



Joyful Apostolate

Spring 2007

PROFESSION OF VOWS

The celebration of our Sisters' profession of the Evangelical Counsels was held in our Heart of Jesus Retreat Center on March 25th, Feast of the Annunciation.



R to L: Sister Ann Wang, Sister Jane Stafford, our Superior General, Bishop Tod Brown, Bishop of Orange CA. L: Sister Guadalupe Rodriguez and Sister Margaret Lee, both made first profession for two years. Front: Sister Jennifer Villa, renewal of temporary vows

Family and friends filled the chapel with faith and joy as the entire Church, and the community of saints were present when each Sister pronounced her vows publicly, in the joy of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was wonderful to have Sister Ann's entire family present from Taiwan to witness, as she professed her final vows.



Sister Ann pronounces her final vows..

Sister Ida continues

FROM WHEELCHAIR TO SKIING

In preparation for first Holy Communion, Cheyne attended a Retreat at the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center. He was in a wheelchair.

Sister Teresa asked him what was wrong with his legs, so he told her that he was diagnosed with a progressive disease for which there is no cure right now. His legs were very painful, "On a scale of 1 to 10, it is a 32," he said.

Sister Teresa was wearing a medal touched to Sister Ida's grave. She asked Cheyne if he would like wear it, and together they would ask for Sister Ida's intercession. Cheyne was happy to receive the medal!

The following year, Cheyne's mother brought him to the First Communion retreat of his younger sister. Cheyne was briskly walking along! His mother said that three weeks after he started wearing the medal touched to Sister Ida's grave his pain level went to a zero; Cheyne could walk unassisted, which was completely impossible before, and he even went snow skiing!

He continued to wear the medallion and never took it off. The amazing thing is the drastic change in his condition in such a short time period. His doctors cannot explain the drastic change.

About a year later, Cheyne and his whole family attended the solemn blessing of the Sacred Heart Monument at Sister Ida's gravesite.

OFF THE RESPIRATOR

Kevin had come off the respirator the day after Sister Ida's medal was taped to the head of his bed... The doctor did not understand what caused this rapid turnaround.

Maria Bair

SISTER IDA IN HER OWN STYLE

Sister Ida introduced a new "style," a new manner of sainthood, indeed A NEW WAY...[showing that] serving God is not a "sacrifice," it is a Joyful Apostolate. *Isabel Piczek*

My daughter's roommate was out of work for a year. I found a copy of Sister Ida's panic prayer - she now has a great job... I found this prayer at my church. *Rumbo*

Words cannot express the joy I felt when I was given "The Source of Our Joy" by Sister Ida! It has renewed my spirit! Immediately, I felt a warm feeling like I was sitting in the sun. I read her biography and then the booklet and could

the Joyful Apostolate!

not put it down till I finished it. I have a low back problem... I am walking straighter and faster, plus I feel happier and feel connected to her. *Mae Frampton*

I keep Sister Ida's thoughts with me at my desk. I find myself peeking at it three or four times a day just for the reassurance of her faith in God. She certainly appears to have been an amazing woman. *Tim Walsh, account analyst.*

In thanksgiving for (3) three impossible favors granted through the intercession of Sister Ida. Some urgent legal paper work... passport in India... my daughter-in-law has delivered a healthy baby." *Joyce D'Rozario*

I have used Sister Ida's thoughts as part of my class prayers and the students like them. *Lisi*

Sister Ida was always special to me and the church she served so well. Looking forward to the day when her sanctity will be given more formal Church recognition.

Msgr. Cyril Navin

CHILDREN WRITE TO SISTER IDA

Sister Ida, thank you for all the wonderful things you did in this world. You devoted your life to proclaim GOD's words, special with example in loving forgiving patient compassion. Now you see God. Pray for us. *From Vicky*

Sister Ida, how does it feel to meet Jesus? I am happy that you are in heaven. *From Michael.*

In memory of Sister IDA. Though you are not here with us now, but your teachings and words will always be with us all. Love, Birk.

LET SISTER IDA INSPIRE YOU!

"YES, LORD!" The joyful response of Sister Ida to the plan of God: the story of her own vocation and how God was leading her to begin the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart. 68 pages.

"THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY" Thoughts of Sister Ida, a first collection from her talks and letters. Pocket edition.

"THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH" More thoughts of Sister Ida, inspiring with profound simplicity. Pocket size.

"GOD HAS A HEART FOR YOU" C.D. with songs of the Sacred Heart Sisters, joyfully singing of the love of God.

"LOVE DOES SUCH THINGS" Christmas C.D. Every day is Christmas with this CD. Celebrate the coming of Christ every day as you join the Sisters in song.



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"We are sent by Christ and He sends us"

JOYS IN OUR APOSTOLATE

One of the great joys of our apostolate is to see the privileges, fruits and scope of our religious education charism. It is lived and expressed in a variety of areas in the United States and in our missions.

During our recent community Seminar between Easter and Pentecost, a number of our Sisters were asked to give a presentation about the specific work they are sent to: this time on parish programs, RCIA, retreats in the camp, retreats in the retreat center, as well as two essential support programs: fundraising for sustaining our catechesis, and nursing for sustaining our health.

The practical responsibilities range from collecting the baptismal certificates of first communicants to shoveling snow at Big Bear before a group arrives!



Sister Angela clears the walkways at the Retreat Camp in Big Bear with the new snow blower.

Our hearts were filled with the joy of gratitude to hear and understand more fully how concretely and how consistently our Sisters bring each person to the Heart of God in every apostolic work! In a teenager's words:

"Words cannot explain how I look up to God more. I have been doubting that God is even real. But going to Sacred Heart programs has changed my perspective of the Lord. Thank you!!! When you spoke or listened, I saw the light of the Lord through you. You were so true and honest, even while singing and doing the hand motions. Usually I would think that something like that is weird. But since you seemed like you were having fun, I thought it couldn't hurt, so I did it. Thank you so much again!"

*as He was sent by the Father,
to do to His will with the Spirit of*

SISTER MARY ANN IS HONORED IN TAIWAN



Sister Mary Ann is presented the award.

An Outstanding Medical Service Award was presented to our Sister Mary Ann for exceptional medical contributions in Taiwan. Since 1985 she has been lovingly spending herself as a Sacred Heart Sister and as a Doctor, called to work side by side

with Jesus in bringing health, life, healing, and the mercy and love of God to thousands upon thousands of people. Sister Mary Ann's faithful love and service are a blessing for the Church, for our community and for Cardinal Tien Medical Center!

OUR SISTERS WRITE FROM TAIPEI

The annual Religious Education Congress has once again brought many blessings. The enthusiasm and eagerness to evangelize filled our meeting room. It is like a wonderful reunion of friends, since many participants have attended our Catechist Formation Courses over the years; they also see the Congress as the spiritual highlight of their year.

This year, all seven dioceses of Taiwan were represented. With gratitude we recall how we first began the Congress and many other programs in the 1980s, and we are delighted to see the fruits of catechetical apostolate growing and stabilizing!

Our theme this year was "I want to spread the Word" and each of our presentations were focused on the theme for different age groups: children, youth, adults, catechumens, families and non-Christians. The response was spontaneous applause!

All were inspired by the loving spirit and teamwork of Sisters and staff. It all conveyed to them the real meaning of evangelization: it is not enough to tell about God, we must be living expressions of His Word, and **be** Jesus for others!

The next morning, one Catechist said, "During your talk I could clearly see that you love Jesus very much!"

undivided love and dedication. Noth

FROM ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Four years ago, less than a year after we opened our convent here, the Principal of St. Sabina School asked us to give a day of retreat to the entire school.

"It was our dream to begin the season of Lent with a retreat for our students in Kindergarten through Grade 8," the Principal said. It was a new idea. Would there be much apprehension? Would there be willingness to give it a try? Children might wonder: "What is a retreat? Does it mean we have to pray? All day?"



Sister Michelle gives a vocation talk during a children's retreat.

We gave our retreat program with lesson presentations on the personal love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the Mother of God who is our Mother. There was discussion, prayer, activities, crafts and music, all in harmony with the theme, all preparing the hearts of the students to enter into the Paschal mystery of God's limitless love for each one of us. There was even "recess" during the day! The highlight of the day was the celebration of Mass; it brought everything together, and set a prayerful tone to the joyful season of Lent.

The students' responses were delightful: "Wow! That was awesome!" "I really got a lot out of the day!" "Now I understand what Lent is all about!" "This will be my best Lent ever!"

We were immediately invited back for next Ash Wednesday, and then again for the following year. This year was no different, as we said good bye to faculty and children: "Don't forget, you are scheduled for Ash Wednesday of 2008!"

ing more, nothing less." Sister Ida

FROM HUNGARY

During Lent we gave various programs throughout Hungary and in Romania:

Family Catechesis to 100 Catechists in the city of Szombathely provided deep spiritual enrichment together with catechetical methods. We were delighted that Bishop Andras Veres joined us for a couple of hours for the morning presentations.

A Day of Prayer in our convent, for about 40 women. Their hearts were especially touched by the theme, the image of God our Loving Father of the Old and New Testament. The day ended with Eucharistic adoration.

A two-day workshop for 40 university students of the University of Kolozsvár in Romania. They said that it was

more than a catechetical workshop, it was a retreat and renewal for them. After the last talk they didn't want to leave! Their instructor of Catechetics is planning to invite us to give workshops to Seminarians and Catechists of a greater area. We are excited about it!



Our Sisters with Judit Osvath, Instructor of Catechesis at the University of Kolozsvár. On the board: flannel illustrations of our presentation on the Body of Christ.

A First Communion Retreat to 70 third graders in Győr, on the Holy Eucharist.

A two-day retreat to grades 5-8 in the Piarist school of the city of Nagykanizsa. An eighth grade girl was so touched by Sister Audrey that she gave her a prized possession, a teddy bear that she had since she was two!



On the way home from Romania, Sister Audrey enjoys a peaceful view of a local flock.