

This is Vocation Awareness Sunday on which we have decided to focus attention on “*One Convent with a different sort of “vocations crisis.”*”



Dear Faithful Catholic,

If you have ever prayed to see young Catholic women once again flocking to the religious life in a spirit of total fidelity to Holy Mother Church, then I have wonderful news for you.

Your prayers have been answered — that day is here!

I'm Mother Assumpta Long, Prioress General of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. In the seventeen years since our founding, our numbers have increased from four Sisters to over 100 (and counting!).

And consider this: At a time when the average U.S. Sister is in her seventies, most of our Sisters are in their twenties.

The story I have to tell will not only amaze and uplift you, but (I hope and pray) inspire you to tell others about us - perhaps resulting in more vocations-to our community. (Imagine a young woman finding her vocation to the religious life thanks to you!)

In April 1997, Bishop Carl F. Mengeling welcomed us into the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. With the Cardinal's permission, we moved to Ann Arbor, where we built our Motherhouse.

At the time, of course, you could still count us on one hand. So a Motherhouse built to house 23 Sisters seemed quite sufficient. Little did we know what God had in store for us. Vocations came quickly — and, like the "miraculous draught of fishes" in the Gospels, kept on coming!

By August 1999, we had already welcomed eight Postulants (new members). In the Jubilee Year 2000, we accepted another dozen, doubling our numbers in a single year. Since then, our growth has actually accelerated, in some years by nearly two dozen new Postulants. But even more amazing than the sheer number of vocations to our community has been their caliber, and marvelous diversity. Our vocations have come from 31 of the U.S. states, as well as from Canada. Some are converts, others are "cradle Catholics." Many attended orthodox Catholic institutions such as Thomas Aquinas College, Christendom College and the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Others come from top secular institutions, such as

*Lord
Jesus
Christ
Son
Of
God
Have
Mercy
On
Me
A
Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

Wedding Anniversaries :

*2014 ACA for Our Lady of Fatima remains
at \$1,705. short of our goal of \$15,100.*

*At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately
from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

MONEY MATTERS

(Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 28, 2014)

190 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$2,197.55 of which \$ 147.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	188	# Used	76	# Unused	112
		Missionary co-op = \$ 353.00		Priest's Med. & Retirement = \$ 180.00	
Collection One Year Ago = \$ 6,530.00					

Harvard and UCLA.

Their life-experiences and talents are no less diverse. Sister Maria Guadalupe, for example, worked as a Catholic missionary in Belize. Sister Thomas Aquinas was headed for a career in the Air Force — she's a licensed pilot! Sister Annunciata spent time helping Mother Teresa's Sisters in Calcutta. Sister Maria Gemma studied in Russia, and now speaks and reads Russian fluently. Sister Mary Elizabeth has a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. But in the end, all had one thing in common: they heard God's call to the religious life with the Dominican Sisters of Mary! ...

And God Gives Amazing Growth!

It is God alone, of course, who has blessed our new community with so many vocations. But God expects action on our part such as those which mark a return to aspects of the religious life that nourished the great religious orders for centuries. To mention just a few:

Unwavering orthodoxy: As Dominicans, the motto of our order is Veritas — Truth. Accordingly, we believe it is our duty to receive God's truth from the Magisterium of His Church — and then carry it forth, unaltered and undiluted, to others. Rigorous study, therefore, is integral to our long formation — eight years from postulancy to final vows. Throughout these years, postulants and novices study the fundamentals of the Faith as presented in Scripture, the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, papal writings and other source documents. They also study Mariology, Church history, spiritual classics, liturgy and more.

Then, of course, we take these treasures out into the world through our teaching and evangelizing!

Constant prayer: Prayer is as necessary to the religious life as water is to a plant. Therefore, our prayer life comes first. Daily, our Sisters join in Community to pray:

- The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- The Liturgy of the Hours (The Divine Office) — A Eucharistic Holy Hour
- The Rosary
- Renewal of Consecration to Mary
- A Prayer for Vocations
- Meditation

Plus, every Friday, we have Eucharistic Adoration with confessions; and, on First Fridays, all-night Eucharistic Adoration. And, of course, each Sister has her own individual prayer life in her monastic cell. Our prayer life comes first so that our apostolate overflows from a contemplation nourished before the Eucharist.

The Traditional Habit: As denoted in Canon Law, the religious habit is a sign of consecration and a witness to poverty. It speaks instantly and eloquently, yet wordlessly, of who we are and what we believe. As a symbol of one "given to Christ," the habit "claims" us to be His Spouses in much the same way that a wedding ring announces to the world — and reminds oneself — that one is "taken." It is a sign of hope in a world that needs to be reminded of the possibility of living joyfully in the freely chosen consecration of poverty, chastity and obedience.

My fellow Sisters and I could tell you countless stories of how the mere sight of our Dominican habits has sparked reactions in Catholics — and non-Catholics - that prove the tremendous power of its witness.

JOY! To the Dominican Sisters of Mary, a life of service isn't a burden, but a privilege — and a thrilling adventure. Even our hardships bring us joy, by uniting us with Our Lord in His Passion.

Our Teaching Apostolate: Reviving a Noble Tradition --- The past several decades have seen the virtual disappearance of the teaching Sisters that made Catholic schools educationally superior, genuinely Catholic — and widely affordable. The loss to the Church, and to generations of Catholic children has been incalculable.