



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

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### *Sacred Heart Newsletter 2019*



Dear Friends,

*"When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (Jn 19:30). Afterwards, the Roman soldier "pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water" (Jn 19:34). Everything has now reached its complete fulfilment. The "giving up" of the spirit describes Jesus' death, a death like that of every other human being, but it also seems to allude to the "gift of the Spirit", by which Jesus ransoms us from death and opens before us a new life. It is the very*

*life of God which is now shared with man. It is the life which through the Sacraments of the Church- symbolized by the blood and water flowing from Christ's side-is continually given to God's children, making them the people of the New Covenant. From the Cross, the source of life, the "people of life" is born and increases. ..."*

*(Evangelium Vitae, Pope St John Paul II)*

Our Year began tinged with sadness as we knew that due to new legislation, not all unborn children would any longer be let live on these shores. Therefore we resolved to begin storming heaven straight away to intercede for these little ones and began our monthly all night vigils to pray for unborn children and their Mothers and wider families who are particularly in need of our prayers in the coming month. We have chosen to read a passage from the encyclical quoted above "The Gospel of Life" as we succeed each other at Adoration. At our first vigil on New Year's Eve there were a number of people present at many of the hours while at others only the Sister being replaced at Adoration was present. We have continued in this way each month, and invite everyone to join us in spirit if not in person.

Imagine our surprise when on 1<sup>st</sup> January, quite unexpectedly we were paid a visit by a gentleman who brought to us a first class relic of Pope St John Paul II for us to venerate. Dr William A Thomas had had no idea of our vigil the night before, when hourly we had called on the wisdom of the great Saint, and we could only see the "coincidence" as heaven's blessing and encouragement to us in our endeavours for Life. William A Thomas' visit has led to a rapidly growing friendship and we have been privileged to be given several talks on a variety of topics, particularly Our Blessed Lady. These have been so well received by our Sisters, Oblates and Friends, that we have decided to organise a retreat day and enclose a poster for you to read and perhaps display for others who may be interested. **If you would like to be informed more often and in good time of events that we hold, please send us an e-mail and request to be put on our electronic mailing list.**

Over the past 6 months we have continued our efforts to make known our presence here as a place of Eucharistic prayer and hospitality and these have borne fruit in a greater number of visitors, both groups and individuals for day and residential private retreats as well as school groups. We are particularly grateful to our Oblates and Friends who generously manned a stall for us at the Divine Mercy Conference in Dublin in February. They sacrificed themselves tremendously

to put in place an attractive display and ensure that leaflets and information were given to all passers-by.

For the first time, in May, we hosted a large Parish group from Lough Parish in Cork. They arrived together at around 10.00am and began their day by saying the Act of Consecration to the Holy Trinity recited daily by our Sisters. They then came downstairs to our Oliver Plunkett Centre for tea and biscuits, and were given a presentation by our Sisters on our Foundress the Servant of God Mother Marie Adele Garnier, our Congregation and way of life. There was time for them to go to Adoration, walk in the Bible Garden and even make a short visit into Cobh if they wished. They were served lunch and joined us for our Midday Office using booklets prepared for them. The program had been worked out beforehand to suit their wishes. It was lovely for us to meet this vibrant Parish community and encourages us to think that other Parishes might like to organise a similar day.



Preparing literature for the Divine Mercy Conference!



Meanwhile we have been putting thought into our Bible Garden and made a request for volunteers to help us with this, and have already been delighted by the generous response and look forward to forming a little gardening group! The garden has so many interesting aspects and themes for reflection and needs plenty of care and attention. It is something which attracts visitors of all Faiths and none to our Monastery.



During the third week of May we were privileged to be one of the locations where the Parish held the "Rosary at the Grottos" devotions, interceding with our Blessed Lady for Ireland. A little group gathered at our grotto each evening, and the Rosary always ended with the hymn "Bring Flowers of the Rarest" –one of Ireland's treasures.



Our fundraising efforts continue and our situation is becoming more stable and we renew our thanks to all our generous benefactors near and far. Please remember that you are prayed for daily by our community. On 29<sup>th</sup> March we had a successful coffee morning and on 11<sup>th</sup> April Tim and Anne McSweeney once again treated us to a public history talk on St. Katherine Drexel and her connection with Cobh, with donations going to our heating and renovation appeal. This appeal has now to extend to funding a new lift for our elderly Sister, since our old one can no longer be repaired. When we finally raise funds for this it will also be a blessing for elderly or infirm guests who wish to use our retreat house but cannot manage the stairs. Please find enclosed our raffle tickets. **Everyone who takes part is a winner**, since every penny they give contributes to the preservation of St Benedict's Priory as prayerful and welcoming House of the Sacred Heart.

We assure you of our prayers for all your needs and intentions, those we know and those we don't. Holy Mass which is usually celebrated for your intentions on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will this year be postponed until the following day, the day of the retreat, which some of you will be attending! See you then!

The Tyburn Nuns at St. Benedict's Priory