



*Marian Sisters
of Santa Rosa*

2257 Hoen Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405



Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa **Ex Corde Ecclesiae** ALL FOR JESUS, ALL THROUGH MARY

Winter 2020

Sweet Infant Jesus teach us to love Thee!

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa extend heartfelt Advent and Christmas Greetings to each of you with the first line of a prayer especially cherished by those consecrated to Jesus through Mary,

“O Jesus, living in Mary, Come and live in Thy Servants!”

The whole world rejoices at this time of year (virus or no virus), as we celebrate the unsurpassable self-gift of Jesus Christ, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary and lying in a manger for our salvation. Mankind responds to this Divine Love with joyous, sacrificial charity towards others.

How fitting it is that during this season of self-gift that we share with you in this newsletter reflections about the Perpetual Profession of Vows made by two of our Sisters. After many years of formation and loving fidelity to their consecrated lives, Sr. Mary Vianney and Sr. Caritas Marie freely professed vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience for life. Our hearts still ring with the words our Sisters prayed in our presence after they received their symbolic gold rings:

“To Jesus, my Heart, my All, Forever! Mary, my Mother, keep me faithful unto death!”

In Perpetual Profession each Sister brings to perfection the full gift of herself as a sacrifice offered to God in imitation of Jesus Christ. Under the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Sister's whole existence then becomes a continuous worship of God in love. The Sister seeks to love God who first loved us and showed us in His Incarnation the great mystery of true self-gift.

We Sisters are ever mindful of the gift each of you are to us in your loving and prayerful support of our community. May God's blessings be upon you as we begin the New Year of 2021. We pray that Our Blessed Mother wraps her mantle of protection over you and your loved ones as we continue to offer to God the unique sufferings of our times.

Gratefully Yours in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Reverend Mother Teresa Christe MSSR

Reverend Mother Teresa Christe, MSSR

Our Christmas Prayer For You



May the Infant Jesus bless you;
May His baby hands caress you;
May the tender smile of Mary
Free your heart from every care.
May St. Joseph guard and guide you;
On life's road keep close beside you;
May the Holy Family love you
Is our fervent Christmas Prayer.



In thanksgiving for all of God's blessings through the prayers and support of our benefactors, our annual Christmas Novena will be offered especially for you, your loved ones, and your intentions.

May the Divine Infant, through the intercession of the His Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph, fill your hearts with His love, peace, and joy during this Christmastide; and may God shower His graces and blessings upon you and your loved ones as the New Year begins.



To support our growing family visit:
www.mariansisters.com/giving



To Jesus ... Forever

There are some elements that are universal to the Perpetual Profession rite, regardless of the community. However, the Church allows, nay encourages and commands her daughters to have some aspects that are particular to their community. These unique aspects of our Perpetual Profession ceremony are what we will share with you.

There are chants associated with the Perpetual Profession rite and they are beautiful indeed. However, one can say that the whole rite itself is one beautiful, melismatic chant – rising and falling throughout the ceremony itself.

“Venite”

The Sisters to be professed are referred to as the *Sponsae*, the spouses. This reminds us of a chant from our First Profession ceremony, the *Veni Sponsa Christi* – Come Spouse of Christ – and the Perpetual Profession is the fulfillment and ratification of those vows made at the First Profession.

Our manner of Calling the Sponsae is a particular custom from the traditional rite for Profession. The Sponsae begin Mass in the back of the Cathedral. Only after the Gospel does the Bishop, who stands in the place of Christ, call the Sponsae forward. “Venite,” he chants “Come.” And the Sponsae answer, “*Et nunc sequimur*” – “and I follow.” The Sponsae rise with their lighted candles and move up to the center of the aisle and kneel again. The Bishop chants again, “Venite.” This time, the Sponsae chant in response, “*Et nunc sequimur in toto corde*” – “And I follow with all my heart.” They again move up and kneel before the sanctuary, and the Bishop chants, “Come, daughters, hear me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord,” and the Sisters respond, “And now I follow with all my heart; I fear Thee and seek Thy face. O Lord, do not put me to confusion, but deal with me in Thy meekness and according to the multitude of Thy mercy.” Thus have the Sponsae been brought forward through the voice of Bridegroom speaking through His representative, the Bishop.

“The Pall and the Litany of the Saints”

The next phrase in the chant of the Perpetual Profession ceremony is the prostration during the Litany of the Saints. The Sponsae prostrate themselves before the altar and are covered with the black funeral pall by our Foundresses. The Bishop reminds the Sponsae that they are dead to the world. These are not morbid acts, but profoundly beautiful symbols of Sponsae’s death to self and the world for Christ. The Bishop implores the people present and the entire court of Heaven to intercede for the Sponsae and the traditional Litany of the Saints is chanted. The Sponsae reflected afterward that this was a wonderful preparation for making vows. To be so physically low before Our Lord – vulnerable and offering Him everything – is a foreshadowing of the action to come. We are also blessed within the traditional Litany to have the Bishop rise and chant three invocations asking God to bless, sanctify, and consecrate the Sponsae.

“Suscipe”

After the profession of vows, wherein the Sponsae pledged themselves to Christ in the ineffable bonds of holy poverty, chastity, and obedience until death, the Sisters kneel at the altar rail and chant the “Suscipe”- “*Suscipe me, Domine, secundum eloquium tuum et viviam, et non confundas me ad expectatione mea.*” “Receive me, O Lord, according to Thy word, and I shall live: and let me not be confounded in my hope” (from Psalm 119). It is a special element of the rite, for now that the Sponsae are perpetually professed, they implore Our Lord to receive them in His great mercy. A fitting response to the great gift given by the King and Spouse.

“Gold Ring”

The next phrase in the chant that is Perpetual Profession is the reception of the gold ring. The Bishop blesses and exorcises the ring that it may be a reminder of the vows, a particular safeguard to chastity, and protection from the evil one. Again, the Bishop stands in the place of Christ and places the ring on the finger of the Sponsa kneeling before him. She kisses her ring and declares, “To Jesus my heart, my all, forever. Mary, my Mother, keep me faithful until death.” In fact, the first part of this phrase is engraved on the interior of the ring. After receiving the ring, the schola chants the traditional chant “*Annulo suo,*” which is taken from the words of St. Agnes: “With His ring my Lord Jesus Christ has betrothed me, and He has adorned me with the bridal crown.” Following this, the Sponsae pronounce more words of St. Agnes, but applying them to herself, “I am the bride of Him Whom the Angels serve, Who the sun and moon gaze upon with admiring wonder. The Lord Jesus has placed His ring upon my finger. He has clothes me in the character of His spouse.” These words can – and ought – to be meditated on for the rest of the Sponsae’s life.



“Crown of Thorns”

The final movement in this chant of Perpetual Profession that will be mentioned is the reception of the Crown of Thorns. At our First Profession, we receive a crown of white and red roses, symbolizing purity and martyrdom. Now, we receive the Crown of Thorns from Reverend Mother and are admonished that they are to remind us that we are forever joined to Christ Who Himself wore the Crown of Thorns. By wearing ours faithfully, He will present us with the Crown of Glory in Heaven. It reminds us of the beautiful words of St. Faustina, “The Bride must resemble the Bridegroom”.

