



Spirit Echoings

Eucharistic Revival: A Blessing

The Eucharistic Revival is a blessing for our time.

When 60 thousand pilgrims arrived in Indianapolis in July for the Eucharistic Congress, the love and reverence they felt for Jesus was visible. Media presentations of the many events also allowed others at home to worship and give praise.

Before He was crucified, at the Last Supper Jesus gave us a final Gift in what appeared to be just a piece of bread and a cup of wine; however, this Gift of Himself, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, has survived throughout the ages. This Precious Gift is made present in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when the priest consecrates the bread and wine which become the Real Jesus. Every day we are able to receive Jesus in the form of a tiny wafer in Holy Communion.



*Blessed be Jesus in
the Most Holy Sacrament
of the Altar!*

from Sister Diane



Sister Diane Smith, SHS
General Superior

Finding Miracles Each Day

When the autumn season arrives we often turn our thoughts to thankfulness. Do I see God's hand at work in the little miracles that I experience every single day?

It is easy for us to see God intervening in the rare occasions such as the cure of an illness, the near miss of a traffic accident, or the birth of a baby. God is also present every day in a variety of experiences. What are some examples of "little miracles"?

- I received an unexpected phone call from a friend.
- I remained calm during a conversation which could have been confrontational.
- While stuck in traffic I sat and appreciated the beauty of the fall leaves.
- When rain prevented me from raking the leaves, I took the time to relax or read a novel.
- A thought or insight just "popped" into my head.
- How I enjoyed the crunch of a fresh apple from the orchard.

I have found that the more I recognize these blessings, the inspirations, the little miracles in my life each day and thank God or the Holy Spirit, the more frequently I received blessings and inspirations. This practice increases the spirit of wonder and awe within me. I challenge you each day to name for yourself two miracles or blessings you received that day and give praise to God.

Eucharist

The greatest gift of all is from our Lord who gives us Himself in the Holy Eucharist.

Many people have received abundant graces during the recent Eucharistic Pilgrimage, and Congress. May we each continue to grow in our love of our Lord Jesus during this time of the Eucharistic Revival in our country and then share our blessings with others.

The miracle of technology is that the Mass is now available on television and on the internet for those who are unable to participate in person. Jesus will transform our hearts and our lives; may we be open to receive Him.

Each day at morning Mass we Sisters pray for you and your intentions.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (John 6:35)



Community Celebrates Jubilarian

Twenty-five years ago, Sister Norma Marie Rodriguez professed her vows as a Sister of the Holy Spirit. Our community had looked forward to whose jubilee would be the first to be celebrated in the chapel in our new Motherhouse. Sister Norma's was, and the highlight of that day was the Eucharistic celebration. Father Leroy A. DiPietro celebrated Mass for Sister Norma who was joined by the Sisters, her family who had traveled from New York, and by the many friends she has made in Pittsburgh.

July 7 was a day of great festivity. In her ministries at Marian Manor Nursing Home and in Bloomfield where she presently ministers to elderly homebound residents, Sister has made many friends who came to honor her and who rejoiced in celebrating her life.

Guests were pleased to see the new Motherhouse. Dinner at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center completed a day of beauty, thanksgiving and blessings. We congratulate Sister Norma and thank her for these many years she has served God's people. May God bless Sister Norma with all she may need to continue to live her consecrated life in service to the people of God.



Sister Norma renews vows.

The Blessed
Sacrament
with pilgrims
in cemetery.



The Holy Eucharist: Central To Our Lives

Our foundress Mother Josephine was born in Russia. The story of the conversion to Roman Catholicism of the former Barbara Timofieff Finatovich took her to Rome where she eventually formed the Congregation of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament for the Unity of Churches and Suffering Souls. The name was changed to Sisters of the Holy Ghost when she reentered Russia to minister there.



People
adoring.

Since the beginning of our community, the Eucharist has been central to our lives. Daily participation at Mass, frequent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and promoting love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament form precious aspects of our apostolic ministries.

During Lent in 2023, Sisters Janelle Banko and Cynthia Wessel began weekly Eucharistic Adoration every Monday for parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish at the worship site of St. Agnes Church in West Mifflin and at St. Maximilian Kolbe church in the Homestead worship site on Fridays. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed at 3 pm at both Adoration sites.



Sisters Christine Marie
and Theresa Margaret
prepare to get on bus.



Sister Cynthia quoted Pope Saint John Paul II's letter, *Dominicae Cenae*, *The Mystery and Worship of the Eucharist*. It states

“The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in the sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease.”

Pittsburgh was privileged and blessed to host the Eucharistic Pilgrimage from June 12-19 as the Blessed Sacrament was carried to many stops in Pittsburgh on its way to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Pittsburgh seminarian Christoph Bernas had the privilege of carrying the cross for the entire length of the route. The Saint Elizabeth Seton route was one of four major routes throughout our country which brought out thousands of people along the way who participated and worshiped Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

At Congress.

In the spirit of our foundress who had such great devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, Sister Christina Marie Janusek and Sister Theresa Margaret Bealer traveled with other pilgrims on a bus to Indianapolis. Since their arrival back home, we have been graced with accounts of their experiences throughout the time of their pilgrimage. The lives of all of us have been enriched by Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence in our country throughout this pilgrimage. May the Eucharistic Revival help us to know God better, love God more fervently and serve God more faithfully.



Sister Theresa at event.



Blessed Elizabeth Seton Route.



An LCWR Gathering – Transforming

By Sister Janelle Banko

At the end of April, Sisters Janelle Banko, Cynthia Wessel, and Teresa Baldi participated in the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious), Transforming Grace: The Work of Transformative Justice, held here in Pittsburgh. As religious women we are “living the gospel call at a critical juncture in human history.” We are aware that the decisions each of us makes in the next few years will affect the future of our planet, and we take that responsibility seriously.

In a contemplative atmosphere, women religious from around the country explored how deep listening and working collectively

can lead to transformation in our own communities and in the global community that suffers from ever growing polarization.

As a result of this engagement, we are filled with hope and committed to discerning together the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we take on the mantle of *Transforming Grace* for ourselves and others now and into the future.

To participate in contemplative prayer experiences from the conference visit lcwr.org.

Wonderful Ministry Ends

In 1954, Pope Pius XII ordered a Marian Year to increase the faith of the people and their devotion to the Virgin Mother of Jesus. Marian Manor was named after that event and opened its doors in 1956. Our Sisters built, staffed, and maintained three levels of care for senior residents until 2008 when the Vincentian Healthcare System purchased Marian Manor. This year, Vincentian closed Marian Manor and the residents were relocated to other nursing homes.

We are grateful for all the kind support our community received from so many of you in our caring for the frail elderly people who were so dear to us.

Sisters Honor Jo Osten

A Mass was celebrated in our chapel for the repose of the soul of Jo Osten who died following a brief illness.

For over twenty years Jo served as a volunteer in the Martina gift shop. A fine, gentle, soft-spoken lady who was always ready to assist retreatants who came to the gift shop, Jo was the perfect volunteer, devoting hours and energy at the Martina Center. She could frequently be found cleaning and polishing and arranging the lovely gifts in the shop. She took great pride in providing items to fit any number of occasions. A great amount



Jim and Jo Osten.

of the merchandise was donated by Jo and her husband Jim, and they sought to make the shop profitable for the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center.

May her dear soul now rest in peace and happiness. She is, indeed, dearly missed.

Please pray for our country's upcoming elections.

The following is an adaptation of selected lines from a prayer in a book of prayers and devotions, the *Raccolta* #635:

We come, O God the Holy Ghost, we come before You. Come to us and be with us; enter our hearts; teach us what we are to do and where we ought to tend; show us what we must accomplish, in order that, with Your help, we may be able to please You in all things.

Suffer us not to disturb the order of justice, You who love equity above all things; let not ignorance draw us into devious paths, nor partiality sway our minds, neither let respect of riches

or persons pervert our judgment; but unite us to You effectually by the gift of Your only grace, that we may be one in You and may never forsake the truth;...so may we in all things hold fast to justice tempered by pity, that so in this life our judgment may in no wise be at variance with You and in the life to come we may attain to everlasting rewards for deeds well done. Amen.

Please also include for an end to the trafficking of people in your prayers.

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Published by Sisters of Holy Spirit

Editor Sr. Marita Juras, SHS

Design Pammy Pieretti

Photography Paul Marcucci
and others

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Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit of Pittsburgh, declare our mission is to be joy-filled disciples of Jesus, prophetically witnessing to the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, aware of our call to work for the transformation of society into a Gospel community, reconciled with God and with one another.

**Is God calling you to religious life?
Would you like to join us in our work of Love and Joy?**

Contact Sisters of the Holy Spirit - Vocations Office

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