



## Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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### *Sacred Heart Newsletter 2022*

Dear Friends,



As we approach the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, we take the opportunity once again to write to you all, across Ireland and around the world, to thank you for your union with us in prayer and support. We want to encourage you in your efforts to advance the reign of the Sacred Heart through offerings of prayer, suffering and good works. In a world torn apart by violence, division and distress of all kinds, we who have confidence in the love God has for us are being called to present this love to our brothers and sisters as the one and only lasting solution to our problems. These words of our Foundress, Mother Marie Adele Garnier (1838-1924) in a letter to her spiritual director, can inspire us to respond to this call:

*"...I felt flooded with a gentle light showing me to what degree of charity our Lord wished to lead me, and how in His love, my love for souls will grow in the way he wills. I was ravished by what I understood of its' beauty and grandeur. Although I did not feel my heart was moved, I received great lights in my mind concerning this charity. To the extent that I saw it, my will became stronger, receiving powerful promptings from on high. I am unable to speak to you as fully as I wish about this charity which was shown to me. It took on every form, every dimension. It passed through obstacles, distances. It made use of everything, it extended to everything. It did all this without being able to leave the infinite love which produced it. In no way did I consider what I would have to do, but only in what this charity consisted and to which Jesus deigns to invite me.*

*It seems to me in the depths of my heart that he is telling me that I will be crushed to pieces by this charity. Not in the least understanding the meaning of this warning, I besought the Lord to give me an explanation of it if it would help me to correspond to his grace.*

*Then Jesus showed me my soul nourishing itself and strengthening itself at present through an ensemble of spiritual possessions that imparted to it an excellent life in itself and was necessary for me at the present time. This interior life is ceaselessly maintained and renewed by frequenting daily the Holy Eucharist, the Mass, fidelity to prayer, etc., by the very joy that these things impart which is a precious gift..." (letter to Abbe Courtois, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1887)*

This experience of our Mother teaches us not to look to our own resources for the power to love in a way that is self-sacrificing and effective, but to rely entirely on the source of Divine Charity which is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who makes himself present to us daily in the Holy Eucharist. In order to put this into practice we do not have to be perfect or great mystics, but we have to trust and believe that it is possible for the Love of God to work in us and through us by grace.

## Community News

On the Feast of the Presentation, Day for Consecrated Life, our community celebrated by joining with other religious for Vespers and Benediction in our chapel followed by a meal together. It was a very joyful occasion in which we shared our experiences and hopes, and encouraged one another.



On 4<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated our Congregation Foundation Day and were delighted to receive from our Mother General the proclamation of next year's Congregation Jubilee: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 will be our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will inaugurate a year of celebration which will extend to include the Centenary Celebration of the passing to Eternal Life of our Mother Foundress: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024. We are

already making plans for our 4<sup>th</sup> March celebration here in Cobh, so do put the date in next year's diary and watch this space!

**Our efforts at self-sustainability** continue, and we have harvested our first potato crop from the new polytunnel and set a variety of vegetables for this year's harvest. Our goat herd has increased to nine and we are supplied with goat milk daily. Our hens have also increased in number, and now we are branching out in biblical fashion with the introduction of quails to our menagerie. To get us started a generous friend drove several hours to bring our first batch. We are now incubating eggs and are amazed at how fast the little chicks grow to maturity. Hatching time was a very enjoyable experience and we even learned how to straighten the feet of a tiny lame quail! This year our garden sister also wanted to grow flowers for the sanctuary, and a kind local horticulturalist has stepped in with a large variety of suitable plants which she has grown from cuttings in her own garden. With the help of another generous group of friends we have also been able to install 10 solar panels on our flat roofs which will help reduce our energy bills.



## Prayers for Peace

As we entered into Lent this year we joined with our Holy Father and the whole Church in prayer and fasting as the appalling reality of war unfolded on our own continent. We began weekly all night vigils each Wednesday night to pray for peace in the Ukraine. We remember also the many other parts of the world affected by war and violence, particularly Nigeria and the persecuted Christians in the Northern part of that country. Please contact us if you would like to participate in these vigils.

We also united with Pope Francis on 25<sup>th</sup> March as he consecrated Russia, the Ukraine and the World to the Immaculate Heart, as she requested in Fatima. We prayed Vespers and a Holy hour during the time of the penitential service held in Rome, and our chaplain led us in the prayer of consecration at the time when it was being made. It was consoling to know that this was being done by Bishops all around the world in union with the Holy Father, and we know that our Blessed Mother will not be deaf to our pleas for protection and help.

## Lift Installation and building fund

At last we are able to tell you of one big achievement which is the installation of an enclosure lift. We were delighted to find the solution in a domestic platform lift, which did not require a shaft to be built and was thus more affordable. **Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your generous contributions towards our fundraising.**

After sharing the good news the challenge lies ahead: Apart from the extensive repairs that still need to be done on the main structure of our building and the need for a new and efficient heating system, we are aware that our drainage system is in very bad condition and is probably now the most urgent project due to the risk of subsidence. We also feel it is important to proceed as soon as possible with a lift for the retreat house.

## Tearoom and Bible Garden

The parts of our monastery open to the public continue to attract new visitors. Recently Cobh Zero Waste initiated the sale in our shop of locally produced eco-friendly chemical free cleaning products through a refill service. We also began a vegetable sale on Saturdays supplied by a local chemical free farm, with contributions from our own garden. The Bible Garden is developing well, thanks to our team of workers and volunteers. Cork County Council Amenities fund are contributing a large part of the cost of a new ride on mower, but this year we are leaving one section of the lawn to grow wild for pollinators, and it certainly has its' own beauty.

It has been a joy to welcome some school groups to the Bible garden, when it truly comes into its' own as we explain the stories featured, such as the Samaritan Woman's encounter,





the parable of the Prodigal Son and the Way of the Cross. It is a relaxed and informal atmosphere for the young people to hear and think about these timeless stories. Before leaving they were encouraged to spend a few minutes in the chapel to talk with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and many seemed to appreciate this experience very much.

### News from our Congregation

In May we rejoiced in the Monastic Profession of Mother M Joan in Sechura, Peru. Mother is originally from Nigeria. In Bombay, New Zealand, Rev Mother M Lucy has just celebrated her Silver Jubilee



In a sudden and unexpected manner, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, our Lord took to himself one of his brides of our Community in Australia, Mother M Christina of the Eucharistic Heart, Casal. Nevertheless He saw to it that everything was arranged and provided for her to receive the last rites and Apostolic Pardon from the community chaplain, and her Prioress was with her to help her renew her Vows as she went to be with her Spouse. She is remembered for her warm and loving sisterly presence in her community and ardent childlike devotion to Jesus and Mary. May she rest in peace.

Your intentions will be remembered at our Conventual Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. We entrust each one of you, our friends and your families, to His loving care and protection.

The Tyburn Nuns at St Benedict's Priory

If you would like to donate please send a cheque to "St Benedict's Priory" at the above address or go to [www.benedictineadorerscobh.ie](http://www.benedictineadorerscobh.ie) and use the paypal donate button or make a bank transfer:

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