



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER (2022)

Dear Friends and Benefactors,



“O marvellous exchange! Man’s creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.” (*Antiphon for 1st Vespers, Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Tyburn LH3*)

Our Father in heaven, our Creator, out of His infinite, majestic, tender love for us, and to rescue us from our withdrawal from Him at the Fall, sent His Son to raise us up to be once more the children of God. His grace fashioned the immaculate vessel of the Mother of God, by whom He was to come to us in gentleness and weakness so that we would have the courage to approach Him, and drew the shepherds and magi to adore Him so that gazing on Him they would absorb His light and take it into the darkness of the world, becoming an everlasting example for us to follow. The Son of God, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Saviour, was laid in a manger like food for the brute beasts in anticipation of His sacrifice as the Lamb on Calvary, 33 years later, for the forgiveness of our sins. Thus the first Christmas, Christ’s Mass, was born.

By this most holy birth the Father has given us ‘the true bread from heaven’ - a gift of Love, a gift to be received with our hearts as we in faith unite our assent with Mary’s Fiat and allow the Holy Spirit to make Jesus incarnate in our hearts so that we can, with Mary, give Him to the world. The word Mass comes from the Latin word missa, meaning “dismissal”. At the conclusion of every Eucharistic celebration we are sent by the Church to be disciples of the WORD made flesh. It is in, with and through the Eucharist that we renew our christian discipleship. The helpless infant Jesus invites us to eat, drink and adore Him. “The Father is seeking those who will adore Him in spirit and in truth.” (Cf. Jn 4:23-24 Douai-Rheims)



COMMUNITY NEWS

For the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, (the titular feast of our Congregation), the long awaited visit of our Very Reverend Mother General took place. This year the Solemnity fell on the 24th of June, moving the Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist to the 23rd; and with the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 25th of June a lovely mid-summer Triduum was made. During Holy Mass on the 24th Mother General and Mother Placid renewed their monastic vows and sang the *Suscipe* together in honour of their Silver and Platinum Jubilees of Religious Profession respectively. The whole visit was a time of blessed joy and refreshment.



In August and September we were blessed with several priests coming on retreat. Fr John McFadden OMI, our former chaplain, having completed his mission in South Africa earlier than anticipated, returned briefly and has now gone to start his new mission at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Leith, Edinburgh. May the Lord greatly bless his work for Him there. Fr Julius from Uganda stayed with us almost a month. His early formation was Benedictine and he put the motto 'Ora et labora' into joyful good effect by helping look after our flock of laying hens.



In August we were saddened to hear that the roof of the old Dumfries Priory went on fire and was considerably damaged. The last of the nuns of that foundation amalgamated with our Congregation in 1992 and their inheritance lives on here at Largs. Mother John Paul, who was Prioress here from 1996 until 2004, took Pope John Paul I's name when she entered our Congregation. She said there were many similarities in their lives. Surely she was rejoicing in heaven with all the

saints on the glorious day of his beatification in Rome on the 4th of September.



Not long after, on the memorial of the Nativity of the Queen of Heaven and Earth, 8th September, Great Britain and the Commonwealth went into mourning for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II to eternal life. Holy Mass and the Divine Office for the Dead were offered for her the next day. A candle has been burning for the Queen night and day in front of the Blessed Sacrament, these past 70 years of her reign, at our Mother House in London. As if in thanksgiving her mortal remains passed by the doors of Tyburn Convent on her return to Buckingham Palace from Scotland. May she rest in peace. She indeed illustrated the tenderness of majesty.



OBLATE NEWS

On the 24th of September our novice Oblates, Anne and Claire, visited the Lourdes Grotto in Carfin to venerate the relic of St Bernadette, brought there in honour of the centenary of the founding of the Grotto. Our monastery in Largs is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and therefore we were grateful that they were there to give thanks for the many graces we and our friends and benefactors have received, and to ask Our Lady's continued care, guidance and protection on us, through

the mediation of St Bernadette. Anne and Claire became professed Oblates on the 29th of October in a beautiful ceremony in which they signed their Act of Oblation document on the altar and received the medal of St Benedict as a sign of their oblation. Rev. Mother Prioress in her homily spoke of the enkindling of the fire of love of the Sacred Heart in all hearts. The Oblates had their Annual Retreat on 11th and 12th November. Next year there will be a Novice Oblate Admission ceremony for five oblate aspirants.



Night Adoration/Tyburn Association of Adoration

There is All-Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday of the month. The first Friday is the men's group, the second Friday is the women's organized by Mrs Ann Gosh, the third Friday is the women's group while the fourth Friday is the Polish Women's group which always ends with a 5.00 am Polish Mass. If you would like to be a day or night adorer please contact Mother Prioress.



TEA-ROOM/HOSPITALITY

We were very grateful to receive important gifts from the Companions of the Order of Malta: a large new fridge/freezer for the guests and many copies of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is an international Catholic religious lay order and charity. In Great Britain it runs an auxiliary organisation around the country, the Companions of the Order of Malta, a key volunteer force in delivering the charitable work of the Order. The Companions mission is that of the Order of Malta – to care for society's marginalised, inspired by their Christian charity to help those in need. They work with the homeless and the poor, run soup kitchens, volunteer in the Order's residential care homes (the OSJCT Trust), visit the

elderly and housebound, take the disabled on pilgrimage to religious shrines, and fundraise for their projects. They are organised on a regional basis, with Group Coordinators in different parts of the country.

This year the Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 26th November from 12.45 pm - 4.00 pm. Adults £3, Children Free. We look forward to seeing you there.

CONGREGATION NEWS

On the 20th August, in Saint-Loup-sur-Aujon, France, Rev. Mother Seraphim, Prioress of Tyburn Monastery of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, celebrated her Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession. Many people attended, including our Mother Foundress's relative, Madame Odile Moyroud, and joy abounded





On Queen Elizabeth II's month's mind, the 8th of October, Mother Maria Gratia made her final Profession in Cobh, Ireland. Mother Esperanza made hers in Sechura, Peru around about the 15th August. We give thanks to God for the gift of these vocations and pray for them to mature to perfection.

ROOFING/RESTORATION PHASE 2

In June, we began a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the chapel area of the monastery namely: Roof, Gutters and rainwater pipes, Front facade, Roof above the Chapel Entrance, Corridor to Chapel and the Chapel Library and Chapel Office.

The work was estimated to cost about £90,000. We were hoping to raise half of the money and obtain the other half from grant-giving bodies but unfortunately, we have neither raised the amount needed nor obtained the grant but we are still hopeful. We thank all our benefactors and all who have donated towards our roofing project. Your names are under the Altar and Holy Mass is offered for you every month.

A good friend of our community, Marie Alexandra Báez Vilá has kindly created and donated to us a beautiful piece of art entitled: *The Purest Love*. She has asked us to sell it to generate funds for our roof. The painting is 150cm long x 100cm wide. It is an Acrylic Painting on Canvas. Marie was inspired to create this art piece after spending several weeks with the nuns at the monastery enclosure as a live-in. She writes:

“My inspiration was derived by my visit and stay at the Largs' Benedictine Monastery, where I was given the privilege of getting to know the most wonderful group of nuns that I could not see as humans, but as angels on Earth who praise God with the melodies of their voices all day, every day I treasured their hard work which to my surprise, I found very taxing! I never thought that it would be... I found it more taxing than my job as a primary school teacher! That is saying something! The Benedictine nuns are warriors! I know this because as I prayed with them (especially the Rosary), I had visions of all of us wearing fine armour and fighting with swords against evil There was a serious battle we would partake every day. Battles every time we were together in prayer. By the end of the day I

could feel my body tired and in pain. I learned that it is truly the most important job on this Earth. I started drawing the Sacred Heart Of Jesus and Eucharist as the Benedictine nuns dedicate their lives adoring and praising them. I then had to add them as I saw them, Angels adoring in melodies and song; why all the angels have an elevated hand in praise and playing trumpets. Their voices may be very delicate and gentle but to the Heavens they are loud as Trumpets. In the Holy Mass, God becomes alive for the Word is God. I could see The Holy Spirit descending into the Eucharist, so I had to incorporate it the painting as the white dove... Surely God and the Virgin Mary must be present in such beautiful celebrations and worship of their son Jesus. That is why in my painting, I added the 7 Spirits of God in the lit candles and the 23 Roses intertwined with them, which represents the Union of them, giving life to Jesus. The number 23 represents the Psalm 23. I felt so much love in the Benedictine Monastery... I felt a great pull towards the Life myself. But alas I chose a different path. Nevertheless, I've kept this group of wonderful Angels on Earth forever within my heart, my thoughts and my prayers. And I had to express it all in this creation, "The Purest Love".



Artist Marie Alexandra Báez Vilá (born in Puerto Rico in 1982) uses acrylic paint to create lively, unique depictions inspired by her Dreams, Caribbean roots, Latin American folklore, Multiculturalism, Biodiversity and Catholic faith. Her spontaneous depictions share with viewers the world within, full of genuine love, and portrayed in a variety of painting styles. Marie stated: "I love it when the child in me takes

control when I create art because I see the world transformed through her eyes from the ordinary into a magnificently beautiful and special place where imagination becomes reality through art expression." As a child Marie's innate talent was nurtured by her mother, Maria, an educator and artist herself, alongside the cheerful support of her father, Luis, who would say to Marie: "You weren't born to have your feet on the ground. You were born to fly!" Thus Marie had the blessed combination needed to break from her introverted character and share herself with others by way of her creations.

Following in her mother's footsteps Marie became a loving and successful primary school teacher. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Utuado, Puerto Rico. Her genuine love for children equalling her passion for art, she integrated different types of art into her classes.

Experiencing the challenges of her pupils' difficult backgrounds Marie studied Art Therapy to help her pupils further.

Marie's artwork has been shown in exhibitions in Puerto Rico and the USA. She exhibits her newest art pieces in diverse places within Glasgow where she currently resides.

Visit MABV2.ART WEBSITE: <https://www.mabv2.art/> to see most of Marie Alexandra Baez Vila's works and to obtain original art pieces or prints.



The Purest Love

150cm long x 100cm wide

This art piece shows how much mankind is loved: The 7 lit candles represent the 7 spirits of God (Rev. 4:5)

The roses represent the Virgin Mary who gave us the Holy Rosary to meditate on the life of Jesus, her beloved Son. The roses entangled amongst the candles represent the union of our Creator and the Virgin Mary, which gives green smoke symbolising LIFE because, with their union, Jesus comes to life. The 23 roses represent Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd) in which King David sings of God's protection, guidance, refreshment, abundant blessing and promise of eternal life to those who love Him.

And so, Jesus rises from the burning flame to give mankind His most Sacred Heart, a heart that represents the journey that he had to endure, the agony of His sacrifice. His heart is in the shape of a jewel for his Sacred Heart is our most precious jewel of all, a jewel that is priceless. Around the Sacred Heart is the crown that was bestowed upon His head. On top of the Sacred Heart, there is the symbol of the cross which is made by the crossing of Three nails; the nails that went through his hands and feet in His crucifixion.

The burning fire represents the transformative power of Divine love. Jesus' arms are painted in different skin shades symbolising that what He came to do He did for ALL mankind. He came to offer us Expiation and Redemption through His sacrifice, and while we wait for His second coming, He left us Himself in the Holy Eucharist, which is on the very top Center of the painting.

All these Heavenly Miracles came to pass in the presence of the Holy Spirit represented in the White Dove shining His blessing throughout. The White Dove sends an additional message of the Holy Sacrament of Baptism and its importance (Luke 3: 21-22).

The Angels praise and play holy Angelic melodies with their trumpets in celebration of all these magnificent miracles which were made from THE PUREST LOVE: -the love of our Holy Creator who chose our Virgin Mary as the Mother of His Son. -the love of our Holy Mother Mary who teaches us to do our Father's will and accept His will over our lives (come what may). -the love of the Holy Spirit of whom the Incarnation of God takes place in Mary, and the love of our Jesus who accepted the will of His Father and gave himself as the lamb to be sacrificed for the forgiveness of our sins. All things that have come to pass, we know because of the many books found in time. Our Holy Bible teaches us the meaning of Love in 1Corinthians 13: 1-13 and reminds us in John 3:16 how much we are loved by God.

We thank all our beloved helpers, friends and benefactors for the support you give us in enabling the enthronement and adoration of the Sacred Heart to continue here. Holy Mass will be offered for you all on His Solemnity.

If you would like to donate towards our roofing and restoration project please visit our website at: <https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/largsmonasterydonations>

If you would like to pay by check make it payable to **The Benedictine Monastery**.

We wish each one of you a holy and grace-filled Christmas. We will be united with you before the Blessed Sacrament as we worship our Redeemer in tender love. Come, let us adore Him!

The Tyburn Nuns