



Joyful Apostolate

Fall 2020

80 Years of Grateful Love as a Religious Community



In 1996, already ill with cancer, Sister Ida Peterfy, foundress, led her Sisters on a pilgrimage to Hungary, retracing and explaining the founding events and places of significance in the life of the Community; a truly extraordinary event in the life of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart. A highlight of this pilgrimage (pictured above) Sister Ida kneeling again in the Franciscan Church of Kassa (Kosice, Slovakia) where she first professed her vows, privately on her 18th birthday, October 7, 1940, the official day that marks the founding of our Society. After Sister Ida renewed her vows, each of the Sacred Heart Sisters present renewed their vows as well.

Sister Mary Tomasella, Superior General

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

With joy I greet you at this most significant moment! Little did Sister Ida know when she professed private vows in 1940 that, 80 years later, there would be a whole Community of consecrated women devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, living the charism given to her, proclaiming the Gospel in the



United States, Taiwan and Hungary. We are grateful for you and the thousands of people who have been part of our life. Your love, deep faith and courage touch our hearts daily. We thank you for your many acts of kindness and generosity that inspire and sustain us to this day.

In this time of the pandemic, hear Sister Ida say to you: “We do not need to fear the future, as we know the One who holds the future.” Our hope remains in our God who is “the same yesterday, today and forever”. Let us continue to pray for one another, knowing that God’s revelation of Himself as a God of love and mercy is our sure hope in all circumstances of life. You are forever in our hearts and prayers, especially as we celebrate 80 Years of Grateful Love.

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

Sister Mary Tomasella

From the Heart of Servant of God, Sister Ida



*Sister Ida
as a young
woman, already
developing
deeply in her
spiritual and
prayer life
(photo from the
1940's)*

This was written to the Sisters in September 1975; it is perfect for today's Covid reality.

The spirit of our Community is to live our baptismal commitment to the fullest in faith, hope and charity, with the added powers given to us by the Spirit of God, loving as our Lord loves. This is our charism, to teach about Him as loving as He really is and to cling to the Person of our Lord, to cling to His love both when things go well and when things do not go well.

I am convinced that as long as we are on this earth, we follow our Lord's life which is always a life of death and resurrection. In times of troubles and difficulties we have the opportunity to strengthen our commitment. Those are opportunities when we can tell our Lord, "I know you are here even though I do not feel that you are with me and I know that you love me more than I could ever love myself. I also know that you will bring the very best out of this awful situation. I may have ten good solutions but you have a thousand so I 'allow' you to take care of it."

We have to be very clear... If we would confuse faith with feeling, we would be in trouble. It is a very great privilege to live for God alone, to work for Him and to actually share a home with our Lord Jesus Christ day and night. When we cling to His Person it is a time of purification in our relationship with Him. We know we are not going on our own power. God gives us His Spirit and He vivifies us. If we believe, there is nothing He cannot do in us, and for us, and with us.

*Allow Sister Ida's words and reflections to
inspire you and enrich your prayer:*
<https://sacredheartsisters.com/her-words-and-reflections/>

Adapting in a C

Sister Eva Sharing History



Though we have not been able to meet together in person for our seminars and gatherings, we have adapted by having regular gatherings via “Zoom”. In September, during a seminar, Sister Eva Batta (*right, in above photo*), one of Sister Ida’s first companions, shared the history of our Society from the perspective of how our Lord has opened doors of possibilities throughout these past eighty years, from Sister Ida’s beginning until today.

Sister Eva shared, “When I am thinking about our beginnings, the first thought is Sister Ida. She was given a great gift, it was given to her but it was also given to all of us. This is very similar to what our Lord gave to the apostles to “Go, teach all nations”...we have to go out and we have to bring the love of our Lord to other people... Even in this pandemic, we are continuing our mission.

Reception of the Sacraments in 2020



Due to the pandemic, reception of the sacraments was postponed, including First Holy Communion at Our Lady of the Pillar parish (as at all of our parishes). A mother called us to ask when her daughter was going to be able to receive Holy Communion. She and her whole family had tried to convince their child to wait until

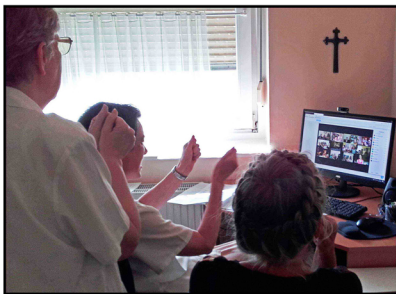
a later time when they would be able to celebrate this event with a big party. Their daughter protested, “Mom! It isn’t about the party! It’s about the sacrament! It’s about receiving Jesus!” How our Lord draws us to Himself! He is not a God that social distances Himself from us, but is One who unites Himself with us!

Global Pandemic

Hungary- Summer Camps

During the summer, our Sisters in Hungary were able to host an in-person Day Camp for children and a hybrid Family Camp, partly online and partly in-person. The Day Camp was a very successful adaptation for not being able to have the usual week-long children's summer camp.

The Family Camp, usually a weekend away at a beautiful camp, was also a success. Adapting to the situation, the Sisters thought of and prepared thoroughly, including having a trial Zoom log in with everyone. Nine families attended and were very grateful.



(photo) Sister Shannon, Sister Audrey and a volunteer sing and sign with the Family Campers during an online portion of Family Camp.

Taiwan Apostolates



(above) Sister Ann teaching catechists at the Catechetical Center

In Taiwan, our Sisters were able to continue their apostolates, with some adaptations. Sister Mary Ann and Sister Arlene continued their tireless work as doctors at Cardinal Tien Hospital. Sister Mary Beth and Sister Ann continued to spread the love of God through their work at the Archdiocesan Catechetical Center in Taipei. They created online resources for catechists and families, as well as giving retreats to teachers and conducting workshops for Archbishop Chung's staff of 49; introducing the employees (nearly half of whom are non-Catholic) to the spirit and mission of Catholic institutions.

Sister Mary Ann Lou- 60th Jubilee



The main celebrant was Most Reverend Joseph Ti Kang, Archbishop Emeritus of Taipei. Also present were Archbishop Liu, Kaohsiung Diocese, and Bishop Luke Liu, Bishop Emeritus of Hsinchu diocese, along with many priest-friends who have worked with the Sisters throughout the years.

Sister Mary Ann's Diamond Jubilee was joyfully celebrated on January 19th in Taipei, Taiwan. "I am deeply grateful for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on me through these 60 years and before." Sister Mary Ann has been serving as a medical doctor at Cardinal Tien Catholic Hospital since 1985, when she and two other Sisters were missioned to the Archdiocese. She has received numerous awards and recognitions from both the Church and government for the medical and pastoral advancements that she has brought to Taiwan.

To read about our Society's history, go to:

<https://sacredheartsisters.com/our-community-history/>

To read about the Sisters' stories, go to:

<https://sacredheartsisters.com/our-vocation-stories/>

Sister Rosemarie Karl- 25th Jubilee



Sister Rosemarie (left) with Archbishop José Gómez and (right) her parents, Dick and Millie Karl, at the Archdiocesan Jubilarian celebration on February 2nd

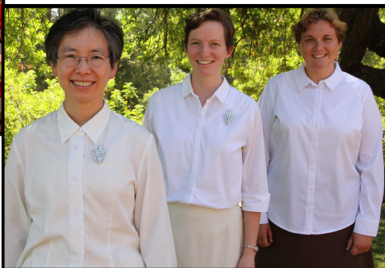
"Celebrating in February with the other Religious Jubilarians at the Cathedral of Our Lady in Los Angeles was a blessing. The postponement of our community celebration has not dampened my gratitude to our Lord or the deep joy that I have for the gift of my vocation. I have so much to be grateful for. Let us pray for each other!"

Meet Claire, Postulant



(Left: Sister Mary, Superior General, with Claire)

Claire Gietzen came to the Novitiate on Sept. 15th. After a 3-day silent retreat, Claire made a consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Sept. 22nd. She is grateful for your prayers.



(left to right) Sister Teresa (Novitiate Director), Sister Hannah (Assistant to the Director), Claire