



Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa

Ex Corde Ecclesiae

— ALL FOR JESUS, ALL THROUGH MARY —

SPRING 2022

Dearest Friends in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Salve Regina!

"In all things give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (Thess 5:18). If I were to summarize the past ten years in one scriptural word, it would be "gratitude". What began as a quiet call from God, a consequent vision of authentic religious life, and the gracious response of our dear Bishop, Bishop Robert F. Vasa, has become a new Community of Sisters for the service of God and His Church. This fledgling Community, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, is now, by God's grace, celebrating its tenth year in the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

From the very beginning of our Community's canonical establishment in 2012, Mother Marie de Lourdes and I were surrounded by an embrace of prayer, support, and encouragement from adults and children alike. This charity allowed our charism of communicating the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of the Catholic Faith through our living the fullness of the Church's liturgical life to grow from concept to reality.

I am most grateful to the courageous young women who have followed Christ's call to be the first "living stones" of Our Lady's community. Formed by the living of the Vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, and in our Marian spirituality, these young Sisters strive to be Our Blessed Mother's hands, heart, and voice to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Sisters bring souls to Christ through intercessory prayer, apostolates, and daily witness.

Please join us in prayer as we prepare to welcome new members in August. Our new Convent home gives us adequate space to continue to grow and live our lives as religious Sisters even more fully - Deo gratias! Attached to every vocation is the salvation of many souls and an outpouring of grace for the world. United together in the Mystical Body of Christ, we humbly ask you to pray for our perseverance and fidelity: perseverance to respond to every moment of God's grace, and fidelity to the complete gift of self through the Evangelical Counsels. Uniting with you in our respective vocations, we ask Our Blessed Mother for a share in her strength of mind and courageous will to bring Christ's peace and stability into our world.

As you enjoy this newsletter, we invite you to contemplate with us God's incredible blessings these past ten years.

With deepest gratitude, I commend you to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Reverend Mother Teresa Christe MSSR

Reverend Mother Teresa Christe, MSSR

Mater Dei Convent Updates

We wish to express our gratitude to all of you who continue to help us pay for our much-needed Convent. Through your generosity, we have been able to pay down \$650,000 on the \$2,115,000 private loan for Mater Dei Convent over the past year. May God reward you for the good you do for us!

In addition to paying on the loan, we have been able to accomplish several major projects thanks to a few major donors. A most impressive retaining wall was just completed to ensure that the hill does not slip down onto the road or the Convent. A beautiful cross was erected and blessed to overlook the Convent and surrounding areas. The lawn on the Chapel side of the Convent was restored, and the front and back security gates are operational. A thrilling new project is our Chapel renovation. Phase I is well underway. The old mosaic and floor tile have been replaced. A uniquely beautiful set of Stations of the Cross was donated and adds to the prayerfulness of the space. We are beginning to assess the replacement of the bubble glass windows with proper stained glass, and look forward to seeing our new Altar Reredos.

Please consider sponsoring one of our continuing projects:

Property:

- Privacy fence
- Restoration of irrigation systems
- Livestock fence
- Necessary indoor plumbing improvements
- Well
- Painting and other regular maintenance

Chapel

- Replace windows (14)
- Replace acoustic tile
- Stained glass inserts (14)
- Replace carpet with suitable flooring



10 Years of Mary's Hands & Heart in the Diocese

Our tenth anniversary has provided an opportunity to reflect on the blessings that God has bestowed upon our community. As we look around and see the flourishing, living stones Christ has called to found this community in this Diocese, our hearts are filled with gratitude. Our consecrated life is first and foremost a life of seeking assiduous union with God in prayer and in the interior life. The more this life increases, the more it flows forth into physical fruits - our apostolates. A number of our key apostolates began small, and in these ten years have grown and continue to serve the spiritual needs of the people of the Diocese.

Sacristy

The care of the sacristy is integral to our life as an expression of the liturgical aspect of our charism. As a part of each Sister's formation, she receives training in this specialized art of caring for the sacred. Since our founding, one of the Sisters has always served in the sacristy of the Cathedral, especially by caring for the sacred vessels and linens. As the Community has grown, we have been able to teach these skills to the laity of other parishes, helping in this hidden way to foster a greater reverence of the liturgy.



Sacred Music

Desiring to serve at the heart of the Church, the Sisters are grateful for the opportunity to express our charism by providing sacred music for the Cathedral's Latin Mass. By God's grace, this choir has grown from two to a dozen Sisters, not only providing music for the Latin Mass, but also for Diocesan, parish, and school liturgies. We are not, as a whole, trained musician, but it is remarkable how many times the laity approach the Sisters, to thank them for the sacred music which helped them to pray the Mass. This is our goal: first to worship God and second to help others to worship Him.



Education

One of the first aspects of our charism to be manifested was the education of God's little ones. Our Foundresses immediately began serving in the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office and teaching the Faith in one of the local schools. While not every Sister teaches in a formal classroom, every Sister communicates Beauty, Goodness, and Truth in her respective apostolate and through the witness of her life. We are now able to visit most of the schools in the Diocese on a regular basis, teach in two of the closest local Catholic schools, and serve in the Catholic Schools Faith Formation Office. It has been primarily in this apostolate that our relationship with the people of the Diocese has changed from *the* Sisters to *our* Sisters.



Catechesis

A unique gift our Foundresses brought to the Diocese is the Marian Sodality. As a group of young women who wish to grow in holiness and serve the Church in our Lady's spirit, Our Lady of Grace Sodality continues to strengthen young women and has born fruit through religious vocations and Christ-centered marriages. Soon after the beginning of the Sodality came the founding of the Parish School of Religion. From weekly sacramental preparation, this apostolate has grown to a K-12 faith formation program for the Cathedral parish. A delightful, more recent addition to our catechetical apostolates is the St. Eugene Home School Academy where the Sisters use a faith-based approach to teach a variety of subjects with children ranging from ages 4 - 16.



Growth



God called our Community into existence when our dear Bishop invited our two Foundresses to the Diocese in 2012. Since the beginning, they lived the spirit of the Charism given by the Holy Spirit through a life of prayer and apostolic service, specifically in the apostolates mentioned above. The early days were days of quiet fidelity as our Foundresses laid out the course our Community would follow. As our Lord called young women to join them in magnifying Jesus Christ in union with His Mother, we added to our apostolic presence in the Diocese, and in the process, outgrew three Convents. Finally, we are settled in a Convent which accommodates our current Sisters and gives us room to invite others to join us in our life of hidden prayer and apostolic service. Seen with the eyes of faith, the Sisters - living stones called by God - make visible the reality of God's unchanging love. Our apostolates fixed in the Diocese, our hearts fixed on Christ, our eyes fixed on heaven, it is by the vowed stability of our life that we are caught up into the great mystery of the creative love of God.



*"As the sister strives to be Mary's visible hands at work in the world,
Mary communicates to her something of her own spirit, her strength of mind, and her courageous will."
- Constitutions of the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa*