathy two weeks before she died. We all noticed the sense of quiet peace that emanated from her.

Kathy was born in 1932 to **John and Rosalee Seitz** in Paducah, Kentucky, the 3rd oldest of 8 children. A longtime member of St. John the Evangelist's parish, she graduated from St. John's elementary and high schools. After receiving her nursing degree in 1956, Kathy enlisted in the Air Force. In Washington D.C. she underwent Flight Nurses Training and received her Wings. After serving in Germany, Kathy was stationed at McGuire A.F.B. in New Jersey on flying status for 18 months, flying in and out of Vietnam, bringing sick and wounded soldiers to hospitals for further treatment.

Hers was truly a mission of mercy, in the spirit of Mother Teresa of Calcutta who said: *"It is not enough for us to say 'I love God but I do not love my neighbor'....How can you love God whom you do not see, if you do not love your neighbor whom you see, whom you touch, with whom you live? Love, to be true, has to hurt."* Mother Teresa continued: *"To be able to love one another, we must pray much, for prayer gives us a clean heart, and a clean heart can see God in our neighbor....If we now have no peace, it is because we have forgotten how to see God in one another."* As she took care of those wounded soldiers during the flights, we can only imagine the hurt Kathy's sensitive heart felt as she looked at mangled bodies, all the while feeling deep hurt and yet doing it out of love.

Selflessness in serving others in her career, in her family and in her volunteer work. One example of Kathy's merciful heart occurred on a trip to a Nashville doctor. Sr. Mary Therese and her other two sisters went into a highway rest stop but soon missed Kathy's presence. They found her sitting and holding an elderly woman who had fallen on the sidewalk!

Having retired from Air Force service after 20 years, Kathy together with her adopted son moved back to Paducah to be near her family, whom she always loved to bring together for a Christmas celebration. To the end, she was always a center of unity in the family. We offer our condolences to Sr. Mary Therese and her entire family. May Kathy rest in peace!

FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

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Our monastic community gathered for a photo after the Superior's election on June 22, at which Fr. Pat Reynolds presided, appointed by our Bishop who was unable to be present.

Left to right: Sr. Catherine Marie, Oblate Affiliate Christie, Sr. Maria Faustina, Sr. Cecilia Maria, Sr. Frances Marie, Fr. Pat Reynolds, Sr. Marie Michael, Mother John Mary, Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Sr. Mary Veronica, Sr. Mary Therese, Sr. Therese Marie, Sr. Mary Magdalen, Sr. Lucia Marie, Sr. Rose Marie, Sr. Mary Andrea, Sr. Mary Agnes

Courtesy Fr. Pat Reynolds

To our dear family, I wish to express my profound gratitude to each of you who have made it possible for us to live our contemplative life of praise of God, intercession for the world, and communion with one another. We could not live this life without you, and through your friendship and monetary support you are a critical part of our future. Because we live a life of solitude and prayer we rely solely on the providence of God, manifested through your monetary gifts. Please know that we are here for you. We pray for you and in your name. I ask your continued prayers for us during this time of transition. I also ask your prayers for all the young women whom God has destined to become Passionist Nuns, that they respond generously and quickly!

Gratefully yours in the Pierced Heart of Christ Crucified, *Mother John Mary and all the Nuns*