



Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa Ex Corde Ecclesiae

ALL FOR JESUS, ALL THROUGH MARY

SPRING 2019

Laudetur Jesus Christus! *Praised be Jesus Christ!*

Dearest Friends in Christ,

Ave Regina Caelorum! Hail, Queen of Heaven!

This newsletter will reach you and your families just as we are about to celebrate the most sacred and grace filled days of the Liturgical Year. The days of Holy Week and Easter call each of us to be united to Christ in the Paschal Mystery through the Sacred Liturgy. There is no better way to do this than to keep company with Mary – to strive to see each of Jesus' redemptive acts through her eyes while pondering them with her in our hearts.

While the Marian Sisters nurture our interior life in the spirit of the Liturgical Year, we also embrace the apostolate for the salvation of the world and the building up of the Church. This sense of mission is at the very heart of our religious consecration and urges each of us to bring the fruits of our devotion, worship, and contemplation to the souls we meet every day – at school, in the offices of the Bishop, during catechetical instruction, among the elderly, and in our hidden labors within the convent home.

The articles and pictures you will enjoy in this issue are an evident expression of a beautiful line from our Constitutions inspired by Canon 675.1: "Our whole life is to be imbued with the apostolic spirit, while our apostolic actions are animated by a religious spirit."

No greeting would be complete, from our hearts to yours, without a sincere "Thank you" for all you do in prayer, encouragement, and financial support to give the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa the opportunity to serve the Church. We joyfully await the arrival of a new group of postulants in early August 2019! Please keep Rebecca, Noelia, Anne, and Kelsey in your good prayers as they prepare to give themselves to Christ through Mary.

With Prayers and Sincere Wishes for a Blessed Easter,

From all the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa,

Mother Teresa Christe MSSR
Mother Teresa Christe, MSSR





Serving Christ

"Our gift of self...finds expression in dedication to divine service and the works of the apostolate."

Striving to be Mary's heart and hands in the world, our apostolate takes on many forms. At the local diocesan high school, Cardinal Newman, Mother teaches theology for both freshmen and sophomore students. There she communicates the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of our faith to the youth on a daily basis. Two of our Sisters are assigned to the Cathedral school, where they are the music instructors for the whole school and religion teachers for the junior high students. These Sisters act as coordinators for the school Masses and prayer services. What a joy to prepare souls to worship their God in a reverent and humble way, like Our Lady!

Several members of the community assist in the Chancery offices. Working directly for the Bishop has been quite a blessing. With the Blessed Sacrament chapel in the office building, Sisters are able to pay frequent visits to Jesus who is always there to welcome them. We have a Sister serving as the Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools. This administrative position allows her to be involved in the development of various programs for our diocesan schools, including a Catholic Music Festival, training for teachers to obtain a basic catechist certificate, a retreat for the principals, and more. Seeking to be a Mary-like presence, one of the Sisters assists in the Diocesan Tribunal, while a third Sister oversees the capital campaign and Annual Ministry Appeal.

The Sisters in initial formation have as their first and primary apostolate the adoration of God. Seeking Him by assiduous prayer and through living a hidden life, they grow in their love of the Divine Bridegroom and with this love comes a greater love for the souls whom He loves. This love is also expressed in a few external apostolates. They are involved in teaching for the Cathedral Parish School of Religion. The Parish School of Religion is a religious education program for public school and homeschool students which meets every Tuesday during the school year. They also pray the rosary at a local assisted living facility once a week. It is truly an honor to be able to spend time with these dear souls as they prepare for eternity.



Our Little Nazareth

We strive to magnify Jesus Christ, in union with Our Lady, by communicating the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of the Catholic faith through living the fullness of the Church's liturgical life. All that we do, and more importantly, who we are as Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, is directed by this charism.

This is just as true when we are teaching catechism, singing sacred music, and working in the sacristy, as when we are at home in our convent. In fact, it is in the simple, quiet living that we are best formed in the charism. However, the convent is not simply a training-ground for Sisters to go out into the apostolate. It is a sacred place where an intimate relationship with the Lord takes place.

It is also in the convent that we communicate the beauty, goodness, and truth of our faith. We communicate the beauty through our charity towards each

other, the living of Catholic culture, and appreciation of the beauty around us. We communicate the goodness in humble service to our Sisters through duties such as being the laundress, cook, or gardener. We communicate the truth through meditating on, studying, and discussing the Divine Truths of our faith. The peace and silence of the convent - our little Nazareth - also allows the Sister, and those who visit, to more deeply communicate with the good God Who is Beauty, Goodness, and Truth.

Beauty, goodness, and truth are also communicated through the living of the liturgical life in the convent. From the preparing of the vestments and sacred vessels by the sacristan to the choice of hymns to be sung, preparations for our conventual Masses are made with loving care and devotion. The Divine Office is chanted daily, although rarely heard by a soul outside the convent. We strive to provide the ideal of Holy Mother Church for the Sacred Liturgy by allowing the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Sacred Liturgy shine forth. In this, God is glorified and many graces are poured out - not just upon the Sisters but on the entire world.



Homesick for Heaven

"Conversatio nostra in coelis est..." (Philippians 3:20)



Because we are espoused to Christ, we have the privilege and honor of "playing heaven" on earth. Our life, a life *hidden with Christ in God*, is a foretaste of the life we will all live in heaven. It is a life in which Christ is *all in all* - our only Possession, our only Love, our only Way. Our anticipated participation gives joy to the heart, but because we are still this side of the Great Divide, it can only be an imperfect taste of the joys of heaven, leaving us at times experiencing a feeling of homesickness for heaven and our Divine Spouse.

Saint Paul encourages us on our journey, instructing us to keep *our conversation in heaven*. What better way to do this than through the Sacred Liturgy? After all, the Liturgy *is* the conversation of heaven. Christ offers His perfect sacrifice to the Father with the Holy Spirit amid the praise and adoration of the angels and saints in an endless conversation. Our daily worship allows us to enter into this great conversation, adding our small offering to that of the heavenly court.

Our daily liturgical "conversation" prompts a desire to continue this heavenly talk outside of the Liturgy - flowing forth as inspiration for our devotional life. After our tender love of the great Mother of God, our devotion to good Saint Joseph encourages us to turn confidently to him with our needs. According to our Constitutions, to him we entrust our temporal affairs and our vocations.



It is edifying to happen upon a Sister kneeling in recollection before Saint Joseph's shrine, earnestly entreating him to intercede for a particular intention, or devoutly thanking him for a favor received. It is to him that we turn at the beginning of each day's service, asking him to obtain for us the grace to do "All for Jesus, all through Mary, all in imitation of thee, O Patriarch Joseph."

We honor Saint Joseph for his fidelity to the interior life, asking him to obtain for us similar graces. His patronage we seek to live well with God, but even more earnestly do we beseech him to obtain for us the grace to die well with God and so attain heaven.

Update

We thank you most heartily, dear friends, for having been so generous! We just wanted to give you a quick financial update. Since our last newsletter, you have helped us bring the balance on the convent down another \$140,000!

Deo gratias!

74% of
goal met
\$500,000 left to raise



BBQ with the Marian Sisters

July 13, 2019

Smith Family Ranch
5390 Washington Street, Napa

For tickets and further information contact
Carole Duncan at dincan@aol.com