

# Venite

# Adoremus

Spring / Summer 2015

The Newsletter of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration of Sancta Clara Monastery



## From the Desk

Dear friends, near and far!

Now that the Season of Spring is breaking through the snow-filled days and forbidding nights of Winter, may our frozen hearts be even more eager for the refreshment of Christ's Resurrection and New Life! And we, your Poor Clares, are coming once again with thoughts to share and greetings to offer.

Mindful of this year's special focus on those working in God's Vineyard as consecrated religious, we want to tell you that we feel truly humbled and grateful for the beautiful encouragement our Holy Father, Pope Francis I, has extended to us. No less so, of the way he invites all the People of God to join in our behalf with a unity of support and encouragement!

While our particular mission to all is that of giving support through our prayers, personal commitment to daily conversion and sharing of the Eucharistic life with perpetual exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, we rely in turn on your encouragement and support in giving praise and witness to God and His Eternal Plan for all people. Everywhere, there are challenges, even the most serious challenges that only prayer can address. Not cut off by our enclosed lives and our toils around the monastery, we feel a genuine communion of longing and striving as you do, of those perennial challenges we all must face while we bring everything to God and lay it into His hands with simple trust. The world, which does not know Him is unable to trust Him and constantly vies for powers and accumulations. Who among us is not tempted by this spirit and the violence it engenders? By this we know that there must be some who aspire to give away all in order to stand and pray, day and night, before the Face of God! By this we

find every confirmation of our vocation in Mother Church. And by our common weakness, we beg that you will always lend us the support of your prayers and aid, and forgive us in so far as our weakness fails.

As we close this time of sharing, let us offer to each one of you, with a broken but sincere heart, the Awesome Blessings of the Almighty, Good God, to be with you in every joy and sorrow, and shine out as a support that never fails! May the consecration of our One, Holy, Catholic Baptism in the Risen Lord find its richest expression in you as you seek to fulfill the vocation God has given to each and everyone of you!

Most gratefully,  
Mother Magdalen and Community



From Left to Right - Front row : Sr. Marie Joseph, Sister Joan Marie and Sister Mary Justin  
Back row: Sister Marion Celine, Sister Mary Gertrude, Sister Mary Agnes, Mother Magdalen, Sister Mary Immanuel and Sister Marie Dominique



## Celebrating Milestones

This year of 2015 is a year of milestones in our Sancta Clara Community.

- \* 10 years of Bread and Soup Days
- \* 60 years of vowed life for Sister Joan Marie
- \* 100 years of life for Sister Mary Anna

In this issue of our newsletter we share about each of these significant milestones.



This year, we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our Bread and Soup sales, which began with the modest tickler of a \$300.00 cinnamon bun sale. As we all know, the cost of living has risen considerably. It is because of your great support in our tentative endeavor that these sales have been a vital ongoing addition to our overall financial needs; we are so grateful!

It took off in March of 2005, under the inspiration and leadership of Mother Marion Celine Zeltman, with our initial offerings being sales of wedding soup and wheat bread. Thanks to an article in the Repository Newspaper, the word got around town and we were flooded that day with more customers than we'd ever seen for any of our previous monastery fundraisers. The whole town came out, as it were, to buy our foodstuffs; we were both elated and terrified. Since then, we've increased the menu options to include six types of breads, cheesecake, and five different soups, along with seasonal specials. When we were outgrowing our preparation space, in 2011, under the leadership and direction of Mother Magdalen Colson along with the blessing of good benefactors, we were able to convert a portion of our monastery into a fully functioning bread kitchen.

That this venture has not only lasted a decade but has also expanded and thrived is a vibrant testament to both our Sister Cooks, the Community at work

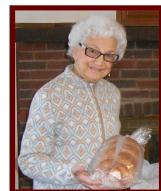
and our wonderful staff of volunteers, who range in age from eleven to ninety-one! These monastery friends not only assist with the baking, cooking, and selling, but also cheerfully perform the less glamorous tasks, from deboning the chickens to mopping the floors. The ever-present unpredictability of Ohio weather has not daunted anyone's dedication. Although, thus far, we do not do deliveries, when an elderly customer experienced an emergency situation, volunteers drove to the home with the order!

And an additional challenge is that, as well as a pre-order option, Sancta Clara continues to operate a much visited walk-in table, of which anticipating the food demands is as uncertain as the weather. We appreciate the patience of our customers, who understand that we do our best to gauge how much to make, and who remember that we are not a bakery, but a monastery. No matter how frantic or busy we are, we Poor Clares invest our foodstuffs with the deep prayer life of our vocational calling, an ingredient not found in any food market elsewhere! We know that adoration is our mission, and we never fail to take the prayers of our friends in the outside world—YOU—to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



We would like to take this occasion to express our gratitude towards one of our first volunteers, Vicki Richard. Now at age ninety-one, she continues to serve here as a receptionist as well as a veteran bread and soup organizer. Days in advance of the sale, Vicki sets up the pre-order station, making sure that it has all the items needed, including the fresh breadstick that is to be handed out to our littlest customers! A person of outstanding energy, you'll never see her sitting down: she brings in the soup, bags the breadsticks, and packs the boxes, all the while keeping a running count of every food item. Her unbridled enthusiasm and attention to detail drive the success of the pre-order operation. In short, she's a volunteer exemplar whose act we love to see imitated!

God bless you, Vicki, for all you continue to do for Sancta Clara Monastery. And thanks be to God, Who has bestowed the inspirations, talents, abilities and opportunity of serving the local community in this very basic and homey way!



Vicki Richards





## Sister Joan Marie Jones to celebrate years of Vowed Life

# 60

On August 22, our Sister Joan Marie will celebrate 60 years of vowed life. A Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at the monastery at 10:30 AM. We invite you to be with us for this celebration. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

In 1955, Sister Joan Marie Jones made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1960 made her final profession. After spending fifteen years as an elementary school teacher, Sister transferred to Sancta Clara Monastery, having discerned a call to contemplative life, and made her solemn profession in 1976 as a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration.

During these years, Sister has contributed in many ways to our community life - serving as Abbess for nine years (1984 - 1993), writing musical compositions for our liturgies, adorning our altars with flowers, creating flower gardens on the cloister grounds, preparing liturgies, and participating in our community prayers and projects.



## Notre Dame Years



## PCPA Years

### Sister's Vocational Journey: 60 Years of Grace

- 1951: Became an aspirant to the Sisters of Notre dame in Cleveland.
- 1953: Became a novice in the Order.
- 1955: Took temporary vows, began teaching primary grades.
- 1960: Made perpetual vows as a Sister of Notre Dame.
- 1960 – 1975: Taught grades 1 through 8 at several parochial schools. Attended Scranton University during summers and obtained Master's Degree in Education.
- 1975: Answering the persistent call to contemplative life, entered the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration in Canton.
- 1976: Made perpetual profession as a Poor Clare.

From Sister Joan Marie:

It is with grateful heart that I celebrate these 60 years of vowed life, the gift of God's great love. I thank all those who have supported me during this 60-year journey, through their prayer, instruction, friendship, and example.

You are all a part of God's immense goodness poured out on me in the course of my journey, and very dear to me, therefore, a very important part of what I celebrate in this Eucharist, this thanksgiving.



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*Sister Mary Anna's*

*th*



*Birthday*



**I**



On March 14, our Sister Mary Anna reached her 100th birthday! We celebrated the occasion with her at Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio where together with our other two members, Sister Mary Frances, 92 and Sister Mary Assumpta, 91, they have been cared for so lovingly since the time when we were no longer adequately able to do so here at the monastery.

We wish to express our gratitude to the staff at Regina Health Center for the excellent care they provide for our sisters.



From Left to Right - Front Row: Sister Mary Francis, Sister Mary Anna and Sister Mary Assumpta

Back Row: Sister Mary Gertrude, Mother Magdalen, Sister Marie Dominique, Sister Marion Celine and Sister Mary Immanuel.



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