



# Daughters of the Virgin Mother

## A Message from Sister Mary Raphael

### Providential Moments

- ♦ *High Tea Success*
- ♦ *Five New Priests*
- ♦ *Duc in Altum*
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- ♦ *A New Novice*
- ♦ *Back to School for St. Joseph's*

Dear Family and Friends,

Graces and blessings have come in abundance this summer. We are so grateful to our Blessed Lord and His Mother for the gift of our vocations, for the gift of the Priesthood which we serve, and for His Providence seen in so many ways. I have been humbly awed by the generosity that has come from our local community, as well as from out-of-state friends. Thank you for helping us get into our new home! It is an exciting milestone for our Community's growth, and we pray to faithfully keep this convent as a holy place of prayer.

### Five New Priests for Charlotte

On June 17, 2017 five men were ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte. The Ordination Mass for Frs. Peter Ascik, Matthew Bean, Christopher Bond, Brian Becker, and Christian Cook was celebrated by Bishop Peter Jugis at Saint Mark's Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC. The Daughters of the Virgin Mother have been praying for these men throughout their journey to Holy Orders, and it was our joy to be able to rejoice with them and the Diocese of Charlotte as they began their priestly service to Holy Mother Church. Please continue to keep our Bishop and priests in your prayers!



Photo Credit: John Cosmas and SueAnn Howell

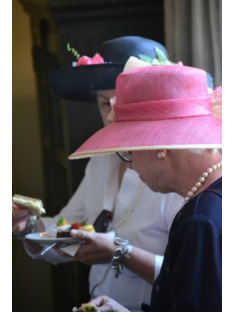
## FILLÆ VIRGINIS MATRIS

*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.*



## High Tea Success

The Daughters wish to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all who attended our High Tea on Sunday, June 11th! It was a joy getting to spend time with so many beautiful women from our local community. With over 170 guests in attendance, the event was an absolute success of prayer and fellowship. We hope to have more opportunities to come together in the future!



## Home Sweet Loreto Convent

The word is out! In two years, the Daughters have grown from one sister to four, with a handful of aspirants inquiring into our community. After discerning that it was time to expand, it is with great joy that we announce that we moved into our new convent-home in Gastonia on August 3rd, the eve of the feast of Saint John Vianney! Countless individuals and families invested time, materials, labor, and prayers into turning this house into our convent-home, under the patronage of Our Lady of Loreto. On Friday, August 4th, the feast of Saint John Vianney (patron saint of parish priests), the Daughters were blessed to welcome our Eucharistic Lord into our chapel at the first Mass. As Father Kauth reminded us in his homily, the contemplative prayers offered in this chapel will be the “powerhouse” and engine of all apostolic endeavors. Sisters in formation are excited to keep working at MiraVia, the maternity home in Belmont, while Sr. Mary Raphael will continue cooking and house administration at St. Joseph College Seminary in Charlotte. May God reward all of our families, friends, and benefactors!





## A New Novice: Sr. Mary Veronica

On Sunday, July 16th, after her year of discernment as a postulant, we welcomed Sr. Mary Veronica of the Holy Face into the Novitiate of the Daughters of the Virgin Mother! It was a joy to celebrate with family and friends. Thank you



for all the love and prayers shown to our dear sister as she enters this next step of her journey in religious life. Please continue to keep her in your prayers!

St. Veronica, pray for us! Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

## Duc in Altum: June 26-30



We were thrilled to welcome 82 young women to our annual discernment camp, *Duc in Altum*. This year's retreat focused on Our Lady and her faith, hope, and charity, as well as the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima (in celebration of the centenary of her visits to the little shepherd children in Portugal)!

Sweet Heart of Mary, be our salvation!

*Cantemos alegres a uma só voz,*

*Francisco e Jacinta, rogai por nós!*



Photo Credit: Catholic News Herald

## Back to School for St. Joseph's

August 6th—Feast of the Transfiguration- marked the move-in date for the second class of Saint Joseph College Seminary. Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Matthew Kauth, the seminary's rector, who encouraged the young men to "rise and do not be afraid" and to keep their gaze fixed on "Jesus only," as did Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor. The Sisters continue to provide administrative and kitchen tasks to the seminary.

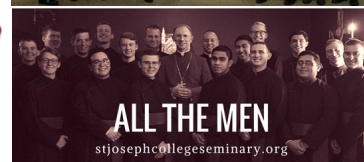


Photo Credit: Catholic News Herald, Saint Joseph Seminary



We have been blessed with generous donations for over half the purchase price of our convent! We still need to raise \$120,000. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Daughters, we would be very grateful.

Please join us in praying for all priests and seminarians, entrusting them into the care of the Virgin Mother of God!

*O Mary, Mother of Jesus, Queen and Mother of all priests,*

*Intercede for these special sons of Yours.*

*Hold them in Your Immaculate Heart, cradle them in Your arms,*

*Protect them from every evil bent against them,*

*Teach them to love, and lead them at last into the arms of Your Son in Heaven.*

*Amen.*

We would love to keep you and your intentions in our prayers! Please let us know how we can pray for you!

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