

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd Kansas City MO 64131

Fall 2019

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...

Three sisters traveled to ordinations this year. Driving from Richmond with directions in hand, we stopped at a tollbooth. The lady was, of course, surprised to see sisters. We thanked her for the receipt and drove away, and not thirty seconds later we saw the sign telling us where we should have gone. Looking at the directions, we confirmed it. We missed the highway.

That sort-of forlorn feeling that settles in your heart as you watch the road you should have taken trail past the windows into the rear view mirror welled up within us. With a little added burst of adrenaline, we regrouped and determined to simply get off at the next exit and turn around. But no.

The next exit had no corresponding on-ramp. Neither did the one after that. We got off anyway, and plugged in the GPS. Yes, we had maps, but they were of no use.

Turn Right in 300 feet (it seemed like it should be left.) In a quarter of a mile, turn right (it seemed like it should be straight,) in half a mile turn left. We had absolutely no idea where we were, but we assumed it was still Virginia, and maybe even still Richmond. We followed blindly, and asked the angels to get us on the right road. The houses, we agreed, were very pretty. There were several lovely gardens and groups of old, tall trees of the kind only found on the east coast. Yes, it was a nice diversion. Thirty minutes' worth.

We then pulled into the exact same tollbooth. Imagine the surprised look on the face of the lady taking our money again. Our driver smiled sheepishly.

"We got lost."

"Where are you trying to go?"

"Buckingham."

"Can't you just take 60?"

The driver winced. "Well, we tried to, but we drove right past it."

She took on the look of a coach with a team on time out. We leaned toward her window like players eager for the big tip.

"Here's what you have to do," she raised her two hands up, palms facing in, "You have to **sta-a-ay** in the middle lane!" She gestured the movement with both hands.

"Yes. The middle lane."

"That's right, just stay in that middle lane!" Her hands and body moved rhythmically from side to side. "Don't you go to the right," she cautioned as she swayed to the right. "And don't you go to the left;" (she swayed to the left) "You just **sta-a-ay** in that middle lane!"

She ignored the honking of a car whose driver grew annoyed at having to wait 30 seconds longer than usual.

"You're going to stay in that middle lane until you see the signs. Then just **follow** the signs."

We thanked her, gave her a Miraculous Medal, and drove off. We talked about the detour on our way. What a meditation for life. Stay in the middle lane. Do not veer off to one extreme or another. Stay in that middle lane and watch for the signs. If you go off course, do all that you can to get back onto the right road. Get help from an experienced director of souls, no matter how humiliating the experience is. Follow those directions, pray, do penance, and stay in that middle lane, and you'll make it.

We did. And we made it. **Deo Gratias!**

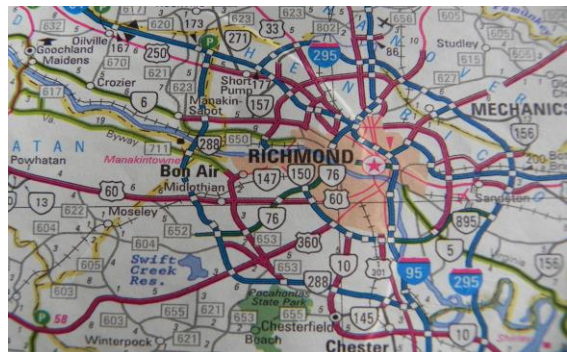


Photo Update



Our annual ceremony, including 1st vows, renovation of vows, and the taking of the habit, took place on August 2nd. Our new novice received the name of Sr. Cecilia Marie of the Holy Angels. Thank you to the St. Mary's group, Polymnia, for singing the Mass propers and hymns, as well as the chant during the ceremony.



Two of our sisters were invited to Ireland and England to visit SSPX chapels. Accompanied by Sr. Frances Marie, Sr. Mary Bernard gave talks in both countries and delivered one of the talks at the Knock Conferences. Clockwise from the bottom left: A visit to the Atlantic in Cornwall, England; standing outside of the world-famous "Green Door of Hospitality" in Athlone; and the priory (Court Devinish House) in Athlone which also houses historical ruins of the original Manor House from 1620. The sisters commented that we in America should be grateful for the relative freedom our schools still enjoy, as it is much more difficult to provide a Catholic education in England and Ireland due to the education laws.



Our new brother and sister "mouse catchers" arrived by surprise on October 15th. We named them Penny (left) and Cappuccino (or "Chino," right)

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Erik Gonzales, brother of Sr. Frances Marie and father of six children under the age of ten, who died September 28th.



Sister Frances Marie and the 2nd graders played “old-fashioned classroom,” complete with slates and chalk, at the historic educational site “Missouri Town.”



We are helping St. Vincent de Paul Academy with a new leadership class for the high school girls, who have broken into groups led by upperclassmen. The purpose of the class is to help the girls develop into strong Catholic young ladies ready to take on the responsibilities of Catholic adulthood. Right now, the groups take turns decorating the bulletin board, performing chores, organizing recess activities, and working on projects. Sister Mary Bernard gives the girls talks and advises the group leaders. The photo shows a group discussing plans for the younger children’s All Saints’ Day party. The girls have shown great promise already, and we have strong hopes of developing the program over time.



Eighth through Twelfth grade girls from Assumption Academy in Walton, KY spent a day with us after completing the Starkenburg pilgrimage. Among other activities and conferences with us, Sr. Mary Anthony showed them beading skills, which resulted in beautiful take-home bracelets.



After giving a talk on friendship to the ladies at St. Vincent’s, Mother Mary Joseph gave a talk at the Angelus Press Conference about the influence of fathers on their daughters.



A kindergartener shows her sorting skills to Sr. Mary Philomena.

Building Update



The southeast section of the convent roof was replaced in July. We thought we could get by with just patching the priest quarters area of the sacristy for the third time as a part of that project. However, after an inspection, we realized that we had to stop patching and actually replace this very old area instead. We have now depleted the last of our financial resources for building projects, but retreat masters and other guests will no longer have to trip over buckets and will no longer have water coming into the light fixtures—a much safer situation.

Thank you for your help.

After consulting experts around the country, reading technical manuals, and working with our local contractor, we think we can further streamline our boiler system. This fix will reduce our time spent managing the system, and should reduce our gas bill. Our contractor has promised his best technician, and we have received an excellent price for materials. We will pay for the labor by the hour. With insulation abatement, we estimate that the cost of this job will not exceed \$14,000.

For more details, see the website <https://forum.heatinghelp.com/discussion/171801/a-story-that-touched-my-heart#latest>. Thank you HeatingHelp.com!



You might remember photos of volunteers patching our driveway in past newsletters. We now have a windfall opportunity for free professional labor to replace it. We can get supplies (“rebar,” etc.) and equipment rental at cost, and need 90 yards of concrete and someone to haul off the old concrete. We estimate that the cost will not exceed \$20,000. Though lower on the wish list than the boilers and roof, the driveway is a serious safety issue for vehicles and pedestrians.

For those benefactors who find it easier to donate online, the SSPX has generously assisted us in setting up a website for donations. You can view more pictures and read updated information about our current needs on this site. The link is <https://ssp.x.gifts/franciscansisters>. Please pass it on to anyone who might be able to help us with prayers, donations, or spreading the word! We also have an informational website at ssp.x.org/franciscansisters. It has a link to the donation page.