

• 2022 •

THE SERVANTS OF GOD'S LOVE
Christmas



Dear Family and Friends,

In the past month, a beautiful movie about Mother Teresa was released in the theatres. This movie, “No Greater Love,” touched me very deeply. After watching the film, I thought to myself, I have taken a vow of poverty, but my life seems so comfortable compared to the way the Missionaries of Charity live. I began wondering what else I could do for the Lord; what could I give up; how could I live more radically? The Lord spoke to me very clearly during prayer. He said, “I didn’t call you to be a Missionary of Charity; I called you to be a Servant of God’s Love!”

Two things immediately came to mind. The first was a quote of St. Francis de Sales—“Be who you are and be that well.” That brought me peace because I realized that it does no good to compare myself to others but rather to be faithful to the specific call the Lord has for

me. Second, I asked the Lord for the grace to do His will, His way! It is not about me presenting my plans and “good ideas” to Him, but it is about being attentive to Him daily; it’s about being docile to the Holy Spirit and being quick to obey His promptings. Mother Teresa said, “Pray that God uses you without consulting you!”

My prayer for you this Christmas season is that you, too, would be who God has called you to be and to be that well!

Please know that all the Servants of God’s Love are deeply grateful for your love and your friendship. Be assured of our prayers, especially in this Christmas Season.

Sr. Sarah

QUOTES THAT ENCOURAGE US



SR. SARAH BURDICK



“Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what Heaven has in store for us. Anyone who is determined to reach their destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it.”

St. Gregory the Great



SR. FRAN DEPUYDT



“The Christian life should be doing what we cannot do with nothing to hold on to but Jesus. It is meant to open one to all anguish, to walk on the edge of the world with no security but Jesus.”

Ruth Burroughs



SR. MARY FALLON



“At the evening of life, you will be examined in love.”

St. John of the Cross



SR. REBECCA MIERENDORF



“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

SR. ANN SHIELDS



“The only thing we can take to heaven is the good we did on earth.”

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

SR. MARY ANN FOGGIN



“A crucified Bridegroom desires a crucified bride.”

Blessed Baptista Varani

SR. MARY ZIELINSKI



“It is in and through the weakest vessels (the poor, elderly, disabled), that the Lord continues to reveal the power of His Love.”

Terrance Cardinal Cooke

SR. DORCEE CLAREY



“When God looks upon me, his first attitude is not to change me, but to receive me and rejoice in me. He wants to shelter me and whatever needs to change will change within the shelter of his love.”

Joshua Elzner

SR. ALICE LAMIMAN



“You exist in this world to give and to serve.”

St. Charbel Makhlouf

SR. STACY WHITFIELD



“In him we live and move and have our being.”

Acts 17:28

SR. RACHEL BENJAMIN



“He wants us to seek because He wants to give Himself to us. It is an experience like the experience of emptiness: the emptiness must be there that He may fill it; and we must be aware of it that we may want Him to fill it.”

Carryl Houselander

SR. CHRISTINA FREY



“Love conquers everything. Only one moment exists for you in all its beauty, and that is the present moment. Live it completely in the Love of God.”

Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

SR. KELLY MACDONALD



“When you say to God, ‘Our Father,’ He has His ear right next to your lips.”

St. André Bessette

SR. LISA ZELFA



“Love that cannot suffer isn’t worthy of that name.”

St. Clare of Assisi

SR. GAIL LANCASTER



“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death...Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame.”

Song of Songs 8:6

SR. LAURA PRESSPRICH



“South wind, come! You who waken love, breathe through my garden.”

St. John of the Cross



BETROTHED TO A KING + SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

Sr. Lisa Zelfa



As I sit down to write about the day of my final vows, I find it so hard to describe. It seems unfair to put it into words. What does a poor bride have to say as she reflects on her wedding day to her King? Should she share about the gentle strength of her King or His splendor that overwhelmed her gaze? Should she share about His rich blessings that showered her people? Or should she share about the generosity of her people? And how does a poor bride enter into her wedding day to her Lord? Other than by looking at her Mother, the exemplar of her soul, and echoing her yes! As she imitates her Mother's exclamation: "My soul magnifies the greatness of the Lord...The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His name" (Luke 1:47, 49). Your praises, O Lord, will I sing, for you are mighty and holy is Your Name! Forever will I be unwrapping the graces poured out on this day. It was a pure gift from the Lord and entrance into His heavenly courts. To be a child of God and to enter into His presence freely is the greatest gift!



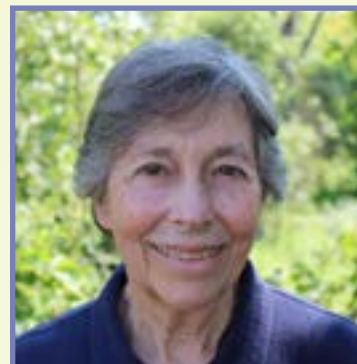
Photos taken by: Katherine Pfeiffer



REFLECTIONS ON A RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Sr. Gail Lancaster
40 YEARS A SPOUSE OF CHRIST

Sr. Alice Lamiman
40 YEARS A SPOUSE OF CHRIST



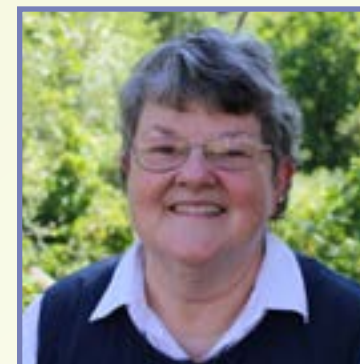
In the fall of 1973 my journey to the Servants of God's Love began by making a one year commitment to live "Single for the Lord" in the ecumenical charismatic community of The Word of God. Ralph Martin prayed over me and I renewed my commitment the following year.

I prayed with the newly formed Sisterhood as the Lord continued to woo me to Himself. How could I refuse such tender love? I moved in with the sisters just after Easter in 1976.

In 1982, I took a retreat before my lifelong commitment. There the Lord spoke a simple word - "Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm, for love is strong as death" (Song of Songs 8:6). How often that word comes to me, reminding me of my true identity, a Bride of Christ, belonging to Him alone. On September 2, 1982, Sr. Alice and I pronounced our lifelong commitments.

That was 40 years ago - hard to believe. There have been many ups and downs, facings of self, need for forgiveness, joys and sorrows. "Who is it coming up from the desert leaning on her beloved?" (Song of Songs 8:5). He makes all things possible with joy, with hope, with faith, with love.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1982 SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



Forty years ago, I received a gold ring to wear on my right hand for the rest of my life. It's still there. How did a Methodist gal come to wed an invisible Spouse and live as a Servant of God's Love?

My parents had me baptized in 1953, and we were active in the Ypsilanti Methodist Church. My Sunday School teachers were very dedicated and inspiring folks who helped me learn to pray and to hear God's still, small voice.

In the summer of 1975, I was part of a music group at the Rome Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I visited the Catacombs of Saint Callistus and started crying because of the holiness and witness of the Christian martyrs. I played violin in Saint Peter's during a Papal Mass. There were lots of unanswered questions, but my heart was smitten. I entered the Catholic Church in the fall of 1975, and in 1982 I made my lifelong commitment in the Servants of God's Love.

I have known the tender mercy of God. I have made a lot of mistakes that have been hurtful to people. But I do not regret wearing that gold ring on my right hand. My invisible Spouse is one hundred percent faithful.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1982 SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

"Be creators of the good and the beautiful."

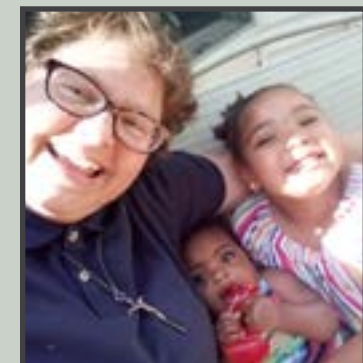
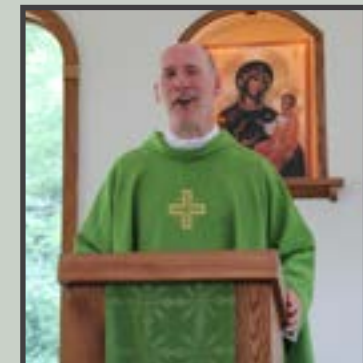
SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR



Donations can be made online:
www.servantsofgodslove.net.
 Select "Online Giving" on the homepage.
 If you prefer, make checks payable to:
The Servants of God's Love
 3208 Ravenwood
 Ann Arbor, Michigan
 48103



In thanksgiving for your generous and prayerful support, you will be remembered in Masses for our benefactors in the Motherhouse chapel.
 You remain in our prayers.



Sr. Dorcee and Sr. Christina had the great gift of accompanying Mako Fujimura, a longtime friend of Sr. Dorcee's, and his wife, Haejin, in their presentation to Pope Francis of a 15th century Korean kintsugi bowl. Kintsugi is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with gold--an apt symbol of what God does with each of our broken lives. The aim of their visit was to encourage this pope who has such a heart of mercy. He encouraged them, "Be creators of the good and the beautiful."





WHERE WE LIVE



Our Motherhouse



Ravenwood House



Our Hillside House



Our Flint House

4399 Ford Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
48105



Sr. Sarah Burdick
Sr. Gail Lancaster
Sr. Laura Pressprich
Sr. Lisa Zelfa

3208 Ravenwood
Ann Arbor, MI
48103



Sr. Fran DePuydt
Sr. Mary Fallon
Sr. Kelly MacDonald

3341 Hillside
Ypsilanti, MI
48197



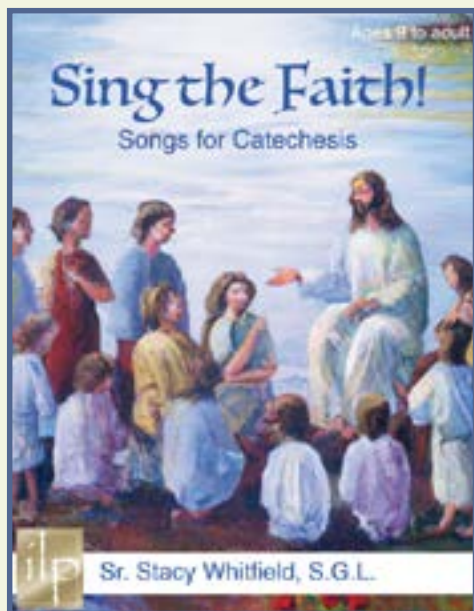
Sr. Rebecca Mierendorf
Sr. Ann Shields
Sr. Mary Ann Foggin
Sr. Mary Zielinski

706 Beach St.
Flint, MI
48502



Sr. Dorcee Clarey
Sr. Alice Lamiman
Sr. Stacy Whitfield
Sr. Christina Frey
Sr. Rachel Benjamin

WHAT'S NEW & ON THE HORIZON



Sr. Stacy's Latest!

A collection of four songs designed to teach the Books of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments (Catholic listings), the Stages of Salvation (per Jeff Cavins), and the Beatitudes.

Use this link:

<https://www.ilpmusic.org/product/MB202241.html>

Save The Date!



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

The Parish Center at

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH

4000 Ave Maria Dr., Ann Arbor, MI

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS