**Franciscan JOY**

“Our Franciscan Way is the source of much JOY. Francis and Clare teach us to walk joyfully in the footsteps of the poor and humble Jesus so that through Him we may be led in the Holy Spirit to the Father.” “We cherish the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist.”

**Spring has Sprung**

Besides visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, all are most welcome to bring prayerbooks and lunch to enjoy our grounds. There are benches and statues of Our Lady and St. Francis by our lovely pond. Meditate in nature enjoying the wildlife, various colorful birds and all God’s creatures. “Fr. Francis walked through this world with wonder and reverence, at peace with all creatures, whom he regarded as his sisters and brothers.” (From our Constitutions) We invite you to do the same and be renewed in spirit.

Come and visit our chapel which is a Diocesan Shrine of Perpetual Adoration. Spend time with Jesus. Did you know that Jesus is truly present there in the Eucharist just as much as He is present in heaven ... or was present on the Cross at Calvary? No special prayers needed. Jesus just wants YOU to be with Him. Come and spend some time with God. You go away happier ... guaranteed!

**Life in Community**

What is life like in a monastery? We hear that all the time. Community life is “family” life. “The one chosen among us to lead acts as a ... true servant of the community.” The abbess is our loving mother (just as Christ had a mother on earth in Mary). The sisters are our family. Jesus was obedient even to death on a cross. Jesus lived in humble obedience on this earth so we vow loving obedience to our abbess.
Many of you who will read this newsletter cannot enjoy our delicious baked goods and soups as you live so far. Many who do come to the sale wonder which nun does what or cooks what! Let’s take a sneak peek BEHIND THE SCENES at our famous “Soup and Bread Sale”. Sr. Mary Gertrude and Sr. Mary Agnes work making the soups and supervising soup-making volunteers. It is funny to see Sr. Gertrude (she is short) standing on a little platform (to reach the top of the big pots) with a large paddle in her hand to stir the soups on the stove. Sr. Agnes is also cooking up the Amish (no hormones!) fresh chickens for the broth in her handmade brown checkered apron (which she sewed - hand made and homemade like our soups!).

Mother Marion is covered with sugar and spice ... and everything nice! The brown cloud that surrounds our Mother is not a halo ... it is cinnamon! Mother Marion makes the best cinnamon rolls you ever ate ... the stuff of a child’s dream. Plump with raisins and filled with love in every bite. She rolls out the dough with a huge rolling pin. Sr. Betty Crocker? Sr. Dominique is busy at the computer processing your orders before the sale ... and in charge of the “Pre-Orders Department. Sr. Magdalen provides the food for volunteers and sisters during the sale (and there are many mouths to feed!) She also makes the very best coffee to keep us pretty perky ... especially the ones who have been up since 4:30 or 5 AM cooking. Sr. Assumpta keeps the dishwasher going with lots of cups to be cleaned. She also maintains the Adoration along with Sr. Mary Frances and Sr. Mary Anna. That is THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB during the sale. OOPS-forgot to tell you that Sr. Anna is also our diplomat. The volunteers love to chat with her ... and vice-versa. With all the pots and pans to be washed we are always greatly blessed with clean towels and cloths. That’s because Sr. Ishmael is the “towel angel” who quietly finds her way around, supplying the workers with clean towels. We can not do the dishes without her! Our African sisters (who are from another order but still our sisters) help out in the kitchen cooking and washing pots. They are our “kitchen angels.

Our volunteers are the biggest part of our “Soup and Bread” Sales. Their hard work and committed enthusiasm really makes the day joyful.
April 23, 2009

Dear Friends of Sancta Clara,

I find it interesting that in these times God is asking us, Poor Clares, to create a Spiritual Center on our property which will bring together people who are willing to discover a deep sense of God's presence - whether they encounter joblessness, financial difficulty, or just have a greater need for understanding God's presence in their life.

This endeavor perpetuates our mission as contemplative Poor Clares. It, in no way, will change our commitment to cloister.

As you peruse the enclosed material we feel that you will understand what God wants us to do. The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration welcome your interest in supporting us in any way you can, whether it is in the way of ideas, donations, construction, furnishings or initial operation of this Center here on the beautiful monastery grounds.

If you feel you may be interested in utilizing our future Spiritual Center for "occasions of grace" mentioned in the blue brochure I would appreciate your writing a letter stating that fact. A sample letter is below.

May you be greatly blessed in all you do and may the Light of Christ shine upon you.

Gratefully in our Eucharistic Jesus,

Mother Marion, PCPA

Mother Marion Zeltmann. PCPA

SAMPLE LETTER OF INTEREST

Letterhead (if company)

Date
Dear Mother Marion,
Acknowledge that you read or heard about the Spiritual Center
Name the areas you may be interested in when the Spiritual Center is built
Conclusion
Signature
Sr. Mary Anthony's Farewell

Our Sr. Mary Anthony Magill of the Most Precious Blood eloped with her heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ, into eternity on January 9 at 82 in the 54th year of her religious life. The lovely Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jeff Scheeler, OFM, Provincial Minister of St. John the Baptist Province and number of priests, including our Chaplain, Fr. Milton Klocha and loving and supportive family. Over the years sister could often be seen on ladders washing windows or changing light bulbs. She loved helping with the Annual Social as much as she loved ice cream. We often teased her about her "sweet tooth". Sister loved it when we told jokes. Her gentle presence will be greatly missed.

Dinner with Dana & visit from our Portsmouth PCPA Sisters

Dana, the famous Irish singer and former member of the Ireland’s Parliament, had dinner with us in our parlor. You may remember seeing Dana on EWTN or singing "We are One Body" for Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Denver. She inspired us with her stories of faith and sang We Are One Body with us at table.

Six Sisters from our monastery in Portsmouth, Ohio visited with us in early March echoing their joy and laughter throughout our monastery. Mother Dolores and her community are planning to build a new monastery in North Carolina. Our prayers and love go with them.

Sr. Mary Anna's June Jubilee

Our beloved Sr. Anna will celebrate her 75th Anniversary of Religious Life. Yes, our Sr. Anna has been a nun for 75 years. Sr. Mary Anna of the Holy Spirit will be given a big party so mark your calendar for June 21st. She says that she makes a prayer of thanksgiving every night for all the blessings of the day.

Sr. Anna entered the Cleveland Monastery. She excelled at sewing, painting, and designing cards. She also spent many happy years at our monastery in Bangladesh where she served as an extern sister and helped the lepers. "I still dream that I am there" sighs Sister.

We want to know what you think! Visit us at www.poorclares.org. You can post prayer petitions. (Yes, we really print them out for all the nuns to read and pray about). The photos of the nuns at prayer are specially touching.

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration
Sancta Clara Monastery
4200 N. Market Ave.
Canton, OH 44714