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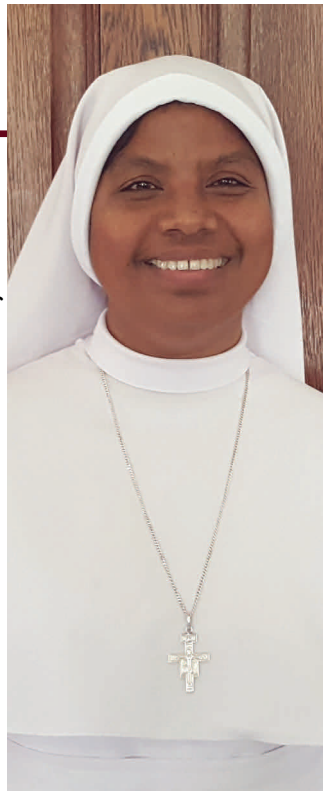
Newsletter of the
Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
At St. Peter Church, Chillicothe, Ohio
Summer 2017

Serving God with a Smile

I am Sr. Zephрина Mary a Franciscan Sister from India. My vocation is to love and serve Christ. Religious life is a life of commitment- life in the steps of the savior Jesus Christ. I entered in the convent at the age of 17, professed on May 5, 1995, and became a religious sister at the age of 21. It was the happiest day in my life. I wore a white habit, symbolizing innocence, purity, and joy. I pronounced the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, promising to remain faithful to my spouse, Jesus. God enveloped me with His grace and protection.

My vocation, like most, was both ordinary and extra ordinary. My beloved father, Thomas died when I was four years old. My mother, Mary died when I was thirteen. I was youngest among six children in my family. God enveloped me with His care and protection through my family. Home is the bonding place of belongingness in everyone's lives because it is the cradle of life. When I was seventeen, I was thinking about my future life as any other teenagers. I felt a divine call within to serve God. As a divine plan, I said good-bye to my beloved family members with a joyful heart, a heart full of love for Jesus and a full confidence for a consecration to God. Thus, I officially entered the new family, The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I came to the United States in May 2000. I graduated from Marian University at Indianapolis in Indiana with Studies in Education in 2014. I have been in Indianapolis for 17 years ministering in different parishes and schools. Thinking back to my twenty two years of religious life, living as the spouse of Christ under the same roof with the Blessed Sacrament, is the greatest joy of my life. I follow Christ through my work and daily situations, where I find His presence and I lift my prayers to Him. I am very happy to be here at Chillicothe and Waverly, especially at St. Peter and St. Mary parishes to serve you as a spouse of Christ.



*The Almighty has
done great things
for me and Holy
is His name. –
Luke 1:49*

Mailing Addresses :

**SR.SHANI MARY
F.I.H GENERALATE
PALATHARA
THATTAMALA.P.O
KOLLAM-691020
KERALA, INDIA**

**SR. AMELIA MARY
ST. LUKE CONVENT
150 W. 75th ST.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
46260**

The Lord's mercy is for all people!

By: Fr. Michael Hartge



The Lord's mercy is for all people! When Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina, He asked that His chaplet of Divine Mercy be prayed for the dying and for hardened sinners. Everyone is in great need of the Lord's mercy, but those who do not know Him need it most. It is with great confidence then that so many have prayed this chaplet and continue to recite the prayers Our Lord spoke to St. Faustina as a powerful way to ask for his mercy, and to show his mercy to those whom we encounter. It is knowing His boundless mercy that is a wonderful motivation for His disciples to evangelize.

To evangelize means to serve as witness to one's faith in word and example. It is to introduce people to the faith without at the same time urging one to embrace that same faith. To evangelize is to propose a person, Jesus Christ. This then often takes little planning because opportunities to show our faith in Jesus come with each new situation.

While on mission trips from St. Peter we have had many opportunities to give of our time by helping to beautify or repair some living space for groups of people. The results of these projects are easily seen and quantifiable. However, to beautify the soul by introducing the love and mercy of Jesus is incalculable, and can have a greater impact long after the paint or faces in our memories fade. On our most recent trip to Mexico we desired to serve as witnesses to our faith in ways beyond manual labor. Sr. Lenitta Mary and Sr. Saima Mary helped make this desire a reality by encouraging the group to learn the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Spanish, and to sing it with the children we were serving at the Ranchos de lo Ninos (RDLN) Orphanage.

On Wednesday and Friday, in the middle of the desert in Baja California, Mexico as the afternoon sun began to go down and the air began to cool, Jesus' Divine Mercy Chaplet was introduced to a group of orphaned children ranging from toddlers to teenagers and their caretakers. We passed out rosaries and prayer cards, and sat in the grass with the children singing the chaplet in Spanish while encouraging them to join in as they picked up on the melody. As one might expect they picked it up quickly and eagerly.

The children at RDLN are well cared for and loved, but still are not living in a home with a family. Perhaps hearing about His Mercy and His Passion offered to the Father for the whole world helped repair some of the wounds caused by growing up without a proper nuclear family. Jesus' mercy is consoling and healing. It is a sure and quick avenue to know him as a person who has deep concern for each of his beloved children. We hope our presence among the children at RDLN made a difference for them that week. We hope even more that the presence of His Divine Mercy in their souls will make a difference for the rest of their lives.



Sr. Leonard goes to West Virginia with parish reps delivering flood relief items.



The Infant of Prague Adoration Chapel is now open in the rear of the convent at St. Peter's



The Sisters working at the Pike County Food Bank



Silly side of the Sisters . . . At St. Colman's Oktoberfest



Sister Amelia helps with the Faith & Light program



Welcome Sr. Ruhitha

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that have received--only what you have given."
Francis of Assisi

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

I have received many blessings from the Almighty in the last three years through your generous heart, love, prayers, energy, time, and commitment for the missions in Chillicothe. It was my privilege to be part of that mission. I would like to say a very special word of thanks to each of you. I am so thankful for the blessed three years, and now I am going back to Indianapolis. You all are kind and wonderful people, and have touched my life in a special way. Without your support we wouldn't have reached our brothers and sisters who needed our presence and spiritual care. I really enjoyed my mission in Chillicothe, and I loved St. Peter and St. Mary's (Waverly). Even though it was only three years, you parishioners gave me what seemed like 30 years of support and care. The spiritual bouquet meant to me so much. Who am I to get all these precious prayers and I am so blessed with all these prayers. The Church picnic you all made into a special day for me. I am so grateful for your kind words, compliments, cards and presents. Your dedication, commitment and love of the Church and the Eucharist inspired me. I learned lot of good things from you. I wish that I could stay longer, but God's plan and His will must be done. He reminds me that there is no permanent home on Earth until I reach heaven. I really will miss you all! It is hard to say good bye!

I am so thankful to Rev. Fr. Hahn for his spiritual support, care, for being a spiritual Father, and for being our pastor. Also, I am grateful to Rev. Fr. Hartge and Rev. Dooley for their prayers, and support as well as my sisters. I am so thankful to our office staff and also our church ministries and committees especially the Knight of Columbus, Parish Council, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Military ministry, music ministry, Sisterhood of the Frogged Stitches etc.

I will remember and offer you all at the Mass every day, the greatest prayer ever. Please remember me a sinner in your prayers. May the good Lord continue to bless you all and keep you all in His Sacred Heart.

This is small world, so we will likely see each other again, even if it is when we recline at the table in the Eternal Kingdom.

Love you all. Good bye!

Your sister in Christ,

Sr. Amelia Mary.



Praying the Rosary at the Fatima
100 Rally at St. Peter's on May 13,
2017.



The Sisters finally meet Grandma

By: Fr. Sean Dooley

Our Sisters are all over the place! They seem to be going all over Ross and Pike County in their blue van. It is humbling to see the Sisters in action, especially in the hospitals and the nursing homes. I've heard many comments about their joyful presence from residents as they make their rounds.

My family too has been blessed by their presence. Whenever I would go home and visit my 92 year old Grandma Dooley, she always asked: "how are the Sisters doing?" My Grandma is one of two left from her generation. Grandma has one sister left, Sister Frances Joseph Hildebrand, who is member of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. As you can imagine, my family has been around religious sisters for many years now.

Grandma always wanted to come down to Chillicothe to meet them at the convent. However, this year, we had a scare in our family. She was taken to the hospital and after her stay, she came to the conclusion that she could no longer live alone. She moved in an assisted living facility.

Shortly after her move, Sr. Amelia approached me and said that the Sisters wanted to visit Grandma. So, we made the trip to Zanesville on Monday January 2nd. My Mom and Dad met us in the lobby and we walked to her new room. I went in the room and asked the three Sisters to wait in the hallway. I went in the room and said hello to my grandmother and told her I had some special guests who wanted to see her. As soon as the Sisters walked in, Grandma's faced just lit up. It is something that I will never forget. She even had a tear in her eye as she embraced each of the Sisters.

We had a wonderful and....interesting visit! My Grandmother was getting her hearing aids repaired, so we had to write down what we wanted to tell her on a notepad. We shared some laughs and told some stories of the family. As we were getting ready to leave, my Grandma pointed at me and told Sr. Leonard: "keep that boy in line." And of course, Sr. Leonard just laughed and laughed and laughed. I'm very thankful for the Sisters' presence to our communities and to my family.

Please pray that Sr. Leonard will be merciful to me. Amen.
(Mary Jo Dooley died on 2/7/17.)



The Sisters help with Mission Work in Mexico the Summer of 2016



The sisters join in song and prayer at the Ross County Fair.



The Sisters help Fr. Hartge win the coveted People's Choice award February 2017 at the Clergy Who Cook Fundraiser for the Josephinum.



Sr. Leonard after Cardinal Dolan blew her a kiss at the Vigil Mass for Life 2017.



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Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
 St. Peter Catholic Church
 285 W. Water Street
 Chillicothe, OH 45601

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