

## GO TO JOSEPH, PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

*Go to Joseph in thy joys,  
thou wilt rejoice the more.*

*Go to Joseph in thy grief,  
when death knocks at thy door.*



*Go to Joseph no matter when,  
thy refuge he will be.*

*He holds the key to Jesus' Heart,  
Its treasures are for thee!*

*Go to Joseph inspired by Genesis 41:55  
Monk of Silverspring Priory,  
Ireland May 1, 2017*

How can any death be called 'happy'?

Why does Holy Church recommend the dying to Saint Joseph? Perhaps if we consider the state of the dying, the qualities of a patron and Saint Joseph's own death we can find some answers.

Our first hint can be found in a reflection by a monk of Silverspring Priory, Ireland.

"We recommend the dying to Saint Joseph. ... Saint Joseph visits the dying because they are so much like little infants. (Perhaps he is reminded of his infant Son.) They are vulnerable, weak, and subject to the attacks of evil spirits. Saint Joseph, exquisitely tender for souls redeemed by the Blood of Christ, is the 'terror of demons.' He is the defense of those in the throes of the final combat."

In the above reflection we find a living example of a 'patron': "a person chosen, named, or honored as a special guardian, protector, or supporter." Isn't this exactly who Saint Joseph was for the infant Jesus? And pious tradition tells us this is who Jesus was for the dying Joseph.

In his book, *Truth about Saint Joseph*, Father Maurice Meschler speaks of the three circumstances that according to pious tradition account for Saint Joseph's 'happy' death:

*First:* The past showed the saint a life of innocence and purity; a life of the most genuine and sublime virtue; a life of untold merit in the service of Jesus, of Mary, of the Church, and of the whole of mankind; a life of labor, fatigue, and suffering, borne in the spirit of patience, of faith, and with the noblest love. This retrospect gave him no cause for regret or fear, but all was full of hope. We learn from his life what his death was. Does not everything combine to render his death not only good, but consoling and even joyful?

*Second:* Joseph died in the arms of Jesus, his Son and God, and in the arms of Mary; both, especially at that moment, compensated all his endeavors for them with unheard of graces. They were helpers and consolers who not only supported his frail body, but who with powerful, soothing graces refreshed and rejoiced the heart and soul of the dying saint, while the Holy Spirit replenished him with a Heaven of consolation and joy.

*Third:* con't page 2

## GO TO JOSEPH CON'T

*Third:* The glimpse into the future reveals to our saint his happy meeting with his gloriously risen Son after a short stay in the quiet abode of Limbo, where the saintly souls of the Old Testament awaited their transfiguration; he sees the kingdom of eternal joy, where the Heavenly Father receives his worthy representative and faithful administrator, ministers to him, and sets him over all His treasures. cf. Lk 12:37

In a moment of contemplative gazing on this scene the author of *Devotion to Saint Joseph*, Father Joseph A. Patrignani, SJ, 'hears' Jesus comfort Saint Joseph with these words: "Good and faithful servant, your time of earthly service is over and gone. You are entering the house of God to receive your reward. For I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. I was homeless and you took me in; naked and you clothed me." Followed by the exhortation, "Now enter into your Master's joy."

The Irish monk of Silverspring with poetic insight draws us into this grace-filled moment,

There was something extraordinarily grand and majestic in Saint Joseph's departure from life, like the quiet effulgence of the setting sun, which at the end of a day's work gazes back with rapturous joy on all it has accomplished and quietly sinks to rest in the bosom of God.

Who would not be 'happy' with such a passage into Eternal Life? Perhaps from this perspective it is easy to see why the Church has designated Saint Joseph guardian, protector, and supporter of all who seek to enter into this same Joy.



## SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Shortly after Mass on Thanksgiving Day, 2018, Our Prioress, Sister Mary Peter, OP, accompanied by a group of the nuns, met with some of our friends in the visiting parlor for the yearly drawing of the Sweepstakes Winners. This year the tickets were drawn in the presence of those who had gathered in our parlor for the occasion. The winners were :

*First Prize* of \$1,000.00: B. Bushor Sterling Heights, MI

*Second Prize* of \$500.00: S. Nugar Farmington, MI

The five *Third Prize* winners of \$100.00 were:

G. Helpinstill	Bernardsville, N.J.
S. Atallah	Farmington Hills, MI
R. Najor	Farmington Hills, MI
G. Cooney	Royal Oak, MI
E. Barry	Hawthorne, NY



We rejoice with these winners, and we offer our sincere thanks to them and to all who so graciously partook of the sweepstakes. We ask our dear Lord to bless a hundredfold the generosity of one and all. The total amount that was donated was \$24,005.00.

## CELEBRATING TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF FAITH & LOVE

NOVEMBER 30, 1994 ~ 2019

Sr. Mary Peter of the Good Shepherd, OP, our Prioress, made First Profession in 1994 and Solemn Profession of Vows as a Cloistered Dominican Nun in 1996.

In an interview for the Spring 1997 *Echoes* quoted below, she shared her reflections of her special day.

Today, these words seem to be prophetic: seeds sown in faith 25 years ago that have borne the fruit of Faithfulness and Love.



In *Echoes* Sr. Mary Peter shared:

“The major highlight, of course, was the moment when I knelt before Sr. Mary Thomas, our prioress, placed my hands in hers, and promised obedience to God, to blessed Mary ... and to the prioress of this Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament until death. That moment is important because it is a statement of willingness to totally entrust oneself to God. This is the moment of placing oneself into the hands

of God, trusting like Abraham, that God will provide the means to the life to which He has called me, even when I don't know exactly how that will work out in daily life, and especially when it requires sacrifice.”

“On the altar was the Book of Solemn Professions. In it are the handwritten Profession of Vows of each sister in the community from the time of our foundation in 1906. My vow formula, which had been transcribed beforehand, was there and I happily signed and dated the entry.

Then the community sang the song I had chosen as an expression of my joy in this total act of thanksgiving.

**Jesus of Thee shall be my song;  
To Thee my heart and soul belong.  
All that I am or have is Thine;  
And Thou, my Savior, Thou art mine.**

My favorite part is these lines >>>

**Jesus, my Lord, I Thee adore;  
O make me Love Thee more and more!**

“A ring is given at Solemn Profession as a symbol of one's total dedication to God. The words of the ceremony proclaimed by the Bishop, sum up beautifully the meaning of the ring for us:

*Receive the ring of divine faith, given in the name of the most Holy Trinity.*

*Be faithful to Jesus your Spouse, so that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy.*

I think I will always have a mental picture of that instant when Bishop Vigneron said to me while presenting the ring to me, 'Be faithful!' Those words went straight to my heart. It was an awesome moment! But then, that is what God calls all the baptized to, no matter what our state in life ... to be faithful to our God who is always faithful to us.”



LEFT: Terry Fox, Sister's brother and his wife, Agatha give the Offertory Gifts to Father David Santoro, OP, Chaplain.

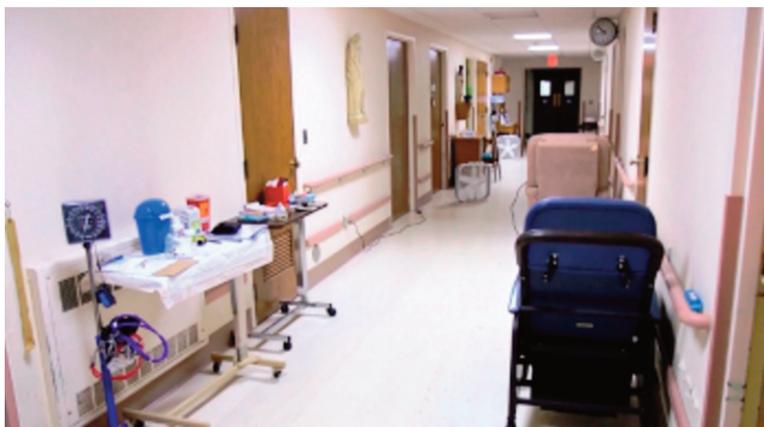
RIGHT: Sister Mary Peter opens her gifts from the nuns and benefactors.



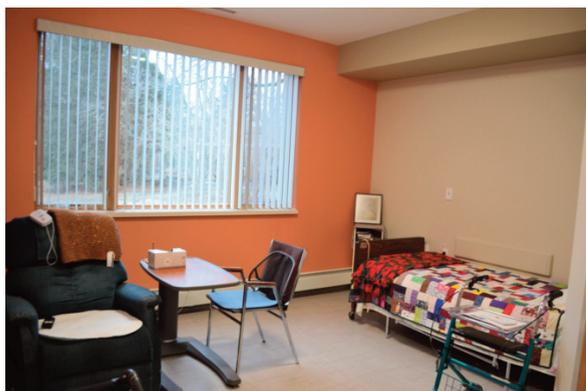
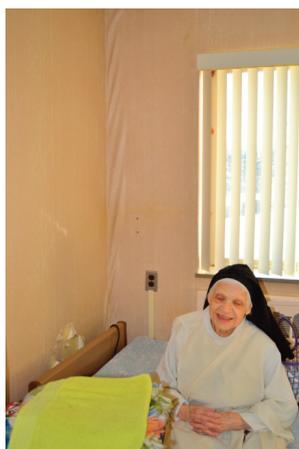
COME AND SEE W

Share in t

## INFIRMARY



*Above, old infirmary corridor and new infirmary corridor*



*Old and new infirmary rooms;  
and to the right old and new infirmarian's offices.*



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With your help we have  
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the Sisters and a tour

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MONASTERY OF THE

Cloistered Dominican Nuns  
29575 Middlebelt Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

YOU HAVE DONE FOR US  
*of or Renovation*

**CORDIALLY INVITED  
AN OPEN HOUSE ON  
30, 2019 FROM 1:00-4:00 PM**

**me and see  
ave done for us!**

ted our Infirmary and Bookstore reno-  
n and see all that has been accom-  
the project, a chance to meet some of  
rmary.

ase Join Us  
ents will be served!



SACRAMENT

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sfn@sbglobal.net

BOOKSTORE & LOBBY



*Above, old lobby with bookstore behind it & below, new lobby and bookstore*



**A LENTEN MEDITATION**  
The Suffering Servant of Isaiah and the Shroud of Turin

*“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.*

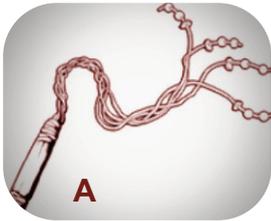
*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

*Isaiah 53: 4-6 RSV*



samedi 1 septembre 2012  
<http://thierrycastex.blogspot.com>  
Frontal & dorsal images  
Thierry CASTEX 3D processing

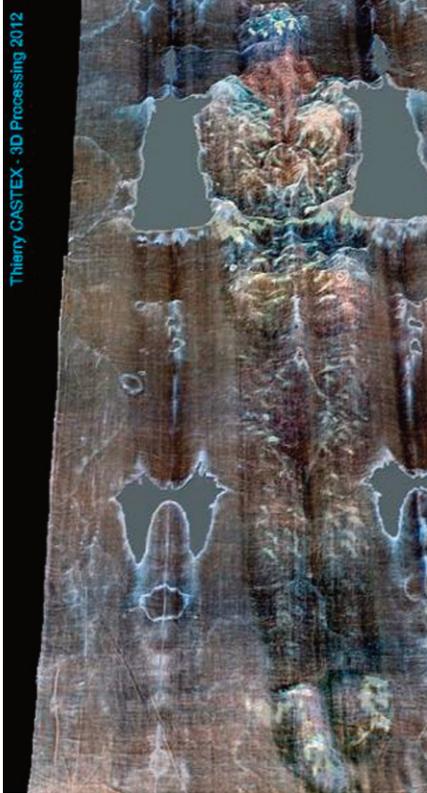
**Wounds, bruises, stripes of Isaiah** can be read on the Shroud in the ‘white’ marks and imprints that are images of blood left on the linen cloth. Three types of images caused by the torture instruments - A, B, or C.



**Type 1 images:** 115 marks from approximately 105 blows caused by 40-60 lashes with a “flagrum” [A] having triplets of small rough bones or spiky metal spheres, able to hook up and rip the skin .

**Type 2 fainter imprints:** 220+10 visible marks from approximately 170 blows. Show that before the flagrum the Man was *previous*ly whipped with a bundle of [B] flexible rods of white birch wood, or hard thin leather straps.[C]

**Type 3 marks:** Are a fan-shaped pattern due to little separation of the rods, leather thongs or cords as they were slightly wrapping around legs, calves and ankles.



Thierry CASTEX - 3D Processing 2012

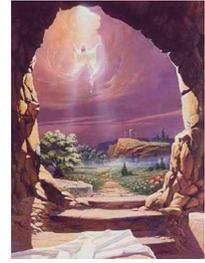


*cf: Scourge bloodstains on the Turin Shroud: an evidence for different instruments used - Barbara Faccini, University of Ferrara, via Saragat 1, 44100 Ferrara, Italy -*  
[/www.ohioshroudconference.com/papers/p19.pdf](http://www.ohioshroudconference.com/papers/p19.pdf)





## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	4:00 pm MASS; Doors open 8:00 am; Gift Shop closes 3:30 pm
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	3:00 pm Veneration of the Cross with Communion Service Doors open 8:00 am; Gift Shop Closed All Day
<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	8:00 am Doors open until 5:00 pm; Gift Shop open until 4:00 pm
<b>EASTER -</b>	
VIGIL MASS	11:00 pm; Doors open 10:45 pm
MORNING MASS	9:30 am; Doors open at 9:00 am and close at Noon

Intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if no  
acknowledgment needed

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

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

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

## ST. JOSEPH NOVENA ~ MARCH 11 ~ 19

*St. Joseph, man of prayer, help us to stand with you before God, humble, attentive, faith-filled, awaiting the loving mercy of His providence. Teach us to pray as you did, with the inner simplicity and trust of silent prayer and the purity and strength of worship in union with our brothers and sisters.*

*The whole world is your child, Joseph.*

*Be protector and advocate for the searching and the sorrowing, the struggling and the straying, for all of us who long for peace and the fullness of life.*

*Take our lives, our times, our needs into your fatherly care, so that we may follow Christ Jesus down pathways of holiness and wholeness. Enfold us and those we love in your prayer, father Joseph.*

*Obtain for us the daily bread of grace we need for this life, so that we may come at last in your company to the eternal joy of Heaven. Amen*

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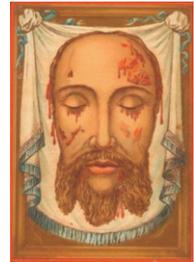
**WEB ADDRESS: [www.opnuns-fh.org](http://www.opnuns-fh.org)  
Donate on-line via PayPal or "Givng"  
Prayer Line: 248-626-8253**



SEE IN THIS ISSUE:

RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE page 4 -5

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE page 7



*You may donate on-line via PayPal at [www.opnuns-fh.org](http://www.opnuns-fh.org) and please consider remembering us in your will.*

## JOYFUL & FREE FOR GOD ALONE

**Can 'true happiness' really' be found in this life?  
Can Christ Jesus be calling you to be a  
'Proclamation of this Hope'?**

Join us for a Time of Discernment:

Make a phone call or email.  
Arrange a meeting with a Nun.  
Plan a time of retreat.  
Make an Aspirancy, *2 - 6 weeks of full  
emersion into Dominican Cloistered life.*

Sr. Mary Thomas, O.P.  
Vocation Directress  
Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament  
(248) 626.8321  
[vocdir@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vocdir@sbcglobal.net)

Free for God Alone Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYOtY0s5IEQ>

*By their hidden life the Nuns proclaim  
prophetically that in Christ alone  
is true happiness to be found, here by  
grace and hereafter in glory.*

From the Constitution of the Nuns

