



# Daughters of the Virgin Mother

## A Christmas Message from Sister Mary Raphael

### *A Season of Blessings:*

- ◆ *Eucharistic Congress*
- ◆ *Convent Blessing*
- ◆ *Bishop Schneider*
- ◆ *Seminary Land Blessing*
- ◆ *January 6th, 2018*
- ◆ *Open Convent*



Dear Family and Friends,

As we enter into the blessed seasons of Advent and Christmas, it is an incredibly appropriate time to slow down and make an attempt to observe more times of silence. I realize that I am suggesting something counter cultural, but perhaps such self-possession against the rush, anxiety, and stress of the holiday season will open our eyes even more to the tender and mystical realities surrounding us in the liturgical celebrations.

Every Sunday I give the Novitiate Sisters lesson—diving into some aspect of our charism, life, and service to the Sacred Priesthood. In these weeks before Christmas I hope to impart to them and to you a great love for silence. Why? It is not intended to create a moody vacuum or an arena for self-focused and petty thoughts or imagination. The fantastic reality is that there is a Person inside of us—dwelling in the home of our soul. He walks the corridors of our hearts! Do we keep Him company with blessed conversation and acts of faith, hope, and love?

The Christ Child was born for us and came to pitch His tent among men, first by assuming our human nature. Then he pitches his dwelling tent in each one of us through the gift of Baptism and the life of grace. Just as our Lady tenderly wrapped Him in swaddling clothes to keep Him warm, so let us keep Him warm against the coldness of hearts; let us recognize His Presence in us and gratefully keep Him company. He gave us His blessed Presence; let us be present to Him.

Know that we hold each of you close to our hearts in prayers and sacrifice. We wish you a very blessed Christmas!

*Sister Mary Raphael of the Divine Physician, DVM  
And Sisters*

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.*

### Magnificat: The Eucharistic Congress

The Daughters of the Virgin Mother joined in the festivities of Charlotte's 13th annual Eucharistic Congress, featuring this year's theme "My Soul Magnifies the Lord." The Congress began on the evening of Friday, September 8th (the feast of Our Lady's Birthday) with Byzantine Vespers. Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed in Saint Peter's Church throughout the night for Adoration, leading up to a Eucharistic procession along the streets of Charlotte the next morning. The Daughters were honored to walk in the procession alongside female Religious of various communities from across the United States and abroad, not to mention the hundreds of devout lay faithful.



### A Season of Blessings!

In the last few months, we have truly enjoyed setting up our new home and welcoming guests to experience the peace at Our Lady of Loreto Convent. We begin and end our days with Eucharistic adoration, and every evening we pray a rosary for our bishop, priests, seminarians, family, friends, and benefactors.



Pieces of furniture and art in the convent have come from a variety of Providential encounters. We found a beautiful piano sitting on the side of the road for trash pick-up! With a little work, it was restored for playing and now we enjoy its sweet sounds through the house.



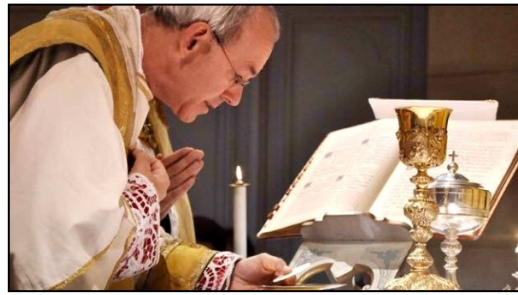
Family and friends have generously given time, talent, and resources to help with repairs and maintenance. All are most welcome to come visit Loreto Convent! We especially love to have people come to our chapel to pray for priests.





### “Our Lord wants this.”

In October Bishop Athanasius Schneider, ORC, visited St. Ann Church for a special Pontifical Latin Mass. Bishop Schneider is the auxiliary bishop of Astana, Kazakhstan and a staunch defender of the Catholic Faith in the Church today. It was edifying to share a few words with him about our charism, and to receive his blessing.

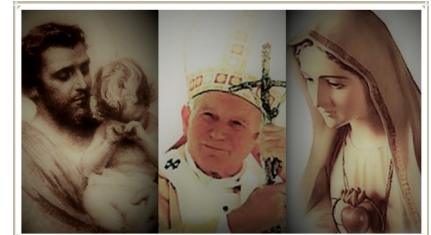


*“Our Lord wants this in these times. Do not give up! Become holy,”* he exhorted us. We pray to be faithful to that appeal.

Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II  
October 22, 2017

**Blessing of Saint Joseph  
College Seminary Land**  
By the Most Reverend Peter Jugas  
*Our Lady of Fatima, Saint Joseph, and  
Pope Saint John Paul II, pray for us.*

### Blessing Of The New Seminary Land



**You are invited to a convent Epiphany Open House and Cookie Exchange!**

**January 6, 2018**

**Our Lady of Loreto Convent**

**From 10 am to 2 pm**

**RSVP appreciated but not necessary**

**[daughtersofthevirginmother@gmail.com](mailto:daughtersofthevirginmother@gmail.com)**



We wish to show our love and gratitude to all our family, friends, and benefactors.

+JM+

*Merry Christmas from our Community to your family!*



We have been blessed with many generous donations to help us pay for our convent. Presently, we still need to raise \$115,000. If you would like to make an end-of-year tax deductible donation to the Daughters, you can do so by mailing a check or making a PayPal payment at our website. We also will gratefully receive pledges made with the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

We pledge the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable over *three years* as follows:

This commitment will be paid

\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly                      \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-Annually                      \_\_\_\_\_ Annually

or as follows \_\_\_\_\_

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We make this commitment on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Signature \_\_\_\_\_