

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd Kansas City MO 64131

Summer 2019

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...

All we needed was a kitchen faucet. No repair could coax the old one into producing more than a sideways trickle. We had one opportunity to pick up the new faucet before our volunteers came. Yes, we had to squeeze in “one more errand,” searching quickly among the familiar blue signs of the big box store for “Plumbing.” It seemed easy enough, we thought as we walked toward the aisle. Our faucet was on an old counter and had to go through one hole, and we expected to find only one of that “unusual” kind. We would locate it quickly and go.

We rounded the corner and stopped short, completely dumbfounded. There before us lay a 75-foot long 15-foot high wall loaded with faucets...faucets as far as the eye could see. Silver faucets, gold faucets, square, round, and triangular faucets... tall faucets, short faucets, faucets that looked like they belonged in outer space.

Timidly, we approached the wall, scanning up and down in bewilderment for the right object. Sighting a faucet for one hole, we regained courage and approached with vigor. Then we saw the sign: “Tub Faucets.” Deflated, we puzzled over the image of the tub that went with that faucet. It must have looked like a kitchen sink.

After what seemed like an hour spent in painful examination of every single faucet on the wall, we finally found the group of kitchen faucets for one-holed counters. To find something simple without a matching designer soap dispenser approached the impossible. Then we saw it. The one on sale! We started searching for the box on the shelves underneath.

At about that moment, appallingly catchy “music” had begun to blare so loudly that we could hardly help overhearing the words. Did he really say what we thought he said? In case we missed it, the singer repeated the line five times.

We immediately engaged in a battle against discouragement on two fronts. First, how could our children survive spiritually when confronted with this trash on the radio every day? Secondly, the faucet we wanted was out of stock. We decided to find a manager to negotiate a deal on a similar faucet.

In the aisle near us, there was a little boy and his mother. As we turned, the boy waved excitedly. His mother smiled. They were converts, excited to see sisters, excited about everything Catholic, learning to say the rosary, and getting ready to venerate the relics of the St. John Vianney. As members of the Militia Immaculata, we offered them a Miraculous Medal. The boy thanked us but said it was ours. We said no, take it. His gratitude was astonishing. We said goodbye and continued on our urgent faucet mission, thoroughly edified.

God works miracles of grace and conversion, in spite of rampant materialism and errors of all kinds in our world. In spite of the blaring music and material excess, people are hungry for truth and goodness. It is the people with blue hair or nose rings and scary tattoos who go out of their way to open doors and help us with packages. We should not doubt the power of God’s grace to work with any soul. God can send light through the murkiest waters, to radiate through the very abyss of darkness in a soul...and where there is life, there is hope.

The search for the faucet had a happy ending, by the way. The manager gave us a better faucet for the same sale price. Our new convert friends must have prayed for us!



Convent Life



Sr. Mary Elizabeth Rose with her sister, Sr. Marie Laurence, a new novice in the SSPX Sisters novitiate.



On our way back from ordinations, we met up with a St. Mary's student and her "companion."

It should surprise no one that we found the unsightly purple pews shown above sitting on a curb waiting for the trash truck. After rescue, the scouts removed the fabric and padding, revealing "finely aged" particle board seats and backs. They pieced together three twelve-foot pews from the seven we picked up. Thanks to some 2 by 2s and shims put into place by our "mow crew", positioning of the seats was improved. Now we have pews in our side chapel! Sometimes you have to look hard to see the beauty of Lady Poverty because she likes to disguise herself in unseemly attire!



Weekly summer work days with high school girls have resumed. The girls help us with everything from painting walls to cooking projects, with the sisters providing conferences and recreational activities.



Sewing in preparation for first vows and investiture August 2nd!

Our Apostolate



The grade 10/11 girls from St. Mary's Academy came over for a day at the convent. They danced, worked through some interesting problem solving challenges, and after touring the sacristy, they also sang for us!



The end of the school year at St. Vincent de Paul Academy was filled with skits and fine singing from the sisters' students.



Every year we are privileged to help with several First Holy Communion days of recollection at SSPX chapels around the country.

We visited the SSPX school in Warners, NY, playing games with the talented high school girls (who can run in any direction!) and stopping by classrooms to speak with the various grades.



After the local Friends of the Library summer book sale, we picked out 47 boxes worth of free books donated to non-profit organizations! Some are useful to the convent, but most are bound for the school.

There will be children saints. -Pope Pius XI

Building Update

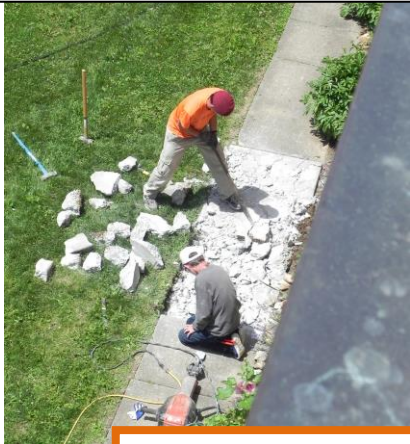


Thank you to the Watkins, CO scouts for helping us solve many problems...



...“Long-term temporary” drainage...

...Fixing uneven sidewalks...



...Re-routing a blocked storm drain...



...Using wheelbarrows to move 3.5 yards of concrete.



MANY HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS WHO PRAY FOR US AND CONTRIBUTE FUNDS, MATERIALS, TALENT, TIME, AND FOOD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL, AND OUR BEST THANKS IS EXPRESSED IN OUR PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Volunteers from St. Mary’s completed many jobs, including moving outlets.



The “mow crew” has been working on our wish lists, and installed more donated security cameras.



Scaffolding is going up as this letter goes to print. The work on the Southwest section of the roof should be complete by July 17.
Thank you!
 With your help we hope to put in a new compression tank, air vents, and re-routed piping on our boiler before the winter. This modification should pay for itself in a few years.