

OUR LADY OF PEACE RETREAT

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS
WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

The 15th Station

When I was walking for the first time on our newly paved path for the Stations of the Cross in 2018, I noticed at the end of the path that there was a building and an unkempt area. I immediately had a vision of a beautiful area for prayer with a mural portraying St. Clare and St. Francis. Later, when I shared this idea with Sister Angela, she suggested that the portrayal of the resurrection would be appropriate there. So putting our thoughts together, we came up with a theme for a mural encompassing the Risen Lord, St. Clare and St. Francis, plus representation from our Congregation the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows including Sister Mary Cecilia in her red scooter!



Photo taken during wall prep



Finished Resurrection Garden Mural (photo taken in the evening)

Our next step was to find someone to paint the mural for us. God sent to us, through another project that needed to be done here at Our Lady of Peace, Greg Lewis, from Greg Lewis Studios, whom we hired to paint the mural, which actually was more work than just painting on the brick wall! Westside Masonry cleaned up the area and placed pavers to make a beautiful patio and border, creating an area for plants. Don Rolison, our Maintenance Manager diligently worked with making an old fountain work and added the electricity for lights. And Sister Angela has worked untiringly at the landscaping, adding a bridge and many angels to the area.

The transformation of the area is remarkable, and we pray that our retreatants and visitors will find peace and solace while meditating at this beautiful Resurrection Garden.

Pax et Bonum.

Sr. Anne Marie, OSF

Sister Anne Marie, OSF

CELEBRATORY NEWS



Sr. Maria Benedicta and Sr. Maria Chiara Vows - August, 2020 - Photo courtesy of Joys of Life Photography

Community Professions on August 15, 2020

Congratulations, to Sister Maria Benedicta Hemminger of the Cross and St. Sharbel on her Perpetual Profession of Vows, and to Sister Chiara Melendez of the Five Wounds on her First Profession of Vows. Bishop Peter Smith was the main celebrant at the Profession Mass with Abouna Abbot Jonathan Decker, Fr. John Michael Morgan and Fr. Anthony Alles from the Sacred Heart Maronite Monastery concelebrating. Deacon Chuck Amsberry, the Master of Ceremonies, and Deacon Wadih Kaldawi were also at the altar.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR SISTERS

Sister Maria Benedicta: I had said for a number of years, “Lord, when will I be able to be totally yours and serve you more?” His answer to my prayer was my vocation as a Franciscan Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Sorrows for which I offer a canticle of praise and hope to all my days, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

Sister Chiara Melendez: There are no words to describe how I feel now that I have made my first profession of Vows and to wear the black veil which proclaims my dedication to Christ and to the service



Sr. Maria Benedicta

of the Church. The best way I can put it into words is--being overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit and experiencing joy that is not of this world. It's a forward step along the path to the Kingdom, uniting myself more closely to Jesus who is near to us. Choosing to follow Christ has brought a new beginning to each morning--I now awake looking forward to spending the day with Jesus and growing in knowledge and love of Him and our Blessed Mother, Mary. I am happier today than I was before entering the convent. I put my trust in God and live in the Holy Spirit as I try to live in His Will each day.

Revelation 3:20 - *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”*



Sr. Chiara receives her black veil from Sr. Anne Marie, Superior General.

CELEBRATORY NEWS

Congratulations to Our Maronite Friends

On June 27, Peter John Zogbi, whom the Sisters have known since childhood, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Abdullah Elias Zaidan at St. Sharbel Church in Portland, Oregon. The event was made available on facebook for many who were unable to attend in person. Fr. Peter has been assigned as the Pastor of St. Elias



Maronite Church in Birmingham, Alabama where he had served as a Deacon prior to ordination. Congratulations, Fr. Peter!

We also wish to congratulate Fr. Peter's parents, Gibran and Lena Zogbi as well as his siblings: Antoine, John, Rita and Therese. Please keep Fr. Peter in your prayers.



The Antiochene Maronite rite is one of the most ancient of the rites belonging to the Catholic Church. The Maronites derive their name from St. Maron a fourth century hermit monk whose followers after his death settled in Lebanon.

"The Maronite Liturgy developed in Antioch in Aramaic right after the time of the Apostles. This early liturgy was ascribed to St. James the Less, the first Bishop of Jerusalem, and was enriched by the hymns and prayers of St. Ephrem, James of Sarug and other Fathers of the Antiochean see. The Maronites share this same heritage with the Chaldeans, Syrian Catholics, the Malabarese and Malankarese of India."

- Eparchy of St. Maron webpage

Dear Benefactors, Volunteers and Friends, Our Gift to You this Advent and Christmas Season!



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Dearly Beloved,

You and your loved ones, both living and deceased, will be remembered in a Novena of Masses offered in the Sisters' Convent Chapel beginning December 16 and concluding Christmas Eve, December 24.

(Please make your intentions in your hearts)

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"For God Alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him." - Ps. 62:5

RETREAT HOUSE NEWS

Dina Marie Hale Joins OLP Retreat House Staff as Our Media Coordinator

Dina Marie Hale is an adult convert to Catholicism. She grew up in Gresham and was raised in the Lutheran Church, but from high school to post college she lived a secular life. After graduating with a degree in communications from Lewis & Clark College in 1991, she moved to the Oregon Coast where she lived for eight years. In 1998 she began the RCIA process at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Tillamook, and then was confirmed on Easter Vigil 1999. With a background as a radio broadcaster, she spent the next 18 years working for KBVM Catholic Radio (Mater Dei Radio) as a morning show host and program director.

Dina Marie and her husband Rob (also a convert) are members of All Saints Catholic Church in NE Portland. Her family includes her parents, Dean and Robyn in Gresham, her brother Ryan in Seattle, her two adult stepdaughters, and three very active grandchildren ages eight, five and five, who love to pick blueberries in “Grandma Dina’s” garden.



Sr. Agnes Clare and Dina Marie harvest tomatoes from the garden

One of the most exciting projects she has worked on was with Shalom World TV to host a series of vocation TV programs called “Vowed” with the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows. The three-part TV series was filmed at Saint Clare’s Retreat House in Soquel, CA. In these programs Dina Marie interviewed a panel of Sisters who shared their personal vocation stories and insights into Franciscan Spirituality. She is now looking forward to the opportunity to use her gifts to serve the mission of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows at Our Lady of Peace Retreat.

Retreat House Updates

Retreats have resumed here after a five-month hiatus. There have been some changes in how many retreatants we can accommodate, the number seated in the dining room at each table and serving methods. For the



present, the Sisters are serving our retreatants. Sister Regina with three other Sisters served the buffet at our recent October Angelorum Retreats.

Regretfully, due to the uncertainties connected with gatherings of groups over 50 persons, we will not be having our Benefactors and Volunteers event in December. Neither will we host the Annual Tea and Auction next February. All going well, we hope to resume the Tea on Saturday February 5, 2022! Please save the date.

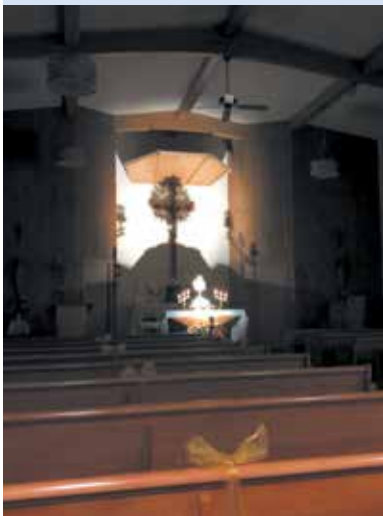
RETREAT HOUSE NEWS



Galilea Women's Retreat with Sr. Teresa (Back row center) and Fr. Ignacio (Front row right)

St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Portland sponsored two retreats in November, Galilea for Women and Ambassadors for men. Margaret Ecklund, who assisted Fr. Ignacio in preparing for the retreat, kindly shares her thoughts: “We are blessed to have had the opportunity

Time for Eucharistic Adoration



to gather at OLP retreat house for the weekend! Women of faith had the opportunity to listen and learn at the Silent Retreat with the theme of “Life of St. Paul”. In the silence and peace of the chapel, center and grounds, we were able to reflect the words of St. Paul: “It is no long I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Gal 2:20). The Sisters provided wonderful meals to nourish our bodies as we nourished our souls. The safe distancing, masking, surface cleaning and access to outdoor spaces provided a venue of health for all.”



Fr. Ignacio gives a conference on St. Paul the Apostle

RETREAT HOUSE NEWS

Why Were the Saints SAINTS?

Because they were PATIENT when it was difficult to be patient...

...kept SILENT when they wanted to talk...

...were AGREEABLE when they wanted to be disagreeable...

...CHEERFUL when they didn't feel like being cheerful...

...SMILED even though it hurt to smile...

Yes, even through their tears.

All for Jesus, thru Mary, with a smile!

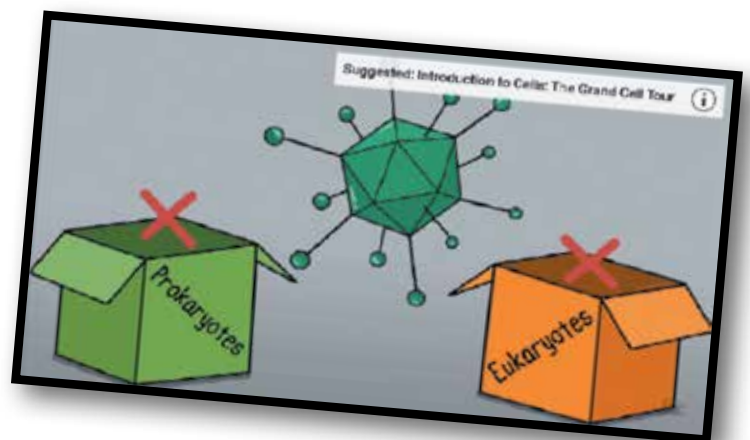
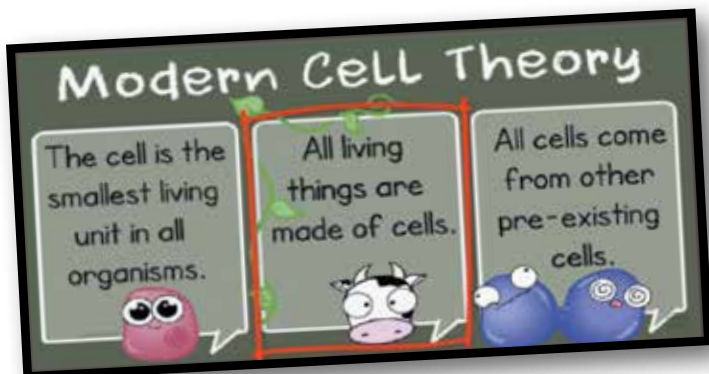
- Abbey of Gethsemani, Trappist, Ky.

Room 15 in Hall Two is Set Up for Classroom Instruction These Days



Sr. Mary Peter Duyck reviews teacher's manual prior to Zoom session with students.

Sister Mary Peter is teaching grades 6 and 7 Life Science through Zoom Distance Learning this year. Saint Matthew Catholic School grades 6 and 7 consist of about thirty students. They are currently studying about cells and viruses and most classes include two short videos to support the textbook lesson. Attached are screenshots from current videos. Sister Mary Peter also teaches religion to grade 7 and is very pleased with the new textbook from Sophia Press.



All Things Therese! and the Holy Face, a Devotion for Our Times

In early fall, we celebrated the feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux with our annual novena of masses preceding her feast day offered in the Sisters' convent chapel, by the Maronite Monks of Jesus Mary and Joseph. Among other intentions, we prayed especially for all who are affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. As we reflect on the mask mandates, the human face covered from view, and the sound of muffled voices everywhere!, a distressing picture presents. All this sorrow directed our thoughts to St. Therese, our little Carmelite Saint and Doctor of the Church, who often contemplated the face of Jesus in his sorrowful passion and upon which she based her spirituality. Her name in religious life was Sr. Therese of the Child Jesus. However, as she approached an early death from tuberculosis at the age of 24, she added to that appellation... and of the Holy Face.

We share with you, dear reader, the prayer she composed in honor of that Holy Face.



Happy Feast Day, Sr. Therese, October 1



St. Therese of Lisieux

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FACE

O Jesus, who in Thy bitter Passion didst become “the most abject of men, a man of sorrows”, I venerate Thy Sacred Face whereon there once did shine the beauty and sweetness of the Godhead; but now it has become for me as if it were the face of a leper! Nevertheless, under those disfigured features, I recognize Thy infinite Love and I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men.

The tears which well up abundantly in Thy sacred eyes appear to me as so many precious pearls that I love to gather up, in order to purchase the souls of poor sinners by means of their infinite value. O Jesus, whose adorable face ravishes my heart, I implore Thee to fix deep within me Thy divine image and to set me on fire with Thy Love, that I may be found worthy to come to the contemplation of Thy glorious Face in Heaven. Amen

She composed additionally this prayer for those far from God. It might be a timely one for us to offer in their behalf in this complicated hour:

“Eternal Father, since Thou hast given me for my inheritance the Adorable Face of Thy Divine Son, I offer that face to Thee and I beg Thee, in exchange for this coin of infinite value, to forget the ingratitude of souls dedicated to Thee and to pardon all poor sinners.”

For a more in-depth look at this devotion, we provide these two links:

The History and Promises of the Holy Face Devotion [youtube/a5U6pS5P-6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5U6pS5P-6c) and www.holyface.org

— Sister Louismarie, a Vocation Story —

A smile lights up the face of our Sister Louismarie born Tina Premazzi, as she recounts memories of her childhood growing up in The Dalles, a small town dividing western and eastern Oregon situated on the scenic Columbia River Gorge. Born of Italian parents - both sets of grandparents had come from the old country - her father Angelo's ("Lee") parents came from Milan and her mother Deona's parents hailed from the boot, near Sicily.

Sister Louismarie recalls her mother being very pious, her father not so much. But he could be very funny, even silly, a trait she said she must have inherited from him. She grew up with Andrea who was one year her junior. The baby of the family, Sandra Renee, passed away at the age of four of a congenital heart problem, leaving a sad but sweet memory of a happy and joyful little person whom they had loved. She died on the eve of Our Lady's Solemnity December 31st.

Sister Louismarie remembers the difficult years of grade school and high school. She was always a conscientious student achieving excellent grades, yet a serious introvert. She recalls having one close friend throughout grade school at St. Mary's Academy and then again another close friend during public middle and high school. She rarely dated. However, because of her shyness she is grateful that she was protected from many of the temptations that afflict the teenage years. Sister Louismarie recalls that Andrea was always the life of any party. Teachers would say of Sister Louismarie, "She's a great student, but we wish she would socialize more!" and of Andrea, "Would that she could socialize a little less!"

By the time Sister was 18, she had moved into a 21' travel trailer near Mt. Hood Community College, where she was to spend the next two years taking courses that would prepare her for a career as a legal secretary.

When finished with school, Tina secured a job as a legal secretary with the well-known firm of Miller, Nash, Yerke, Wiener and Hager in Portland. In her spare time she went on excursions to a number of places and to visit her family. Tina spent eight years there and toward the end of her employment had become restless and began asking herself, "Isn't there anything more to life than this?"

At 28 she impetuously bought her first car, secured an apartment in her home town, quit her job at Miller & Nash and that's, she says, when her conversion began. It dawned on her that since she had "wheels" now, there was no reason she should not go to Mass regularly, for she had all but stopped attending Mass and the sacraments while working in Portland. Another side to Tina emerged and when not at work with the accounting agency where she spent the next eight years, she occupied herself with prayer and church activities. Her day looked like this: morning Mass before work, her lunchtime spent making a "Holy Hour" at St. Peter's, and then assisting Father with any number of apostolates and activities. After her day, she would go home and spend more time in prayer. One evening while praying, Tina heard the distinct words form in her heart "Follow Me".



Sr. Marie with brother-in-law Ron and her sister Andrea.



CONVENT NEWS

Her apostolic zeal after that took off, and her energy knew no bounds. During this time many would ask her “Have you ever considered becoming a nun?” So guided by her spiritual director she inquired at several communities, but gave up feeling overwhelmed at the flood of information. Another year went by! It was then she went on pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine in Betania, Venezuela for clarity. She shared that the grace she obtained in that holy place was “courage to resume the search.”

Now Tina was 37. Father told her she belonged in the cloister, so she wrote to three communities and soon entered the Handmaids of the Precious Blood in New Mexico where she chose the name “Sister Louismarie” and remained for 14 years. The sisters spent seven hours a day in liturgical and private prayer, Her assignments were the community cook and the organist. It was a beautiful life and she adapted well to it.



Fr. John Boyle, Mother Marietta and Bishop Peter Smith

Through the years in the cloister, though happy, Sister said she experienced a longing to be more actively involved with the public, and therefore eventually asked permission to leave to investigate an active apostolate. In her search she found the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows not far from where she was staying with her sister in Oregon. The rest is history! Sister kept her name “Louismarie of the Two Hearts” and in 2018 after the customary probationary period of three years, Sister pronounced her perpetual vows in the chapel at Our Lady of Peace Retreat. It was a great day of celebration made especially happy by the presence of her former superior from the Handmaids of the Precious Blood, then Mother Marietta, who traveled to Beaverton from Tennessee for the occasion.



Perpetual Vows

Photo courtesy of Sr. Maureen Theresa



Sister’s advice to all who seek to do God’s will is: “To Jesus through Mary”— do think, say, breathe, through Mary in Jesus, in order to discover His will for you. And if you think you know what it might be, don’t put God off as I did in my younger days. He’s waiting to hear from you and will pursue you constantly. Becoming a religious is the best thing I ever did in my life - Thanks be to God!

The postscript to this narrative is that Sister Louismarie, with two large suitcases in tow, has flown to Richmond, B.C. where she is joining Sister Maureen Theresa on mission at St. Paul Parish. It did not take long for Sister to find a project after her arrival, convent backyard trimming.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

To Register for OLP-Sponsored Retreats (in blue)
phone 503-649-7127 or email sisters@olpretreat.org

JANUARY

January 8 - 10, 2021
ARCHBISHOP'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT
Contact: Fr. Jeffrey Eirvin at 503-233-8368

FEBRUARY

February 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT
Retreat Master: Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Theme: "We are the Lord's"
\$40 Suggested Donation, lunch included
Zoom option also available

MARCH

March 26 - 28, 2021
WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT
Retreat Master: Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz, CSMA
Theme: "Divine Mercy"
\$200 Suggested Donation for in person stay
Zoom option also available

APRIL

April 9 - 11, 2021
DOMINICAN LAITY RETREAT
Contact: Cecelia Hoesly at 503-236-8393

April 30 - May 2, 2021
MEN'S SILENT RETREAT
Retreat Master: Fr. Augustine Hilander, OP
Theme: TBA
\$200 Suggested Donation
Zoom option also available

MAY

May 14 - 16, 2021
CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER
Contacts: Tim & Mary Shamrell
at 503-267-3605

May 20 - 23 2021
FORT VANCOUVER KNITTERS GUILD
Contact: Rita Coppnoll at
coppnoll@comcast.net

JUNE

June 4 - 6, 2021
TROUBADOURS OF PEACE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Contact: Dcn. Terry Barber at 360-956-1995

June 15 - 23, 2021
SISTERS' 8-DAY SILENT RETREAT
Retreat Master: Fr. John Marshall

June 25 - 27, 2021
CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER
Contacts: Tim & Mary Shamrell
at 503-267-3605

If you have a group that would be interested in scheduling a weekend or day retreat, please phone 503-649-7127 or email sisters@olpretreat.org.

Also, please check our website in January for the July through December 2021 Retreat Schedule.



48th Annual Our Lady of Peace Institute in Catholic Teaching July 12-16, 2021



“The Mysterious Wisdom of God”



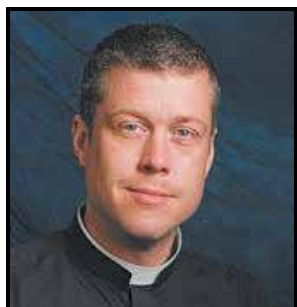
Dr. Anthony Lilles, S.T.D.

Catholic Theologian Academic Dean at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California

Author of the books: *Fire from Above* and *Hidden Garden*

Course Summary: TBA

Evening Lecture: TBA



Fr. John Marshall

Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Milwaukie, Oregon

Course Summary: TBA

Evening Lecture: TBA



Heather Renshaw

Catholic Speaker with the Archdiocese of Portland

Wife, Mother and Author of the book *Death by Minivan*

Course Summary: TBA

Evening Lecture: TBA



Dina Marie Hale

Radio Show Host for Mater Dei Radio

Wife, Catholic convert and writer for *Decided Excellence*

Catholic Media. Dina Marie is the Media Coordinator for the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows

Evening Lecture: TBA

Evening Lecture Schedule

Mon. (7/12) Dr. Anthony Lilles

Tues. (7/13) Heather Renshaw

Wed. (7/14) Fr. John Marshall

Thurs. (7/15) Dina Marie Hale

For more information, full course description and to register please visit our web site at www.olpretreat.org or email: Sr. Maria Benedicta srbenedicta@fmsolp.org

OUR LADY OF PEACE RETREAT

A Peaceful Place to Rekindle Your Spirit

www.olpretreat.org

3600 SW 170th Ave, Beaverton, OR 97003

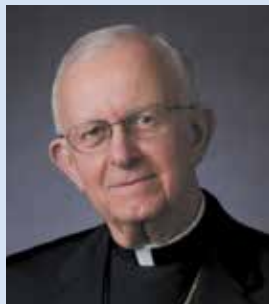
UPCOMING RETREATS

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

WE ARE THE LORD'S (ROMAN'S 14:8)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

9 am - 2:30 pm - Doors open at 8:15 am



RETREAT MASTER:

Most Rev. John G. Vlazny

THE DAY INCLUDES:

Holy Mass, Conferences,
Opportunity for Confession,
Rosary, Time for Quiet
Reflection and Prayer

Suggested Donation: \$40 (includes lunch)

A ZOOM option will be available through
our website: www.olpretreat.org

WOMAN'S SILENT RETREAT

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT

March 26–28, 2021



RETREAT MASTER:

Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz, CSMA

THE RETREAT INCLUDES:

Holy Mass, Morning Prayer
(Lauds), Conferences,
Opportunity for
Confession, Rosary,
Time for Quiet
Reflection and Prayer

The retreat begins Friday with dinner and
concludes on Sunday after a late-morning brunch.

Suggested Donation: \$200

This is an in-person retreat and also available
by ZOOM at our website: www.olpretreat.org

TO REGISTER: Please email sisters@olpretreat.org or call The Retreat House at 503-649-7127