

Stella Maris

“ But it behooves us to glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: in Whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection: by Whom we are saved and delivered.” Gal. 6, 14.



Dear Family, Friends, and Benefactors,

On the 16th of February, five of our sisters took steps in the Religious Life. Sr. Maria Gabriella, (Ohio) and Sr. Mary Clare, (Minnesota) made their Triennial Vows. Sr. Maria Raphaelle, (Minnesota) made her First Year Vows. Our postulants, Theresa Schroepfer, (Illinois) now to be known in Religion as Sr. Mary Perpetua and Alena Fournelle, (Minnesota) now Sr. Mary Magdalen, were received as Novice Sisters.

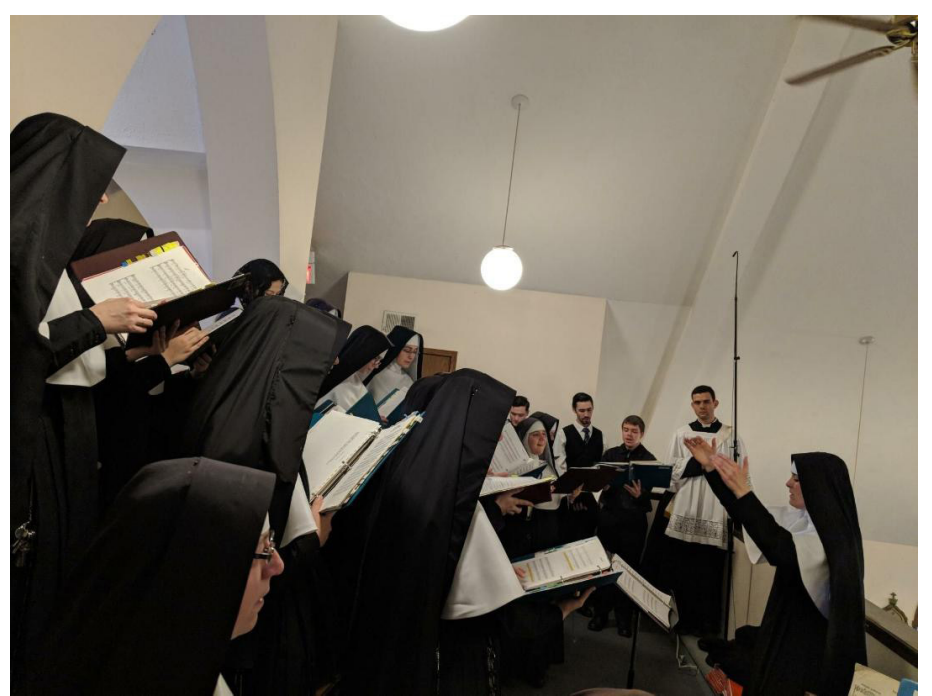
Near the end of January, two of our cows had calves, which we named Crispin and Juanita. With the surplus milk, we have been making cheese and other dairy products.

We pray you have a blessed Lent and grace-filled Holy Week.

With our prayers,
The Sisters of the Congregation of the Mother of God









Vocations

by Fr. William Doyle, S.J.



(Objections...continued)

7. "Perhaps I never had a vocation." –

Many persons have been tried by great doubts about their vocation, sometimes fearing they had deceived themselves, and that it would be impossible for them to secure their salvation in the religious state. All sweetness and devotion seems to have vanished; everything is wearisome, prayer, spiritual reading, even recreation – a clear sign, they think, that God never wished them to enter!

Theologians, and at their head St. Liguori, lay it down as a principle that even if one should enter religion without a vocation and persevere through the novitiate, God will certainly give one at the moment of pronouncing one's vows. To hesitate or doubt when that step has been taken would be treason: "He who puts his hand to the plough and looks back, is not worthy of Me."

Moreover, that repugnance and even dislike, which some suffer from during the whole of their religious life, is not a sign of want of vocation, if they persevere; God is only trying their fidelity to increase their merit.

8. "Wait! Wait! Wait!"

"If I were you I would not be in such a hurry." – But Jesus would not let the young man remain even to bury his father: "Let the dead bury their dead," He said, "and come thou and follow Me – make haste and tarry not."

"You do not know the world." – I know it is my worst foe, the friend and helper of my deadly enemy, Satan, and a danger I should fear and fly from.

"You are too young, wait a while." – Should I wait till the foul breath of the world has tarnished the beauty of the lily of my soul, which God loves for its spotless purity and wants for himself? "It is well for a man who has borne the yoke from his youth."

12. Advantages of Religious Life

Within the limits of a small pamphlet it would be impossible to give even an outline of the advantages of the religious state, and the heavenly favors enjoyed by those who are called to such a life. "What a glorious kingdom of the Holy Ghost is the religious state!" writes Father Meschler, S.J. "It is like an island of peace and calm in the middle of the fleeting, changing, restless flood of this earthly life. It is like a garden planted by God and blessed with the fat of the land and the dew of heavenly consolation. It is like a lofty mountain where the last echoes of this world are still, and the first sounds of the blessed eternity are heard. What peace, what happiness, purity and holiness has it shed over the face of the earth."

Nor is this to be wondered at, since God is never outdone in generosity, rewarding the

sacrifices made in obedience to His call with a lavish hand.

Peter said to Him: "Behold, we have left all things, and have followed Thee: what, therefore, shall we have?" And Jesus said to them: "You shall receive a hundred-fold and possess life everlasting."

"Taste and see how sweet the Lord is," says the Psalmist, for only those who have experience of the happiness, peace and contentment of the cloister realize fully the truth of the Savior's words: "Mary hath chosen the better part." The present writer could quote the heartfelt words of gratitude to God from many a soul for the grace of their vocation. One who had to suffer much in breaking the ties which bound her to the world and home, writes: "I seem to be slowly awakening from a long dream. I am so very happy I do not know if I am myself or someone else. How can I ever thank God enough for bringing me here?"

St. Jerome compares religious, who have left the world, to the Israelites delivered from the bondage of Egypt, and says God has shown great love for them in exchanging their hard slavery for the sweet liberty of the children of God.

(to be continued...)

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