

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

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<https://ssp.org/franciscansisters>

Lent 2020

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...

We wrote a pleasant newsletter about the antics of a mad squirrel and a crow at our bird feeder. Scheduling conflicts caused a delay in getting the letter to the printer just long enough for the Coronavirus to hit the country. Afterwards, we considered sending the letter out as it was, but we realized that we could not write about the crows and squirrels outside the window while ignoring the “elephant in the room!”

As we write, St. Vincent de Paul Academy is closed until April 3rd, although this could be extended; we have a plan in place to help keep the students intellectually engaged in the interim. We sisters have no problems staying busy, and we continue to pray fervently for friends and benefactors, for our country, for the world.

No matter the cause of the Coronavirus situation, no matter whether the threat has been exaggerated or not, we can only see the Coronavirus experience as an opportunity to grow away from self and towards God. God allows it for that purpose.

We feel certain that most of our readers have already increased in self-knowledge, as we have, about how we face the uncertainty of the social, political, and economic future of our country and the world. Even more importantly, we all face the possibility of losing the opportunity to attend Mass, of having restricted access to the sacraments. In this kind of scenario, we really have only two choices. We can either turn towards God in trust, or away from Him and towards ourselves. Of course, God expects us to do what we can in all prudence—we have the gift of reason. But we must use that gift to see God’s will in difficulties and sorrows.

Fear is a normal human reaction. Even Our Lord in His humanity suffered from fear. What we do with our fear depends on grace, and we must ask for that grace fervently. Our Lord suffered His Agony in the Garden to show us that we must pray without



ceasing to overcome our fears. We do not even have to worry about whether our fears are unfounded, exaggerated, or completely legitimate, as they all have the same effect on us, which is to cause us to dread the future. Our Lord knew exactly what the future held, and He sweat blood as He prayed for the chalice to be taken away. We can pray for the chalice to be taken away, but if we must drink from it, we know we will drink for the benefit of ourselves and many others. God will not waste these moments of grace. We must not waste them either, but ask for the courage to drink to the dregs. “Not my will but Thine be done.”

Perhaps we can still bring in our original theme of the squirrel and the crow. The squirrel repeatedly charged at a crow that tried to feed on seed that had fallen to the ground from the feeder tray. It had snowed, and so food was a little bit scarce. Eventually, the crow leaned far away from the squirrel, and then extended one bird-toed leg in a kind of tiptoe maneuver, sidling up to the squirrel before shifting its weight quickly, pecking at a seed and leaping away before the squirrel noticed what it had done. It neither made an angry fuss over the squirrel’s absurd behavior, nor tried to gang up with the other crows to drive the squirrel off. It just kept on pecking and dodging.

Like that crow, we too can adapt and overcome with meekness and humility! God is still here with His grace, waiting for us to ask without ceasing. Let us do just that, and have confidence that He will see us through this life with all its sorrows and challenges, to bring us to Eternal Life with Him!

Photo Update



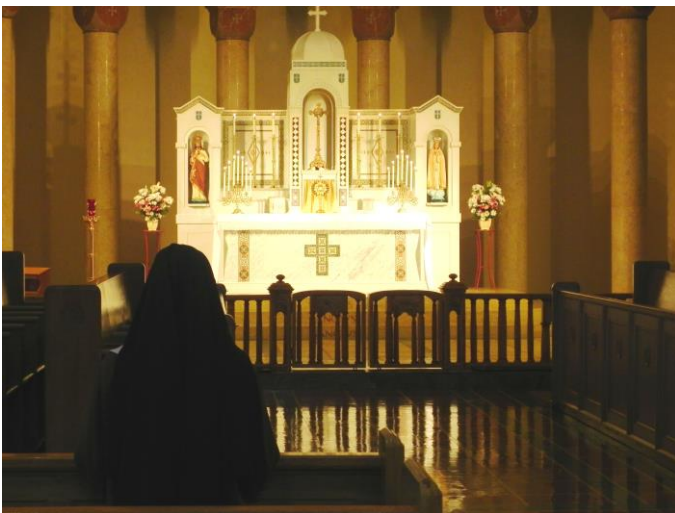
Sister Marie Louise trained St. Vincent's boys and girls for choral speaking. They recently performed at the Cair Paravel Fine Arts Festival and received marks of Excellent and Superior.



Sister manages to squeeze in a few minutes from time to time to repair books.



Catch Mice? I'd rather listen to Mother talk to me!
Our website <https://spx.org/franciscansisters> has a link to both a free podcast and to an advertisement for Mother's Angelus Press Conference talk.



We spent the feast of St. Joseph in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for our friends and benefactors, for the leaders of our country and for all who are especially suffering right now. Mother has added more times of adoration to our schedule, whether or not we can have Exposition.



We reached our boiler fundraising goal. Like peeling back an onion, the first modifications revealed further problems with the boiler. We rented a water flow meter and found that the most bizarre and unlikely scenario was the correct one. Everyone is puzzled. We have stopped all project fundraising for now, and beg only for donations to help us with basic necessities until the current Coronavirus situation passes. *Thank you!*

