



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD

CLOISTER CULTURE



Serving as chaplain for the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters in St. Louis for nearly six years, I have come to realize that their style of life constitutes what one might rightly call a "Cloister Culture." Briefly stated, it means that they do in fact have a distinct way of living that is not the norm for society in general. One example will illustrate this point.

We live in a world that has, and continues to be, transformed by technology, for better or for worse. Millions of persons are now touched by tech from the moment they awake until their late night retiring. Television rivets millions of viewers throughout their awakened hours. Smartphones are everywhere; they have become for many an irreplaceable appendix to the hand. Many have reached the point where they truly believe they cannot live without them. And then there are also such investments as Google and Facebook, both about to replace the omnipresent shopping mall to the delight of some consumers everywhere. You see, we do indeed live in a technological world. It has become integral to our western culture. We are becoming both technology influenced as well as dependent.

Well, not everyone. Not everywhere. Here at Mount Grace Convent you would discover what I have come to call a unique "cloister culture." In their accepted way of life, no individual Sister has a smartphone, a personal computer nor even Facebook or Google access. Time is not spent checking their smartphones 150 times a day (the estimated average today for many American consumers). The Sisters do not browse web sites (certainly not Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat), search out every new email message, nor play computer games late into the night after the community Evening Prayer! Imagine, even television time and programs have always been limited greatly - only special occasions. There is no possibility that the Sisters here will become obsessed with today's tech as their neighbors in St. Louis at this time might be. They live a different culture - a *cloister culture*.

The community of Sisters remains focused on its mission of prayer, adoration and contemplation. It is their way of communicating with God on behalf of others. In doing so they also remind us that the Word of God, liturgical ritual and Eucharistic adoration offer a higher form of communication than any human tech device. In other words, they are saying: Put down your smartphone and PRAY.



You and your loved ones will be remembered in our Advent and Christmas Liturgies from December 26 to January 3 as well as in our Eucharistic celebration on Christmas Day.



The Word of God:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that those who believe in Him may not perish, but may have life everlasting."

John 3 : 16



Mount Grace Newsletter

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Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters
(Pink Sisters)



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MOUNT GRACE HAPPENINGS

OUR NEW HOUSE OFFICIALS:

3rd of July was etched in our hearts, a date most memorable to each one of us. It was the installation day of our Mount Grace Convent's new officials (for a term of four years).

"The installation of new officials is always an opportunity for renewal in the community."

Mother Maria Elizabeth

(Mother General of our Congregation)



Sr. Mary Catherine

Sr. Ancilla Maria (Re-appointed Superior)

Sr. Mary Triana (Second Councillor)



SR. MARY GRACELYN

Great joy and praises to the Lord reverberated in our Convent when Sister Mary Gracelyn and Sister Amoris Marie took their oath as US citizens last July and September, respectively.



SR. AMORIS MARIE

Total Solar Eclipse. August 21, 2017. St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.



SISTER MARY BERTHA generously answered God's summons for her to become the newest member of our community, the "cradle" of her religious life. She entered here in Mt. Grace, was missioned to our other US convents, to Germany and was in Corpus Christi prior to her transfer here last September 12. Sister had been an organist for many years.



Our Annual Retreat

For our annual retreat this year, we were very privileged to have His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali as our spiritual guide. He led us all to the spiritual heights, into holiness of life. May the Lord be praised forever!

OUR MISSIONARIES:



SR. MARY TRIANA



SR. MARY REBECCA



SR. MARIA CLARISSA



SR. MARY ANNEROSE

SISTER MARY TRIANA, our overseas missionary from Baguio City, Philippines arrived last June 26 with big smiles. She had reasons to be joyful for everything went well with her trip, the plane arrived safe and much earlier than scheduled. Her joyful disposition is her great secret in adjusting and adapting well to her new home. She is a big help and support to our community as second councillor, in charge of the correspondence room and our organist.

SISTER MARY REBECCA'S count down of days ended last June 29, on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Excited and enthusiastic, she embarked for Manila, Philippines. With the princes of Apostles, we promised her our bouquet of prayers, first in gratitude for her generous service at Mt. Grace and for the blessings needed on her daily journey in the tropics.

SISTER MARIA CLARISSA'S arrival in our convent last July 18 from Philadelphia made our community grateful for she had answered God's beautiful and tall order to be one with us as our new procurator. Fr. Tom, SVD, our chaplain welcomed her too and wished her well: "Sister, you left the city of Brotherly Love, crossed the Mississippi River to be with the community of Mt. Grace. May you really have a grace-filled stay here."

It's home sweet home for our **SISTER MARY ANNEROSE** as she bade adieu to us last July 27 for her new mission mandate, back to her home country, the Philippines. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for her selfless sharing of talents to our community as organist and procurator. We wish her all the best and may God reward her.