



Joyful Apostolate

Spring 2014

MEETING A SAINT



With great joy we treasure the privilege that Sister Ida, our beloved foundress, met and talked to St. John Paul II several times! After each meeting, she came home to tell us of his personal interest and loving encouragement.

In 1991, during her golden jubilee year, Sister Ida led our whole community on a pilgrimage to Rome. Through the kindness of Cardinal Justin Rigali, St. John Paul II celebrated a private Mass for us, and after Mass he spoke with each of our Sisters, and like the disciples, our hearts were burning with joy.

While the photographer was getting ready to take a group picture, the Holy Father asked: "How many are you?" Sister Jane said, "Forty, but we do the work of 4000." He said, "My wish and prayer for you is that you will be 4000!"

And after we sang a farewell blessing song, he said, "You are a blessing for the Pope. You are truly American and truly Catholic." We are blessed to believe that both St. John Paul and Sister Ida are interceding for us with love and gratitude!

*"Lord, give me a burning love that I
and I will go any"*

FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA



The joy of the Resurrection must be part of our lives. The world can look at John Paul II and believe him. He is a Resurrection person. We each have to be a Resurrection person: we have to do all we can to learn what it means to not only live in the shadow of the cross but in the presence of the Resurrection and its joy.

St. Paul's message (2 Tim) is addressed to every one of us: "Fan into flame the gift God gave you... God's gift was not a spirit of timidity... We have been entrusted to look after something precious... Proclaim the message and, whether welcomed or unwelcomed, insist on it... Put up with your share of difficulty... Remember the good news, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead."

We have the message of hope and we proclaim it to the world! This is what we have to communicate with our lives: we have to be examples of the resurrection: we have to be joyful, full of joy no matter what happens. This is part of our Christian life.

We have union with all those who share this Spirit of God. We are in the center of that "cross" which is the union of the saints. This is the Mystical Body of Christ, this wonderful community we are part of, this magnificent *ecclesia*, the Church, "those who are called," a community vibrant with faith, with hope, with charity and love.

may love You, and my fellow men for You. Give me
where, to any corner of the world for You - wherever

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF VOWS

The basilica of Mission San Juan Capistrano was filled to capacity with family and friends who came to celebrate with us the profession of the vows of four of our Sisters FOREVER, and two of our Sisters renewing their temporary profession. Bishop Kevin Vann's words were filled with the encouragement of a good shepherd:

"Pope Francis speaks of the necessity of building a 'culture of encounter' for the world where the Lord can be met. I believe, Sisters, that you and your community, guided by Sister Ida from the early days, have long been doing this for the whole Body of Christ, and living it in a most joyful and loving way."



The formal photo after the Profession Mass. Front center: Sister Jane and Sister Mary. Sister Laura Bradford (far r.) and Sister Micaela Ramirez (far l.) renewed temporary professions. Final professions (l. to r.): Sister Sophia Farakas, Sister Rose Amoranto, Sister Gabrielle Vogl, Sister Ines Horvath. Top (l. to r.) Bishop Andras Veres, Bishop Kevin Vann, Bishop Gyorgy Udvardy.

Bishop Vann continued: "Didn't Sister Ida often say that 'God has a heart for you'? Those far from love and the presence of God are invited, through the history and heritage of your community and its life; you are sent to provide this encounter by being sent 'to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ with joy', in a world that very much needs this, and needs joy."

Many guests said that it was inspirational to hear our Sisters profess their vows in English, Spanish and Hungarian. Bishop Andras Veres and Bishop Gyorgy Udvardy came from Hungary, as well as the families of Sister Ines and Sister Sophia. Local families of our Sisters offered them loving welcome and guided tours during their stay.

*your never-ending divine love,
er You want me to go.” Sister Ida*

WHOLEHEARTED GIVING

Bishop Gerald Barnes graciously honored our community with his annual “Amar Es Entregarse” award for our retreat apostolate in the Sacred Heart Retreat Camp in his diocese of San Bernardino. Many of our Sisters attended the joyful



At the reception of the award, right to left: Bishop Gerald Barnes, Sister Bernadette, Sister Mary, Sister Eileen, Auxiliary Bishop Rutilio del Riego.

occasion, and as a surprise, serenaded him with the song that was composed about his episcopal motto: “Amar Es Entregarse,” “Love is the total giving of one’s self.” In our Constitutions Sister Ida characterized our life and actions as wholehearted giving, so we felt very much at home!

IN TAIWAN: LIVING POVERTY WITH JOY

Our four Sisters spend themselves in teams of two: in religious education and in the medical apostolate. In the midst of conducting more teacher formation courses to religious educators, and opening a new branch of Cardinal Tien Hospital, this is what they wrote about their Christmas tree; “Our tree was a real tree branch that we set into a ceramic vase propped up with rocks. We commented that once you join the convent, you can learn so many things you may have never thought of doing, like how to engineer a lopsided tree branch into a beautiful Christmas tree loaded with lights and ornaments!



With Cardinal Burke (r. to l) Sister Shannon, Sister Michelle, Sister Audrey.

CANONIZATION PILGRIMAGE

Our Sisters in Hungary were able to enthusiastically represent our community at the canonization of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II. They had a blessed visit with Cardinal Raymond Burke, (above) our former Archbishop in St. Louis. He sent his blessing and prayers to all of us.

A holy place where our Sisters prayed for us and our friends was the historic private chapel of St. Paul of the Cross, founder of the Passionist Fathers; and it was the place where St. John XXIII practiced celebrating Mass before he was ordained!

Among the many thousands of pilgrims, they watched the canonization on one of the giant screens, and behind it they saw St. Peter's Basilica in the distance.



Leaving the Vatican after the day of canonization.