

Jubilee Year of Mercy Indulgence

In the Jubilee Year, the experience of pilgrimage becomes a tangible sign of the choice of an individual to journey toward Christ, through sacrifice, penance, and prayer. In the course of the Jubilee Year, the faithful are invited to make prayerful pilgrimages to one or more local churches that have been designated by Archbishop Robert Carlson.

Your pilgrimage visits should include:

- † Participation in Holy Mass or another liturgical service such as Morning or Evening Prayer or acts of piety such as the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, or visits to the Blessed Sacrament.
- † Spending time in prayerful meditation.
- † Concluding your visit with prayer for the Holy Father: the Our Father, the Apostles' Creed or the Profession of Faith from Mass, and a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

One Plenary Indulgence may be gained daily by visiting designated pilgrimage sites. "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church, which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1471)

Prescribed conditions for receiving an indulgence:

In addition to the acts of charity, penance, and pilgrimage that are particular to the Jubilee Indulgence, the Church prescribes three "usual" conditions:

† Sacramental Confession, † Reception of Holy Communion, † Prayer for the Pope's Intentions. The Jubilee Indulgence is a plenary indulgence. The plenary indulgence can be applied once a day in suffrage for one's self or for the souls of the deceased. The Church's usual conditions for gaining an indulgence apply in connection with the Jubilee Indulgence.

Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of St. Louis:

- ✠ Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France (Old Cathedral)
- ✠ Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis
- ✠ National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
- ✠ Chapels of the Contemplative Orders:
 - † The Carmel of St. Joseph
 - † Passionist Nuns Monastery
 - † Monastery of St. Clare
 - † Redemptoristine Nuns
 - † Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd
 - † Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters Mount Grace Convent



*In short, we are called
to show mercy
because mercy has first
been shown to us.
Pardoning offences becomes
the clearest expression of
merciful love,
and for us Christians
it is an imperative
from which we cannot
excuse ourselves.*

—Pope Francis—

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We welcomed Sr. Mary Amatrix from Lincoln as our new acting superior on November 16 when she arrived to “learn the ropes” from Sr. Mary Catherine. We saw Sr. M. Catherine off for her year-long sabbatical at our convent in Corpus Christi on December 28 with assurances that we would remain united in prayer.



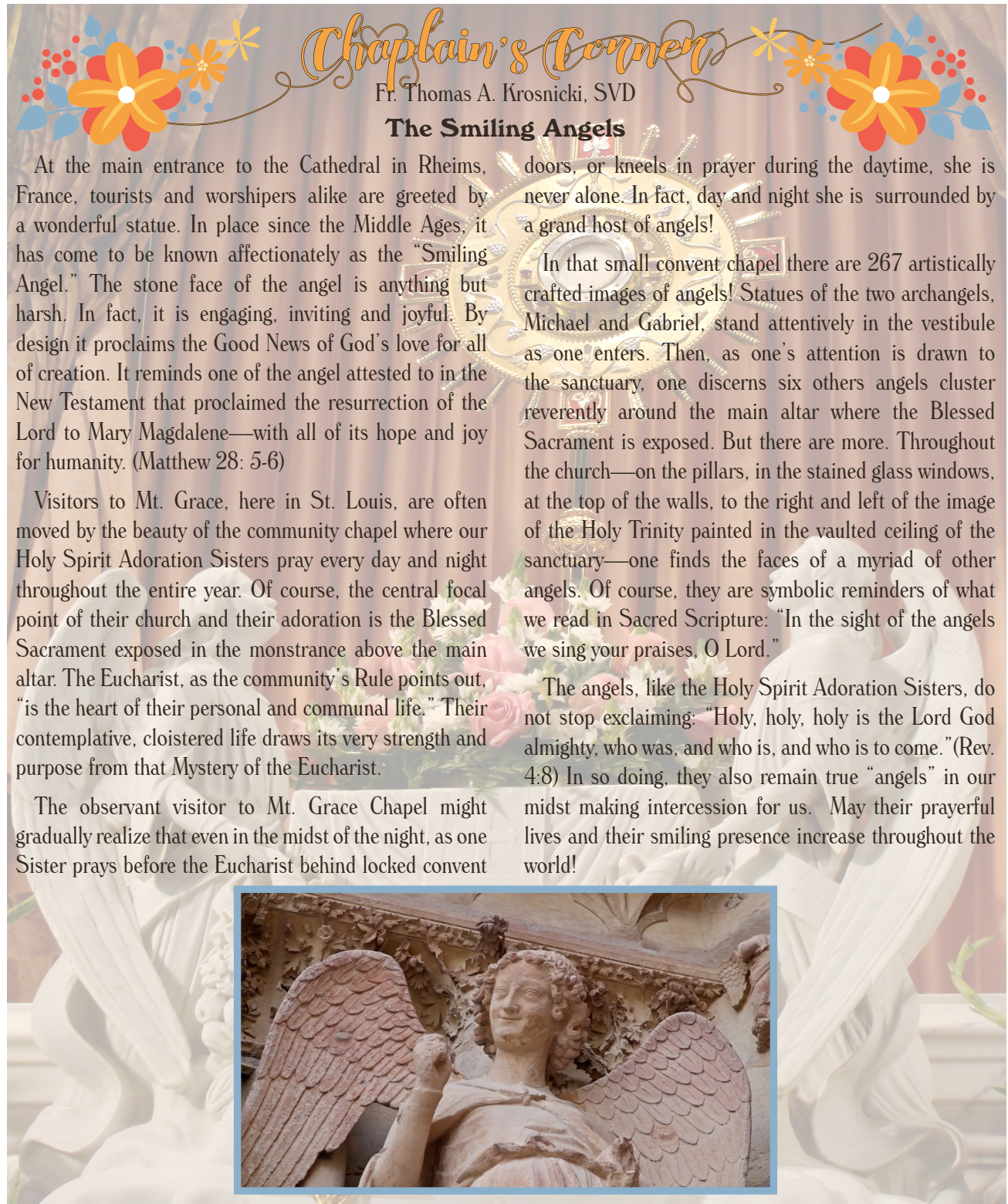
Sr. M. Amatrix is posing in front an image of the Divine Mercy that was given to us by a benefactor in honor of her deceased husband. We have placed it in our corridor where the Sisters pass frequently. It is a great reminder during this Year of Mercy of God's ever-present love.



Two of our German Sisters finished their faithful service and were called home to the Lord. Long awaited, the Bridegroom came quietly for our Sr. Mary Walburgis (top) on the morning of January 9. Sister was transferred here from Philadelphia in 2001. That summer she had her left leg amputated below the knee due to complications from her diabetes and she has been bedridden since the surgery. All the Sisters were edified by her smiles and good cheer in the midst of her long-suffering. She never complained and was always grateful for the service and attentions the Sisters gave her. The community held our wake service for her the evening of January 13 and her funeral was January 14. She was in the 74th year of religious profession and 95th year of life.



When Sr. Mary Reinhilde (bottom) celebrated her 93rd birthday in January, she was still an active participant in our community life. She was nearly blind from macular degeneration, but considered it important to keep up her duties as long as she was able. She loved a quote from St. John Paul II and would frequently remind us that "the elderly are a gift to the world and the treasures of the Church." After a short illness, Sister passed away on March 14. She was in her 63rd year of religious life. Both of our Sisters were witnesses to the fidelity and love of the Lord for his chosen ones. May they sing forever of his mercy!



Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD

The Smiling Angels

At the main entrance to the Cathedral in Rheims, France, tourists and worshipers alike are greeted by a wonderful statue. In place since the Middle Ages, it has come to be known affectionately as the “Smiling Angel.” The stone face of the angel is anything but harsh. In fact, it is engaging, inviting and joyful. By design it proclaims the Good News of God’s love for all of creation. It reminds one of the angel attested to in the New Testament that proclaimed the resurrection of the Lord to Mary Magdalene—with all of its hope and joy for humanity. (Matthew 28: 5-6)

Visitors to Mt. Grace, here in St. Louis, are often moved by the beauty of the community chapel where our Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters pray every day and night throughout the entire year. Of course, the central focal point of their church and their adoration is the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance above the main altar. The Eucharist, as the community’s Rule points out, “is the heart of their personal and communal life.” Their contemplative, cloistered life draws its very strength and purpose from that Mystery of the Eucharist.

The observant visitor to Mt. Grace Chapel might gradually realize that even in the midst of the night, as one Sister prays before the Eucharist behind locked convent

doors, or kneels in prayer during the daytime, she is never alone. In fact, day and night she is surrounded by a grand host of angels!

In that small convent chapel there are 267 artistically crafted images of angels! Statues of the two archangels, Michael and Gabriel, stand attentively in the vestibule as one enters. Then, as one’s attention is drawn to the sanctuary, one discerns six others angels cluster reverently around the main altar where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. But there are more. Throughout the church—on the pillars, in the stained glass windows, at the top of the walls, to the right and left of the image of the Holy Trinity painted in the vaulted ceiling of the sanctuary—one finds the faces of a myriad of other angels. Of course, they are symbolic reminders of what we read in Sacred Scripture: “In the sight of the angels we sing your praises, O Lord.”

The angels, like the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, do not stop exclaiming: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.” (Rev. 4:8) In so doing, they also remain true “angels” in our midst making intercession for us. May their prayerful lives and their smiling presence increase throughout the world!

