

An Announcement

Dear Friends,

Wishing you a blessed month of the Immaculate heart of Mary. Summer is well on it's way already, with July quickly fading into August. The world continues to sigh and tremble with its many troubles, and though bitterness is its portion, we do not forget that God in His wisdom allows all for the ultimate good of His children. Though he is never the author of sin, He is ever guiding and directing its consequences with the benefit of His little ones in mind. Indeed, "*I reckon that the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come...*" So let us bear patiently and confidently the things that so disturb our human nature, trusting in the compassionate love our heavenly Father.

We are making an important and bittersweet announcement to all who have supported and encouraged us so faithfully these past few years. We have spent the past two seriously reflecting on the will of God for this religious community. We have had a relatively quiet life for some time now, and we have taken advantage of that fact, striving to further embrace the contemplative calling that we were drawn to from the beginning. With that endeavor, we have had to acknowledge a calling for the contemplative/monastic life in its more traditional form: that of the monastic cloister. Provided now with undeniable realizations, as well as the material means to establish a truly monastic institute, we must surrender everything to God and act upon the conviction of grace.

"Work and Pray," orders good St. Benedict: the monastic life requires the monastic observance. Daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and the chanting of the divine office before the Blessed Sacrament are essential to the life. Manual labor is also a necessity, according to our Saint, as it leaves the intellect free for the continual thought of God. A quiet atmosphere, a building that allows for growth in numbers along with a property that allows for agricultural practices goes a long way to promoting the monastic vocation.

That said, it is to our dismay that Cincinnati cannot offer the quiet life within an hour of St. Gertrude's while at the same time remaining within the max limit of our financial budget. A subdivision simply does not lend well to the monastic life and excessive time on the road gravely affects the accomplishment of our practical and religious obligations. Between this and the lack of affordable homes that are large enough to accommodate a modest chapel, a few cells, and a bit of workspace, we have had no choice but to expand our search.

Thus it is, our community will be relocating to Louisiana by mid-August. After much prayer and consideration, and with the requirement of daily Mass in mind, this decision was a relatively straightforward and self-evident one to make. We ourselves felt a bit speechless as things began falling into place; afterall, the Lord works in mysterious ways and we are seldom prepared for the unforeseen actions of His Providence. It serves to remind us that *everything* is the divine instrument of God's unerring hand; *everything* is the arrangement of His divine wisdom. Our time at St. Gertrude's has by no means been fruitless; the friends we have made here in Cincinnati will ever be an important part of our lives. You will all remain ever in our hearts and prayers!

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement; May God reward your efforts, and may Our Lady of Reparation intercede for you always.

United in the Love of Christ,
The Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation

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