

To all our Dear Friends, Benefactors, and Acquaintances,

The Sisters wish you a most blessed New Year and a joyful Christmas Season. May our Lord and Lady grace you and your families with the everlasting gift of peace.

The past year has graced our young community with plenty of wholesome activity, and has taken full advantage of our Benedictine spirit. With many a prayer and plenty of work, the months have passed quietly and breathlessly as recollection and activity demand our unceasing attention. The growing pains

that try and strengthen every new community have come to greet our sisters more than once, requiring a generous amount of patient perseverance. It is especially during these trials that we fondly recall, *“Nothing unites us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as much as His Cross, which is the most precious pledge of His love.”* May Our Lady continue to teach us how to bear His Cross in peace.

With Our Lady of *Reparation* in mind, Sister Jeanne Marie has been painfully recovering from a fall that took place last Autumn, 2015. Unfortunately, sister began to suffer from terrible joint pain and ended up bed-ridden for months. We all invoked the Infant Doctor Jesus, sister’s faithful little companion, who remained close throughout the whole ordeal.

Time passed and Sister painfully persevered with both Physical, and Aqua Therapists until the end of September, preparing her for a necessary knee replacement. We received a set date of operation in November, and despite certain complications that had arisen, we confidently asked our dear Saint Joseph to intercede for a safe and successful surgery. In the end, sister did well during the two-hour operation and immediately afterward.

Daily visits to the rehabilitation center became the new schedule for our small community. We were pleased to follow the example of Our Holy Father, Saint Benedict, who was ever solicitous towards the sick, firmly insisting that the ailing brethren should be treated as Christ. Meanwhile, the nursing staff became fond of our little harp concerts which took place in the small hospital room. Our evening Advent ceremony sent a soft chorus of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* down the hospital corridor every night, and the gentle chanting of our Christmas Novena added to the spirit of the season. We discovered that our traditional Benedictine habits made quite an impression on some neighboring patients, and one woman who faintly remembered Our Lady’s *Ave* from childhood days was pleased to receive a Rosary from one of our sisters. Perhaps with some help from Saint Gabriel, she will recall the words to his Angelic Salutation.

The long month of rehabilitation ended just before Christmas, and Sister Jeanne Marie was released back to the convent. We are delighted to have her back, and would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their fervent prayers and kind encouragement. Little Doctor Jesus has accompanied Sister Jeanne Marie through many a trial, and we are truly grateful to Him for bringing her safely through surgery and therapy. May He grant you health of both mind and soul during this blessed new year.

Aside from our community sick calls, we have been volunteering our assistance at Saint Gertrude the Great Parish. We treat the priests to homemade pizza every now and then, along with an occasional batch of cinnamon rolls. Monday afternoons are reserved for general cleaning at the parish: sweeping, dusting, scraping wax, and other small tasks. The very angels must envy the position of cleaning God’s house, and we do our best to meet their standards. In return, we ask for their angelic guidance as we teach and direct Sunday catechism classes for the parish children. Mother Isadore Maria challenges the first-graders with lessons for First Holy Communion while Sister Benedict Marie instructs the fifth and sixth-grade students. Sister Jeanne Marie enjoys all the humorous little tales that are so often born in a classroom full of young Catholics. They are quick to learn, and keep us busy preparing lessons, grading homework, and printing coloring pictures.



Technology has also been keeping us wide-eyed and alert as we strive to unmask the hidden tricks to our new laptop. The malfunctioning system of a well-known piece of equipment is a sad realization when one must face the foreign world of new computers. As for choosing a new machine, the decisions were many, our knowledge was vague, but a helpful technician was able to point us in the right direction. We found just what we needed, and made our thanksgiving to Saint Anthony- a helpful soul who has become a favorite friend of ours as his statue gazes peacefully upon the comings and goings of our pioneering foundation sisters.

We celebrated our community's first novitiate ceremony in June, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Two postulants proudly received the habit of our community with their new religious names, and began their year of silence. After some months of discernment and a generous effort, Sister Perpetua Marie determined that she did not have a vocation and returned to the world. Sister Benedict Marie continues her period of formation- a bittersweet time in religious life. During this point, one must realize that whether the call of God echoes in cloister halls or resounds elsewhere in the world, it will surely draw us to Him if we generously strive to follow it. Please pray for our young adults who continue to seek the will of Almighty God.



A novice celebrates her investiture ceremony with her family.



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To make room for future members, certain renovations will be taking place in the convent during the new year. Our current small chapel will be converted into another cell, while our spacious workshop/garage will be renovated into a large chapel. Our dear friend, Mr. Stephen Weigand, has been helping with this project. We are truly blessed to have him for a contractor, and sincerely grateful for his skill in construction. We are also grateful for the fervent prayers and generous donations of our friends and benefactors who have also been supporting this project. Our faithful friend, Mr. Joshua Gunsher, has made earnest efforts for our community which is now a Non-Profit Organization, (501c3). Thanks to his time and charity, the donations of our financial supporters are now tax deductible. We trust that together with everyone's eager efforts, Saint Joseph will order all things smoothly and we will have more room for additional vocations soon.

We look forward to the day when more souls will be raising their hearts to God in our convent chapel. *"Oh God, come to my assistance; Oh Lord, make haste to help me!"* May our little Infant Savior hasten to your hearts this Christmas Season, and may His Blessed Mother grant you Her sweet assistance throughout this blessed new year.

United in prayer,
The Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation



A postulant makes pizza for the Priests.



The investiture gown, symbolizing the bride of Christ.



A generous archer gifted the sisters with new bows and arrows...Look out!



Saint Joseph, from the Chillicothe Mission Chapel, was in need of repair and came to visit the convent for a while.



Mother Isadore Maria works on a Christmas shrine for Our Lady.