# IMPRINT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SISTERS OF LIFE / WINTER ISSUE





# "What was God doing before the creation of the world?"

After taking a few moments to marvel at the child who asked this question, Our Holy Father replied, "Before creating the world, God loved, because God is love."

In Pope Francis' answer we find the key that unlocks the very meaning of our lives. Love! Love dreamed each of us into life! Love speaks most truly to who we are! It is Love, Who in creating us, promised us a life both beautiful and fulfilling! And it is only in the light of this Love, we discover, that life, in all its agony and ecstasy, is gift.

Gazing upon the face of a newborn baby or listening to a child wonder about the created world, it isn't difficult to believe life is a gift. Beauty and innocence naturally restore our hope and an awareness of the infinite possibilities born of a human life. And yet, as life bruises and clouds our hope and expectations, how can we live true to the original splendor of our lives?

THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: The answer is found in gratitude. Gratitude is an attitude of heart born of an interiorization of the truth that life is a gift. Rather than having a disposition of heart that seeks to take possession of reality or define life for oneself, gratitude fosters the proper stance of a Christian towards life – that of receptivity. In receiving one's life as gift, we step into our identity as His beloved sons and daughters, keep our eyes fixed on His loving presence, and discover the freedom to rejoice in the wonders He unfolds at every moment. In this way we leave behind the anxious scramble to be "self-made" and enter into the peace found in receiving with trust and faith the good gifts promised by our Father.

GRACE MEMORIES: To live gratitude we need a long memory for grace and the wonders of God. When we are feeling doubtful or burdened, we don't so much need to ponder our problems, as to remember the mighty works of God. In this way, the focus shifts from ourselves to God, where it rightly belongs. Faith increases. Anxiety decreases. And whether washing dishes, engaging challenges at work, or entering into relationship with those we love - life takes on a whole new tempo, tone, and focus. For we can live confident that the whole of our lives rest in the loving care of the Almighty God. It is better than any medicine!

So let us live gratitude! Let us engage life with thanksgiving – for the little joys, the inconveniences, the trials, for the thousands of provisions He has made for our lives! Let us truly thank Him for the heavenly food we receive in Holy Communion – and that He desires to be in union with us, live within us, and join His Life to ours and all the troubles and sorrows we carry.

Know of our gratitude to and for each of you! To you who sustain our lives and works so generously in your friendship and support! To you who walk beside us in our missions in labor and prayer! To those of you that may be reading Imprint for the first time – we are grateful for the Providence that unites us all and draws us to discover more fully in each other His Divine Life!

May our lives be an ever-growing expression of gratitude – a return of love for Love, and a response to the endless gifts we have received from the Lord of Life!

Gratefully, In Christ, Our Life,

Mother Agnes Mary, S.V.



Nothing stifles the spirit of gratitude more than navelgazing and self-reliance. Look to God in faith in all your

needs. Lean on His strength to meet challenges that arise. Pray for the grace and patience to receive life as a gift rather than seeking to control or possess it.

2 Live the Reflective Life:

Find a quiet spot to reflect for ten minutes at the end of each day. Ask the Lord to help you see where He was present and how He was at work in your life. Reflection enables us to be more attentive to God's presence and open ourselves to the gifts of each day.

Make it a Habit:

Make it a point each day to count your blessings and express your gratitude – write blessings down in a journal, recount them in your mind as you drive home from work, or share them when you are with family and friends.

Tap Your Memory – Especially on Rough Days:

If life is just tough or you find yourself getting stuck in the

spirit of disdain or ingratitude, recall moments in the past you were touched by the graces and wonders of God.

Remember when you were sustained by grace through a difficult trial or loss. Let the gifts and graces of these memories inform the present and reestablish you in faith and thanksgiving.

Take Time for Prayer:

Prayer draws us into relationship with God. As we spend time with the Lord we come to know His great love for us and His promise to be with us always. The more we come to know Him, the more we will grow to trust Him in all the circumstances of our lives and experience His Provident care in all things.

Live in the Truth:

Gratitude isn't about being superficially positive or overlooking the difficulties in life. Rather, gratitude flows from living out the greatest truth – the reality that we are beloved children of a God, a Father who eagerly works to draw us into the fulness of life. Trusting this reality allows us to live gratitude, whatever our circumstances may be.

# **Perpetual Vows**

We have so much to be grateful for this year! On August 6th, the Feast of the Transfiguration, eight of our Sisters professed their perpetual vows, pronouncing their definitive "yes" and making a total gift of themselves to the Lord of Life. We asked a few of the Sisters to share how they first heard Jesus calling them to follow Him in the religious life.



Pictured after their Mass of Perpetual Profession are: (from left to right, back row)

Sr. Amata Fila, Sr. Bethany Madonna, Sr. Marie Bernadette, Sr. Therese Marie, Sr. Mariae Agnus Dei, Front row: Sr. Fiat Marie, Sr. Maria Ann Michela, Sr. Hosanna Immaculata



# To Jesus Who is Love, I Give Everything - Sr. Hosanna Immaculata

I first experienced Jesus' invitation to be His at a YOUTH 2000 retreat, surrounded by priests and religious who radiated joy and freedom in belonging to Christ. Hearing their personal stories awakened in me a desire to do something great with my life, with my love. At that point, that "great" was a number -12;

I deeply desired to be a devoted wife and mother of twelve children (Peter and Paul, Andrew, James, John...) The first thought that came to mind were the sacrifices and the "giving up" of my life required to follow Him. As each sacrifice presented itself, I would quietly pray, How do I love Thee, Jesus... let me count the ways.... and make known to Him this letting go.

And yet, in my life as a religious, I have experienced the goodness, extravagance, and magnificence of His love - in every act of "letting go" is an invitation for a deeper love. What a tremendous privilege to know and experience the ability to unleash and open wide the doors of my heart, so that Jesus' love may spill forth to countless souls who are thirsting to be loved. I surrender my life to the One who knows all the desires of my heart and wishes to fulfill my longing for loving greatly. He reveals His life and love for me through those whom I encounter with the question I once asked Him: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways..."



# The God Who Knows My Heart

- Sr. Mariae Agnus Dei, S.V

As a rookie nurse in intensive care I was assigned to the night shift. My efforts to maintain a prayer life grew me not only in my nursing, but in the capacity to see the Lord at work beside me. Whether the night held the intensity of a "code," a patient death, or a long chat with a patient facing a terminal diagnosis, I marveled at a God waiting to be found in everything, a God inviting me into a school of love with each passing moment. One night, I was sitting at the nurse's station, and grace drew my attention. After spending my college years struggling to emerge from a self-reliance that crippled my relationship with the Lord and led me to anxiously try to "figure out" my vocation, my soul finally found rest. In this moment, I discovered the love of a Father- one that knew me in the depths of who I was, and set me free in trust and surrender to whatever plans this Love had for my life. I arrived home just as my

roommate was waking up. She asked me how the shift went. I was surprised at my reply, "I think I have a vocation to religious life." She paused, looked at me, and said, "Rachel, you're tired. Go to bed."

I awoke with the question of a vocation burning more deeply in my heart and found myself meeting with the diocesan vocations director. He told me to go be quiet before the Lord, pray for the grace to know the deepest desires of my heart, and "pray for the grace not to be afraid of what comes in answer to that question." My whole soul was filled with a peace I had never experienced before. I went to a nearby Church for Mass, knelt down, and let the Holy Spirit lead my prayer. As it came time to receive the Lord in Holy Communion I knew He was inviting me to receive Him in a new way. The veil of my heart was drawn back, and I beheld what I knew was my deepest desire – God. A loving invitation resounded throughout my soul with gentleness and clarity, "consecrated life with the Sisters of Life...will you come?"

A day or so later I called my mom and struggled to find words to describe the grace that filled my soul and the "yes" that every cell in me wanted to make in response to it. I found myself describing it to her (and everyone thereafter), as a "grace-bomb!" I knew I had found the greater Love I had been waiting for - the Love worth all of mine.









We were blessed to have Cardinal Dolan and the Papal Nuncio, Archbichop Vigano offer the Mass of Profession

# Giving God Permission

- Sr. Amata Filia, S.V.

After graduation, as "real life" loomed ahead of me, I began to question: "What am I supposed to do with my life? What is my purpose? How does God want me to spend my love?"

At various points along my journey, thoughts about religious life would pop up, but I would quickly squelch them. "Oh no, I'm not holy enough for that! No one does that anymore anyway!" Yet, I sensed that something was missing - my real purpose still unanswered.

Since my college days I had been praying the words of Mary at the Annunciation, "Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy will." But one day, I realized that I wasn't being truthful in that prayer of fiat. I wanted God's will for my life, but only as long as it was identical to my own will!

In a moment of grace and surrender I was finally able to pray with utter sincerity and my whole heart, "OK Lord, may Your will be done in me, whatever it is!" An amazing peace came over me. Our founder, Cardinal O'Connor would often quote the words of Bl. Mother Teresa, "Give God permission." As soon as I gave God permission to show me His will rather than my own, my calling in life was revealed!



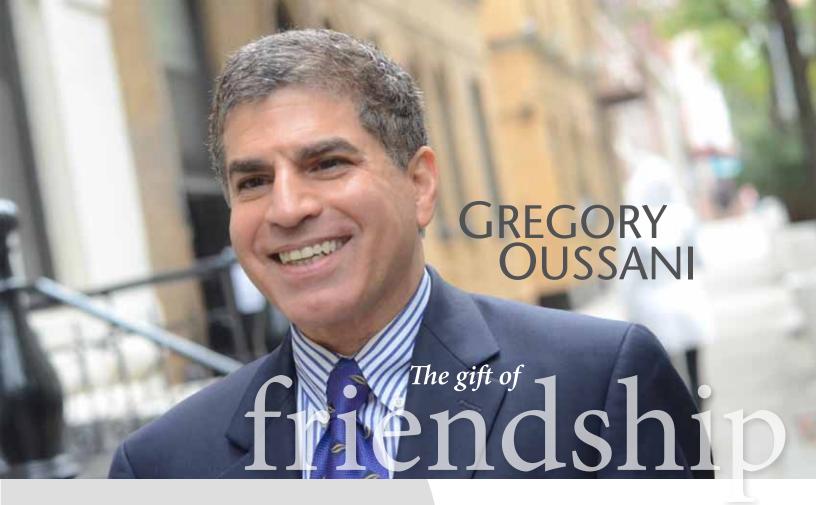


# First Vows

The Sisters who professed their First Vows on August 4, 2015:

Sr. Sophia, Sr. Naomi Maria Magnificat, Sr. Claudia Marie





# To all of you, our faithful friends, we are deeply grateful

uring this Christmas season we are filled with gratitude for all of those people that God has drawn into our lives and missions: volunteers, Co-workers of Life and our generous benefactors. Your friendship, prayers and support keep us going! Because our missions do not generate revenue, our benefactors truly become our partners in helping to save and transform lives. In this issue, we would like to highlight one of our faithful and long-time supporters, Gregory Oussani.

# Over fifteen years ago:

Gregory began by volunteering as we cleaned and painted Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent, preparing it to be a haven for pregnant women. Soon, Gregory signed up to be a Co-worker of Life, working hand and hand with the Sisters to provide real alternatives to the over 1,000 women who come to us, pregnant and in need, each year. And for the last five years Gregory has served as the chairman of the Friends of the Sisters, a dedicated group of lay people who raise funds to support our missions.

One of Gregory's most recent projects is to assist new mothers and fathers who come to our Visitation Mission for help by providing jobs for them at his company. His mentorship, understanding and support have helped many make a successful transition into new parenthood. Here is how he describes it:

"You have heard of a 'win-win' – both sides coming out ahead. How about a 'win-win-win'? In working with the Sisters of Life, I have realized how prayers – theirs and ours – can change hearts, one at a time. The fruit of those prayers, a young woman in an unplanned pregnancy, who chooses life for her child, is truly a 'win-win' – for mom and for child. But that is just the beginning! Emotional, spiritual, medical and temporal uncertainties still abound.

I asked, "What more can I do?" And I decided to offer employment opportunities to the women and men the Sisters are working with. And it works! From my first mom, nine years ago, whose son, Simon Anthony, is my eight year-old Godson, to those who are working for me today, I have found that the dignity of a job in a life-affirming environment has amazing results: a happy mom who comes to work and really feels needed, a happy employer who has someone motivated to learn to succeed, a happy God who knows and loves both this mother and child, and yes, a happy child whom Mom loves dearly. Truly a 'win-win-win-win!' The dignity of employment to help build a culture of life, and the catalyst, the Sisters of Life!"





**Caroline Stiles,** 22 **From:** Owatonna, MN **Studies:** University of St. Thomas: Philosophy and Catholic Studies; Minor: Business

**I'm grateful for:** The djembe (the African drum), and crunchy peanut butter.



Amy Yanchik, 22 From: Charleston, SC Studies: Winthrop University: Special Education: Mental and

Severe Disabilities

I'm grateful for: My family, my friends, the students I have been privileged to work with, sunsets on the beach, and candy canes.

# **OUR NEW POSTULANTS!**

Madeline Gibson, 26
From: Milwaukee, WI
Studies: University of
Wisconsin, Madison:
Double Major in French and
Gender & Women's Studies.

I'm grateful for: My big, rambunctious family, live music, and the sheer delight of Milwaukee's Kopp's Custard.



**Shannon Gunning**, 32

**From:** Littleton, CO **Studies:** Franciscan University

of Steubenville, Double Major in Theology and Religious Education I'm grateful for: The snow capped Rocky Mountains, for

the brilliant discovery of sugar, and for the first brave soul willing to ski down a mountain on wooden planks...paving the way for some of my

life's most fond memories! And for Casey,

the best twin sister in the whole world.

Lauren Janik, 22
From: Stamford, CT
Studies: Providence College,
Theology and Biology
I'm grateful for: The joy
of family and friends, cookie
dough, climbing trees, and the

laughter of little ones.

Paula Thelen, 25
From: Oakdale, MN
Studies: University of St.
Thomas: Catholic Studies,
Theology, Secondary Education
I'm grateful for: Beauty...
in music, art, and the Author
of Life's fingerprints in creation.



**Lizzy Schmitt,** 23 **From:** Waterloo, IA

**Studies:** University of St. Thomas: Catholic Studies and Political Science

with a minor in Philosophy

**I'm grateful for:** Bubblegum ice cream and for anyone whose taste buds are refined

enough to enjoy it with me.



Mary Frances Becher, 25
From: Santa Paula, CA
Studies: Christendom
College: Philosophy
I'm grateful that: The
world has nights and days,
so that every night we can
be refreshed, and every
morning we can be reinvigorated by a brand-new
day. I'm grateful for the
hours that my mom and dad
spent reading us stories as

children and for eating

dinners together as a family.





Monika Matuszewska, 24 From: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Studies: University of Ottawa:

Health Sciences with French Immersion

I'm grateful for: My Polish heritage, downhill skiing, Christmas lights, the fact that my mom took me on a pilgrimage to Italy when I was 11 years old and my family's constant love and support.



e all want happiness. It's the deepest desire of every human heart. JJ and Kristen Hanson were no exception. Happily married with a beautiful one year old son, a wonderful job, a great home in Tampa, Florida close to family, they were living what many would consider the American dream. Life was perfect. Until one day, an unexpected diagnosis turned their world upside down.

What do we do when our world shatters? In coming face-to-face with circumstances beyond our control, it can be hard to reconcile our thirst for happiness with our current experience. We begin to see that happiness is either unattainable, or that it lies deeper than the circumstances. Victor Frankl, a Auschwitz survivor, once wrote: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." When it comes down to the wire, we each have a choice: Will I see life as a gift, or will I see life as a burden? JJ and Kristen were faced with this choice. Their attitude made all the difference.

■ How did you first discover that you were sick?

JJ: I was in the middle of a business meeting when I started getting this intense feeling of anxiety. So I said, "Guys, you have to call an ambulance." They thought I was joking. I said, "There's something wrong with me – call an ambulance." That was when my ability to speak started to falter. I walked outside because I couldn't breathe, sat down on the curb, and that's the last thing I remember. One of the men I was with ran out and chased down an ambulance going through the intersection.

■ Kris, how did you find out what had happened to JJ?

**Kris:** My phone rang, I looked at the caller ID, and I saw that it was JJ's phone number. So I picked up the phone, and it was a woman's voice on the line. She was a paramedic and was with JJ. He had just had a seizure, he couldn't speak, and they were taking him to the ER. I scrambled to get to the hospital. I pushed them to do an MRI which ended up showing that JJ had 2 lesions in his left temporal lobe. The biopsy confirmed that it was cancerous – glioblastoma

multiforme grade IV, which is the most deadly kind of brain cancer. Later, when we met with the neurologist, I asked him, "What does this mean? Please tell me. Are we talking months, years, treatment?" He said, "Because it's inoperable, most likely he'll have about 4 months to live. You can try chemo, but often it doesn't work with this. So, maybe a year – at best." He looked at JJ and said, "You'd better go home and enjoy your time with your family." And that was it. He walked away.

■ After the doctor walked away, what was going through your mind?

JJ: A week before that, you were running, having fun, hanging out with your wife and your kid, working, and everything seemed fine. Then, all of a sudden, a man comes in and says, "You're going to die." We had to make a decision. Were we going to accept this and go along with what they told us, or were we going to fight?

■ In the face of a terminal diagnosis, you chose to fight?

JJ: My father encouraged me to get another opinion from Memorial Sloane-Kettering. The surgeon there looked at the MRI and said, "We've got this." He got us an amazing neurosurgeon, who removed 99.99% of the tumors, and I went into recovery. But then suddenly, I started to loose my speech. I wasn't able to read or write. My ability to walk started to diminish.

**Kris:** By the fourth day, I could see the look in the doctor's eyes, something was not going right. JJ was having subclinical seizures. He ended up having a total of 9 seizures over 24 hours. JJ didn't want me to leave, because every time he had a seizure, he'd think he was dying, and he didn't know where he was or what was going on. It took 4 different medications to get the seizures to stop. After that, he finally started to recover. He received radiation, chemotherapy, and got into a clinical trial.

■ Were you ever tempted to just give up?

JJ: There were about 4 weeks in September 2014 when I couldn't get out of bed. They had to feed me in bed, I was so sick. You're in a lot of pain, spiritually, emotionally... you go through a depression.

Kris: It was not an easy battle. He had dark days where I had to support him and say, "Have faith. Have hope."

■ Where are you at today?

**JJ:** I'm in remission. It's considered a terminal disease because the cancer cells will always be there, which is why it's so deadly. Our responsibility is to continue to suppress it.

■ You are still living with the reality of a terminal illness. How do you approach each day?

JJ: Every day you have with your family, with your friends, is a gift. The small things in life, the simple things, are the things that we value and that we want to take time to do.

**Kris:** It's been a tremendous blessing that JJ's had extra moments with us. Our son, James, is three years old now. He knows his daddy. Every moment of playing, giving baths...has been precious.

■ What has given you strength in all of this?

**Kris:** We have such phenomenal friends and family that lifted us up in those moments when you just can't put one foot in front of the other. We feel so thankful for them, for the joy and strength of being able to find purpose

even in the difficult things, and for the chance to bring healing, hope and love to others through our story. That has been tremendous in our journey to recovery.

■ The love you have for each other is so evident. How has this time of suffering affected your marriage?

JJ: When I was diagnosed, I said to Kris, "This is going to be tough. 50% of marriages don't make it through something like this." She said, "No, I'm with you." If it wasn't for Kris, I would be dead. And there were times when it was very difficult. But I would say that today, our marriage is stronger than it has ever been before.

**Kris:** For better or for worse, in sickness and in health. We made vows. And when you know that you have gone through something so difficult together, and that the other will stand by your side no matter what, it gives you a trust. For me, I was so filled with fear: fear of being wrong, of being judged, all of that. Standing up to his doctors and demanding that they do something – that was so not who I was. But in my gut, I knew something was wrong, and my love for JJ mustered up the strength to voice that.



## ■ How has this experience of illness changed your life?

JJ: It resets your values. Before this, there were still parts of our lives that were focused on the things that don't really matter. I would get up at 5:30 am, go to work all day, come back home at 6:00 pm, take a bit of time to put James to bed with Kris, then go back to work till 10:00 pm. That was my day. I was so centered on being "successful." Now, I'm focusing on what's important, and to us, it's been a great change of life. I do what I can do, but there's a certain time of the day when work's off; we're done; I'm with family now.

**Kris:** It puts everything into perspective. Each day is a gift. We remind each other of that daily. We try not to watch TV or use our cell phones too much; we've tried to remove distractions. We try to live in the moment. We have each other. We've made a commitment to hold each other accountable. That's so helpful, because we can still, even having gone through this, get wrapped around the small things that worry us. If you have an accountability partner to just check in with and say, "That's not important," you gain perspective again.

■ We all want a meaningful life. What would you say to others who are suffering or who experience life as a burden?

**Kris:** You can find happiness, even in the midst of darkness; you can still find joy. Ask yourself: What makes me happy? Where have I been happy in my life? Because in your heart, you know what brings you joy. We just kind of squash it. Find what brings you joy. Take time to do more of that.

IJ: Make sure that you're focusing on the big picture. Build yourself up. Do something more iMake sure that you can find yourself in a good spiritual position. No, your life will not be the same. But it can be good. Now, every single part of my day, I spend improving my ability to live.

# ■ Assisted suicide is a big issue right now. Fighting a terminal illness, what are your thoughts?

JJ: In my opinion, assisted suicide takes dignity away. It removes it from the equation. Some people try to present it as a "choice" issue. I don't hide away from that. It is a choice. I just don't think people realize how dangerous a choice it is. You can't unmake that choice. Once you do it, it's done.

**Kris:** Quite literally, it's the only choice some people have. We know of 2 cases in Oregon (where assisted suicide is legal), and patients with terminal cancer wanted to try chemotherapy and their insurance plan denied coverage for the chemotherapy, but approved coverage for the suicide pill. That's where we see the danger. If this becomes the norm, patients who have hope and want to fight, can and probably will be denied access to good care that could give them more time.

# Assisted suicide can send the message that: "Your life is not worth living." But you talk about every day being a gift.

JJ: Every day is a gift; I truly believe this with all my heart. Currently, I am the president of the Patient Rights Action Fund. I left the private sector where I was doing quite well, and I said, "This is my calling. This is what I'm meant to do:" to go out there and tell people what we've gone through, that there is hope, that you can get through this, but also highlight the dangers of assisted suicide, to make sure that people understand what it actually is vs. what it is being presented as. The average person probably doesn't realize how dangerous it is, not only for those who are sick, but for those that are around them. There's a lot of great end-of-life palliative care out there. If someone's not getting that, we should be focusing as a society on "How do we make that happen?" That is compassionate care, not assisted suicide.

**Kris:** We've been asked, "Aren't you afraid of giving false hope?" And our response is always, "Isn't it worse to give false hopelessness?" We are all connected, and we can either send a message of love and hope, or hopelessness. We want to give hope and support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: patientsrightsaction.org



# The Year of Mercy

By Sister Mary Margaret Hope, S.V.

# Imagine that Pope Francis opened up

the Vatican museum and began distributing the priceless artifacts and treasures of the Church to anyone who came to the door of St. Peter's Basilica. How quickly do you suppose the line would form in Rome? On December 8th, Pope Francis will use the keys entrusted to him as the successor of Peter to open the floodgates of Heaven and let the true treasure of the Church, Divine Mercy, overflow.

Since the time of Moses, the Lord asked that a special year of Jubilee be observed every 50 years, when all slaves were released, debts were erased, and inheritances restored. The Church has continued this tradition through the Holy Years, the last of which was held in the year 2000. But this year, Pope Francis has called an extraordinary Jubiliee. The Holy Doors at St. Peter Basicila will be opened on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and remain open until the Feast of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. Anyone who passes through these Doors, or other Holy Doors designated in special Churches and Cathedrals in every diocese throughout the world, will receive an extraordinary grace, a special encounter with God's Mercy.

Mercy is the "the supreme act by which God comes to meet us... the bridge that connects God and man" (Misericordiae Vultus, #2). When we receive mercy, we receive so much more than pardon for our sins. Although Mercy is always available to anyone who asks, the Church is the "trustee and dispensor of God's mercy" (MV, #11). This Year is the opportune time for those who have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation to return, or to approach it more regularly. It is a time to invite others to come with us to the fountain of God's mercy.



In this Year of Mercy, we are called not only to receive mercy, but to learn how to "be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36), to release from our hearts the resentments and grudges we carry, to take the initiative to heal estrangements among family members or friends. Pope Francis has declared that every single time that we perform one of the the spiritual and corporal acts of mercy this year, we will receive the Indulgence of the Year of Mercy, which we can apply to ourselves or to a soul in need.

In this Year of Mercy, let us be full of gratitude for the unmerited, superabundance of God's love for us, which is revealed to us in the mystery of Divine Mercy.



by Sr. Bethany Madonna and Sr. Maris Stella

ne evening, there was a little boy named KJ who came by Sacred Heart Convent with his father. He instantly hit it off with Sr. Michela. At 8:15 pm the bell rang and although KJ was not Catholic, he REALLY wanted to come to the chapel and pray night prayer with the Sisters. He couldn't read...but he sure could hum. It was a lovely noise for the Lord.

At the end, the candles on the altar were extinguished, but KJ noticed that the red sanctuary candle next to the tabernacle remained lit. Now, one of my favorite things in the world is when a little kid whispers—because their whisper is actually louder than their regular voice. You know, you hear it at Mass, "Mom, is it almost over? Are we going to get doughnuts?"

KJ leans over and "whispers" to Sr. Michela "Hey, what's that red light for?" and she replies, "It means Jesus is here." "Oh." Made perfect sense. After a second, he asks, "Hey, what's in that gold box?" Referring to the tabernacle. Sister wasn't sure if she should explain transubstantiation to a four year old, "My flesh is true food..." (John 6) so she simply said, "That's where Jesus is, that's where He lives." And totally forgetting to whisper, wide-eyed KJ stands on the kneeler and says, "Well, do you ever take Him out and look at Him?!"

And the Sister responded, "Well, yes we do, every day for an hour; we call it Adoration.

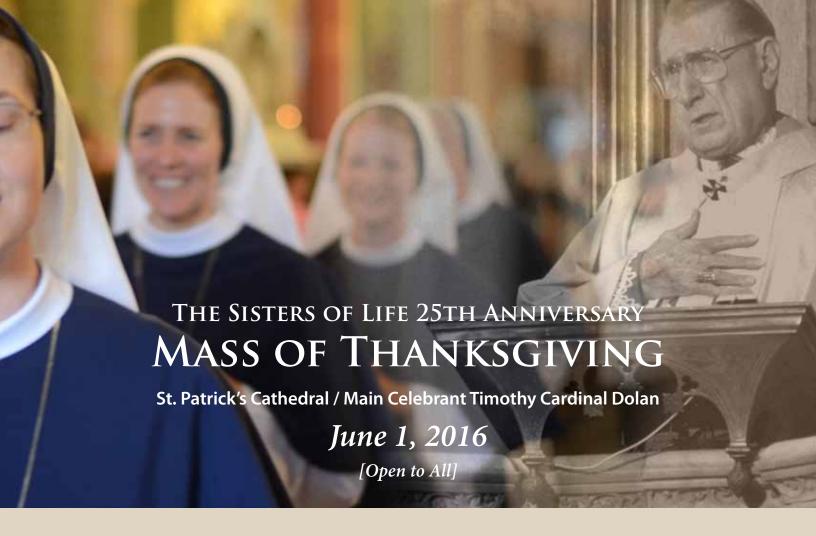
Isn't it amazing that we have a God who is so great that He created the entire universe and at the same time makes Himself so small that He dwells in the tabernacle and in our hearts? Jesus was born into a human family and walked the earth. Now He remains with us, waiting in all the tabernacles of the world for us to visit Him, so that we can know without a doubt that we are never alone.

Many of the great thinkers, philosophers and writers, have said in one way or another that forgetfulness of God is the principle cause of all human woes. So remembering Him, recalling who God is - reflecting on the One who made us, the Author of all Life who awaits us, is the path to restoring and healing ourselves and society. Come let us adore Him!

# SACRED HEART OF JESUS CONVENT:

## A place of love and understanding

At our convent on the the West side of Manhatten we invite pregnant women to live with us as our guests. They stay with us throughout their pregnancy usually for several months afterwards until they are back on their feet again. Relationships form that often last a lifetime; they become part of the extended "family" of the Sisters of Life.



25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA *April 22*, 2016

Dinner at The Pierre Hotel, New York City For ticket and Commemorative Journal information contact: Nancy Graebe at svgala2016@aol.com



# GIVEN



**GIVEN:** Catholic Young Women's Leadership **Forum** is a week long immersion in faith formation, leadership training and networking.

This full-scholarship, encouragement-driven event features inspiring talks by Catholic lay and religious women leaders, dedicated time for prayer, and the opportunity to delve deeper through conversation and our signature evening activities. The Forum will provide a platform for what St. John Paul II called "the feminine genius," and a response to Pope Francis' plea for a deeper understanding and activation of the unique gift of women in the Church and the world. **Open to Catholic women aged 20-30.** 

To apply go to: givenforum.org

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#### Annunciation

(Motherhouse: Generalate and Novitiate) 38 Montebello Road Suffern, NY 10901 845/357-3547 Fax: 845/357-5040

#### St. Frances de Chantal Convent

(Postulant House, Vocations) 198 Hollywood Avenue Bronx, NY 10465 718/863-2264

#### Villa Maria Guadalupe

(Retreat House) 159 Sky Meadow Drive Stamford, CT 06903 203/329-1492

# **Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent**

(Holy Respite) 450 West 51st Street New York, NY 10019 212/397-1396

#### **New York Visitation Mission**

257 East 71st Street New York, NY 10021 Pregnancy help call: 212/737-0221 toll free: 877/777-1277 Co-workers of Life call: 347/843-8900

### **Toronto Visitation Mission**

1099 Danforth Avenue Toronto, ON M4J 1M5 Canada Pregnancy help call: 416/463-2722

### St. Joseph's Convent

172 Leslie Street Toronto, ON M4M 3C7

# **Saint Catherine Laboure Convent**

11809 Claridge Road Wheaton, MD 20902 301/946-1249

### St. Mary Magdalene Convent

2771 Zenobia Street Denver, CO 80212 303/658-0409 Denver@sistersoflife.org

### **Hope and Healing After Abortion**

toll free: 866/575-0075 hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

Website: sistersoflife.org