



Joyful Apostolate

SPRING 1975



Father Anthony Leuer and Sister Ida (center) during one of the diaconate programs with deacon candidates (from left to right) Dick Naumann, Elida Ortiz, wife of candidate Joe Ortiz, Tony Varesio, and Joaquin Fraters.

"I shall enter Your House, Lord." Pope Paul VI

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE PROGRAM was initiated in 1973 in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles under the direction of Father Peter Healy. Spiritual Director, Father Anthony Leuer, has asked us to participate in the spiritual formation of the candidates and their wives at the monthly days of recollection. In addition, our Sisters have launched a unique program of retreat days for the children of the candidates to help them understand and appreciate their fathers' calling. We receive much in serving these servants of the Church.

MAKING A "HAPPY NEW YEAR" FOR GOD

"The Church is with us and may the world be, too."

Pope Paul VI

We began the Holy Year on Christmas Eve at our Leadership Center with a candle-light procession and midnight Mass. After Mass we watched on television the Holy Father opening the "door of Justice" to herald the Holy Year, and heard him make his plea for all, near or far, to "Come!" In response to this plea, at 11 p. m., on New Year's Eve, we gathered in the chapel to await the coming of the New and Holy Year, united in prayer with Our Lord and with each other. Outside, the "bang" of fire-crackers announced the year 1975; inside, we rejoiced in another spirit, singing and praying for our families, friends, benefactors, co-workers, students and their families, our community and the world in which we live.



Our Sisters gather in the chapel for the Christmas Eve vigil.

New Year's Day began with Mass and singing at Los Angeles County Jail for women, where we accompanied Cardinal Manning. Afterwards, we gathered in our living room to enjoy the Rose Parade and then cheered our favorite team in the Rose Bowl game. In the evening we sat together in the warm glow of the Christmas tree and sang. We are grateful for moments like these in our community: happy to be Sacred Heart Sisters, sharing the riches of our vocation.

A TIME APART

"Mankind must take the step of interior transformation."

Pope Paul VI

There is a new excitement in our community - a thirty-day retreat for our Sisters who are to make their final Profession. Sister Ida, who received specialized formation to direct retreats from Father William Peters, S. J., gave this retreat to Sister Maria Luisa, Sister Mary Lu, Sister Judith and Sister Sharon. Sister Ida recognized the need for our Sisters to have a "time apart" with Our Lord in preparing to embrace the Evangelical Counsels, that is, to vow poverty, chastity and obedience to Our Lord FOREVER. For those thirty days our Sisters were in silent contemplation "standing in the Light with Scripture in our hands" (Fr. William Peters), celebrating the Liturgy daily and receiving individual spiritual guidance.

Any gift from God is meant for the good of all. We, as Sisters and as a community, experience the spiritual benefits of this retreat. Knowing that five of our Sisters are in constant contact with Our Lord renews within each of us the meaning of our own vocation.



"I will take her aside and speak to her heart," Hosea 2:14



A spiritual highlight while in Rome, was Sister Ida's private audience with Pope Paul VI.

Dear Friends,

God, in His loving kindness, has revealed Himself to me in many ways. All He asks of me is to pay attention to Him, to wait, listen and see His coming, through the most ordinary - and sometimes extraordinary - events of my life.

I was happy and full of expectations to start the Holy Year by giving a thirty-day retreat to our four Sisters who profess final vows this year. I did not choose the place; God provided a small, simple house on the ocean front.

When we moved in, I did not fully grasp what I was getting into! I had never lived at the Sea. I walked at the shore in the sunset, thoroughly drinking in the awesome beauty of the waves that drew patterns on the sand. At sunrise I hurried back to see the shore and found it completely different: new patterns, new shapes, new beauty. Every day different!

I deeply feel the truth in asking the Spirit of God to come and "renew the face of the earth"! He can re-do the immense Seashore; He can move us to unknown newness and beauty, if we are "there" like the sand, in our littleness, waiting for His coming, allowing ourselves to be touched, moved, renewed. I pray for this miracle for all of us: to "be renewed" during this Holy Year, with a deep understanding that it is His work and ours.

Affectionately yours in the Sacred Heart,

Sister Ida

DEAR POPE, . . .

"Mankind must take the courageous step of Moral Truth."

Pope Paul VI

We were inspired by these letters of our students at St. Frances X. Cabrini parish and would like to share them with you.

Dear Pope,

I shall try very hard to be a better person more than I have been, and forgive people. I will really try but I don't know if I can really forgive everyone. Please pray that I can. (boy 12)

Dear Holy Father,

I am glad you made this the Holy Year. I will try not to lie so much in this most Holy Year. I will try to be more truthful to others. (boy 12)

Dear Pope,

I am happy you made this the Holy Year. I intend to make myself a better person by suggesting to my Mom to go to church. I will try to help my friends to believe in God and to read the Bible. I will take the responsibility of my sister believing in God. (girl 12)

Dear Holy Father,

I am trying hard to be good in the Holy Year. In church I sit down and listen to God and the priest. My family is getting older and older, some of them I haven't seen in so long. I pray that they are well and safe. I will go to church every Sunday. (girl 13)

Dear Holy Father,

I am happy you made this a Holy Year. It is very special for me. I am being Confirmed and starting a whole new life. (boy 13)

Dear Holy Father,

For this Holy Year I will try very hard to make sure to say my prayers every night and day. (girl 12)