



Daughters of the Virgin Mother

An Easter Message from Sister Mary Raphael

A Springtime of Blessings:

- March for Life in D.C.
- Fatima Anniversary and Conference
- A Third Novice
- The Easter Triduum
- Our New Chimney!
- Duc in Altum 2018

With the Resurrection of our Lord, life was forever changed for the Apostles and the other disciples. The despair and grief of Good Friday gave way to the jubilation of Easter Sunday. Along with the joy came many surprises. They never knew when He would appear, nor where. He came upon them unawares, such as on the lake or on the Road to Emmaus. He reached into their hearts and resurfaced old wounds in order to heal them, such as asking Peter around a charcoal fire to profess his love three times in order to repair for his threefold denial. They lived in a new reality and their hearts rejoiced within them. Two thousand years later, our life is also changed. The question is, do we live as though it has been changed? Do we carry out our daily events as though He might show up in surprising ways—either through Providential encounters or the sacrament of the moment? Then do we eagerly hasten to share our joy with others by a lifestyle that exclaims, “I have seen the Lord!” These are the questions we must ask during this Easter season. I pray that each of us finds the resonating replies in the depths of our hearts.

Sister Mary Raphael of the Divine Physician, DVM



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.

March for Life in D.C.



Two of our novices, Sisters Mary Elizabeth and Mary Veronica, got to experience a bit of Our Lord's spontaneous Providence when, through a last minute change-of-plans, they had the opportunity to travel to the annual March for Life. The Sisters were deeply grateful for the experience, expressing what a joy it was to be surrounded by so many faithful laypeople, priests, and—in particular—so many women Religious.



Our One-Year Fatima-Pilgrimage Anniversary

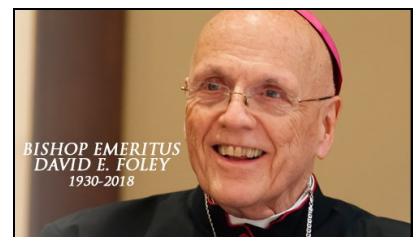


The first week of Lent was marked by two feast days close to the heart of our religious family: the memorials of Sister Lúcia of the Immaculate Heart (Feb. 13th) and the newly-canonized siblings Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto (Feb. 20th). These shepherd children inspire our charism of prayer and reparation. We were blessed last year to spend a week walking in their footsteps in Fátima, Portugal, and have continued to study their heroic examples. In fact, Sr. Mary Raphael recently had the opportunity to attend a weekend-conference in Virginia on the messages of Our Lady of Fatima. The conference was presented by Sr. Angela Coelho, a member of the Alliance of Holy Mary, who served as the Postulator for the Cause of Canonization for Saints Jacinta and Francisco. The trip was a success, with many graces left to unpack, but we sure are happy to have her back home at Loreto.

Bishop Emeritus David Foley



Please pray for the blessed repose of the soul of a Community friend, Most Reverend David Foley. Sr. Mary Raphael was able to spend several hours with him in Birmingham, AL nine days before he died. It was a cherished time with a successor of the Apostles and we commend his soul to the intercession of our Lady, Queen of the Clergy. +Requiescat in Pace



...and then there were three (Novices)!

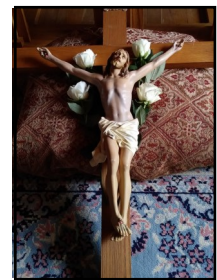


On the Solemnity of St. Joseph our Postulant Taylor entered her first year of Novitiate with the Daughters, receiving her habit and her new name. She is now Sister Mary Jacinta of the Holy Name of Mary. When a Sister embarks upon her Novitiate journey, she sets her hand to the plough of training and formation in the charism and life of the Evangelical Counsels.



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Triduum this year was extra special because it was the first one celebrated in our Convent. We attended the Palm Sunday Liturgy at Saint Patrick's Cathedral with Bishop Jugis and later on enjoyed a beautiful Holy Thursday meal in celebration of the institution of the Holy Priesthood. Good Friday was a day of recollected silence and prayer, and included our annual garden planting tradition, "hot cross buns," the Good Friday Service of Our Lord's Passion, Byzantine Vespers, and a beautiful Tenebrae service. Holy Saturday was a full day of Easter preparations until the joyous Easter Vigil Mass at our home parish. In the spirit of St. Mary Magdalene we were up early to attend the first Mass on Easter Sunday and then feast on a festive brunch. We pray that you and your family experience the peace and joy of Christ's Resurrection! Alleluia! He is Risen indeed!



Our New Chimney

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our friends at the CHIMNEY SWEEP ASSOCIATION, Our Lady of Loreto Convent now has a fully-functional fireplace, complete with a beautiful new chimney cap, custom made for our home. The dear "sweeps" who worked tirelessly all day on Friday, April 6th, were a joy to spend time with!



Duc in Altum 2018: Registration Now Open!

Who: Young Women ages 15 - 19*

When: June 25—29, 2018

Where: Belmont Abbey College Campus

Registration can be found online at:

<https://charlottediocese.org/vocations/duc-in-altum/>

*Please note this change in the age requirement since last year. Number of participants must be capped at 80. Register now to reserve your spot!



*To our dear families, friends, and benefactors:
Happy Easter and Blessed Springtime!*



Know of our daily prayers for you!