

Chaplain's Corner

TURN ON YOUR GPS!

Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD



Last month I was invited to preach at three churches in southern Missouri, an area of the state that I was unfamiliar with. Before heading some one hundred miles south of St. Louis, I programmed my GPS. With such a helpful tool I felt sure that I would have no difficulty arriving at my destination. And so it happened. With the attentive guidance of my GPS, I found all three parishes and even arrived at my destinations ahead of time. I truly marvel at the “mystery” of the GPS!

This past July contemplative communities were gifted with a GPS from Pope Francis. It came, not as a tool for the car, but in the form of a letter addressed to the worldwide communities of contemplatives. It was titled simply: Seeking the Face of God. That papal letter provides guidance, a kind of spiritual GPS if you will, for the spiritual journey of contemplatives in our day. Of course, our Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, truly cloistered contemplatives, were quick to tune in Francis’ timely and guiding message.

Francis restated clearly the fundamental purpose of the contemplative life. It is a way of living out one’s baptismal commitment by devoting one’s life “to seeking His face, longing to find and contemplate God in the heart of the world.” This is done in the midst of a supporting community of faith and a vowed religious life—ready and

eager to follow the path of holiness to eternal glory. The Holy Father reconfirmed the great value and validity of the contemplative life for our times.

As one reads the complete 2016 papal document, it becomes clear that the contemplative life is, in a sense, also a GPS for all the baptized and, indeed, for all of humanity. The lives of contemplatives “visibly represent the goal towards which the entire ecclesial community journeys.” Contemplative men and women are “a signpost pointing to a journey and quest, a reminder to the entire People of God of the primary and ultimate meaning of the Christian life.” Therefore, the example of a contemplative community is a contemporary GPS for anyone who seeks the face of God—that felt need and longing deep in the heart of every person. Such human restlessness will be satisfied only when the journey is over; the final destiny is reached, and God takes one to himself.

Is that why many like to visit Mt. Grace Convent? Certainly some stop by on their journey through life to pause and, if necessary, even reset their inner GPS. Is there anyone who does not understand that he or she, at times, needs to quietly recalculate how to reach the final goal of life? The life and example of our Sisters, like a GPS, can provide guidance. In the meantime, have a good journey!



*Let us imagine ourselves
standing below the
nine choirs of holy angels
offering their homage to
God and calling out*

*in praise:
holy God, holy, strong,
and immortal God.*

*Let us repeat nine times
with the nine choirs
this praise.*

*Servant of God
Mother Mary Michael,
our co-foundress*



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Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters

www.mountgraceconvent.org

1438 E. Warne Ave

St. Louis, MO 63107



*You and your loved ones
will be gratefully remembered
in our Advent and
Christmas Liturgies
December 16 to 24 and
December 26 to January 3
and in our Eucharistic Celebrations
on Christmas Day,*



Our canonical visitation, which happens every four years, took place in September. The aim of the visitation is to strengthen the Sisters' conviction that the Congregation is solicitous for each and every one of them, and to give our generalate a better insight into the life and activity of the Sisters and into the needs of the individual communities of the Congregation. This helps make certain that our life in each of our 22 convents worldwide remains directed towards our common goal. This time Mother Maria Elizabeth was unable to come, so her assistants **Sister Mary Devota** and **Sister Mary Renée** held our visitation instead. On September 13, we welcomed **Sister Mary Carmelita** from our convent in Corpus Christi for a one-month stay. Sister Mary Carmelita kept the adoration when we took our community picture, so this was a rare occasion when everyone was present for the photo.

*Our Community
2016*



Diamond Jubilee



Our diamond bride, **Sister Mary Jozefa**, celebrated sixty years of vowed life on September 8. Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Robert Hermann presided over the special Mass and met with the community in the sacristy afterwards. Sister Mary Jozefa entered our Motherhouse in Steyl, Holland in 1953 and made her first profession of vows in 1956. In 1958, she left her homeland for the United States. With the generous spirit of a missionary, even as such a young Sister, she made the sacrifice and followed the call of the Holy Spirit. She made her final vows here in St. Louis in 1961. Besides serving fifty years at Mount Grace, she has also spent some time at our convent in Philadelphia. Sister has had more than her fair share of aches and pains as the years go on, but her exuberant personality has barely slowed down. She can always be

counted on to be a zealous participant in our community activities, making sure everyone has a good time. She helps out in various work departments around the convent and can still produce beautiful calligraphy on our Perpetual Enrollment Mass cards even though she suffers from double vision. Her great joy as always is taking part in our perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On her diamond jubilee day, Sister glowed with the peace and happiness only the Lord can give. Sister Mary Jozefa's life and witness of sixty years of consecrated fidelity are a mirror of the faithfulness of her Bridegroom and his love for her.

