

IN JOY AND SORROW

Through our Marian Consecration, we strive to live as “Mary” wherever God places us. With the recent fires, the Sisters gave their “fiat” initially by running a temporary evacuation center at the Cathedral Parish, where they prepared meals and cared for the basic needs of those who had fled their homes. Now that we are in the recovery phase, we strive to help restore a new ‘normalcy’ to those who have lost so much: being a smiling presence on one of the four Cardinal Newman High School temporary campuses, delivering donuts and offering a cup of coffee to teachers, listening and praying with students, organizing the collection/distribution of donations to those in our Catholic Schools who have lost homes, and teaching lessons that go far beyond the textbooks. Just as Our Blessed Mother Mary shared in all the joys and sorrows of her Son’s life, we share in the joys and sorrows of all whom God places in our path. We hold God’s people, especially those who are suffering, in the silence of our hearts in prayer - a prayer that blossoms into active service of those in need, whether material or spiritual.



Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God’s people, assist the clergy as they minister to those who suffer, intercede for all, especially those who have been impacted by the devastation of fire. Mary, all who seek your help experience your unfailing protection, pray for us in our need. Amen



Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa

EX CORDE ECCLESIAE

— ALL FOR JESUS, ALL THROUGH MARY —

FALL 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Welcome to this issue of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, a kind of “Magnificat” for us to share with you. This season’s newsletter is full of testimonies of God’s unique blessing upon the Marian Sisters this past year – a year dedicated to the message of Fatima so cherished within our ranks. Your prayers and support have borne fruit in new vocations, the clothing of three new novices, first profession of vows for three Sisters, and a beautiful Perpetual Vow Mass for Sr. Maria Faustina of our Mother of Mercy, wherein she dedicated her life to Christ forever.

The summer of 2017 was notable for both spiritual and apostolic activities including annual retreats, educational opportunities, youth ministry in our own diocese and beyond, and the reception of two new candidates – Katie from Baton Rouge, LA and Rose Janae from Albuquerque, NM. These beautiful young women have increased the joy and inspiration we share within the community and with those we serve.

As our numbers increase, opportunities abound for the Marian Sisters to serve God and others. Fortified by worship and contemplation, the works of the Sisters expand beyond the convent walls to teaching, liturgical ministry, diocesan school visits, faith formation of youth, praying with the elderly, serving in the chancery offices and much more. The firestorm that recently descended upon our diocese presented opportunities to serve in evacuation shelters and in our diocesan schools. These ministries claimed our hearts, inspiring the maternal love which flows from our lives of consecration. In everything we say and do, we endeavor to be Mary’s image in the world – her loving heart, her face, her hands and voice – to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Have a blessed Season of Advent and a grace-filled New Year!

Gratefully Yours in the Love of Christ,

Mother Teresa Christe MSSR

Mother Teresa Christe, MSSR



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"I am the Lady of the Rosary."

AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

The year 1917 was a momentous one for the world. For the first time in history, mankind was caught in the throes of a world war, without a remedy in sight. Yet on May 13th of that year in a humble village in Portugal, heaven opened and the Queen of Heaven stepped down to our poor war-torn earth. To three young uneducated shepherd children she gave the necessary remedy to the world's illness—a message of hope and peace. Her words were a faithful echo of the Gospel: amendment of life, prayer, penance, and consecration. During each of the six apparitions, she repeated the need to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world.



A hundred years later, we look around at a world even more in need of a Mother's care and solicitude, still torn asunder by sin and violence. And so how do we, at this late hour, as Marian Sisters live Our Lady's requests? First of all, by the faithful living of our vocation as consecrated brides of Christ—to strive to do even the smallest action of each day with much love. The angel of Portugal instructed the children *"make everything you do a sacrifice."* Secondly, by daily praying and living the mysteries of the Rosary, praying in a particular way for world peace and the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart. And thirdly, by daily living our total consecration to Jesus through Mary. What does this mean but imitating Our Lord Jesus Christ who chose to come to us as a helpless infant and to entrust Himself totally to His Virgin Mother Mary. Each day as the clock in our refectory strikes the hour, we renew our consecration by praying, *"I take thee for my all, give me thy heart, O Mary,"* followed by the Fatima sacrifice prayer. In this way, we seek to fulfill Our Lady's requests and hasten the time of the triumph of her Immaculate Heart in our hearts and in the whole world.



HIS SPOUSE FOREVER

"I am the spouse of Him whom the angels serve, who sun and moon gaze upon in admiring wonder. The Lord Jesus has placed His ring on my finger. He has clothed me in the character of His spouse." These words are spoken by the perpetually professed Sister as the Bishop, in the place of Christ, places the wedding band on her finger. Forever given to Christ, the Sister will now love through His Heart all that Divine Providence will entrust to her. In her marriage bond she will walk with Him - poor, chaste, and obedient - all the days of her life, bearing fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. If she is faithful to all that is asked of her, upon her death she will be led by the angels into the company of her spouse. Trials of life having passed away, she will have won the promise of eternal life with Him, her one true love.



It is our custom after a Mass of Profession for the newly professed Sister to kneel with her community before the image of Our Lady of Fatima. There at the foot of their spiritual Mother, each Sister renews her act of consecration to the Blessed Mother in the formula given to us by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. As Marian Sisters we entrust everything, even our vows, to Our Lady who continues to guide, enlighten, and support us each and every moment of our lives, perfecting all our actions undertaken for love of her Divine Son.



We are thankful to all our benefactors and friends who were able to attend (spiritually or physically) Sister Maria Faustina's Perpetual Profession. Sister made her final profession on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 23rd, in the Church of St. Joseph in Cotati, California. Her vows were pronounced during the "Hour of Mercy", as was the Holy Will of the Father who arranged everything as it should be.

LEADING LITTLE ONES TO JESUS

One of the apostolates I am blessed to help with is teaching a weekly catechism class of third grade students at the Cathedral parish. Each week, I spend a portion of my daily duty time preparing my lesson – reading over the material, writing out my lesson plans, gathering materials for activities; but most importantly, I spend time before Our Eucharistic Lord in the chapel to pray over the material before I teach it. Taking the material to prayer, allows it to become assimilated into my mind, my heart, my soul. Our Lord enhances what would be lifeless facts by imbuing them with His life and His grace. Prayer is the most important thing I can do for my students. With the help of Jesus and Mary, guided by the Holy Spirit, I am far more able to teach the important truths of our Faith. It becomes not I who teach, but Christ Who teaches in me (cf. Gal. 2:20), imparting not merely facts, but His very self to the students.

Rooted in a life of religious consecration and prayer, my teaching is far more fruitful than anything I could accomplish by my efforts alone. I may plant the seed (or water the seed which another has planted) but in the end, it is God Who in His boundless generosity provides the growth and the fruit (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6-9). Through my teaching, I lead the children to Jesus, Who calls little children to Himself, and He then gives them the Kingdom of Heaven which belongs to them (cf. Lk. 18:16). I know I am teaching my students things that will be beneficial to them not just for this life, but that will lead them to the life to come, to true happiness with God.

~ Reflections of a Novice on teaching Catechism

WHERE WE ARE . . .

- Cathedral of St. Eugene
- St. Eugene Elementary School
- Cardinal Newman High School
- Diocese of Santa Rosa Chancery: Department of Catholic Schools, Tribunal, and Stewardship Office
- Brush Creek Senior Living
- Monthly visits to St. Apollinaris, St. John in Healdsburg, Kolbe Academy, Trinity Preparatory, St. Helena, St. Vincent, and St. Francis Solano Schools

"Catechists are the living texts by which students are evangelized."

Bishop Robert F. Vasa,
Canonical Founder of the Marian Sisters

WHAT WE DO . . .

- Pray, study and live for Jesus
- Teach the faith in schools
- Provide Sacred Music
- Teach Catechism classes
- Tend the sacristy at the Cathedral
- Serve in the Cathedral Office
- Minister in the Chancery Offices
- High School Campus Ministry
- Speak at retreats and camps
- Oversee the Marian Sodality
- Provide ongoing faith formation for college-age women

