

Cherish the Flame

~ Progress Report ~



Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery
~ Fall 2023 ~

Praised be the Lord!

Thanks to all of you we are meeting our fundraising goals!

Dear Friends and Family!

What generosity you all showed during our \$100K matching grant May 13 - September 14, 2023. **Thanks to so many who gave, we reached our goal and beyond!** A big “Thank You” to the family who sponsored this second matching grant. Many are asking about the construction; namely, how far along are we and how much more money do we need. To date \$4.145M has been raised! How much more do we need to raise? That is the million dollar question and close to a million is the answer.

What’s been accomplished and where we’re heading

Phase I - a new Spanish clay tile roof on retreat house, monastery, and chapel - **done!**

Phase II - a covered cloistered walkway and loggia - **almost done!**

Phase III - construction of Holy Family Wing and improvements to retreat house - **in process!**

Phase IV - renovation to enlarge refectory, serving room, and kitchen area - **start next spring!**

Necessary Additions to close out the project, including:

Revamp geothermal - \$250,000 - necessary for the new wing to use the current heating/cooling system

Flat roof replacement - \$110,000

Snow / ice guards on current clay tile roofs - \$35,625

Repair driveway - \$100,000 (a friend of ours hopes to get this cost donated or greatly reduced!)

With the powerful intercession of St Joseph, we have enough money for Phases I, II, and III. The fall-out from the pandemic - smaller labor force and fewer supplies - inflation, and the sorrowful wars in Israel and the Ukraine have really thrown our project a curveball. The bids for Phase III are running higher than the estimates given in spring 2022, so it is taking more of our total project funds than anticipated. We are still gathering information of how much more we need to raise for Phase IV. With a mind for details I would like to give you a complete breakdown of the costs to bring this project to completion, but in the post-pandemic world this is not possible. **Our best estimates indicate that we need to raise about \$850,000 more.**

You continue to help - May God be your reward!

When I felt the blow of these steep increases to our fundraising goal, I took it to the Lord and I sensed He was telling me to have peaceful confidence. We have made these construction and renovation decisions with much prayer and counsel, seeking God’s plan for the flourishing of our community and our contemplative mission now and into the future. As I look back over these four years, I see God’s providence leading us by the hand.

We have come so far, and He has been guiding our project all along. **Thinking of all of you—our friends who have supported us on this journey with incredible generosity—daily fortifies my heart with hope that the Lord Who began this good work will bring it to completion!** \$850,000 is a small thing for Our Mighty Lord! It’s with gratitude and hope that I share with you the progress of our project and some community news.

Visit www.passionistnuns.org for more of the story and how to help.

Construction Progress



Trenches for plumbing



We had a scare regarding the **footers**. The concrete wasn't testing strong enough. The nuns decided to get down in the mud and do some praying. God heard our cries and further tests showed the psi numbers were good. Thanks be to God!



Fr Vincent Ferrer Bagan, OP returned to give us a choir workshop in September. Sr Cecilia Maria is giving him a tour.



Holy Family Wing walls and framing were done in a week!





We'll be looking at a green roof until next spring when the Spanish clay tiles will be delivered and installed.



Above: An after-hours invasion of the Holy Family Wing. Contractors away - the nuns will play!
Right: Excavation begins for the **new covered patio** for retreatants off the retreat house dining room. Sheltered seating and dining for our guests, a long-time dream, is coming true. Outdoor lake-view seating and an awning for the retreat house entrance are also in the works.



The **loggia** (connector to the new wing) is almost finished. Handicap accessible doors will give wheelchair access to the walkway and Holy Family Wing.



Monastery News

On May 31st, feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Postulant Hannah received the Passionist habit and her new name: **Sr. Bethany Marie of the Glorious Wounds of Christ**. Her patrons are Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, the friends of Jesus who welcomed Him to their home at Bethany. The new novice is still radiant, and we are all delighted to see a white veil around the corridors again.



Sr Bethany Marie with her parents and siblings: Chelsea, Cathy, Joe, and Seth



On August 23rd, our aspirant **Emma** officially entered the postulancy. She is grateful for your prayers during this time of deeper discernment and experience of Passionist life.



Sr Maria Faustina (left) will make her final profession of vows on December 8. Please pray for her as she prepares to make a perpetual gift of herself to the Divine Bridegroom. **Sr Maria Theresa** (right) from the Passionist monastery in Korea lived with us for 3 months to brush up her English skills.



Come December, Sr. Bethany Marie will no longer be the sole novice in community - Postulant **Holly** has been accepted to enter the novitiate and receive the holy habit and her new name on December 12 - the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! We will leave you in suspense as to what her new name will be. Be sure to check out the blog to learn and to see photos of the big day.



Mother Catherine Marie, seen here with **Christie** on the day of Sr Bethany Marie's vestition, was home with us for nine months for double hip replacement. She remained VERY busy in her work for our monastic congregation. She even did visitations of our two monasteries in Japan and Korea in between hip surgeries! Please keep her in your prayers.

Cherish the Flame With Us!

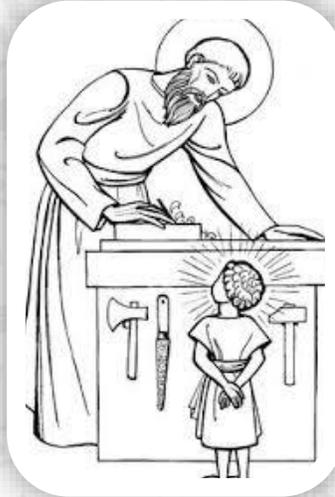
How You Can Help

- ◇ First and foremost, please pray for this construction and renovation project!
- ◇ Donate to our campaign using the enclosed envelope or via our website.
- ◇ Earmark your donations for Cherish the Flame.
- ◇ Share our hidden mission of prayer, and our project, with your family and friends.

Visit our Website...

- ◇ Learn the story behind our construction and renovation journey.
- ◇ View more photos.
- ◇ Examine the architectural renderings.
- ◇ See the donor list.

God reward you!



We pray this prayer to St. Joseph every day during Liturgy of the Hours. It is the same prayer we prayed in the early '90's during our relocation project.

Prayer to St Joseph

for our Cherish the Flame Project

O glorious St. Joseph, you who have power to render possible things that are for us impossible, come to our aid in our present need. Take our construction and renovation project under your particular care that it may end happily.

O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in you. Let it not be said that we have invoked you in vain! And since you are so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that your goodness equals your power. Amen.

www.passionistnuns.org

Our Beloved Dead

Loueva Davis - Passionist Oblate

Martha Loueva (Vowels) Davis went home to God on June 30, 2023. She was in our first group of Passionist Oblates and made her Act of Oblation on April 29, 2001. Her devotional name was Mary Joseph of the Mother of Sorrows. Loueva wrote in a note that she found "great joy in body and soul" in her longing to be part of the Passionist Oblates. She attended meetings faithfully until her health began to deteriorate.

Loueva had a beautiful and simple faith and radiated gentleness, kindness, and holiness. She and her husband Ernie were generous benefactors of the Passionist Nuns for years. To her surprise and joy, she witnessed her husband Ernie come into the Catholic Church in September of 2002. Our sympathy and prayers extend to her children, Paul, Gayle, Kenneth, her grandchildren and all the family.



Wilma Baird - Passionist Oblate



Wilma Hagan (Hinton) Baird passed into eternal rest on May 10, 2023. Wilma became associated with the Passionists in the mid 1980's, and her friendship and devotion to the Passionists continued to the end of her life in 2023. Wilma asked for admission into our Oblate program in January of 1999 and made her Oblation on April 29, 2001. She became an inactive member of the Oblates in 2002, but then returned to active membership in 2012. Her devotional name was Cor Marie of the Sacred Heart. She was very devoted to the Blessed Mother.

Wilma also had the joy of seeing the miraculous conversion of her husband, Richard Baird, to the Catholic faith after her fervent prayers to the Blessed Mother to "pierce his heart." (Richard later became the first person to make the Passionist Oblation when he was close to death.)

Wilma was a talented artist and would send all-occasion cards to us with her drawings on them, some of which we still have in our possession. Our sympathy and prayers to her sisters, sons, and daughters, and to all her family.

Passionist Nuns
of Saint Joseph Monastery

8564 Crisp Road
Whitesville, Kentucky 42378-9782



NON-PROFIT
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
42301
PERMIT NO. 100

Return Service Requested



God is with us!

Another year is drawing to a close and the season of Christmas turns our eyes to Jesus Incarnate who is ever with us. Our life of unceasing prayer and oblation at the Foot of the Cross, the treasure which all this construction/renovation hustle and bustle seeks to foster, goes on unabated.

Our bishops have called us to a 3-year Eucharistic Revival...a time to increase our love and belief in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. Our contemplative-style participation is a monthly Solemn Vespers service of sung Evening Prayer, preaching by a guest priest or deacon, and 45 min of quiet prayer. Please join us in this time of adoration!

Thank you for your generosity expressed in so many ways through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Know that when you lift your spirit in prayer, your Passionist Nuns are praying with you and for you. Blessed Christmas and a most graced New Year of peace to all.

*Mother John Mary and all
the Passionist Community at St Joseph Monastery*