



Joyful Apostolate

Spring/Summer 2018

PREPARING FOR GENERAL CHAPTER



Our Chapter preparations have included monthly meetings. After Christmas, while our Sisters from our mission houses were in California, we enjoyed a Chapter preparation day together (above).

We are grateful for your prayers as we are preparing for our Chapter of Elections and Chapter of Affairs, which will be held this summer. Please read Sister Mary's letter, left, for details and explanation of the prayer below.

Morning Offering Prayer, as we prepare for our Chapter:

Loving Father, I offer You this day, all my thoughts, words and actions, my joys and sufferings. I desire to be united to the Heart of Your Son, who lovingly and willingly gave Himself totally to Your service and to the service of others. Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I may live like Him, totally united to His offering in the Eucharist. I pray for the Church, for our Holy Father, for the Sacred Heart Sisters and their Chapter, and for missionaries and priests throughout the world as they give their lives for the Gospel. Amen.

Please visit our website: www.sacredheartsisters.com

From Sister Mary, Superior General

In the name of all of the Sacred Heart Sisters, I greet you... This year is a very blessed one for us as we approach our Eighth General Chapter this summer. Chapter is a gift from Holy Mother Church, who in her love for us, asks the members of a Religious Community to come together to recognize and to embrace more fully the blessings of God and the Community charism in Consecrated Religious Life. With deep love and gratitude, we thank God for the gift of our foundress, Servant of God Sister Ida Peterfy, and for the gift of the charism that God first entrusted to her: to make His love known and expressed in the world and to invite others into a personal relationship with Him.

We anticipate our Chapter (June 21-July 4) as a time of renewal as our Sisters gather from around the world to share in the discussions and decisions that will strengthen our bonds of Sisterly love and our understanding of the Lord's will in the next six years. We will also elect our Superior General and Councilors who will lead us in His Spirit. We invite you to join us in spirit and prayer in preparation for this holy event. Please pray for God's guidance, that we truly listen and respond with humble hearts to His will and plans for our Community in the service of His Church.

You may wish to pray a morning offering with us (front cover) or one of your favorite prayers for this intention.

We are most grateful for your love, support and presence in our Religious life. We keep you and your family in our daily prayers.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Sister Mary Tomasella

Sister Mary Tomasella, SDSH
Superior General



Photos during our
1st General Chapter,
1976-1977.

From the heart of Servant of God, Sister Ida



Sister Ida at our Community's 1st General Chapter. The comments and prayer below are from this first General Chapter in 1976.

We are one body in Christ, not because we chose it but because we were chosen. Christ chose us, He called us, and He is sending us to fulfill His mission: "Who is going to tell about the Father? Who is going to reveal the Good News of salvation?" It is a mission which He is so anxious that it would be fulfilled.

"Since you have known the message of the Good News, you never spared yourself in telling about the Good News." (Phil. 1:5) This is very real and true about our Community. Jesus is giving us His Holy Spirit, a selfless spirit which cares only for the Kingdom and how that Kingdom can be furthered, and how everyone can arrive to that Kingdom. We do not have to be afraid because He is with us. He will help us to further His goal and His mission.

In this Spirit, please pray with me:

"Lord God, Almighty Father, we give you thanks for the faith you have given to us, that without seeing you, we loved you and believed in you and left everything - father, mother, home, relatives, friends, for your sake and you have led us in the path of your Son...

Lord Jesus, allow us to listen to your Holy Spirit whom you gave us at our Baptism. We have your presence in us...

Holy Spirit, may you lead us as you led Jesus: through the desert, through death, to resurrection, to complete unity with the Father.

And we would not be ourselves if we would not call on our Blessed Mother... I implore her, as I do whenever anything major happens in our life, that she would be with us and help us as she helped at Cana - seeing ahead of time what we need and what could cause problems, and through the goodness of her motherly heart, she would step in and provide...We place ourselves and our Chapter into her hands...We ask her blessed Son, our Lord Jesus, that He in his goodness "would make our joy complete."

Congratulations, Bishop Marc Trudeau



*(l to r) Sister Charis, Sister Martha,
Bishop Trudeau, Sister Teresa,
Sister Vivian, Sister Zita*

In April, the Sisters from our Novitiate house went to a vocation event at St. John's seminary. They were grateful to have the chance to greet Los Angeles' (then) Bishop-Elect Marc Trudeau, a longtime friend of our Society.

**Congratulations,
Bishop Marc!
You are a blessing
to the Church.**

What drew you to religious life?



"How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?" This verse of Psalm 116 has echoed in my heart for many years. I converted to Catholicism when I was 24 years old. When I became a Catholic, I wanted to serve God with all my heart and ability. I was looking for ways to express my gratitude to God and to reciprocate all the favors and blessings that I received

from birth...The first time I met the whole congregation was at the Golden Jubilee of the Community's Foundress, Sister Ida Peterfy, in 1990. A Sister introduced me to Sister Ida personally, and Sister Ida called me by name... My greatest impression of that day was the joy that radiated on each Sister's face and the genuine kindness they had for one another... -Sister Andrea

What has helped you to remain faithful to consecrated life?



As the years pass by, I find that I am more and more fulfilled and immersed in life. I have learned that what is most important is not my work, but rather the quality of loving presence that I bring to everything I do—and because of this, I am very fulfilled in my work! My vows allow me to minister to the People of God with an undivided heart (chastity); in freedom and confidence (obedience); and simplicity (poverty). What better life can there be than to give to others the gift I received—the opportunity to meet Love Incarnate?
-Sister Susan

*For these and other Sisters' vocation stories, go to:
www.sacredheartsisters.com/vocation-stories.html*

Sister Micaela's Final Vows



Sister Micaela Ramirez professing her perpetual vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience on March 24th.

*(left to right)
Sister Mary (Superior General), Bishop Kevin Vann and Sister Micaela after the Mass*



Meet our newest member, Sister Zita



Sister Mary presenting new novice, Sister Zita Mate, with the Constitutions of our Society, which Sister Zita will study and learn during her Novitiate formation. Sister Zita also received her name of "Sister", our habit and her scapular on this day, March 22nd.



(left to right) Sister Teresa (Novitiate Director), Sister Martha (Assistant Director), and novices- Sister Charis, Sister Zita and Sister Vivian

Christmas Together in CA

In December of 2017, Sister Mary called the entire Community together. We had been told by the doctors that our dear Sister Hermine, first companion of Sister Ida, would soon be passing from this life. God had other plans, however. Sister Hermine is still living in our Motherhouse, fully alert and engaged in life. She celebrated her feastday with joy in April. This was the first time that the entire Community was together for Christmas since 1984. We enjoyed each other's company as we prayed, walked and celebrated the holy days .



(left) Father Jim Gehl celebrates Mass for the Sisters at our Motherhouse.

(below) Sister Rose, Sister Hannah and Sister Micaela prepare music for one of our Masses together.



(below) Celebrating Sister Eva's feastday on Dec. 23. Our custom is to make and write cards for each of our Sisters on her feastday.



(below) Sister Audrey, Sister Shannon, Sister Vivian filling delicious cookies with homemade jam.



(above) Sister Audrey, Sister Arlene and Sister Sharon enjoying time together.



**All names in photo captions listed left to right unless noted*



(above and right) Each year on Dec. 24th, we celebrate Posadas, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, entering into Christmas with great joy!



(above) Sister Yolanda and Sister Guadalupe joyfully cooking menudo for our Christmas Day brunch.



Delighting in Sisterly companionship. Sister Catherine Marie and Sister Mary (above); Sister Grace and Sister Carmen (below)



(above) Sister Mary addresses the Community on New Year's Eve, recalling the blessings of the past year.



Sister Hermine is doing well. Pictured, above, at our Motherhouse on Easter Sunday, with Sister Rose (left) and Sister Susan (right).