

# Secular Servite News

SUMMER 2005



Online Edition

## St. Juliana Community Marguerite Samz, O.S.M. Ladysmith, Wisconsin

A joy-filled day of celebration took place on April 13, 2005 at the Servants of Mary Chapel in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Three Secular Servite candidates pronounced their Promises and were received into the Secular Order of the Servants of Mary. They were Tilly Galetka and Maryann Luplow of the St. Juliana Community, Ladysmith, and Veronica St. Louis of the St. Peregrine Community, Rice Lake. Two members of the St. Peregrine Community, who have recently reconnected with the Secular Servites, renewed their Promise: Doris Muench and Louie Muench. The Rite of Admission was also celebrated with Mark Drkula asking to be admitted to the period of probation with the St. Peregrine Community.

The Rites of Promise and Admission were celebrated during the Eucharistic Liturgy with Father Vidal Martinez, O.S.M., National Assistant to the Secular Order, presiding.

The celebration was enhanced with music under the leadership of Sister Mary Lucy Daniels, O.S.M., and Sister Barbara Thomalla, O.S.M. They accompanied the participants with guitar, organ, and piano.

The beautiful chapel was filled with family and friends in support of the new members of the Secular Servite Community along with members of the St. Juliana and St. Peregrine Communities. Father Vidal spoke of the call to compassionate ministry as a Servant of Mary



and of the valued contributions of members of the Secular Servites in living out this call. The readings and prayers for the Mass of St. Peregrine were used in the celebration and St. Peregrine's life was recalled as a model of experiencing and trusting in the healing power of Jesus and in living out compassionate service to others. The celebration continued with a social gathering of congratulations and refreshments of cake, punch, and coffee.

We were honored to have Father Vidal join us for this special day in the life of our local communities. We continue to pray for our new Secular Servite members and all those who are celebrating with new members in the coming months.



### **Annunciata Community**

Madeleine Holub, S.O.S.M.

Chicago, Illinois

#### **Feast of the Annunciation Dinner Celebration**

Many of the Servite Family shared a wonderful evening on April 8, 2005. We enjoyed a celebration dinner, sponsored by the Annunciata Secular Order community, to honor the Feast of the Annunciation.

Fifty people attended the dinner. Seven Servite priests were present (representing the Seven Holy Founders?): Frs. Anthony O'Connell, Provincial; Vidal Martinez, National Assistant; Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M., Annunciata Community Assistant; Paul Cullen; Jim Dore; Chris Krymski; and Damian Charboneau. Also with us were two Servite brothers, Brs. Brian Fitzpatrick and Joe Fundak, and





two Servite sisters, Srs. Ann Marie Caporale and Eileen McGing. Four other S.O.S.M. communities in the Chicago area joined the Annunciata Community in the festivities: Sts. Alexis and Juliana from Hillside, IL; Mary at the Foot of the Cross from Our Lady of Sorrows, Chicago, IL; Our Lady of Sorrows Parish from Chicago, IL; and Our Sorrowful Mother from Blue Island, IL.

Everyone received a blue Secular Order Servants of Mary Prayer Card thanks to Jim Foerster and Fr. Conrad. Madeleine Holub presented all with gift-wrapped statues of the Blessed Mother and the S.O.S.M. Annunciata Community gave prayer cards with the Pope's image on them. Moreover, who can forget the Gemma from Fr. Conrad?



The Annunciata Community honored three candidates, Carol Albright, Maria Canuelas, and Becky Garcia. These women make their Promise with Fr. Vidal during the 9:00 AM Mass at Annunciata on June 12, 2005. Other members of the S.O.S.M. present will renew their Promises also. All are welcome to join us that day.

Madeleine Holub introduced two others in formation with the Mary at the Foot of the Cross Community were introduced that evening. They are Kathy Malnas and Larry Juliano.



Good food, good laughs, good fellowship, good times, a good free raffle, and good people, all came together for this evening of honoring our dear Blessed Mother Mary.

Applause and thanks go to Olga Guadagno for handling the spectacular raffle. (Next year we are going to have even more free prizes.) Thanks for the beautiful decorations go to our artist Gary Jelewski. Without Fr. Conrad and the other council members of Annunciata this wonderful evening would not have happened. Thanks Pam Zima, Tom Ploog, Gary Jelewski, Gloria Jakubczak, and Karen Pietrusinski.

Mary, our dear Blessed Mother, guide us all, and the Holy Trinity be with us. Peace and Love.

## Is there something special about being a Secular Servite? You be the judge!

Cathy Tynio, S.O.S.M.

St. Peregrine Community, Kissimmee, FL

The Second National Conference of the Servite Secular Order: USA held from October 22-24, 2004 at Divine Word International in Techny, IL, was one to remember. It was delightful to listen to Sr. Joan Mueller, O.S.F., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Creighton University, about her ministry with the poor. She expressed how enriching it felt to be compassionate toward those less fortunate than ourselves. Kathy Heskin, Associate Professor at Dominican University, held our attention when she explained how our individual look at our beliefs could be so uplifting.

There were so many workshops from which to choose. I wanted to go to all of them. Fr. Robert Warsey, O.S.M., gave us more insight about Mary. He made us aware of some of the major Marian apparitions. Fr. Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M., explained the various steps involved before the canonization of any Servite man or woman. It was interesting to know all the requirements. Fr. John Pawlikowski, O.S.M., spoke to everyone about how unfairness can be jolted by religion and worldly conditions can improve. The friars, brothers, sisters, and secular Servites shared in prayer, dining, and celebration. It was a memorable weekend.

In addition to Fr. Vidal's wonderful planning of events and meeting new people from all over the country, I would like to share something personal.

One of the Secular Servites from an Illinois community, whom I had met briefly, had asked me how the hurricanes affected my property. I explained that before other repairs could be completed a new roof was needed. The insurance company sent a small check but the shingles alone would cost more than that. I was waiting to hear from FEMA.

On Sunday morning she asked me again about the roof. Then she said, "Suppose I lend you what is needed so you can get your roof fixed?"

I was amazed and told her she didn't even know me. Her reply was, "You're a Secular Servite."

I thanked her but declined her offer. I had relatives I wouldn't even ask for a loan. The amount I mentioned would cover only the shingles, not the entire cost. That wasn't the point, though! She was speaking from the heart.

So, I repeat: "Is there something special about being a Secular Servite?" There is one very special Secular Servite in Illinois.

Another light at the end of the tunnel is that the insurance company re-inspected the exterior of the house and sent additional funds. A new roof will soon be started.

Thank you, Fr. Vidal, for the opportunity to participate and meet these dedicated people--and thank you to an outstanding Secular Servite for such a generous offer!

**St. Anthony Pucci Community**

Gayle Ponseti, S.O.S.M.

Marrero, Louisiana

Our St. Anthony Pucci Community has been sponsoring the annual solemn novena of the Mother of Sorrows for the last three years, held from September 7 – 15 at Immaculate Conception church in Marrero. Attendance had fallen off for lack of good advertising, which is expensive. We had been faxing announcements to New Orleans area churches to put in their Sunday bulletins and weekend Mass announcements. We really needed to advertise in the Clarion Herald, which is the newspaper of the archdiocese of New Orleans. This costs more than \$200 for a decent ad. The secular newspaper costs twice as much for half the space and we could never afford this.

About a year ago, at the monthly meeting, it was suggested by one of the members to have a fundraiser in order to create a novena-advertising fund to pay for the advertising of the novena. The money in this fund is to be earmarked for this purpose only and cannot be used for anything else. Just like other communities, our treasury is not overflowing with funds.

We felt that we had to do it for Our Lady, as a community effort, to keep the wonderful novena alive. This endeavor has been good for our community because everyone benefits from it. Not only does the public hear about the novena, but they learn about the Servite presence here as well.

How were we going to do this? A statue raffle was one of the suggestions. We were having a raffle for a comforter, which wasn't over yet. A statue was different and seemed the right thing to raffle. We had to wait for the comforter raffle to end before the new one could begin.

First, we needed a statue. We had to pray. God heard our plea and inspired an anonymous donor to give us a 24-inch statue of St. Michael the Archangel with wings spreading 21- inches. The statue is made of resin and is very heavy, but not as fragile as other materials. So that the statue would be unlike any other, the donor had it repainted by hand. (How special can we get? God is so good. Our Lady must have really wanted us to do this.)

So now, we have a beautiful statue. Rather than set a time limit, and thinking of the future, we instead set a goal of \$1000. We didn't want to have to find a way to raise money again each consecutive year.

Since September 2004 was drawing near, we didn't have a lot of time for members to sell tickets. We wanted to be able to pay for the ad in the Clarion Herald for the coming novena. Mary's Helpers offered to advertise the raffle in their next monthly newsletter. In addition, thanks to them, we did have enough money to cover the 2004 ad. Mary's Helpers continued to advertise the raffle in their newsletter until we ran out of tickets and reached our goal. People were writing for tickets from all over the United States. One kind man from New Jersey sent a check for \$100. A local woman sold almost \$100 worth of tickets. She wanted to win the statue for St. Monica's elementary school where she promotes the "Children of Mary Sodality." We even received donations from people who didn't need the statue. We knew that not all these people knew much about our Servite community except what they saw in the raffle ad and on the back cover of the Mary's Helpers newsletter. But, they know the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows and wanted to help us honor her.

We thank God for all the wonderful people who helped us reach our goal. Actually, we went over our goal. After all the receipts were in, we grossed \$1511.

The drawing was held Sunday, May 15 following our regular meeting and Maria Nunez of Harvey, LA, who will be 98 on July 4, was the winner.

# The Unseen

by Bob McCormack, S.O.S.M.

Mary, Queen of the Servants Community, Palm Bay, Florida

The Immaculate Conception, the Word of God made flesh in Mary's womb, Elizabeth with child at an elderly age, the Miracle at Cana, the healing of the diseased, crippled, mute and deaf, the casting out of demonic activity, the multiplication of food, the walking on water, the raising of the dead, the miracle of bread and wine being transformed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, Our Lord's Glorious Resurrection, the infilling of the Holy Spirit in the apostles at Pentecost - all of these events were of supernatural origin.

At Sunday Mass, the faithful profess in the Nicene Creed, "We believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen..." Much of what Our Lord was teaching and preaching was about the unseen. "Seeing is believing" is a common phrase that many have heard and perhaps use. This is what the apostle Thomas was thinking as we read in the gospel of John.

*"So the other disciples said to him, (Thomas) 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.'(John 20:25)*

*"Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your fingers here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.' Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and My God!' Jesus said to him, 'You have come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'(John 20:26-29)*

Turning to the appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene in Mark's gospel:

*"When He had risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons. She went and told His companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard He was alive and seen by her, they did not believe. (Mark 16:9-11) [But] later, as the eleven were at table, He appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had been raised. (Mark 16:14)*

In the above scripture reference to John's gospel, we might say that the lesson here is, "Believing is Seeing." In the passages from Mark's gospel, the expression, "hardness of heart" could be understood as "the eyes of their hearts were closed." For the most part, our faith is based on the unseen, on the invisible. God chooses to remain invisible so that we may believe through the eyes of faith. However, there are many times when God reveals and manifests the reality of His living presence in the miraculous. We experience His presence in the Liturgy of the Word, in the Seven Sacraments, through prayer, and in many other ways. Although unseen, Jesus is, and remains with us today and He is still performing miracles, including healings, cures, true conversions, and many more: too long to list in any writing. It is through the eyes of our hearts that we must see. We must see with the eyes of faith: to see what is unseen. "By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came in to being through the invisible." (Heb. 11:3)

Our Lord is calling us to the greatest miracle on earth and this miraculous gift is available to us everyday at Holy Mass. In the words of Pope Leo XIII: "For in this one mystery the entire supernatural order, with all its

wealth and variety of wonders, is in a manner summed up and contained: 'He hath made a remembrance of His wonderful works, a merciful and gracious Lord; He hath given food to them that fear Him' (Psalm 111, 4-5). For whereas God has subordinated the whole supernatural order to the Incarnation of His Word, in virtue whereof salvation has been restored to the human race, according to those words of the Apostle; 'He hath purposed...to re-establish all things in Christ, that are in heaven and on earth, in Him' (Eph. I: 9-10), the Eucharist, according to the testimony of the Holy Fathers, should be regarded as in a manner a continuation and extension of the Incarnation."

I leave you with the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "You envy the opportunity of the woman who touched the vestments of Jesus, of the sinful woman who washed His feet with her tears, of the women of Galilee who had the happiness of following Him in His pilgrimages, of the Apostles and disciples who conversed with Him familiarly, of the people of the time who listened to the words of grace and salvation which came forth from His lips. You call happy those who saw Him ... But, come to the altar and you will see Him, you will touch Him, you will give to Him holy kisses, you will wash Him with your tears, you will carry Him within you like Mary Most Holy."

The Servite Secular Order continues to grow and extend itself throughout the Servite world, most especially in the United States. We are pleased that this year 2005 there are three new communities that will be affiliated to our Servite Family: St. Philip Benizi, St. Petersburg, FL; St. Philip Benizi, Fullerton, CA; Immaculate Conception, Spring City, PA. There is one community that will be re-activated in 2006: St. Juliana Falconieri, Berea, OH. We are happy to watch and support the growth and development of two communities that are in formation: San Felipe Parish, Wendover, UT; St. Augustine Parish, Hartford, CT. By the end of 2005, 110 men and women, in the USA, will make their Promise as Secular Servants of Mary. All of this is only possible by the support, assistance and commitment of so many members of our Servite Family. Together, we work to build up the Body of Christ and to share with others the good news of our vocation as Servants of Mary. We are grateful to the Prior Provincial, Fr.



Anthony O'Connell, O.S.M., and his Council for their constant support and encouragement. We truly appreciate the effort of the Spiritual Assistants of each community, who work closely with the Priors and Prioresses and their Councils to assure the welfare of the community. We are a blessing to each other!



We cannot emphasize enough the importance and necessity of offering a solid foundation to those who seek admission to the Secular Order, by following the Program of Initial Formation faithfully. We wish to point out that "it takes an entire community" to conduct a solid formation program. This means that all Secular Servites are involved, directly or indirectly, in the preparation and orientation of the candidates who respond to the call of a vocation to the Secular Order. Each community appoints one of its members as Director of Formation. Yet we know that formation does not take place simply in a formal setting, but also in every activity of the local community. The period of formation helps the candidate realize that being a Secular Servite is a vocation or calling to live "more intensely one's baptismal consecration" in imitation of Mary the Mother and Servant of the Lord and our Seven Holy Founders; and in communion with with all of the Servite Family.



**Fr. Vidal Martinez, O.S.M.**  
National Assistant

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