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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF PASSIONIST PROFESSION - On September 14, 2011, our Passionist Auxiliary League did a "repeat performance" by hosting the Golden Jubilee celebration of Sr. Marie Therese of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus with all the delicate care in which they did last year's Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Mary Joseph. These friends are so generous and caring of our Community! Fr. John Schork, C.P., was our Principal Mass Celebrant and Fr. Frederick Sucher, C.P., gave the homily. We were delighted to have both these Passionists drive from Louisville, KY, to be with us. Arriving early, Fr. Fred was able to give us two conferences drawing upon his work on the letters of St. Paul of the Cross. Pouring rain did not stop the Chapel from being filled for a very jubilant Mass. Having a professional organist, Tim Jansen, gave the more confident voices available and the desire of Sister Marie Therese's heart the ability to sing *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* as the communion meditation. Fr. Fred gave a fine homily, weaving together the history of the feast, something about our Community and what 50 years of Religious life means for the Church and for the Community. Both he and Fr. John expressed our gratitude for the Passionist Auxiliary League members and their marvelous assistance to us through the years. The Reception was loud and vigorous and so happy even as the rain continued to pour down! So many appreciative friends and such a glorious celebration and so much to be grateful for! We think God was greatly pleased with all that each and every person did to honor Him. After all, He is the cause, continuance, and completion of every anniversary. The appreciation of our life by so many wonderful friends is itself a miracle of grace, or perhaps many miracles. May God be praised!

Fifty years of grace and giving ~~

wisely, day after day after day

Fifty years of watching and caring ~~

Tender providing in every way

"How shall I thank you, my Crucified Lover?" Prostrate, your awe-filled Bride asks, "How repay?"

ROMAN MISSAL – THIRD EDITION: NEW TRANSLATION - On the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27th, we heard the lovely new English Translation of the Roman Missal. We were immediately reminded of the fact that we were bound heavenward by words more transcendent than mundane and that we were participating in something greater than the ordinary. The Mass is filled with Sacred Scripture, making us contemporaries of the Angel hosts in heaven. The very words we use unite heaven and earth – certainly greater companionship than any that the secular media has to offer. The quality and authenticity of the translation is a great gift to the English-speaking world and a lovely expression of communal worship to give our God!

CATHOLICSCOMEHOME.org - The Archdiocese of St. Louis has initiated the Catholics Come Home program this Advent. From mid-December into January, 2012, there will be T.V. commercials destined to touch the hearts of Catholics who have drifted away from the Faith and re-introduce them to the beauty and richness of coming home again! The project has been very successful in numerous other U.S. Dioceses in the past few years and we pray for the return of many brothers and sisters to the active practice of their Faith. It is also meant to spread and strengthen the Catholic identity of those already actively engaged. Why not introduce the

richness of our faith to family, friends, neighbors, by telling them of the T.V. messages inviting them to COME HOME, not just for Christmas, but to stay home!

IN LOVING, GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE - Please keep the following friends of our Community who have died this past year in your prayers – Bob Miller, Jane Spencer, Tim Croker, Cyrie Thirolf, Jackie Laufer, Cyril Graczak, as well as relatives of friends and those enrolled in our Mater Dolorosa Guild, May they rest in peace!

PRIESTLY SERVICE - July 31, 2011, marked the final Mass celebrated by our Sunday Chaplain of almost 20 years, Fr. John Craig, S.J., from DeSmet Jesuit High School. Father is now doing Campus Ministry at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO. Father was ever so gracious even in substituting on weekdays when needed and always had our Holy Week Services for years. We are happy to say that he will be coming back for Holy Week, 2012!

This year also saw Priestly changes at St. Clare parish. Fr. Patrick Driscoll bade us good-bye and Fr. James Theby is now the new associate pastor with Fr. Patrick Christopher residing at St. Clare as full time Chaplain at Mercy Hospital. We are most grateful for both Priests, along with our Pastor, Msgr. Kevin Callahan, who rotate celebrating our morning weekday Masses! You may help us pray for STEADY Sunday Chaplains. At present our Benedictine friends from St. Louis Abbey are taking first, third and fifth Sundays, but the second and fourth are the results of Mother Superior's "hunting", which continues! We would be most grateful if you could keep that intention in your prayers for us. Praise God for Priestly Vocations!

At this point, we should give a special note of gratitude to Msgr. James Ramacciotti, who has been ever so helpful in filling in for Sundays when we were unable to obtain a Priest for Holy Mass. His devotion and great homilies have been most appreciated by our Community as well as by our little Chapel "congregation."

RETREATS, CONFERENCES AND VISITORS - Our Passionist Auxiliary League Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection - 2011, was directed by Fr. Dominic Lenk, O.S.B., of the St. Louis Abbey. Father did wonderful work bringing those who attended into the spirit of a fruitful Lent.

Our Spring Retreat was conducted by Fr. Joseph Henchey, a Stigmatine Priest. Since his Order's charism is closely aligned to ours, Father's conferences centered on "Looking on Him Whom they have pierced" and you can well imagine how much it resonated with us.

Our November, Presentation Triduum, was conducted by our retired Bishop Robert J. Hermann. We were so glad to welcome Bishop Hermann, as we are familiar with his rich content of presentation as well as his sense of humor. Since this Feast of the PRESENTATION OF MARY IN THE TEMPLE was so special to our Holy Founder, St. Paul of the Cross, as he received the grace of Mystical Marriage of the soul with God on that day, he named the first Passionist Nuns Monastery that of the Presentation and wanted his daughters to keep a triduum in preparation for the feast and have a devotional renewal of Holy Vows at Holy Mass on that day.

Our first visitor of the year was the International Fatima Pilgrim Virgin Statue to our Chapel on January 4, 2011. It was a lovely way to open the New Year with Mary. It also happens that

Mary will visit us to close the year since the AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA pilgrim statue will be with us briefly on December 13, 2011. Enclosing the year with Our Blessed Mother has surely brought graces to our Community!

Among other visitors during the year we were happy to welcome Fr. John Jay Hughes at the close of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. Many years ago Father converted from the Anglican priesthood and serves in our Archdiocese. In Holy Week he returned to celebrate our Good Friday service and later in the year he gave us three very inspiring spiritual conferences. We look forward to future contacts with him.

On July 7th we welcomed our First Year Theologian Seminarians for what has become a yearly tradition. This visit, part of a wider program, gives them insights into various aspects and facilities in the Archdiocese in which they will serve after Priestly Ordination. We give them a brief talk on Passionist History and cloistered contemplative life and then, with the whole community present, experience an exchange of questions and discussion. We were most impressed with the quality of these young men and it intensifies our prayerful support of our Seminarians. Recalling also that the cloistered nuns in the Archdiocese are each given a Seminarian to accompany with prayer, we must report at this point, the celebration of Holy Mass by one of our newly ordained, Fr. Henry Purcell. Father, knowing the Sister who prayed for him is a Passionist, desired to come to our monastery for one of his first Holy Masses. This was followed by a visit with the Community. We feel very close to our Seminarians and grateful for these contacts.

In September we were able to greet the new President-Rector of Kenrick Glennon Seminary. Fr. John Horn, S.J., celebrated our Saturday 7:30 a.m. Holy Mass and following his breakfast we enjoyed a very informative visit with him, learning of Father's own story and the plans for the continued growth of our Seminary. Such encounters always enhance our love and prayer for the Priesthood.

In July we also enjoyed a visit from Passionist, Fr. Patrick Brennan, who, while stationed in Sierra Madre's Retreat House in Los Angeles, comes to St. Louis, his home, and stops by for a Passionist update – always an enjoyable time.

Following his Episcopal Ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, Bishop Edward Rice contacted us asking to come and celebrate Holy Mass for us! We have been friends of Bishop Rice for some time and were so glad to have this chance to meet with him under these circumstances. The date Bishop Rice chose was April 14th which just happened (providentially) to be Sr. Mary Joseph's 90th birthday! The Bishop was delighted to know this, as was Sister and the rest of us as well. Holy Mass and homily were grand and there followed breakfast with the Bishop with wonderful, vivacious conversation and we have a fine group photo to prove it! We surely continue to keep our Archbishop Robert Carlson and his new Auxiliary in daily prayer.

Another gracious visitor this year was that of Fr. Thomas Leland of the Wichita Diocese. Father is a friend of our Community and likens his visits to us as one of quiet and rest. He counts on our prayerful support for his work at St. Francis Parish in St. Paul, Kansas. This town, named for

our own St. Paul of the Cross because of our Passionist Fathers and Brother presence there for many years still retains a Passionist flavor and makes our connection even more meaningful.

Still another friend who stopped by for a visit this year was that of Fr. Tony Stephens, a Father of Mercy. We have met with Father before on other occasions and have had former dealings with this very fine Community.

We also had the blessing of Conferences on moral theology, by Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P., and will be further graced in 2012 with Father giving us our Spring Retreat. Msgr. James Turro, another longtime friend, was with us for conferences on II Corinthians. Monsignor, too, will be with us in 2012. We are so blest to have both of these holy and knowledgeable Priests share their expertise with our little Community!

WALK IN HIS WAY - Threatening skies indicated the Lord wanted an inside walk throughout the monastery for our Corpus Christi Procession this year. We were glad to have our friend, Fr. Joseph Weber carry the Blessed Sacrament while we followed with songs, prayers and readings, stopping at three Altars for Benediction.

Another opportunity for a walk was in October for our Rosary Sunday Procession, this time with Our Blessed Mother, which was done both inside the monastery and outside under lovely "sunshiny" skies as we prayed all twenty decades of the holy Rosary.

We are sure these little processions give special honor and glory to Jesus and Mary!

COMING EVENTS - All are welcome to Christmas Midnight Mass (2011) {Singing begins at 11:40 p.m.} Our Celebrant will be Fr. Donald Henke. On Christmas morning we will have a 9:30 a.m. Mass with Monsignor C. Eugene Morris as Celebrant. We delight in the reverence and dedication of both these fine Priests, whom you will recall from previous years.

On Ash Wednesday, our Passionist Auxiliary League will once more offer a day of Recollection with Msgr. James Ramacciotti as Director. Opportunities for Holy Mass, distribution of ashes, Confession, Prayer and Conferences beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the closing at 3:30 p.m. – a great way to begin a holy Lenten season.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the death of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, C.P. In his honor we will hold a special novena prior to his feast, Feb. 27, 2012. We invite you to join us invoking our young Passionist brother for vocations throughout our Congregation and in particular for our Community. Following is a brief life of one of Gabriel's great protégés, written by one of our Sisters here:

Saint Gemma Galgani (1878-1903) "Lord, what do you want of me?"

"I want souls who will atone for sinners and the ungrateful."

A Gem is Born When Enrico and Aurelia Galgani had their oldest newborn daughter baptized, they worried that her first name was not of a particular saint. Their parish priest allayed their worries when he exclaimed, "Gems are in Paradise. Let's hope also this little girl will be a gem in Paradise!" In fact, 62 years after that date (March 13, 1878), the Church would proclaim this very thing on the occasion of her canonization!

The Galganis had seven children. Gemma would experience the grief and loss to death in her short life of her mother, father, brother Gino, brother Anthony, sister Julia and a dear aunt. Gemma was close to them all; in particular to her mother, Gino (a seminarian when he died) and Julia.

Gemma was educated by the Sisters of St. Zita and would ardently yearn for a religious vocation early on in life. Although "poor Gemma" never was accepted into a religious community because of physical illness, Our Lord was very pleased with her yearning to serve Him completely. He bestowed extraordinary graces upon her. Throughout her life, she was blest with the grace of seeing her guardian angel. On June 8, 1899 Our Lord gave her a most significant gift: the Sacred Stigmata—the imprint of Jesus' wounds in His hands, feet and side. The open wounds would last two days every week until her death at age 25. A few days before her death, the wounds would become invisible to everyone but herself.

About the year 1901, the divine communications Gemma was receiving from Heaven let her know that she would become a Passionist. She also was told a new convent of Passionist Nuns that should (& would) be founded in Lucca, Italy—the city in which she was living. She was "adopted" by the Giannini family through connections with the Passionist Father who were her confessors. One of them, Fr. Germano, become her spiritual director and would be the instrument God would use to bring the Lucca monastery of Nuns to reality after Gemma's death.

A Gem Dies Around May of 1902, Our Blessed Mother appeared to Gemma and told her that she would die soon if Fr. Germano would not work quickly to get the Nuns' convent founded in Lucca. Gemma so desired to become a member of this future community and die a Passionist Nun that she asked Our Lady to heal her. Gemma soon was no longer close to death. Then around Christmas of 1902, Gemma offered herself to God as a victim soul and her tuberculosis rapidly took hold of her already weak body. She underwent serious trials and temptations in the next months and was even separated from her beloved Giannini family for fear that their children would contract her disease. On Holy Saturday morning, April 11, 1903, in an extremely weak state, Gemma underwent the severest temptations from the devil. Thanks be to God, earlier that morning, she had received Jesus in Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Holy Anointing. A few hours after those attacks from the devil, she died—a beautiful, sweet smile gracing her lips. *Consummatum est.*

A Gem Lives On Memories of St. Gemma are vivid as we have been graced with photographs of her gentle beauty—her luminous, pale skin that so brought out her clear, blue eyes and dark hair. She was always devout, pious and honest. Her greatest virtue was humility. Gemma firmly rejected drawing attention to herself, preferring plain, black clothes and hair pulled back tightly. She was always pleasant, friendly and helpful. Gemma practiced the virtues heroically. Truly she was the "stuff" of sainthood! Pope Pius XII canonized her on May 2, 1940. St. Gemma's holy remains are in her shrine attached to her beloved Lucca Passionist Nuns convent. She lives forever as a shining gem, a shining example, to suffer well—indeed, to love the Cross.***

"THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS ARE MET IN THEE TONIGHT"

How these words, which take us to Bethlehem, sum up what resounds in human hearts at this holy season! Know that we carry in our hearts all the hopes and fears, joys and dreams you bear, knowing that every needed grace will be given you from the Heart of the Divine Infant at Christmas and in the year to come.

A Blessed Christmas and Grace-filled 2012!

Mother Mary Salvador, C.P., and Sisters