



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

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Sacred Heart Newsletter 2021

Dear Friends,



"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

This is the English translation of the Latin words engraved on our Congregation medal, which we receive when we make our Vows. They surround an image of the Lord Jesus pointing to His Sacred Heart, from which emanates a blazing flame. When Jesus said these words, it is clear from the Gospel passage that He knew this fire would be kindled when He would suffer His passion and His Heart would be pierced with the lance, because this fire is His redeeming charity with which He took on Himself our sinfulness and made a way to freedom for us. The opening paragraph of our Congregation Charism states: "The Heart of our Saviour... is also the source of that love which the Holy Spirit pours out upon all the members of His Mystical Body". Through many great saints throughout the centuries, notably St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus has made clear to each successive generation that the fire has been kindled and is blazing – it remains for us to carry it to every corner of the world! To our Foundress the Servant of God Mother Marie Adele Garnier, He revealed the simplest and surest means of transmitting this fire of Divine Charity: Exposition of His Heart living and present in the Holy Eucharist, perpetually adored in the centre of Churches and Chapels, waiting for every broken and needy Soul to come and be set on fire.

In the past 18 months we have been overwhelmed by an atmosphere of fear on account of a spreading virus. We have kept our distances from one another, since it is from person to person we are told that it is spread. Yet here is something that spreads from person to person, heart to heart, which we have **no need to fear**: The fire of encounter with Divine Love! We must as a matter of urgency reflect on this call to be set ablaze, particularly through Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. We need to believe not only with our lips but with our whole being that the Eucharistic Jesus is capable of healing us, protecting us, instructing us, turning our lives around and making us shining witnesses of Truth and Love to those who we meet. All we need to do is present ourselves before Him with our hearts open like His.

Why is fire a symbol of love? Fire can be so destructive! So can the false love which is not contained within the furnace of Divine Charity: Not contained within the Heart, the Will, the desires of God. The fire of this Divine furnace, however, has the power to warm, to melt, to light up and to burn away impurity.

Day by day and on many a night our community prays in the presence of the blazing, radiant, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus on behalf of each one of you, but we also pray for the extension of the

reign of the Sacred Heart – May Exposition of the Holy Eucharistic flourish once again in Parishes and chapels so that all may have the opportunity to Adore! May our children be taught once more to believe with all their minds and hearts in the Real Presence of Jesus. If they are given this one gift, they will have all they need to endure the trials of our times.



Sr M John Baptist with fawn coloured Jenny the day she was born!



Strengthened and consoled by this Divine Presence, our community has put its' best foot forward in developing our Monastery's potential for self-sustainability as best we can. Our flock of 30 chickens supplies us with abundant eggs, and to our great excitement, our He-goat and two she-goats lived up to expectations and two little kids were born in March. The first was born on Mothering Sunday. The second was born a week later on the Feast of St Benedict, and she just happened to be black with a

white forehead, ears and front feet! What name could we give her but Beni! It was our first experience of kids and we certainly learnt a lot, as little Beni was rather fragile and needed a lot of tender loving care in the form of bottle feeds, antibiotics and....a teaspoon of brandy!...fortunately we had some left over from our Christmas cake making! She was soon jumping around with her companion, who we named Jenny. They both grew very fast and, it has to be said, are a source of great delight and amusement for us all as they come up with new games and antics.



The Bible Garden is looking better by the day. A new project was taken on by the **local YMCA group**, who have been working a day each week on Hezekiah's Garden and Isaiah's Vineyard. It has given them great joy and satisfaction and given a very needed and healthy break from their online courses. A recent **Council Town Development Fund grant** has also facilitated the renovation of the Garden of the Song which our volunteers are working on. The bulb planting carried out last autumn produced a magnificent avenue of daffodils lining the pathway up to Our Lady's Grotto. **Our thanks go to the Manager of**

Lidl Ireland Cobh for the gift of a new lawnmower, seen here as she hands it over to Dan and Paschal and some of our community. **Thanks also to Diarmud O'Connor of East Cork Sand and Gravel**, for the generous donation of several tonnes of gravel. (Which donation was very ingeniously disguised as a competition prize won by one of our volunteers! We suspect the competition was set up with a predestined winner!) A number of miniature palm trees are to form a new avenue going down to the Garden of Olives and Resurrection Garden to replace the fallen conifers. If you would like to purchase a palm tree in memory of a loved one, please get in touch.

We ask the Sacred Heart to console all of you our friends and benefactors, bring health and peace to your families, hope to your hearts and grace to your Souls. Your intentions will be remembered at our Conventual Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

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

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