



O Come, Divine Messiah! The monastery is enveloped in the special Advent spirit and silence as we begin a new liturgical year. How we beg our Infant Savior for the gift of conversion and true peace; and for an end to the strife and sickness that is weighing down mankind. May the King of peace grant the hearts that truly seek Him, His precious gift of peace of heart.

The year 2021 has brought the celebration of two special Jubilees. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, O.P., celebrated her Golden Jubilee, 50 years of religious life. Sister grew up on an apple farm in Mexico, New York, and led her eight younger siblings in many skits, plays, and outdoor escapades. The star that brought her to Marbury was her love of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the appeal of the life of our Holy Father, St. Dominic. In the monastery, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart has developed her many artistic and sewing talents, making lovely vestments and stationery, just to name a few! The whole family was able to gather for a joyful celebration on July 10<sup>th</sup>, when Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, O.P. celebrated a Dominican Rite Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and preached on the beauty of Sister's vocation and her response to God's call.



On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Sister Mary Aimee of the Holy Spirit, O.P., one of our pioneers, celebrated her Jubilee of 70 years in religious life with a surprise party in the monastery. Sister reminisced about her trip down from Chicago in 1951: "My friend who worked at the airport told me how happy she was that the airplane had two engines – that way if one failed, we would still be in the air!" After arriving at the Montgomery airport, "which looked like a hot dog stand," Sister Mary Aimee was driven out to the monastery, at that time the renovated farmhouse, to begin her 70 years of adventures as a Dominican nun. Sister is an apt seamstress, secretary, and gardener, among other talents, but her greatest joy is to keep the Perpetual Rosary as Mary's Guard of Honor.



Have you heard of St. Margaret of Castello, recently canonized by the Holy Father? When Margaret was born in Metola, Italy in 1287, her noble parents were horrified to find that their newborn child was dwarfed, blind, hunchbacked and lame. Embarrassed, they kept her hidden, first in a cell off the chapel in the woods, and later in the dungeon of the castle. In the midst of this treatment, God's grace abounded for the young girl, whose heart was filled with God's love. At sixteen, she was taken by her parents to a miraculous shrine at Citta di Castello, hoping for a cure. When no miracle occurred, Margaret was left abandoned. She was taught how to beg by the beggars of the city and was later cared for by various families, to whom she brought peace and blessings. Margaret became a Dominican Tertiary and devoted herself to visiting the sick and the dying, with a special solicitude for the relief of prisoners. St. Margaret died in 1320 at the age of 33. We look forward to her feast day on April 13th!



"...they will need no light from lamp or the sun!" Recently, our handy man replaced a much needed overhead light fixture and the effect was dazzling. The Novitiate became like Mount Tabor, an icon of totally captivating enlightenment. The light would probably be the perfect thing if you wanted to perform surgery or were interested in putting on a skit about landing on the sun, but neither of these seem to be in the near future of the Novitiate, so back to the drawing board! It might be hard to retain postulants if they had to get used to "dwelling in unapproachable light" – like the Blessed Trinity!

The year of St. Joseph, just drawn to a close on December 8th, should reinvigorate our devotion to him. Who better to lead us in an attitude of hope than Saint Joseph, who played a vital role in the unfolding of God's salvific plan? The promise made to ancient patriarchs and prophets unfolded before his very eyes, thanks to his willing acceptance of his own role. Let us invoke him confidently during this Advent and Christmas Season for all the needs that weigh on our hearts, whether personal, familial, national, or ecclesial.

Please know that you and your intentions are remembered as we kneel before the crib. Come, let us adore Him!

*Mother Mary of the Precious Blood, O.P.*  
Mother Mary of the Precious Blood, O.P. and Sisters