

# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

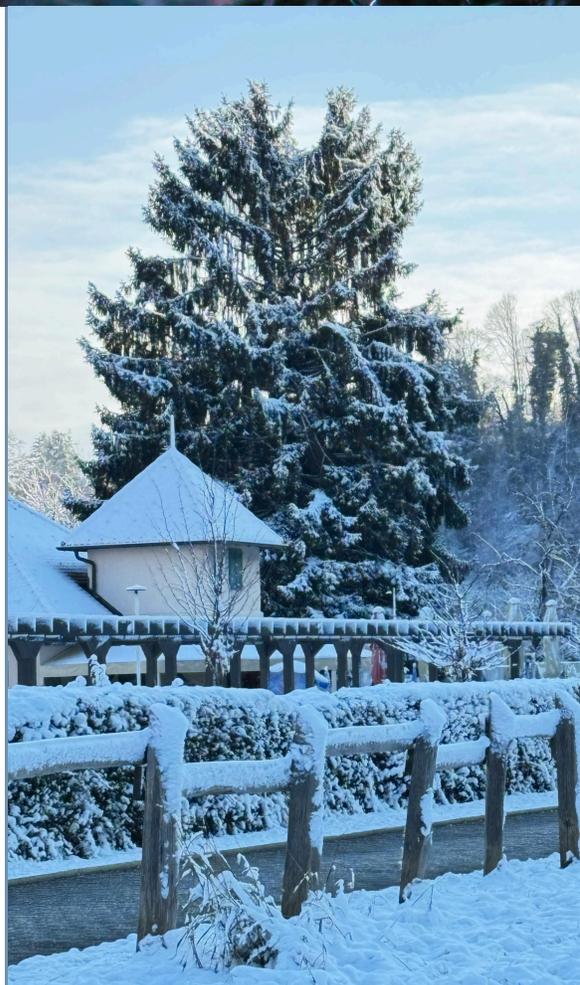
## SERVANTS OF THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT

### New beginnings . . .

The snow has finally fallen in North Dakota! We were waiting for the balmy 50 degree weather to change, and it did right in time for Thanksgiving!

These past few months have seen new beginnings, especially with the profession of simple vows of Sr. Lucia Rose. We also received the long-awaited stained glass window for our chapel and enjoyed the Catholic Montessori Conference at the University of Mary.

Please read on and enjoy the most recent ‘new beginnings’ in our community. May God bless you this Christmas!



Left: Sr. Lucia Rose near our convent Mary garden, now filled with snow!



## The Catholic Montessori Conference: *Cast a Ray of Light*

As we reported in our Fall newsletter, the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND recently inaugurated the Catholic Montessori Institute. We were delighted with this news, to say the least! Each year, in mid-October, the Institute holds a National Catholic Montessori Conference on the campus of UMary. We had the privilege of attending with Montessorians from all over the country, including one from Portugal. The event began with tours of Christ the King Catholic Montessori school where we serve, and then continued with keynotes and breakout sessions. Mother Chiara Thérèse, as seen in the photos, led a breakout session on “Deviations and the Normalized Child” according to Dr. Maria Montessori’s theory. Father Nick Schneider spoke on what makes a Montessori school Catholic. This keynote was particularly well received and very relevant for our current times.



“In serving the child, one serves life; in helping nature one rises to the next stage, that of super-nature, for to go upward is a law of life. And it is the children who have made this beautiful staircase that mounts ever higher.”

DR. MARIA MONTESSORI





## Profession of Simple Vows

On November 21, the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple, Sister Lucia Rose professed simple vows for three years. She professed the evangelical councils - poverty, chastity and obedience - as well as a fourth vow unique to our community - to honor Christ in the child. This fourth vow safeguards our charism as we strive to live out our apostolate of Catholic Montessori education by serving Christ in the child.

We are grateful to the Church of St. Joseph in Mandan, located mere blocks from the convent, for hosting the profession of simple vows. This church, dating back to the settlers of the early 1900's, is breathtaking in its beauty.

“By the profession of the evangelical counsels the characteristic features of Jesus - the chaste, poor, and obedient One - are made constantly ‘visible’ in the midst of the world, and the eyes of the faithful are directed toward the mystery of the Kingdom of God...”

VITA CONSECRATA (JOHN PAUL II)





## A Stained Glass Window for the Chapel

Another exciting moment for our community in these past months was the installation of our stained glass window! We have been anxiously awaiting it's arrival from the Twin Cities, and a few months ago, it came!

We chose, for the top half of our chapel window, the star of Bethlehem that shone bright on Epiphany. To honor this solemnity so dear to the Universal Church and the heart of all Montessorians, we desire to add the rest of the Epiphany scene to the bottom half of our window. As you can see in the photo on the right, we currently have blinds covering the bottom half of our chapel window. It is our hope to add a scene, similar in tone to the one you see below, to complete our chapel window. Would you consider assisting us in this noble task? Please check out our website, listed below, under the "give" tab for more information and ways to donate. As always, we are so grateful for your prayers, and also the financial assistance that continues to help us cover the cost of living and upkeep of the convent.

May God greatly bless you this holy season as we celebrate the birth of His Son! Let us pray for one another!

*Mother Chiara Thérèse, A.L.*



SERVANTS OF THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT  
MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA

[www.servantsofthechildrenoflight.org](http://www.servantsofthechildrenoflight.org)

