

Also inspiring was the experience of the brotherly support of our Passionist Fathers, who hosted and helped to plan the meeting at their Generalate in Rome. One major question was on the minds of everyone attending the meeting: Who will be elected Mother President? A certain sister of ours wondered this herself; feeling her age, she came to the meeting convinced it couldn't be her! But the Holy Spirit was powerfully at work in the capitulars' discernment process, and scarcely had the long day set aside for elections begun than His choice was made clear through the free election by the nuns of Mother Catherine Marie Schuhmann of Whitesville, Kentucky! Her four council members were also elected that day, remarkably representing four different language groups, which makes for a challenge in communication, but is a catalyst for continued growth in communion and understanding within our global congregation. Below, you can see some photos from the Chapter and the adventures of our Sisters' Roman holiday. Yes, they had an audience with our Holy Father, Pope Francis! We thank Jane and Tim Wynn, parents of Sr. Cecilia Maria, for their assistance in planning our sisters' travel to and from the Chapter.

Many of you may be wondering about Mother Catherine Marie's new position. She will be taking up residence in Rome, where the assistance of our Passionist Fathers, the Holy See's dicastery for religious, and hopefully good translators, will be ready to hand. The official Statutes of our Monastic Congregation outline the duties of the Mother President and give us an idea of some of the things that Mother Catherine Marie will be doing during her six year term:

- Traveling to monasteries to visit and offer assistance to problems they may be facing. Hopefully, problems within monasteries will not go unaided under the maternal vigilance of the Mother President.
- Presiding over elections of superiors of monasteries (or delegating this to another competent person). We hope to see her for our own community elections this year!
- Convoking future General Chapters or Assemblies of Nuns
- Working with her council to organize a general plan of initial and ongoing formation for the members of the monasteries world-wide.
- Reviewing annual reports from all the monasteries
- Being the go-to person for a host of situations and problems that may arise within monasteries.

That's a tall order in itself, yet Mother Catherine Marie faces the additional challenge of being the first person to fulfill this role in our newborn congregation. The Lord is definitely teaching her to rely on Him and on His grace and strength! Please continue to join us in supporting her with your prayers, and pray, too, for the needs of our entire Monastic Congregation and for a renewal in the Holy Spirit of our Passionist life and charism throughout the world.



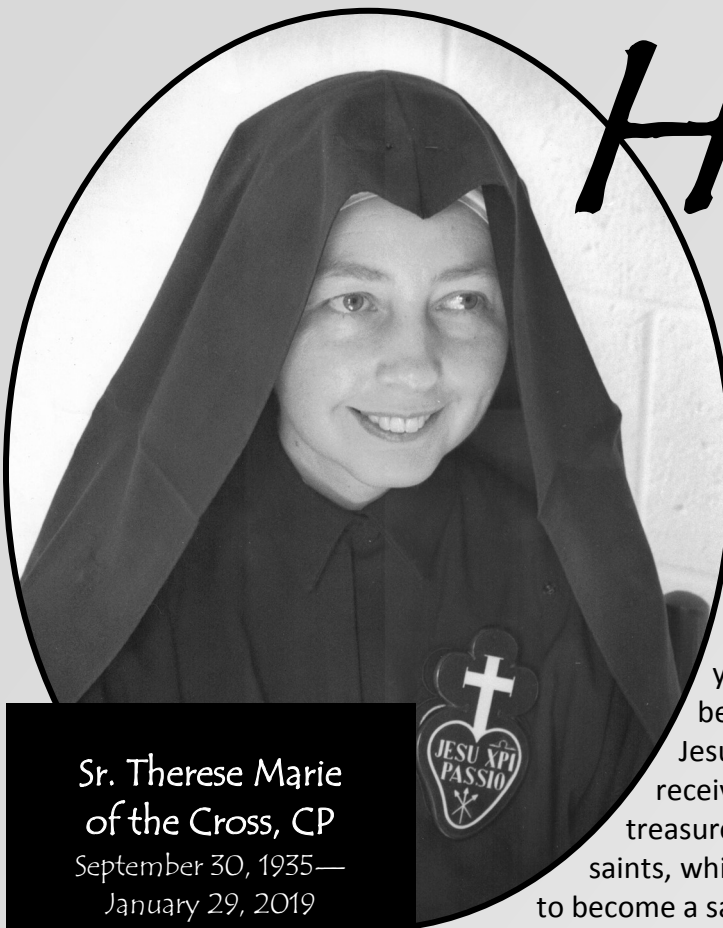
Far Left: General Chapter participants with Pope Francis at a Wednesday Audience; Mother Catherine Marie and the newly-elected General Council with Passionist Father General Joachim Rego.

Inset: Sr. Mary Veronica reads during Mass on Monte Argentario.

Left: All the superiors and delegates.

Right: Mother John Mary & Sr. Mary Veronica at St. Paul Outside the Walls with a Dominican friend, Fr. Austin Litke.

Far Right: Sr. Mary Veronica at St. Peter's Basilica; all the superiors and delegates from the American monasteries.



**Sr. Therese Marie
of the Cross, CP**

September 30, 1935—
January 29, 2019

His Little One He Has Made Great.....

Sr. Therese Marie was born Janet Marie Pritchard on September 30, 1935 in Red Oak, Iowa. Her life-long connection with the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux, began with her birth on the saint's death day. Her early years with her parents, two older brothers, and younger sister, were happy ones. The household of James Artie Pritchard and Mary Grace (Beeson) Pritchard was one of love and warmth, combined with strong religious principles and values. The devotions that so characterized our sister's life, even in her last years, had their earliest beginnings in her childhood. Well before her First Communion day, she longed to receive Jesus and would eye the other little girls at Mass who received communion while she had to stay in the pew. A treasured grace of her early years was a book on the lives of the saints, which she read avidly and which inspired her with a longing to become a saint.

Janet completed high school at St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines in 1953. In 1957, after completing three years of nursing school, she entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in Davenport, Iowa. While Sr. Therese Marie continued her nursing education, served in several hospitals, and eventually taught nursing at Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa, she felt a persistent longing in her heart for a life of deeper prayer, a life more totally and exclusively dedicated to the Lord. It was after 12 years as a Sister of Humility that God would at last lead her to "the foot of the Cross," our own St. Joseph Passionist Monastery in Owensboro, Kentucky (now relocated to Whitesville).



Left: Nursing school graduation; **Below, left to right:** Young Janet had a sense of adventure; Sister Therese Marie during her years with the Sisters of the Humility of Mary; Sister receiving the crown of thorns at her Passionist profession of vows.

