



Entrusted to each other

Sisters of Life

GOD ENTRUSTED HIS SON to Mary and Joseph

Dear friends,

"Say 'yes'!" was Fr. Benedict Groeschel's recent advice to young friends. He went on: "Say 'yes' when you are presented with an opportunity to do good. Say 'yes' and you will accomplish the will of God." With these words Father revealed the secret to the incredible fruitfulness of his life. Every "yes" of ours is but an echo of the yes which changed the world – Mary's "yes", her maternal fiat: *Let it be done to me...*

This Christmas we reflect with you upon the reality that each and every time motherhood is repeated in human history, it is a re-presentation of the new, eternal and definitive covenant between God and humanity which had its beginnings in the Mother of God. Again, God entrusts to a particular man and woman a person made in His Image. In the pages that follow you will find stories revealing the central drama of human life: the continuing struggle for a person's ongoing yes or no to God and His eternal plan. Two heroic women we have had the privilege to love who have placed a child in an adoptive family share the incredible beauty and power of a mother's love; our friends who have lived both the struggle of infertility and the joy of adoption share the fruit of their expanded hearts; and our 12 new postulants, who have said "yes" to Christ's call to a fruitful, spiritual maternity give us a glimpse of the vitality that comes in leaving everything for Jesus.

During this Christmas season we marvel again at the fact that God entrusted His Son to Mary and Joseph – good and righteous people, but human (like you and me) nonetheless. It stirs our hearts to consider that God continues to entrust every human person to each and every other human person. May we all follow the advice of Fr. Benedict and the example of our Blessed Mother in saying "Yes!" to such a Divine entrustment. With God, all things are possible.

In Christ, our Life,



Mother Agnes Mary, S.V.



In Gratitude

BEGINNING ON CHRISTMAS
DAY A NOVENA OF MASSES
WILL BE OFFERED FOR
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

ALL THE SISTERS WISH YOU
AND YOUR LOVED ONES
A VERY JOYFUL AND
BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

ADOPTION:

A closer look into the heart of a woman's choice

Any unexpected pregnancy is a challenge to trust more deeply, act more courageously and love more totally. "Amy" and "Beth", two of our former guests, whom we spoke with separately, reveal to us the heart of a woman who places her child in an adoptive family. These women witness not only to their own genuine love for the little one entrusted to them, but to our living God's fidelity to us and His power to transform us and give us peace, in any circumstance.

How and when did you begin thinking about placing your child?

Amy: I was in college, and given the circumstances, I felt it would have been more selfish for me to keep her than to let her have the fullness of a mother and father united in the sacrament of marriage, in a family - that was better for her. I knew I could be a good parent, so the answer wasn't in whether or not I had the capacity to be a good mother. It just wasn't best for her.

Beth: The most important gift to me had been my parent's love for each other and how their love had created a rich home life for us. I knew other women who had made the decision to choose adoption and they were real inspirations when I found myself in a similar situation. It was about making a decision for what was best for the child, to give the child a family and not because of financial or other reasons. But I also have always had a tremendous love for children and knew that if I chose to parent, it would be with abundant love.

Did you experience pressure in discerning whether to parent or place your child?

Amy: Everywhere I went it seemed like people were saying, "No you should do this, oh you should do that." For the first time in my life, I knew I couldn't look to other people to make this decision for me - I had to look to Christ. I couldn't have done this without Him, without His grace. He gave me a peace, a sense of confidence that I was doing the right thing, that even though it was going to be hard, He would get me to the other side.



Beth: I kept kneeling before God and asking him, "whatever you want Lord, guide me, help me." Not knowing what to do changed me and my attitude. I stopped trying to control the situation and said, "God this is too much, take over, carry me." And He did.

Looking back, what was most helpful for you during your pregnancy?

Amy: Two things the Sisters gave me were the gift of active listening and the gift of unconditional love. Living at the convent, I had the freedom to really discern; to fall, to be worried, whatever, knowing that the Sisters were there, non-judgmental, always praying for me.

Beth: The Sisters understood the experience of discernment and following God's will because they do something similar with their vocations. The most helpful, though, were the prayers, the reassuring smiles that all would be OK, and the love that I received.

What was least helpful?

Amy: It would've been more helpful if I had cut off some friendships that I had prior to getting pregnant. They didn't agree with the adoption - they wanted me to be a single parent, or wanted me to get an abortion. And as my resolve grew during the preg-



nancy, those friendships just dissolved. They weren't leading me down the path I knew in my heart I wanted to go down.

Beth: The least helpful were the people, and oftentimes pro-life people, who didn't fully support adoption. It was seen as a desperate choice for a desperate situation, a kind of "ugh, could you really do that?" It made me feel awful, like a mother abandoning her child. That was the furthest thing in the world from who I was or what I wanted to do. These people also failed to see how God gives us the grace when we need it to do things that aren't easy.

Once you discerned to place the baby, did your fears go away?

Amy: The fear didn't go away but there's a peace that drove me. I wondered how I was going to carry out this decision, practically and emotionally. Sometimes I want to get through something just to get through it, and not to get closer to Christ. But I came to know that despite the suffering, God gave me the grace and sustained me because He wanted me to be closer to Him. It also helped me to embrace this baby, and to talk to her throughout the pregnancy. At the end of the pregnancy I wrote her a letter and told her why I placed her for adoption, so when she's older and starts questioning, she'll be able to know that she was loved from the beginning.

Beth: The hardest part was looking at profiles of families and thinking I was playing a role in this child's fate. It was unbearable at times because no family was good enough. Holy Family Adoption Agency understood the type of family I was looking for. They were an answer to my prayers. My fear about the family vanished when I talked to them on the phone for the first time. My immediate reaction was "I want to be adopted

too!" They have a deep and abiding love for each other, their children, and most of all for God.

What were you looking for in a family into which to place your child?

Amy: I wanted the parents to be practicing Catholics. I didn't want them to just be Catholic on paper and that is what it became from an agency perspective. They had their list of families they offered me and they gave me their financial reports, that was about it. I wasn't concerned about their finances – I wanted to know how they were going to provide for her spiritually and emotionally. That was my main concern. I wanted a sacramental marriage, a peaceful home for this child.

Beth: I wanted them to be faithful people who had Christ and the Virgin Mary at the center of their lives. I wanted them to be full of joy and to have a happy home with music and laughter. I wanted them to be strong and yet emotionally available and gentle. Finding a father who was full of integrity and also emotionally very present was important. The family I found was all these things and more.

What was your experience of the birth like?

Amy: I was able to hold her, and look at her and say, "I love you enough to know that this situation I am placing you in is going to be better than the one I have to offer you." I invited the adopted parents to be with me during the delivery because I had a sense that the first smell and sight for the baby should be its mom and so they were the first to hold her. I wanted her to know that these parents loved her and cared for her from the beginning. Afterwards our parish priest came and we had an entrustment ceremony, a prayer service where I took the baby physically and I placed her, I entrusted her, into the care of her adoptive parents.

Beth: No matter what, hormones are pumping through your body and you're a mess. It was a struggle but I had the consolation of God and so many signs, so many signs, that I was also able to rise above it and marvel at it all. I remember these gifted

moments of transcendence and feeling myself participating and observing God's unfathomable glory - the gift of new life. At times, I was able to remove myself from the situation and take a step back, and it's strange to describe the experience, but there was joy too.

Do you think about the adoption now and if so, in what context?

Amy: People sometimes look at adoption as another way of abortion. You have the baby, you give them life but in terms of having a relationship with them, it's over. I wasn't aware of the reality of her being a part of my life forever when I placed her.

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Even though I don't have a daily relationship with her, I didn't just have her and then pretend she doesn't exist. Eleven years later, I pray for her *everyday*. Just to do that is to embrace the pain and the good that she is living and that, even though she is not with me, she is somewhere else, alive. It is a continual gift.

Beth: It has been 2 1/2 years and I feel so much peace about my decision. It is a supernatural peace. When I think of their family, I smile. I had someone ask me if I was feeling down about it or was struggling with it and I remember thinking, no I feel depressed about my life before that- away from God. If anything, through the adoption experience God gave me the greatest blessing, an experience of how much He loves us and will carry us if we let Him. When I am in doubt or in spiritual darkness, I think of that period in my life and the shower of grace and blessings and signs He gave me and then I find myself re-centered in Him and renewed.

Would you say that the experience of placing a child has changed you?

Amy: It absolutely changed my perspective on life. I learned that God is in control and that He wants what is best for me, in all circumstances. When I went through the pregnancy and adoption, I thought it was the hardest thing I'd have to go through in my life. Since then I have married and have five beautiful children. I often look back and think, thank God I had that decision to make! Because of it it's easier to face difficult times now. I'm more confident and at ease with knowing what's right and going with it, even if it's in the opposite direction of everyone else. I look at the past and my life and I think, God, you're so good, you love me so much.

Beth: It completely transformed me in every way. How can I say to someone I feel blessed to have the experience? I don't



even understand it myself. I did not really know Jesus until then. I'm not sure I really had a strong faith that there was a loving God so intimately caring for me. I wish I could tell more women who are thinking of abortion that there's a better way – God will take care of you and wonderful things will happen. I started going to daily Mass, praying the rosary, going to Eucharistic adoration. In the most trying part of my life, I was developing a deep love for God and so I was experiencing true happiness. I had sorrow but it was of a different kind: not the despair that is from alienation from God, but the suffering you know will be lifted on the Cross and shared with Christ. They are profoundly different. I had known one type previously in my life, when I had shut God out or was indifferent and thus depressed, and then came to know the meaning of suffering in the light of Christ. The difference is one brings love and hope with it and if you persevere there is light at the end.



Cathy and her husband, Tom, with their children

An adopted child

Cathy

"My brother, sister and I were all adopted and our family life growing up was very natural and loving. And now being married with three children of my own, I have more gratitude in the joys of family life and a better understanding of the sacrifice and generosity of women who place their children for adoption in order for them to have a better future. I appreciate the gift of my own motherhood so much more thinking about that. I'm also very close with my parents and it gives me great joy to see them as grandparents, and watching our extended family grow."

- Cathy Aldridge

when God asks us to trust

Nicholas

We knew after our very first date

that we were meant to be together forever. It was a relationship blessed by God. Not long after, we married and were eager to receive children whenever God sent them. As time went on, however, we slowly and painfully began to realize we might not conceive. To say it was hard is to completely understate the reality. We longed for children. We ached for a child we could love with all our being. We pleaded with God. Our families, our friends and colleagues also prayed. More years passed and after much researching, many tests, surgeries and many, many tears, we stopped trying and we lost hope. We found temptation to be a very powerful thing. We knew IVF was an option and often contemplated it as a choice, asking ourselves "Wouldn't God forgive us?" We grappled and struggled with what we thought we would never have to face. We knew we had to find an answer to the question, "How can something that ends with such a blessing be wrong?" We went to the Church and searched our own hearts for answers. This is what guided us every step of the way. We found our strength in the truth that life is a gift from God. We realized that conceiving a child is not a "right" but rather an incredibly beautiful blessing from God that should never be artificially manipulated or created outside the mother's womb. Instead, it should be created within God's design - acknowledging the dignity and respect every human being deserves. And we knew removing this dignity and respect would never bring us peace. God was in control, not us, and He had another plan that we just needed to open our hearts to receive. We put our trust in Him completely.

During this time, adoption was often in the back of our minds. The unanswered question, however, was always, "Could we love this child as much as if he were our biological child?" We prayed often together and spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

And the Lord slowly enlarged our hearts and placed within them a deep conviction that, yes, there was a child somewhere not yet born who we would one day be willing to give our very lives for.

We began the adoption process and developed a deep admiration and love for all birth parents who choose adoption as a loving option. Words will never adequately express the heroic love and selflessness we witnessed from them during this time.

Shortly after praying a novena to St. Nicholas, we received a call that a very special birth mother had gone into early labor, on the Feast of St. Nick. She delivered the following day - on our ninth Wedding Anniversary. This was truly a sign of God's blessing!

So our blessing is Nicholas Adam. He is our gift from God. He is our miracle, the one we waited for all these years. Neither of us ever imagined we could love someone so much. Only now can we look back at the sorrows and the deep trials of waiting and say, "We have grown as a couple.

We walked through a great suffering together, and we didn't give in or give up." We can look back and truly see the hand of God guiding us along our journey. How faithful is our God when we wait on Him. - He is so good!

— Cyndi and Mike Binder



Driver's Ed with Nicholas at eighteen months old ◀



Upholding the dignity of the human person in the marital embrace



moment, blessing them with marriage-sustaining grace and bonding them together in His love. It is here, within this “warm” context of self-donating love, in the embrace not only of his or her parents but of God, that a new human life is meant to have his or her first experience of existence.

It is through and in our bodies that the Lord desires to continue His work of creation: bringing into existence a unique someone who did not exist and yet will now ‘be’ forever. We are sacred!

There *are* morally acceptable methods to assist fertility, methods which also uphold the dignity of the person and the marriage. A good rule of thumb when presented different options is any method that assists the marital act to achieve its purpose of procreation is licit; anything that substitutes for it is not. Certain fertility drugs and surgeries to correct underlying issues are morally fine. Artificial Insemination by husband or donor, IVF, and any form of surrogacy are not. Many well meaning couples have chosen ARTs, unaware of God’s plan for life and love. *Regardless of the circumstances of conception, all children are created in God’s*

“...The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Such a relationship of domination is in itself contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church # 2377)

An increasing number of married couples are finding their anticipation for children shrouded in the suffering of infertility.

The accompanying frustration, heart-ache and grief are deep and real. So is the temptation to give in to ways of conceiving that seem to promise results, but only at great spiritual, emotional and financial cost.

Many people find aspects of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) distasteful - the methods of retrieving eggs and sperm and the “production” of extra embryos, children who are later frozen or destroyed, foremost among them. But even those who dislike the processes may not understand why they are morally wrong, especially since beautiful children may be the result.

There is an intrinsic link between human love and human life. In the design of God, we are made - male and female - in His Image. That image is truest when our personal love “looks” most like the total, mutual, self-giving love that is the inner life of the Blessed Trinity. In the Sacrament of Marriage, the Lord anoints a couple’s love with His presence. Their mutual gift of themselves in the marital act participates in His Love. God is with the couple in that

image, beloved by Him, and destined for eternity. There remain, however, far-reaching spiritual and emotional consequences for the parents. Nevertheless, the Lord always invites us to begin anew through repentance and continued efforts to love as Christ loves. The truth will set us free!

God has a plan for every family. If you or someone you know is suffering from infertility: be not afraid! Place your first trust in God; open your hearts to listen to Him in prayer. There you will hear the whispers of His love for you even in the seeming emptiness. There you will hear His challenge to you, His call to you. It may be that He blesses you with biological children, even against all medical odds. It may be that He calls you to adopt children of your own. Whatever it is, you can trust His love is a blessing: “For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11)

PASS IT ON

Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) are often recommended to couples without a first offer of options that have helped other couples naturally; without looking for what the root causes of the infertility may be; and without attempting to remedy these in order to increase the likelihood of natural conception. Dr. Thomas Hilgers of the Pope Paul VI Institute (www.popepaulvi.com) has developed cutting edge and morally acceptable medical assistance for those suffering infertility, and has success rates ranging from 38% to 80%, depending upon the condition being treated. Many couples today are learning modern methods of Natural Family Planning in order to reliably pinpoint their most fertile time. This knowledge alone has enabled some to conceive.

The Language of Adoption



The following are some of the thoughts that we share about adoption during our Co-Worker training days for those interested in assisting our Sisters in the Visitation Mission as they serve women who are pregnant and in need.

Maternity is forever: Once a woman is pregnant, her maternity can never be given away. She will always be a mother. There will never be a day in her life when she is ever, in her mind, someone who does not have a child. She is a mother and that is forever. If we understand that, then we can begin to think about adoption, because in adoption, one's spiritual maternity is very real. One lives her motherhood all the days of her life. She knows how old her child is, always. She may not have seen the child in years - it has not affected one iota of her maternity and the reality of her active motherhood, which is real.

A woman places her child in an adoptive family: We do not say a "mother gave her child away", or that she "gave up her baby". That is not true. She did not give up her child. She made a plan for parenting her child by placing her baby in an adoptive family.

What is the most loving thing I can do for this child?

This is the only question that a mother who considers adoption needs to ask for nine months. When she can answer that, she knows how she is intending to parent this child. The decision to place a child for adoption must be arrived at as a free act of love; it is a discernment a person makes. It comes as an answer to a question posed in prayer. It is not something arrived at simply by human reasoning. It is a response of the heart to an understanding of God's will for the child. The final discernment for adoption, when it is done well, is a heroic act of self-sacrificing love. It has its sorrow, but it participates in the mystery of life and of love.

Why do mothers place children for adoption? The answer to that is truly for the sake of the child. They have discerned that it is in the child's best interest. It is the way in which they can best exercise their parental rights and privileges. If adoption is not socially coerced, you must have a very strong and loving person with a high degree of interior integration and development - it will not happen otherwise. It is very rare - about 3% of all out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

We have known women who have placed a child because they want their child raised within the abode of a sacramental marriage, and they cannot offer that to their child. They acknowledge the spiritual reality that marriage is a sacred place in which a child is to be raised.

What does a pregnant woman who is thinking about adoption need? She needs a lot of support, to be loved, to experience her own goodness. She needs to have others delight in her so that she can draw upon those deep reservoirs of goodness within herself. She needs constant encouragement to do what her heart tells her. She needs love and laughter and distractions in her worries. And she needs lots of time. She may need to cry her eyes out for months. And we need to be comfortable with that.

She needs to have you hold out hope. Hope that she will indeed come to the right decision. She should be encouraged in her pregnancy to bond with the child for adoption is an act of love. It is not a denial of love. It will, however, require the sacrifice of her feelings. There is a difference. She will live the long loneliness, really, of experiencing and knowing a love that she cannot express, but it is not the absence of love.

What we have seen with most birth mothers is that after they give birth to the child they will spend some time with them. There is not the attitude that she shouldn't look at the baby, or hold the baby. Adoption is made in the context of love. So approach it with the sacredness that it deserves.

There is one piece of advice that is critical: we never advise a pregnant woman to place her child for adoption. Even when she asks for your opinion, even should she beg you to tell her what you think -- it must be her decision made in complete freedom. There are sacred things that are in the sanctuary of one's relationship with God that should never be intruded upon. In no one else but within herself can she ever find the answer. It will come to her in her prayer before God. She must always know that she made that decision for right and real reasons; that this was a discernment that she came to before God and was the answer to the question that was posed to her, "What is the most loving thing you can do for this child?" Then she is secure forever in the knowledge that the day she placed the child, and every day into the future, her sacrifice is loving the child in the way that she can do best and which God has called her to.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

January 19: West Coast Walk for Life
 January 22: March for Life; Washington, D.C.
 May 10: Canada March for Life; Ottawa, Canada
 July 15-20: Love and Life Site at WYD 08 in Sydney, Australia

Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreats; Stamford, CT (call 203/ 329.1492)

or to register: www.sistersoflife.org/vmg.htm

January 26: Day of Recollection for Caretakers of the Elderly or Infirm
 Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk
 February 22-24: Theology of the Body Retreat
 Rev. Kevin McGoldrick, Director
 April 4-6: Pro-life Retreat
 Rev. Glen Sudano, CFR, Director
 April 18-20: Spanish Theology of the Body Retreat
 Rev. Armando Marcel, D.C.J.M., Director
 April 25-27: Ignatian Prayer Retreat
 Rev. Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V., Director
 May 10: Day of Recollection on the Dignity and Vocation of Woman
 Conferences by the Sisters of Life

Post-Abortion Healing Retreats (call 866/ 575.0075)

or e-mail: postabortion@sistersoflife.org

January 12: Day of Prayer and Healing
 February 15-17: Weekend of Prayer and Healing for Women
 April 12: Day of Prayer and Healing
 June 7: Day of Prayer and Healing

Visitation Mission (call 212/ 737.0221)

March 8: Visitation Mission Co-Worker Training
 Manhattan, NY

Vocations (call 718/ 863.2264)

Vocations Directors:
 Sr. Mary Gabriel and Sr. Kathrine Marie
 March 13- 16: Spring Come & See vocations retreat

Family Life/ Respect Life Office (www.FLRL.org)

Director: Sr. Mary Elizabeth
 January 29: Intro to Theology of the Body Seminar
 with Christopher West
 Rockland County, NY
 February 22-23: Examen Prayer Seminar with Fr. Tim Gallagher, O.M.V
 Manhattan, NY
 March 1: NY Archdiocesan Respect Life Institute
 Bronx, NY

The Love and Life Site
 WYD Sydney 2008

LOVE
 life
 link

In preparation for World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI has invited the youth of the world "to observe how the Holy Spirit is the highest gift of God to humankind, and therefore the supreme testimony of His love for us, a love that is specifically expressed as the 'yes to life' that God wills for each of his creatures." The Sisters of Life are preparing with fervor to host the youth of the world at the Love and Life Site in Sydney WYD 2008, to proclaim with young people a resounding "YES" to the awesome gifts of life and love. Visit www.LoveLifeLink.org for all the latest on the schedule of speakers, musicians and cultural events.

Sr. Mary Gabriel and Sr. Antoniana with students at William's College, MA.





FOR LOVE ALONE

They boarded planes, buses, and loaded into cars, all with an eternal destiny in mind. On September 1, twelve young women entered our community as postulants, placing their lives in Jesus' loving hands. Each of them has encountered the Lord of all and His tender love; each desires to become a gift for Him. They enter ready to radically give their lives for Him--and that the world might come to know the glorious dignity of the human person.

Thank you for praying for vocations to our community: please continue to ask Jesus to bless us with holy vocations!

to know them is to love them

OUR POSTULANTS

Fun Facts

Leslee Simms (back left)

Age: 21
Hometown: Silt, Colorado
College: College of St. Benedict
Major: Theology
Fun fact: Walked 1100 miles last summer with the Missionaries of the Eucharist to proclaim the beauty of the Catholic faith.

Kelly Schulz

Age: 26
Hometown: Chattanooga, Tennessee
College: Converse College, Bowling Green State
Major: German, Political science
Fun fact: Visited seven zoos last summer before entering the convent.

Stephanie Ray

Age: 22
Hometown: Dallas, Texas via Raleigh, North Carolina
College: University of Dallas
Major: Theology
Fun fact: President of white water rafting and camping club in High School.

Therese Dorobek

Age: 21
Hometown: Necedah, Wisconsin
College: Aquinas College (Nashville, TN)
Major: Nursing
Fun fact: Went skydiving with a friend before entering the convent.

Beth Burwell (middle left)

Age: 22
Hometown: Melbourne, Florida
College: University of Central Florida
Major: Interpersonal Communications
Fun fact: Has only lived in California, Alabama and Florida so this is her first winter.

Laura Dierschke

Age: 25
Hometown: Sealy, Texas
College: Texas A & M
Major: Marketing
Fun fact: First time in an airplane was when she came to visit the Sisters of Life.

Sandra McIver

Age: 26
Hometown: Motueka, New Zealand
College: Otago University
Major: Law, French
Fun fact: Involved with Scottish highland dance since she was four.

Mary Germann

Age: 23
Hometown: Dearing, Georgia
College: Christendom College
Major: Philosophy
Fun fact: Used to milk her family cow named Sweetheart

Jennifer Takach (bottom left)

Age: 26
Hometown: Carmel, IN
College: Indiana University, University of Wisconsin
Major: Biomolecular chemistry
Fun fact: Voted most likely to become a nun in her high school yearbook.

Rachel Yates

Age: 23
Hometown: East Wilton, Maine
College: Catholic University of America
Major: Nursing
Fun fact: Ran a marathon with her twin sister and older brother last spring.

Maria Pereyra

Age: 26
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
College: Stony Brook University, Kingsborough College
Major: Nursing
Fun fact: Witnessed the births of two of her nephews and experienced the reverence, joy and love each life brings.

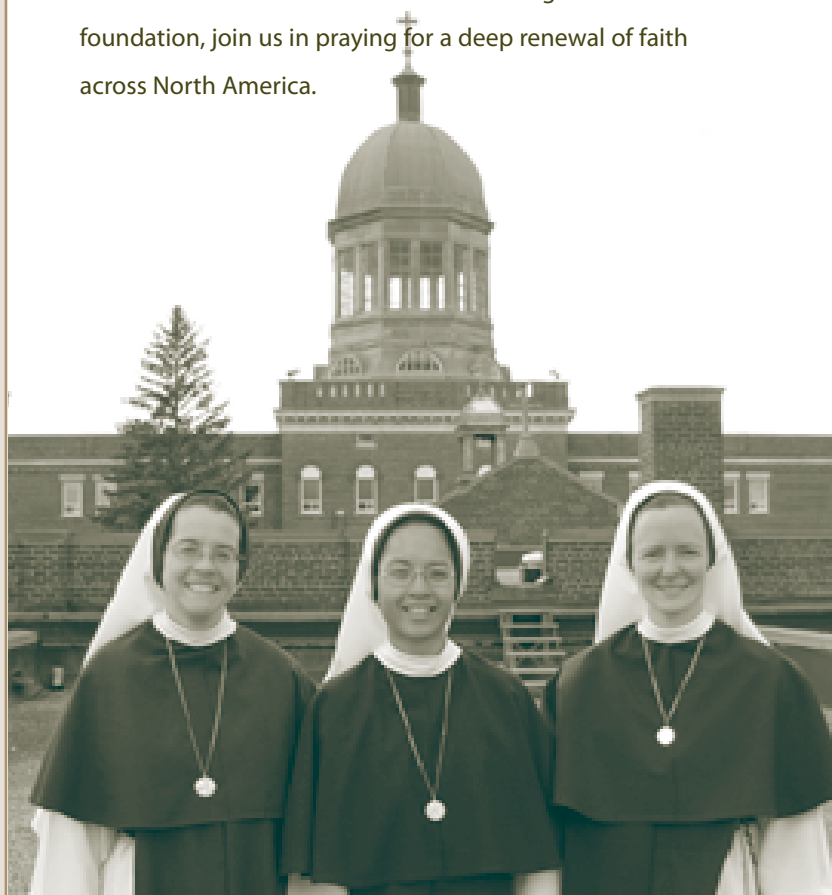
Jennifer Swan

Age: 27
Hometown: Sherrard, Illinois
College: Monmouth College
Major: Elementary Education
Fun fact: Loved preparing children to receive the sacraments.

TORONTO

Our first
international
mission!

A Divine Appointment! Over the last year, pro-life leaders from across Canada were gathering monthly at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, petitioning the Lord to revitalize the landscape of life and love in their country. Miles away in New York, the Sisters of Life were unaware of this cloud of prayer rising to the Lord. But He wasn't. The community began getting clear signals from God that He wanted a foundation in Canada, and so, with joy and eyes set on the Lord, Sr. Mary Clare, Sr. Antoniana, and Sr. Monica, set off for our first international mission this past August. It wasn't until they were settled in the convent adjacent to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto that they discovered the prayer that paved the way for their welcome. May the Lord of all, who holds the final victory, find in us open and ready hearts to "do whatever he tells" us. As we thank Jesus for our new Canadian friends and for all He is doing in this new foundation, join us in praying for a deep renewal of faith across North America.



SISTERS OF LIFE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Printed through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus. Written and designed by the Sisters of Life.



"From coming to know God as our Father, through our dependence...we learn the simplicity, the humility and trust of children; but only if we dare to love one another, if we accept the loves that come to us in our lives, saying to each one as it comes, "Be it done unto me according to your word," accepting the love and, whatever its cost may be, the responsibility of it, and the labour, the sorrow and the splendour of it." -Caryll Houselander

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