



# Daughters of the Virgin Mother

## A Message from Sister Mary Raphael

### Providential Moments

- ◆ Saint Joseph Seminary
- ◆ Fatima
- ◆ Sisters in formation
- ◆ We're moving!!!!

Dear Family and Friends,

In this 100th year Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, there is no doubt that graces are abounding for all souls who want them. As our heavenly Mother so graciously stepped into the troubled human scene on the brink of World War I, so now she continues to open her heart and treasury to us—if we are but willing to receive and cooperate. Prayer! Penance! Reparation! May these imperatives resonate in our hearts and become on our part, generous responses for the salvation of souls and the renewal of the Sacred Priesthood.



## Saint Joseph Seminary

On March 19, 2016, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Bishop Peter Jugis formally announced that the Diocese of Charlotte would establish a college seminary in response to growing interest in priestly vocations. On August 7th the first class of men arrived at the building that used to be a Poor Clare Convent—turned into the temporary seminary. In this past year, the Daughters provided meals, chapel maintenance, house administration, and secretarial work for the faculty and seven seminarians, spiritually and practically living out our charism and purpose of founding. This coming academic year, we look forward to continue serving the seminarians and faculty of St. Joseph Seminary.





FILIAE VIRGINIS MATRIS

*Through the support of spiritual maternity, the Sisters attend to the practical and spiritual needs of men preparing for the Priesthood, as well as those of the men already sharing in the Priesthood of Christ through Holy Orders.*

“... a woman most profoundly gives of herself through the veiled mystery of silence...”  
- Gertrude von le Fort

### Fatima: February 13-23, 2017

The Daughters of the Virgin Mother were founded on the Feast of our Lady of Fatima—May 13, 2015. Inspired by a devotion to Her Immaculate Heart and her call for prayer, penance, and reparation, our charism forms us to pray and sacrifice in reparation for wounds in the Priesthood and, consequently, for healing and renewal. Approached by several generous donors, we were invited to go on pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal in February of this year. Visiting the holy and historical sites of this Church-approved apparition, we were immersed in a very fundamental aspect of our Rule and life as Daughters. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for this opportunity.



## Sisters In Formation

With unceasing prayers, apostolic zeal, and the witness of our own lives, the Sisters cooperate in fostering vocations for the whole Church and our way of life. We now have one novice



And two postulants in formation. We continue to receive inquiries and visitors who are interested in this way of life. This summer we will host a week-long vocation retreat and multiple day visits for young women seeking to know God's will in their lives.

## A New Convent



Communal growth also means we need to find a new home! The maternity residence MiraVia has been so generous in allowing us to live in-house, as Sisters in formation provide cooking, cleaning, and childcare tasks for the moms and babies we have come to love. However, as vocations continue to come, it is necessarily time for us to purchase a proper convent where we may welcome more candidates. Providentially, we have found a house in Gastonia that seems perfect for the need. With hard work, we hope to obtain the house and move this summer. However, we do very much need help. Our goal for this year is to raise \$200,000. We do support our daily needs through our labor in the apostolate. This request for funds is for our convent and chapel, so as not to incur debt. We have one generous donor who has pledged to match any donations up to \$25,000. Please prayerfully consider if this is something you feel inspired to help with.

*Tax deductible donations may be made out to:*

***Daughters of the Virgin Mother***

***119 Wimmer Circle, Belmont, NC 28012***

*Watch our website for more information and upcoming events*

***[www.daughtersofthevirginmother.com](http://www.daughtersofthevirginmother.com)***

"Duc in altum!

These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence."

- ST. JOHN PAUL II -



