



Stella Maris

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of the Mother of God

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

A Blessed Easter to you all! As we celebrate the Paschal season, let us look to the natural world, which offers us a befitting imitation of the glorious mystery that is Our Lord's resurrection. The hibernators emerge from their winter slumber, perennials make their budding debut upon the tree branches, and the light of day grows longer. Spring is the time of year which brings forth new life; so too does the transition of the liturgical season from Lent to Easter remind us of life after death. Let us rejoice, therefore, in Our Risen Lord who promises us everlasting life.

Spring has been off to a busy start for our Congregation! We had two new postulants—Sarah Cerise (CO) and Emily Shaft (MN) join us on January 6th. Sr. Marie Laboure (FL) and Sr. Maria Cabrini (MN) took their first vows on February 16th, while Marissa Kellogg (AZ) and Charissa Wright (OH) (now Sr. Maria Gemma and Sr. Rita Marie, respectively) entered the novitiate. Construction of the new chapel broke ground in late March and the exterior building frame has already been completed! We had an enjoyable visit with the Sisters at our Motherhouse for Easter week and began preparing the inside of the chapel for the next phase of construction.

It is with heavy hearts that we share the loss of one of our parishioners at Mary Immaculate Church, Audrey Hockel. Audrey always had a great appreciation for the sisters and in God's providence, most of our Sisters were able to sing at her funeral on April 8th. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Audrey.

Upcoming on May 16th, Elizabeth Zapp (FL) will be entering the novitiate, closely followed by the final vows ceremony for Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Stephanie Marie, Sr. Evangeline Marie, Sr. Mary Imelda, Sr. Maria Giovanna, and Sr. Mary Elizabeth on June 1st. Three postulants, Laura Stolz (Switzerland), Sarah Cerise (CO) and Emily Shaft (MN) will be entering the novitiate on July 2nd. Sr. Maria Magdalena (NE) will make her triennial vows on August 15th. Please keep these Sisters in your prayers as they prepare to take these next steps.

With our prayers,
The Sisters of the Mother of God

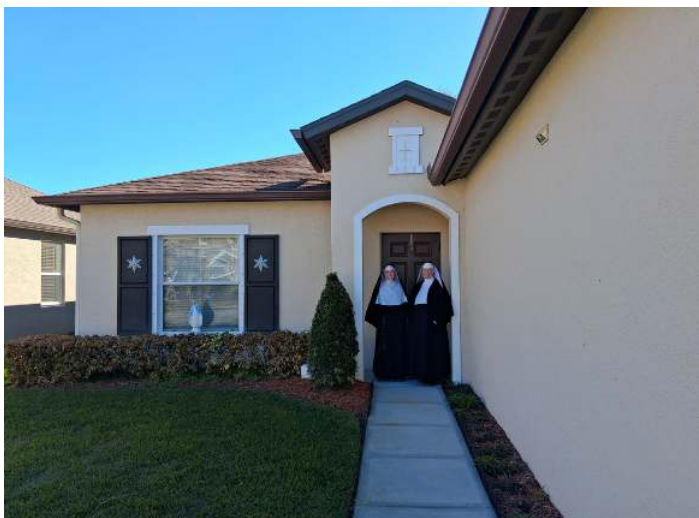




Candlelight Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes



Honoring St. Casimir at Mary Immaculate Academy



Our new convent, Stella Maris Convent, in Melbourne, FL



Praying at the outdoor shrine at Our Lady of the Snows Church



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Harmony, MN



The new chapel at our mission in Scotland



Visiting St. Joseph's Staircase in the Loretto Chapel
in Santa Fe, New Mexico



Enjoying a winter walk near
London, Ontario



Dedication of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in
Harrodsburg, KY



Palm Sunday procession
at St. Joseph of the Woods,
Salt Springs, FL



Construction of our new chapel building! We are so grateful to all our benefactors who have
made this building possible!



We were privileged to take turns praying by the side of Audrey Hockel on the day of her death, March 31, and to attend her funeral during Easter week.

Altar of Repose in Hazel Green, AL



Postulant ceremony for Sara Cerise and Emily Shaft



Novice ceremony for Sr. Maria Gemma and Sr. Rita Marie and vow ceremony for Sr. Marie Laboure and Sr. Rita Marie