

# From the Foot of the Cross



The Passionist Nuns of Saint Joseph Monastery in the Diocese of Owensboro KY

Summer 2018

## *Behold, O Lord, I Come To Do Your Will*

Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you..." You may have wondered, or perhaps experienced first-hand in one way or another, how the venerable Patriarch Abraham felt when, at seventy five years of age, he received the call from God to leave his homeland. Well, our Sr. Catherine Marie now has a deeper identification with Abraham as she herself responds to a radical call from God, after having lived in St. Joseph Monastery in her home state of Kentucky for fifty-seven years. The "call" came earlier this year, in the form of a request from a delegate from the Holy See that she accept a temporary assignment as Superior of the Monastero/Santuario di Santa Gemma in Lucca, Italy, four hours north of Rome. This appointment comes as part of the work the Passionist Nuns throughout the world have undertaken under the direction of the Holy See, to unite in a new structure of communion which is called a monastic congregation, The Congregation of the Nuns of the Passion of Jesus Christ.



Although this new assignment was admittedly shocking at first, the Will of God was manifest with great clarity. So after much prayer and discernment, and after requesting provisions for a few practical details (such as a translator; Sr. Catherine Marie speaks very little Italian!), our Sister accepted, with the full support of Mother John Mary and our whole community.

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Above: Mother Catherine Marie** at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, *en route* to Lucca, Italy; **Left: Mother Catherine Marie, Sister Joan Mary, CP** (Italian translator and active Passionist Sister), & the cast of a skit performed in their honor; **Below: The community in Lucca, with Mother Fernanda Barbiero, SMSD**, General Delegate of the Holy See.



*(Continued from cover)*

We feel humbly honored that the Holy See has asked us to take a more immediate part in helping another monastery of Passionist Nuns.

And so it is that Mother Catherine Marie arrived in Lucca on June 17. With joyful and courageous dependence upon Our Lord, notwithstanding the heat of the Mediterranean summer as well as the language barrier, she is doing what she can to be a true "Madre" to the small Lucca community of Passionist Nuns.

The community in Lucca has a number of elderly and sick religious, along with four Indonesian Nuns and two from France. The shrine of St. Gemma, attached to the monastery, is a popular pilgrimage site with a never-ending stream of pilgrims. This presents many challenges as the Nuns strive to maintain their Passionist contemplative life while exercising a limited hospitality to the pilgrims.

Of course, we have not left our Sister alone in her new mission. We accompany her with our prayers every step of the way (as have so many of you!). Our Sr. Mary Agnes, accompanied by Jane Wynn, the mother of our Sr. Cecilia Maria, also traveled to Lucca in late July. They brought Mother Catherine Marie the support of some familiar faces and put their tech-savvy heads together to solve some major technological problems which Mother has encountered in the Lucca monastery. Sr. Mary Agnes will remain in Lucca until the end of August. Please continue your prayers that God's holy will be accomplished for the nuns in the Monastery of St. Gemma, and that His Spirit may continue to renew our Passionist life and mission throughout the world!



**Mother Catherine Marie with  
Sister Emmanuela**



**Mother Catherine Marie  
received the final profession  
of Sr. Emmanuela at the  
Monastery of St. Gemma on  
June 24, 2018**



**Sister Mary Agnes & Jane  
Wynn offering tech support to  
the Lucca monastery**



## *A Saint of the Passionist Congregation*

**St. Gemma Galgani** was an Italian mystic, known for her devotion to the Passion of Christ. Born in 1878, her short life of twenty-five years was marked by tremendous physical and spiritual suffering, but also profound union with Christ Crucified and many extraordinary mystical experiences. At the age of twenty-one, she received the stigmata, the marks of Christ's wounds imprinted on her own body. Although Gemma desired to become a Passionist Nun, she was not permitted due to her poor health and her mystical experiences, and therefore lived a life of prayer and penance as a laywoman. Gemma died of tuberculosis on April 11, 1903, in Lucca, Italy, and her relics are enshrined in that same town at the Passionist Monastery and International Shrine of St. Gemma.

*To view photos of the Shrine of St. Gemma and the Monastery in Lucca, visit*





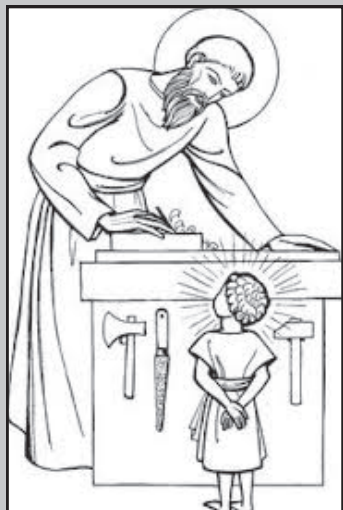
# Lord, Send Laborers For the Harvest!



These smiling faces are some courageous young women who are discerning a call to Passionist life. **Theresa**, from Louisville, is an Aspirant who is currently living with us, getting a taste of life in the monastery. **Olivia, Kathryn, and Zoe** attended our recent discernment retreat, a weekend of prayer, learning about Passionist contemplative life, and of course, a bit of fun! **Kathryn**, who hails from Washington, DC, has now been officially accepted to our Aspirancy program, and will hopefully be here for a live-in visit this fall! Under a new regulation from the Holy See, our Aspirancy program now consists of at least 12 months of spiritual and human formation in preparation for entrance to the monastery. Please keep all the women whom God is calling to join our community in your prayers!



## St. Joseph's Helpers



Scripture says of the Old Testament Patriarch Joseph, "From the moment that he put [Joseph] in charge of his household and all his possessions, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house...in fact, the Lord's blessing was on everything he owned, both inside the house and out." (Genesis 39:5) Surely these words could equally be said of our Good St. Joseph, and of anyone who entrusts to him the care of their spiritual and temporal needs! St. Joseph has, as always, been watching over us through the loving hands of his faithful "helpers"!

We extend special thanks to all who have contributed financially to our ongoing maintenance projects. **Ethan Boehmann** volunteered his time to help install the wiring in our new small maintenance building/UTV garage, "Isidore's Inn." Thanks also to all those who have prepared and delivered meals for us at times when we were short-handed in the kitchen!: **Mary Lou Payne, James Jarboe and family, Patsy Mayfield, Janet Wathen, Brenda Haynes, Mike and Laine Mills.** Early this summer, **Ronnie and Patsy Mayfield, Barry and Cindy Isbill, and Dwayne and Cathy Roby** fixed a terrific barbeque supper for us! Our fresh produce donors keep us well stocked throughout the summer months, in particular **Marcella Aud and her son, Michael Wayne** (frequent attendees of daily Mass in our Chapel). Finally, **Bruce Hagan** lent us his woodworking skills once again to restore our wooden St. Joseph Shrine at the back door of the monastery. May St. Joseph's intercession obtain



Ethan Boehmann hard at work  
in Isidore's Inn

# Monastic



*Corpus Christi &  
May Crowning  
Processions*



*"Fraternal  
communion is a  
reflection of God's  
own way of being  
and bestowing  
himself; it testifies  
to the fact that  
'God is love.'"*

-Pope Francis in  
Vultum Dei quaerere, #25



Sister  
Catherine  
Marie crowns  
Our Sorrowful  
Mother

Photo courtesy of Mel Howard

Fr. Pat Reynolds during  
our annual

Sr. Marie Michael, Sr. Mary Magdalen,  
and Sr. Mary Veronica during a "Bean  
Party" - stringing farm-fresh green beans  
from a generous benefactor

## Summer Fun



## *A Loving Remembrance of our Deceased*

We commend to our Merciful Father the souls of our departed loved ones:

**Felix Lopez**, the grandfather of our Sr. Lucia Marie  
**Bob Schafrik**, brother-in-law of Mother Catherine Marie

May Christ, Who was Crucified for them, lead them into His garden of  
Paradise, and grant peace and comfort to their families!





# Moments



Charlie Hardesty & Robin Tomes arranged a Day of Reflection at St. Joseph Monastery for young adults in the Diocese of Owensboro. Nearly 50 people turned out! We hope they join us for prayer and fellowship again soon!

Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth Barnstead

## Sharing Our Passionist Life



The Little Flower Girls Group from Southern Indiana paid us a visit in mid-July to learn about nuns and Passionist life—we loved sharing our vocation storybook and an interactive horarium game with them!



Beating the 110° Heat Index with a water-balloon fight!



*"To those who feel ever more keenly a desire to seek and encounter God, the nuns communicate the experience and fruit of their contemplation in a special way by teaching them how to keep the memory of the Passion of Jesus alive in their hearts."*

-#6, 1979 Constitutions of the Passionist Nuns

## 4th of July Festivities



# FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



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Dear Family and Friends,

To all of you who share your lives with us so generously, entrusting your needs and those of your loved ones to our prayers, and sharing with us your own time, talent and treasure in so many ways, we are delighted to extend another snapshot of the latest happenings here at St. Joseph Monastery. Please continue to pray for Mother Catherine Marie and her new mission, as well as for the ongoing renewal of our Passionist Congregation!

We will soon celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15). On Calvary, our courageous Mother gave to her Son the priceless offering of her compassion and her profound union of prayer with His Redeeming Sacrifice. Christ suffered, loved, offered... and she was there *for* Him and *with* Him, suffering, loving, and offering. As Passionist Nuns, it is our daily joy to remain with Our Lady here, at the *Foot of the Cross*, our monastic "Calvary." In union with her, we bring to the pierced Heart of Our Redeemer each one of you: your sorrows, your joys, your intentions and needs, your loved ones. Remember that we are here, with Mary, at the *Foot of the Cross*, for Him...and for you! Remember also that you, too, can draw close to Mary in *her* sorrows, and thus you will feel her close in *your* sorrows.

With deep gratitude for each of you, whose friendship and generosity unfailingly supports us in our life of prayer, we pray that God may bless you abundantly, grant you His peace, and sustain and guide you in His plan and mission for you!

*Mother John Mary and Community*



After Mother Catherine Marie's departure to Lucca, we had an extraordinary election to fill her role as vicar (assistant superior). Sr. Mary Veronica (2nd from right) was elected, and Sr. Mary Andrea (far right) was chosen to replace Sr. Mary Veronica as 2nd Counselor. Also pictured are Sr. Mary Magdalen (3rd Counselor) and Mother John Mary (superior).

Please remember us in your Will and help continue our Contemplative Passionist Mission