



Joyful Apostolate

Fall 2012

**A "CHAPTER" IN THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY.
A LOOK INTO OUR HEART**



Elected during our Chapter were Sister Jane Stafford, Superior General (center), and her general councillors (l. to r.), Sister Elizabeth Normanly, Sister Mary Tomasella, Sister Catherine Marie Stewart, Sister Eileen Sullivan. The sign behind them shows Sister Ida's words, the theme of our Chapter: "Our religious community is devoted to the Loving Heart of Our Lord Jesus; His love permeates our life and our apostolate."

In the beginning of June, all our Sisters gathered from Taiwan, Hungary, St. Louis and California for our six-yearly General Chapter, a community meeting of reflection, thanksgiving and planning. During the year, it was a blessing to prepare in each of our local convents with special prayers and community seminars on the original charism that God gave to our beloved foundress, Sister Ida. Three days before the Chapter were spent in silent prayer on Sister Ida's vision of our consecrated life in the service of the Church, as she herself had presented it before a Chapter many years ago. It was a joy that the year of Chapter was in harmony with our preparation for the coming Year of Faith, announced by the Holy Father.

***"If we want to bring forth lasting
and know that it is thro***

**FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA
TO OUR SISTERS DURING A CHAPTER**



The Holy Trinity is very specially present among us during a Chapter. I was praying over the letter that Cardinal Pironio from the Congregation for Consecrated Life wrote about General Chapters of religious congregations. He is saying very strongly that the Chapter is a penitential celebration.

Why? He explains and he brings this out clearly: there needs to be a sincere attitude of conversion and a deep and painful search for the Lord's ways.

Dear Sisters, first of all I want to state with Cardinal Pironio that every Chapter is a family meeting and its center is Jesus. We gather together to pray, to receive the word of God as Community to see the activity of the Spirit in us, to renew joy, faithfulness in consecrated life, to rediscover our charism, to respond together to the new call to conversion, and to commit ourselves more strongly to evangelization of the contemporary world.

I have to thank officially the Church who is praying for us: Bishops, priests and religious communities, all the people we work with, all our parents. We have a tremendous amount of prayer coming our way. I am most grateful. Without it we would not have arrived to this point.

As long as we are meeting during Chapter, the entire particular Church is interested and prays, because this is a time of outpouring of the Spirit upon it. This is a great event in the Church. The climate of Chapter is manifested in great and generous hearts. The efficacy of the Chapter depends on the depth of prayer. We are all listeners to God, opening up to the fruitful action of the Spirit which Jesus promised. Poverty opens us up to God in prayer.

Finally, Chapter calls for an atmosphere of joy in simplicity of giving, and in immense joy of receiving.

*fruit, we have to be connected to the Source,
ugh His power that we do what we do; and the results are our work and His*



The election of our Superior General and her four council members was commemorated by taking a community picture on the deck of Sacred Heart Lodge at our Sacred Heart Retreat Camp in Big Bear Lake, California. We are forever grateful to our generous benefactors who made it possible for us to acquire the camp and build the lodge with the various facilities.



Left (l. to r.): Sister Micaela, Sister Laura, Sister Rose, Sister Guadalupe (partially hidden) and Sister Gabrielle.



Above (l. to r.): Sister Hannah, Sister Ines and Sister Sophia.

During the days of the Chapter meetings, our temporary professed Sisters and our novice joyfully provided delicious meals for all of us.



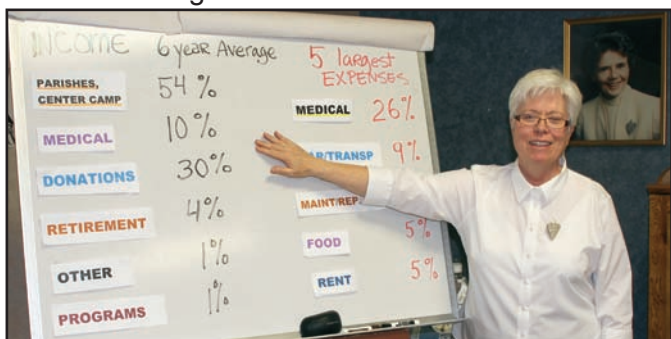
Left to right: Sister Micaela serves Sister Andrea and Sister Mary Ann.

work combined."

Sister Ida



On the Fourth of July, we had a solemn flag-raising ceremony in front of Sacred Heart Lodge, and prayed for our country. Several years ago, the flag pole was a donation of the Knights of Columbus at Edwards Air Force Base where we conducted many summer schools of religion.



Before the formal Chapter meetings began, Sister Susan, (above) General Treasurer of our Society, gave a report on finances. It helped us to reflect on how we lived our vow of Poverty during the last six years. It filled our hearts with gratitude to see how God provided for us through our apostolate, and often through generous friends and benefactors. We have no personal budget. By living the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience, we freely surrender to God all that we have and all that we are, in our life totally dedicated to God in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

***"If we allow the Spirit of Christ to
then we will be able to do what***

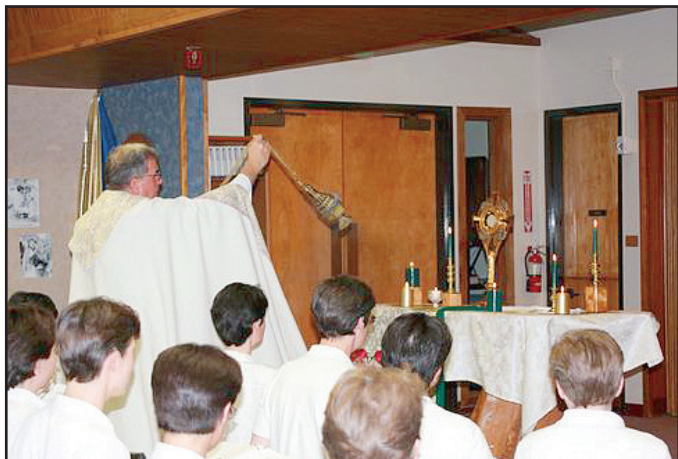
AFTER CHAPTER: A SHORT COMMUNITY VACATION

Year after year we are grateful to receive a generous donation from REI: hiking gear, complete with boots, backpacks and tents for a few days. Once again this summer, several Sisters went for a camp-out in the mountains, happily enjoying God's beautiful creation.



AFTER VACATION: OUR ANNUAL RETREAT

Our annual silent eight-day retreat was conducted by Father Robert Scholla, S.J. In addition to daily Mass, there was Benediction each evening, to close the day in grateful intimacy with the Lord Jesus.



*move us,
at we are sent to do.” Sister Ida*



A DELIGHTFUL COMMUNITY PICNIC marked the last day at our camp. Then, we were happy to return to our missions and local houses to continue our joyful apostolate in our new assignments with renewed zeal and enthusiasm!



OUR YOUNGEST FINALLY PROFESSED SISTERS made their thirty-day Ignatian retreat in northern California, in a house generously provided by one of our families. Sister Jane (above center) presented Sister Ida's introductions to prayer.