

# From the Foot of the Cross



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

Easter 2018

## *So Shall the King Desire Your Beauty: First Passionist Profession of Vows*

*Sr. Maria Faustina, CP*

Alleluia! In this joyous Easter season, our chapel is filled with white Easter lilies, but not very long ago it was decked out with glorious white flowers for a different celebration: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the “wedding day” of our Sr. Maria Faustina! On December 8, 2017, Sr. Maria Faustina consecrated herself to a life of loving union and imitation of Our Lord through our five Passionist vows. Our Immaculate Mother Mary was surely smiling down on her daughter in a special way! Here is a reflection from the heart of the new bride herself on the Marian feast of her Profession day:

*God's gift to Mary in being immaculately conceived puts her in a privileged position to help all of us with a Mother's love, and she is Mother in a special capacity to those who are called to religious life. As the spotless Bride, she draws us by her beauty (the beauty which is a crystal clear reflection of God Who is Infinite Beauty) to imitate her and do all we can to become beautiful brides for Christ. When we entrust ourselves to Mary, she helps to make us radiant brides of Christ. As spotless Mother, she has a completely self-giving and self-sacrificial love and is a model especially for contemplatives, to spend their lives in generous prayer and sacrifice for love of God and for the salvation of souls. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, was perfectly open and receptive to God, and she inspires, teaches, and aids religious to do the same and to be particularly faithful to their vocation.*

To view more photos from the profession, along with the homily preached by Fr. Lou Caporiccio, CPM, visit our website at [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org).



*“The Blessed Virgin shares with them the love which enables them to offer their lives every day for Christ and to cooperate with him in the salvation of the world.”*

*- Vita Consecrata*



Sr. Maria Faustina professes the five Passionist vows into the hands of Mother John Mary



Sr. Mary Veronica and Sr. Maria Faustina bring the gifts to the altar



Mother John Mary, newly-professed Sr. Maria Faustina, and Bishop Medley



# Barn Raising

"I do not remember ever having asked anything of St. Joseph that he did not grant me, nor can I think without amazement of the great graces God grants through his intercession." Ask anyone living here at St. Joseph Monastery, and she will readily affirm these words of St. Teresa of Avila. The stories of how St. Joseph has manifested his fatherly care and protection over us throughout the seventy-two years since our foundation are manifold, especially at the time of our relocation from Owensboro to Whitesville. Many of you surely remember that exciting and Spirit-led project, as we too remember with gratitude your generous assistance and support. It's hard to believe that more than twenty years have passed; our newest members were still babes-in-arms when the 'new' monastery was being built!

As we continue our twenty-third year in Whitesville, we find ourselves facing several maintenance needs and improvements. This year, we have added a Maintenance Supervisor to our payroll. St. Joseph brought us the perfect man for the job, Ronnie J. Mayfield (yes, 'J' is for Joseph!). We also have invested in a small utility vehicle, an invaluable help for the grounds-keeping needs of our 170 acres. Currently, we have two building projects underway, which will provide much-needed workspace for our two maintenance men, and storage and organization space for outdoor maintenance equipment.

These projects, added to the ongoing costs of basic upkeep of our monastery and grounds, have been a significant financial investment for us this year. However, convinced as we are of the necessity of these efforts at this time, we are moving forward with confidence in the guidance and help of St. Joseph. We also look to you, our faithful 'St. Joseph's helpers'. Please consider making a donation to help us maintain our monastery and grounds as a sacred place of prayer for our community, guests, and retreatants for decades to come.

**May God bless and reward you,  
through the intercession of St. Joseph!**

*Photos clockwise from top:* 1) Ronnie Mayfield and wife Patsy—besides Ronnie's work as our maintenance supervisor, they both have provided our community with invaluable friendship and service over many years! 2) Our chaplain, Fr. Lou Caporiccio, CPM, blesses the new Kubota UTV. 3) Sister Mary Therese at the UTV garage and maintenance supervisor's office. 4) Sister Mary Andrea and Sr. Frances Marie with the tree roots cleared from the site of a new barn.





# ANNOUNCING

## *Our New and Improved Website*

In payment for a 40-day retreat, **Mary Shaffer** from Minnesota offered to build us a new website. We couldn't resist her offer, and with the help of Sr. Cecilia Maria, Mary has designed a beautiful new look. Thanks, Mary!



Check it out TODAY at [www.passionistnuns.org](http://www.passionistnuns.org).



## *A Loving Remembrance of Our Deceased*

### Jean Lee Overfield

Passionist Oblate Affiliate Christie Swanson lost her oldest sister, Jean Lee Overfield, on May 23, 2017. After a day of working out in her yard, Jean suffered a stroke and died two days later.

She was an office manager for 15 years at Max Arnold and Son Petroleum in Hopkinsville. She had lost her husband just a year and a half earlier and is survived by two sons, two stepsons, one daughter, and three stepdaughters.

Jean was a gentle, kind, and compassionate woman, very active in her community and church. Many family members and friends did not realize how generous Jean had been in recent years until the day of her funeral. There they heard about how Jean was so well loved, especially by the youth. Every Wednesday night Jean provided, all by herself, a delicious home-cooked meal to about 50 youth in the surrounding community. She also loved to tutor the youth who were struggling in school. She was always there to provide a helping hand. A dear friend of Jean's told the story of how she volunteered to make a wedding meal after learning just the day before that the caterer had canceled on the couple.

May the Lord reward Jean for all the ways she showed His love to others.



### Melvin Bernard Wathen



In 1992, when Melvin, recently retired, heard that we were relocating from Owensboro to 150 acres in Whitesville, KY, he felt inspired to make one piece of artwork for the new monastery—a near life-sized bust of St. Joseph the Worker. Once he completed that project, St. Joseph really got a hold of him, and soon Melvin was carving Stations of the Cross, flower stands and candle holders for the chapel plus a small Sorrowful Mother statue for each nun's cell. That really "hooked" him on his new role as St. Joseph's Helper (he would sign his name, SJH), and he continued volunteering at least one day weekly, putting his electrical and jack-of-all-trades skills to good use for 13 years!!

Throughout these years, Melvin (sometimes with the help of his sons Steve and Dennis) began leaving his mark on nearly every area of our Chapel, retreat house and monastery. Many handcrafted pieces of artwork were made for our small Passionist Inspiration shop in

the retreat house, and several large crucifixes were mounted in various places of prayer throughout our entire structure.

On November 30, 2017, Melvin went to his eternal reward, joining the love of his life, Mary Eleanor Wathen, who preceded him in death by 6 years, and for whom he devotedly cared in her last years of illness. May the Lord reward Melvin for his unspeakable goodness towards us. Well-done good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Master.

We remember also in prayer **Katie Kinley**, niece of Sr. Therese Marie, and **Michelle Clark**, niece of Sr. Marie Michael, who passed away recently. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and give peace to their families.

# FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Passionist Nuns  
8564 Crisp Road  
Whitesville, Kentucky 42378-9782



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Dear Family and Friends,

We greet each of you with Paschal joy and an assurance of our prayers during this Sacred Easter Season!

As always, we are deeply grateful for the blessing of your friendship in Christ. By your prayers and donations, you help make our life of prayer possible, and by your lively faith and the intentions you share with us, you keep us 'on our knees' and give us the joy of lifting you up in prayer. Please remember us in a special way this year, as we embark on some exciting new maintenance endeavors!

Each year, on the second Friday after Easter, we have in our Passionist tradition the commemoration of the Glorious Wounds of Our Lord. Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen in glory, still bears the marks of nails and spear (cf. John 20:20). Why does Our Lord still bear in His risen Body these memorials of His Passion? These precious wounds are signs for us. We see in them mercy, for from them poured forth the Precious Blood, atonement and sanctification for us sinners. We see enduring proofs of the love of our Redeemer, Who loved us and gave Himself up for us on the Cross. We see signs of hope, teaching us to "rejoice in the measure that we share Christ's sufferings", for as the wounds He bore for us are now made glorious, so the wounds we bear in this life's struggles will become for us a share in His glory.

During this Easter Season, gaze with us upon Jesus Our Redeemer; may His saving love embrace you and your families, and His Holy and Glorious Wounds guard and protect you!

In Christ Crucified and Risen,

*Mother John Mary and Community*

