

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

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<https://ssp.org/franciscansisters>

Summer 2020

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...

We had to go to the DMV. For our foreign readers, DMV stands for Department of Motor Vehicles, where each state issues its vehicle tags and driver's licenses. The mere pronouncement of those three letters usually evinces groans prompted by memories of waiting for hours, or watching disgruntled clerks refuse to accept documents that other clerks would readily accept, sending the innocent victim away, exhausted.

Although spoiled in Kansas City for years by a relatively short wait and friendly clerks, we now get to wait long hours just like everyone else, due to the unmentionable virus. There we were, outside in the blazing heat with fifty other people waiting for the chance to be one of eight people allowed inside the building, where we would stand on little square numbers spaced six feet apart.

Resigned, we drew out our rosaries and books. After about 40 minutes and ten feet of movement, a remarkable thing happened. A lady approached us and told us that everyone in the line would like us to go ahead of them. This was a line at the DMV, and honestly, we doubted the accuracy of her statement. However, as we followed her to the front of the line, we saw that it was indeed true, and we were deeply touched. We are grateful for the respect shown to the habit at the DMV.

This happened as both violent and non-violent demonstrations were taking place a mile away from our convent. The violence proved to be a logical consequence of years of saturation in secular humanism. Sirens screamed at all hours of the day and night. Aggression and anger raged everywhere. The whole situation had even momentarily eclipsed the virus. Had we stepped back into the Sixties?

Perhaps it was no coincidence that all of the music playing loudly over the speakers inside the DMV came from the Sixties. We took our places on our little squares and continued our reading and rosaries as best we could in spite of the music, while two ladies in front of us took up a dance as the singer cried out for a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Setting aside a treatise on the difficulties of the song itself, the idea came that perhaps everyone is looking for a little respect. We do not mean the human respect that demands

whatever glorifies self and grinds adversaries of any kind into the dust. We mean the basic deference given to an individual due to an office or position they hold. Now, not many people hold offices, but all hold the position of children of God. Each soul on this earth was created by God, and we owe each person respect by the simple fact that each person is a wonder of God's creation. We owe respect to all who hold an office—be they mayor, president, bishop, pope—because we respect the responsibility given to them by God, because all legitimate authority comes from Him.

It is true that of ourselves, none of us is deserving of any respect whatsoever. We offend Him, some of us abuse the authority given to us, and we do not always give respect to others and should therefore not expect it in return. However, as children of God, as precious treasures He has made for His glory, as loves of His Heart, we do all deserve respect, respect in God, because of the God who loves each of us without regard to race or social status. Sadly, the search for dignity and respect outside God's framework often leads towards...violence. Real respect does not stop us from speaking the truth, which supports the order, harmony, and authority so necessary for civilization to last.

No one can control world events. We can only control ourselves and our own tiny sphere of influence. If we show respect, even to those who do not, in our opinion, "deserve" it, even if we never receive it in return, we will gain merit for ourselves and grace for others to turn back to Christ, Who respects His creation and waits patiently for us to do the same. We might even encourage others to follow our example!



Corpus Christi: Demonstrating the Love of God...

Photo Update

Mother took us on an impromptu Palm Sunday procession during our lockdown. She tied palm crosses to the fences as we prayed the rosary (note the apartment complex being built adjacent to our property.)



Attendance at this year's August 2nd ceremony and reception will be limited to immediate family only.



Soon we will pick up a 92-year-old Franciscan sister and bring her to the convent to live with us. With the help of volunteers, we are joyfully making preparations for her arrival, doing our best to ensure that she has everything to meet her needs.



Sisters make plans for their classrooms in the new St. Vincent de Paul school purchased to separate boys and girls at the higher grades.



Grade 9/10 girls helped the sisters to make sawdust art for the Corpus Christi procession.



We have changed our online donation link to Pay Pal.

100% of your donation goes to us, and you will receive a tax receipt via email from Pay Pal. You can reach the link via our website, or directly at:

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1297193>

Electronic donors may have a delay in receiving our personal thanks as we work out the electronic donation process.

Our hot water heater recently started quitting on a regular basis, and needs to be replaced. This relatively small project grew suddenly immense when it was discovered that a venting safety issue involving both the hot water heater and the heating system needed to be addressed immediately. We explored all options, and see no other choice except to trust in God and proceed. Not all bids are in, but this is a hugely expensive project to do properly.



We vacuum out the flakes to keep the hot water heater going temporarily. It could quit for good at any moment.