

A Grateful Remembrance... FROM the FOOT of the CROSS



1720 *300* 2020
Start of Passionist Congregation

1771 *250* 2021
Foundation of Passionist Nuns

1946 *75* 2021
Nuns come to Owensboro

1995 *25* 2020
Relocation to Whitesville

A Journey of Hope

In this issue of From the Foot of the Cross we share with you our journey of hope through the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, and beyond. Our Founder directed that this image of Our Lady of Holy Hope to be in the cell of every Passionist. He wanted us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His unfathomable love - for us! He who became a human being - for us! Died on the Cross - for us! Triumphed over death, Satan, and sin - for us! And goes before us piercing the veil of the Heavens and giving us hope that one day this world will be transformed into a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more tears and no more sorrow. But until we reach that point we need the supernatural gift of HOPE. Let us pray for this gift - not only for ourselves but for the whole world. That all will know that joy can be had, even now, because of the hope held in store for us in Heaven.



Enjoy this issue and find hope in your own journey!

Mother John Mary and the Passionist Nuns of St. Joseph Monastery



Autumn 2020



Saint Joseph Monastery Faces Covid-19

“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you,” says the LORD, “plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me.”

Jeremiah 29:11 - 14

Mother John Mary's story as told by Sr. Frances Marie

The Pandemic Hits

During the fateful month of March 2020, I found myself away from the monastery, tending to monastery business. My trip spanned our novena to Saint Joseph, and I left the monastery accompanied by high hopes and the prayers of the whole community for a productive week, during which I also was going to do some fundraising for our Cherish the Flame project. (See page 10 for more!) Little did I dream what my week away would hold.

Our friend Kate Mims, who was hosting me, was out of town for half of my stay, leaving me to myself in her home. So the historic week when COVID-19 slammed the USA in earnest found me in a kind of isolation, in a solitude that became, I have to admit, a wee terrifying at times. Don't get me wrong...as a contemplative nun, I know solitude, and after 25 years, I have learned to live with its peaks and valleys. Solitude is a part of our monastic life and is essential to our contemplative search for God. But there is something different about solitude that is spent away from home, in a strange place, far away from my community and the structured monastic life that is my calling. In Houston that week, it was just me, the Lord, and the news...and the voice of the news was a bit louder than the Lord.

I was dumbstruck as I heard of Italy going into lockdown, the whole country shutting down, hospitals overflowing, schools and churches and businesses closed...and almost began to panic as I heard reports that the USA was next. Before I knew it, it was true...right here in the USA, back

home in Kentucky, and across the nation, schools closed, public Mass suspended, travel bans... eeeek! It all happened so fast, and each day brought a new wave of restrictions and dire news. I really started freaking out, although I tried to keep a calm demeanor - as is suitable to my temperament! Obviously, this was not a time to be sending fundraising letters. So I was left to some healthy gardening and much prayer.

Kate has framed in several places throughout her home a favorite Scripture verse, “Where God guides, He provides,” an encapsulation of Isaiah 58:11. That verse became my mantra and my lifeline throughout that challenging week. It spoke to me of the truth that our Heavenly Father had led me to Texas at this particular time, foreseeing this crisis, (though I had not) and that His provident hand would lead me through. Most of all, His Providence embraced my sisters at home, our nation, Italy (where our dear Mother Catherine Marie was) and the entire globe. “Providence” has long been one of my favorite words! Providence!





From the depths of my own fear, worry, and uncertainty, I lifted up my heart to the Lord for the suffering world.

Looking back at this experience, I see how the Lord gave me a share in the suffering and the anguish of so many people during the onslaught of the dreaded virus. An experience that I would not have had in the safety of my monastery: the pain of isolation, uncertainty, and panic. I had a real prayer and faith work-out that week.

Coming home

When AT LONG LAST it came time for me to return home, an eternal ten days after my departure, I had an easy trip back through empty airports and desolate highways. In anticipation of my arrival, I received a message with a photo of our two novitiate members, suited up in long rain coats with masks and gloves, wielding bottles of hand sanitizer, ready to welcome me and ensure that I was properly sanitized. I arrived home to no hugs - heaven forbid I should bring the virus into the monastery - but to a joyful community. Whew! I have a new appreciation for community life. We need community, we need one another.

I have been so touched in these months plagued by the virus, as well as racial and political tensions in our nation, by all of you who have been there for us, reaching out to us with letters, calls, and donations. So many of you have intuited that with the closure of our retreat house we are losing a substantial part of our annual income. Though our retreat house is open again, we are limited in the number of guests we can receive. Your thoughtfulness and support even in the most uncertain times is a real sign of hope and of God's own grace and love at work in the world.

Know that in these days we have been here for you, at the Foot of the Cross. Never before have we felt the responsibility of our contemplative mission so keenly. As contemplative Nuns, we are deputed by the Church to carry on the Church's liturgical worship. How serious this duty of liturgical worship becomes when the faithful throughout the whole world are unable to attend Mass and public worship, as was the case earlier this year and is still the case for some. By our vow of enclosure, through which we promise to remain within the "isolation" of our cloister, we commit ourselves to pray for God's suffering people, and, in a special way to "*sustain those in our society who are isolated and overlooked in a solitude that has been imposed*" (Constitutions #70). We intercede for all of you, and we are here for you, at your side. Your faithful support makes our mission of prayer possible. Please continue to remember us in your spiritual and material support, and know that we remember you.

Continued on page 4





Facing COVID-19 in the Monastery

I hit the ground running in the days ahead, with meeting after meeting to establish our own COVID-19 defense, discussing what to do about our retreat house, what to do with our staff, and implementing precautions among ourselves.

The decision to close our retreat house came during my time away, coinciding with our Bishop's suspension of public Masses. Within community, we came up with ways to fortify ourselves against the virus. The mother of one of our Nuns generously donated a supply of Shaklee supplements, along with some expert advice, to help us stay healthy and keep our

immune systems going strong. We started washing our hands more and taking our temperatures every 24 hours. A sister was assigned to disinfect all public doors each day.

Thanks be to God, to Bishop William Medley, and to Very Rev. David Wilton, Superior General of the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy, for allowing our chaplain, Fr. Louis Caporiccio, CPM to remain at his chaplain's residence and continue to celebrate private Masses for us during the pandemic. Fr. Lou is the proud recipient of the World's Best Chaplain During the COVID-19 Pandemic Award, granted by Mother John Mary on behalf of our whole community. In heroic dedication to our community, he remained in isolation during the pandemic in order to continue ministering to us safely.



We were not twiddling our thumbs during the weeks of the "Healthy at Home" mandates. With our Retreat House closed, Christie, our Affiliate and Retreat House administrator, worked in the monastery kitchen, and we kept our retreat house staff on the payroll as much as we could, doing deep cleaning and maintenance jobs, including painting, power washing statues, cleaning vehicles inside and out, and doing gardening and landscaping work. The diocesan directive to empty Holy Water fonts gave us a chance for an over-due professional cleaning of the water channel in our chapel.

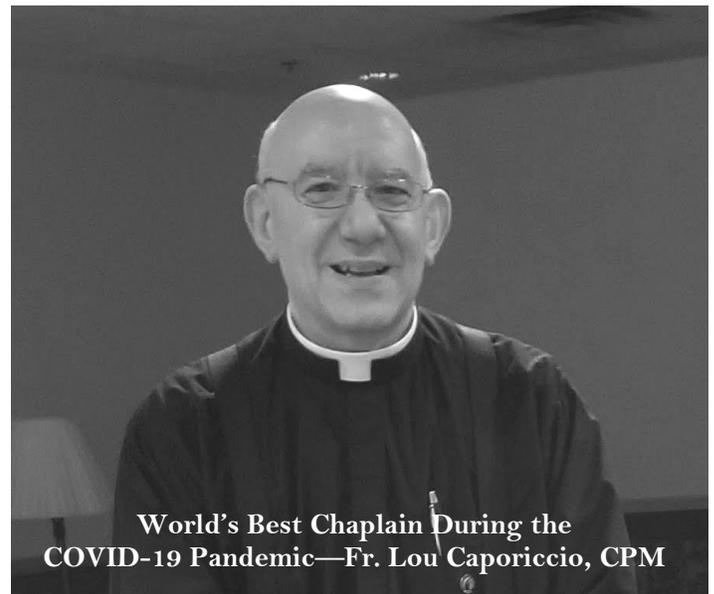
Spiritual COVID-19 Combat:

Of course, we also went into "high gear" on the spiritual side of things, participating in many of the prayer initiatives organized by Pope Francis and by



the US Bishops. On March 27, we participated in the Holy Father's extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing. His homily on that day was an inspiring message of hope.

"We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love."



Here in Kentucky, Governor Andy Beshear asked Churches to ring their bells at 10:00 each day, as a reminder to pray for the end of the pandemic and for all those suffering at this time. We started this back in April and you can still hear our bells ring out each day at that time. At the request of Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, we also pray Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary for the time of pandemic two times each day as a community.

Most importantly, our daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and personal prayer continue day and night for all those affected by the pandemic and its consequences.

May all of us be strengthened in hope in these times. I don't just mean optimism or wishful thinking, but the Christian virtue of hope that anchors our souls in the promises of our faithful God, Whose Providence guides our lives and our world according to His plan of goodness and love.

From May 28-30, during our Pentecost Novena, we had Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration and included a Eucharistic Procession for Times of Epidemic and Plague. The prayers accompanying the procession date back to the time of the Bubonic Plague and ask for God's mercy and healing. The peaceful protests and riots following the death of George Floyd were beginning at the time of our Forty Hours, so this time of Eucharistic Adoration became a time of special intercession for this situation as well. We continue our fervent prayers for peace, grace, and healing in our nation!



Stewardship - Cooperating with God's plan for a Future Full of Hope

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces."

1 Peter 4:10



Hope is about believing in the future, and believing that we have a part to play in it, that our efforts and our fidelity make a difference for that future. In times like these, many people are struggling to hope. Hope ultimately comes as a supernatural gift from the Lord, and it is founded on unbounded trust in His goodness, His providence, and His loving plan for our good in this life, and eternal happiness in the life to come. It is hope that helps us to get up, keep moving forward, and do our part to work for a better future in accordance with God's plan.

A part of the virtue of hope is diligence and good stewardship of the gifts that God has given us. Each one of us has a role in shaping the future, and in the midst of the darkness, hope helps us to "step up to the plate" to carry out our own part in God's plan. What gifts has God entrusted to us, and how is He calling us to be good stewards, cultivating, using, and investing His gifts for His glory and for the furthering of His plan for the world?

Stewardship starts with ourselves; the fundamental "talent" entrusted to us by God is our own body, mind, and soul.

Here in the monastery, our refectory is one place where we exercise stewardship of all three: while we feed our bodies

anced meals, we nourish our minds and souls through the spiritual and educational books and video courses to which we listen while we eat together.

Our recent refectory reads and views include: *Who am I to Judge?: Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love* by Dr.

Ed Sri; *The Sacraments*, by Bishop Robert Barron, and *Wonders of the National Parks: A Geology of North America*, by Ford Cochran.

We are always on the lookout for ways to cultivate the spiritual gift of our Passionist charism. A highlight this spring was a series of conferences by John Schweska, long-standing member of the Archconfraternity of the Passion and author on Passionist spirituality in the life of St. Gabriel Posenti.



Our stewardship extends also to the buildings and grounds entrusted to us. We have been working on fixing up some of our outdoor flower beds, and many a Friday afternoon finds Sr. Mary Veronica and our novitiate members out in the garden or on our trails, chipping in with the work our maintenance and groundskeeping staff do to keep the place looking beautiful and in order.

God has entrusted a tiny corner of His marvelous creation to us, and while there is little we can do about the large scale environmental problems of our day, we can do our part right here on our property.

Members have been cultivating an asparagus bed for several years now. With a little more nun power, we have hopes of cultivating a vegetable garden for the monastery kitchen. The scarcity of fresh produce during the height of the pandemic renewed this long-time dream of ours to provide more of our own fresh produce.

In our monastery kitchen, we have a most unusual type of rack over in a corner, where we hang plastic bags, aluminum foil, and wax paper to dry after we wash them for re-use. This is an age-old custom of ours, stemming from a sense of Passionist poverty, but it takes on new meaning in our day as another little way to reduce waste and care for the environment.

The practicals of Religious poverty and environmental consciousness go hand-in-hand in so many ways.

Our evening recreations on our patio are a simple way that we cultivate our own appreciation and sensitivity to God's creation. This year, we have had the great delight of maintaining two hummingbird feeders, and watching the hummingbirds has become a highlight of many evenings. We recently purchased two DVD courses on birds and birdwatching, to help us grow in appreciation for the abundant wildlife on



our property.

We look forward to exploring new ways to cultivate and enrich the health and beauty of our forests and fields.

These are some of the ways we exercise stewardship of what God has entrusted to us; ultimately, all this contributes to a fuller living of our vocation, enabling us to better serve our Crucified Bridegroom in holiness, provide a welcoming space for others to encounter God, and do our part towards the fulfillment of God's plan for His Creation. Even in these dark times, God promises a future full of hope, a future ultimately fulfilled in our eternal home, the New Creation, and that future begins now through our fidelity and cooperation.



In his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* #55, one concrete suggestion Pope Francis recommends is care in the use of air conditioning. This year, we have reduced our use of air conditioning even during the summer, making a small sacrifice within our home for the sake of the Common Home we share with all creation. This is in order to lessen our energy consumption and our electric bill, but we also look to a higher goal: we trust that this small sacrifice, offered lovingly in union with Jesus, can have an impact on a supernatural level, furthering God's plan of redemption.

Sr. Mary Andrea valiantly heads up our compost and recycling efforts here in the monastery. The compost makes great garden dirt. Our novitiate mem-





Passionist Communion

Our stewardship and cooperation with God's plan is lived out most of all in our community life. We are here to care for one another, from our discerners, to our newest community members, to our eldest sisters.

Sr. Cecilia Maria, our vocation directress, headed up our first ever virtual vocation retreat this June, hosting four young ladies via Zoom from across the US, and is in regular correspondence with a number of young discerners. This summer, we participated in a virtual vocation summit, *God's Adventure Awaits*, which was a great opportunity for us to share about our Passionist life with discerners across the globe.

Our Aspirant, Abbey, completed her year of aspirancy and entered the monastery as a Postulant on July 9th. She continues her initial formation along with our novice, Sr. Miriam Esther, under the direction of Sr. Mary Veronica.

Sr. Frances Marie renewed her temporary vows on August 15th, the grand half-way mark of her Juniorate formation, with three years left till, God willing, final vows. We hope to see another vow renewal, by Sr. Maria Faustina, in December.

It is ever our joy and solemn responsibility to journey with our discerners and sisters in initial formation as they seek the Lord in Passionist life.





Hope for the Future

Also in December our Passionist Affiliate, Christie, will make her life-long commitment to her consecrated lay Passionist life in our monastery.

Looking to the future of our beloved elder sisters, we recently invested in two new recliner chairs to aid knees and backs that just don't work like they used to. Some friends of the community also helped with fixing one of our electric wheelchairs. We are all mobile and up on our own two feet at present, thanks be to God, but we keep some wheelchairs ready to hand as a lifeline in case of need.

With an age range of 21 to 83, not to mention diversity of temperament, cultural background, and education among members of community, we all have a lot to learn from one another, and life together has its challenges, to be sure. But as you can see, there is great joy in community life! Our striving for love, understanding, and care for one another is itself an expression of our Christian hope and a sign in the midst of our wounded nation and world of the harmony and peace of God's Kingdom.



Passionist Nuns



St. Joseph Monastery

Cherish the Flame

In March, around the time our last newsletter reached you, COVID-19 restrictions brought our fundraising efforts to a screeching halt. In fact, it happened during the novena to St. Joseph! But God's providence used this setback and a very rainy summer, to help us focus on our new priority.

HELP! We need a new roof!

For many years Helming Bros. of Jasper, IN has been tending our leaking roof. Here is a work crew applying tarp to our monastery roof to keep water from coming in and causing further damage. This will stay in place until they can begin to put on a new roof.

A Sunday morning rain brings water running through the ceiling tile and light fixture in our cloth room where we make habits. Unfortunately, over the years this has become a familiar sight throughout the monastery. How many buckets are in the attic overflowing with water???



Here's an update since our last newsletter

We are still in the “quiet phase” of fundraising for this project, which means we are sharing it with those closest to us as we continue to make plans and refine the project. Since our last newsletter we have developed this campaign into two phases.

Phase One

About \$1.85 million

During a monastery finance meeting in April we decided to no longer spend donors' gifts to plug roof holes. Our roofer states there is nothing else that can be done. Major damage is happening after years of water leaking through the roof and ceiling. We need to move forward on getting the roof completely replaced as soon as possible.

This is estimated to cost just over \$1 million dollars. The magnitude of this project has kept us from moving forward until now. We had hoped that patching the roof here and there would fix the leaks, but it hasn't. Will you help us?

At this time we will also cover two sidewalks with a monastic archway and do a partial renovation of our refectory (dining room).



Sr. Mary Elizabeth came to chapel to pray the Divine Office and found water had just barely missed her breviary and music books after a hard rain.

Phase Two

About \$1.65 million

During this phase the refectory and serving room renovation will be completed and we will enlarge our kitchen. The Holy Family Wing will be constructed.

This new wing will include a community room (like your family room at home), an exercise room, and a Chapter Room (a sacred space in monasteries for meetings and where important decisions are made, women are vested in the religious habit, conferences and classes are given). The entrance area will be used as museum space to display various historical artifacts we have accumulated over the last 74 years of our existence in the Diocese of Owensboro, KY.

When we built our current monastery we had to cut back on different areas because of cost. We completely removed the Chapter Room from the drawings, hoping to build at a later time. Come October of 2021 we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of our monastery in this diocese. It would be amazing if at the same time we could have a blessing of our renovation and of the Holy Family Wing.

Will you help?

Thus far we have raised \$775,000 for Phase One. You can help us reach our goal of \$3.5 million with a gift to our Cherish the Flame Campaign. More information and photos can be found at www.passionistnuns.org/cherish-the-flame. *Please earmark cash or check for the Cherish the Flame Building Project.* We thank you in advance for any help you can give to this endeavor!



Passionist Jubilee

**November 22 - 300th Anniversary
of our Passionist Congregation**

Save the date and join us via live-stream
on Saturday, November 21!

- 8 a.m. Mass — Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple
- Renewal of our Passionist vows
- Midmorning Passionist Prayer Service
- See further details on our website closer to time

During this Jubilee year, the Passionists around the world are celebrating the 300th anniversary of our founding charism. In the year 1720, decisive events in the life of our Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, became the foundation of the Passionist Congregation. In a vision that summer, Paul saw himself clothed in the black Passionist habit and was asked by Our Lady to found a Congregation clothed in mourning for the Passion and Death of Jesus. Within just a few months, Paul would be clothed in that habit (November 22), write the Rule for the Passionist Congregation, and set off for Rome to request the approval of the Holy See. During this pivotal year, Paul's desire to serve God was infused with a decisive direction and motivation, which impelled him to begin the work of founding the Congregation of the Passion.

We are excited about the Jubilee not only because we love our founder and our charism, but also because we have new opportunities to share the riches of our Passionist charism and heritage with you.

December 21 - 25 Years on Crisp Road

Just a month later, on December 21, we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our relocation from Benita Avenue in Owensboro to Crisp Road in Whitesville. Please join us in thanking God for His providence and care for our community over all these years!

Be on the watch for further events celebrating our upcoming anniversaries. We hope you will join us, whether only in prayer and gratitude to God, or via live-stream, or HOPEFULLY eventually in person, as COVID-19 restrictions may allow. We'll see what the coming year brings. Stay tuned!



Passionist Jubilee Timeline

300 years ago...

In November 1720, the *flame* of the Holy Spirit kindled in St. Paul of the Cross the charism of our Passionist Congregation.

250 years ago...

In May 1771, that *flame* leapt up in the first monastery of Passionist Nuns in Tarquinia, Italy.

75 years ago...

In October 1946, five Passionist Nuns brought the *flame* to a new monastery here in Owensboro, KY.

25 years ago...

In December 1995, eighteen Nuns with hearts on *flame* relocated our Owensboro monastery to Whitesville.



Join us in Prayer for Our Nation

We take seriously our duty in shaping the future of our nation. We'll be at the polls this year to vote. Even more importantly, we'll be on our knees the weeks before, praying for good leaders to guide our nation and to uphold Christian values in these times of sickness, violence, and division.

Please join us via live-stream for three Holy Hours of Eucharistic adoration to pray for our upcoming National Elections, led by Fr. Lou Caporiccio, CPM.

September 1 September 29 October 27

Stay tuned for further details, to be posted on our website :

www.passionistnuns.org

The Latest from Mother Catherine Marie

Our valiant Mother Catherine Marie continues her role as the first Mother President of our newborn international Monastic Congregation of Passionist Nuns.

First some “old news”: Last Autumn, our own Bishop William Medley stopped at St. Gemma’s shrine in Lucca with a group of pilgrims from the Louisville area to visit Mother Catherine Marie. He offered Mass at the altar beneath which are the remains of St. Gemma Galgani, our lay Passionist.

Mother returned home from her visitations in Indonesia this February, right before COVID-19 came to Italy. She and Mother Gertrude had to wear face masks on their way home, a foreshadowing of what was to come. Thanks be to God, she and all the nuns at the Lucca monastery where she resides stayed safe and healthy during the COVID lockdown.

The lockdown kept Mother pinned down in Lucca, her visitations to South America having been cancelled.

Special thanks to her Nun Travel Agent, Jane Wynn, for arranging her travels around the globe!

Here are a few of the things that have been filling her time this year:

- Lots of office work during the lockdown, including completing the documentation of the acts of the First General Chapter of our Monastic Congregation.
- Feastday celebrations on April 29th, the feast of St. Catherine of Sienna. Here Mother Catherine Marie enjoys her Bundt breakfast bread while sporting a floral crown made by one of the Lucca sisters.
- A Zoom Encounter with Passionist Nuns throughout Italy on May 3, the 349th anniversary of the founding of the Passionist Nuns.
- Approval of our updated Constitutions by the Holy See - another milestone in the history of our newborn Monastic Congregation.
- Launching of our Congregational Website: www.monachepassioniste.com
- In August, visitations of several Italian monasteries, followed by a General Council meeting, held by Zoom.



A Salute to Our Staff and Those Who Volunteer Their Time

“Behind the scenes” in our work of maintaining and cultivating our monastic sanctuary of prayer are our unsung heroes and collaborators, our devoted staff members and volunteers! In our Retreat House, gift shop, grounds, and general monastery upkeep, they help keep this place running, and help make our work of prayer possible. We couldn’t accomplish our mission without them!

Debbie Ward, who’s worked for us for the past sixteen years, retired this July. We’re sad to see her go, but as a devoted Passionist Oblate

and friend, we know we’ll be seeing her around. “I’m only leaving the work part, not the monastery. This place is like home,” Debbie says.

We welcome our newest employee, **Jude Wenke**, brother of our Sr. Frances Marie, who began work in July as Kitchen Manager.

Ronnie Mayfield is our Maintenance and Groundskeeping Supervisor, **Rick Thompson** helps with summer mowing, and **Maria Gayhart** and **Millie Aull** (niece of our late Sr. Marie Michael Aull), help with gardening and retreat house work.



Special thanks to those who volunteer their time: **Mary Hall**, **Chris Krauskopf**, **Joe Marksberry**, **Tom Neal**, **Dwayne Roby**, **Mike Roby**, and **Rebecca Schwartz**. Drivers: **Joanie Burke**, **Dottie Pogue**, **Monica Rhodes**, and **Beverly Roberts**. A big thank you to those who share their fresh produce, beef, eggs, and other food with us.



14 Millie

Ronnie

Debbie

Maria



A Loving Remembrance of Our Deceased

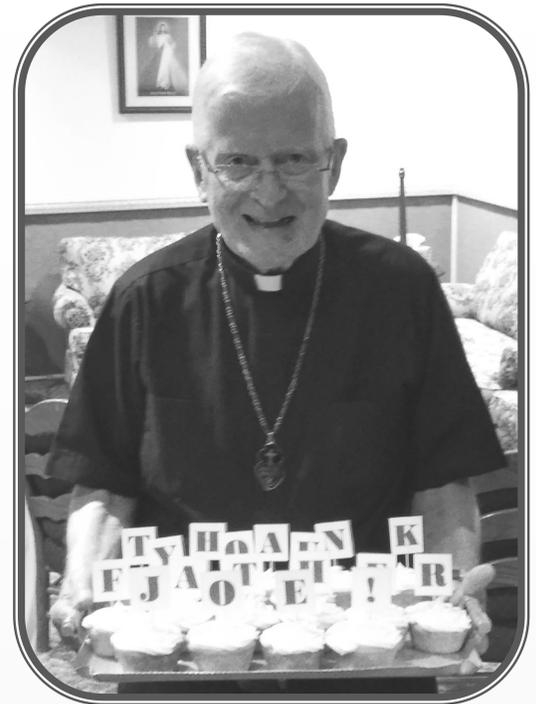
REV JOSEPH MILLS

On April 4, 2020, Fr. Joseph Mills, a beloved priest, Passionist Oblate, confessor, brother, and friend of our community, peacefully went to his eternal reward.

Our founding sisters first got to know Joe Mills as a young seminarian back in the late 1940s, when he would come out to our old monastery on Benita Avenue in Owensboro to do yard work for the nuns. In 1953, he was ordained a priest, and that same year his older sister Ann (our Sr. Ann Miriam Mills, who passed away in 2015) entered our monastery. Throughout his life, Fr. Joe treasured this special connection to our community.

For decades, Fr. Joe served as one of our confessors. He will be remembered for his gentleness, compassion, prayerfulness, and joy. He had the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd. He was one of our most devoted Oblates, joining the association at its conception in 1997 and faithfully attending the monthly meetings here at our monastery until he broke his ankle in 2018. The accident happened while he was standing in line receiving the well-wishes of friends and family after celebrating an anniversary Mass in honor of his sixty-five years of priesthood. Little did he know that on that very day of celebrating his priesthood, he had entered into his hour of greatest intimacy with Jesus on the Cross that would ultimately lead to his last breath during the COVID-19 lock-down.

As an Oblate, he was a friend to everyone and helped build community through his genuine love and appreciation for each member. Prayer, specifically *Lectio Divina*, was a passion of his which he taught and shared with the Oblates. As a brother in the Lord, a Passionist Oblate, and a confessor, Fr. Joe was a real “cheerleader”, spurring everyone on to love and serve the Lord with the enthusiasm and joy that so characterized his own life and ministry. May he rest in peace and may he pray for us! We also remember in our prayers **Mollie Bissmeyer**, sister of Fr. Joe and our Sr. Ann Miriam, who also passed away this year on February 4.



“Thank you Fr. Joe!” These words were displayed on a platter of cupcakes during the reception we had upon his retirement as our Confessor.

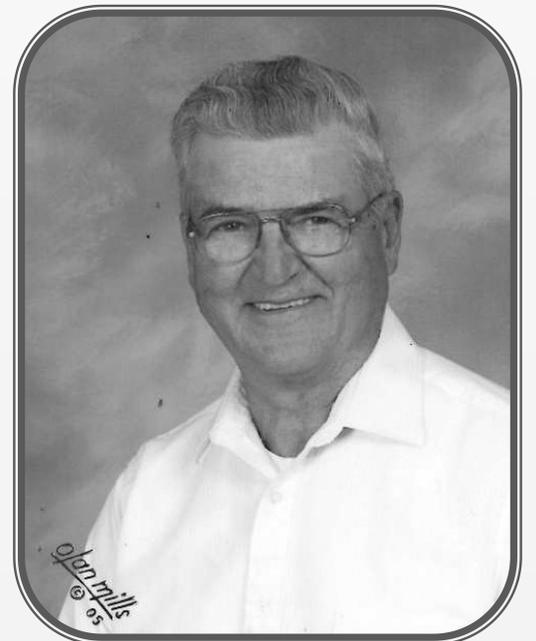
CHARLES SEITZ

Charles Edward Seitz, a brother of Sr. Mary Therese, passed away on April 27th at his home in Heber, Arizona, at the age of 90. He was surrounded by his beloved family. Charles was born September 16th, 1929 to John Martin Seitz and Rosa Lee (Englert) Seitz. He was raised in Paducah, Kentucky, and the eldest of eight children.

Charles enlisted in the Army, served in the Korean War two years, and was a recipient of a Purple Heart. His rank was Sergeant. In 1954 he married Grace Ruth Moran, and they raised 5 children in the Catholic faith in Phoenix, Arizona. They were married 35 years when Grace passed away. That is when Charles and his son built what was to be his retirement cabin in Heber, Arizona.

Heber is where he lived out the rest of his years as a devout Catholic and was a big part of his Church and community. He was also an amazing Dad, as one of his daughters remarked. Life was not easy for him but his faith in God sustained him in the ups and downs of life until the end of his life journey. May Charles rest in peace in the Heart of his God.

We also remember **Paul Rohling**, who passed away April 28, 2020. He was the brother of one of our foundresses, Sr. Mary Bernadette, and stayed close to our community even after her death in 2008. We extend condolences to all his family, especially to his brother, **Bob Rohling**.



FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



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Cherish the Flame

Help us get a new roof
during our Jubilee Year!

*Don't miss the news
on Page 10.*

Find out how you
can be a part of our
"Cherish the Flame"
Building Campaign.

