

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

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<https://sspx.org/franciscansisters>

Summer 2022

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...

This past Memorial Day weekend, some of our Sisters stopped at the cemetery around the corner from our convent. Parking at the manager's building, they received confirmation of the existence of a Civil War memorial and grave site. Proceeding down the little lane that wound around the numbered sections, past the grave of Negro League and American League baseball legend Satchel Paige, and up a hill obscured by trees, they found the tall monument topped by a statue of a Confederate soldier that marked the burial site.

In October of 1864, this area was all open farmland. Rolling fields and hills of grass extended in all directions. The little stone house on our property that we use to store mowers once belonged to a farmer; it certainly appears old enough to have been on the land at the time. Our convent property and the cemetery were a part of the site of the last stand of the Confederacy in the Battle of Westport, the second largest battle of the Civil War after Gettysburg. A monument at the bottom of our hill was erected in 1937 at the request of the last known surviving Union soldier from that battle, to remind others that the fiercest fighting took place on this hill.

Confederate soldiers were buried where they fell by men who fought for the North, and who had driven the Confederate soldiers toward Mound City. Graves were scattered around what is now Forest Hill and Calvary Cemeteries. Later, after the establishment of the cemetery in 1888, the current monument was erected and the graves were relocated to the current site. General Shelby, who led the Division of the Confederate Army involved in this part of the battle, requested to be buried with his men upon his death in 1897, and

General Shelby's grave is marked by the slightly larger headstone visible in the lower left corner of this photo.



his family is buried there with him. Close by, there are graves of other former Confederate soldiers and their families, and monuments bearing the Confederate flag. In this same cemetery, former Union soldiers were laid to rest, including two Medal of Honor winners. In other places in the country, Union and Confederate soldiers were laid to rest side by side after a battle.

Standing by the Confederate graves, the Sisters prayed. They prayed for the Confederate soldiers. They prayed for the Union soldiers. They prayed for soldiers who died in battle from all Wars, for friends and enemies alike. The Sisters remembered their heroism, suffering, and sacrifices.

Memorial Day started after the Civil War, when ladies from the South laid flowers on the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers. They wanted to keep alive the memory of their fathers, brothers, cousins, friends, husbands, sons. To this day, men dress in authentic-looking uniforms to reenact many of the famous battles, that we might remember the heroism of the soldiers, the victories and defeats. Yet, there is a far greater reenactment that takes place daily on the hill where the fiercest fighting of the Civil War's second largest battle took place.

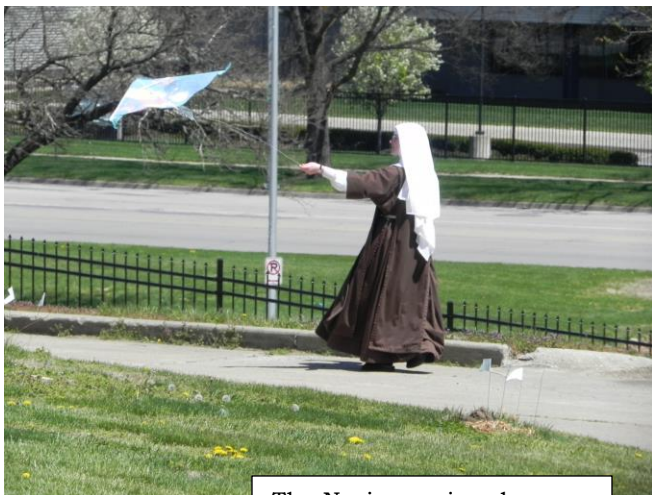
Each day, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass takes place in our convent, on this hill that played such a role in the making of America's history. It is the un-bloody reenactment of the most important event in the history of mankind. There are no authentic costumes, no shouting, no sound of pounding nails. There is no need, for this is not an ordinary reenactment remembering an historical event long past, but the extraordinary and mystical re-presentation of the Event itself, now: The Crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, upon which our salvation depends. Where else in the world but at Mass can a person be actually present themselves, outside of time, at the very event that they wish to remember?

To live is Christ, St. Paul says. Each day in our own lives we can reenact Our Lord's life in order to remember His suffering and sacrifice, His Love for us. In doing so, we can do more than just remember Him. We extend His life in time. We are Christ living in Nazareth, Christ preaching, Christ suffering and loving. Living Christ is now, not just in history. That is our participation in the Mystical Body. Our victory over Christ's enemies takes place not by crushing them but by converting them. We must Live Christ for conversion, for our own conversion and that of others, to bring new members to His Mystical Body who can Live Christ to the end of the world. Friends and enemies all share the same earthly end; let us Live Christ to make it a happy one for all.

Photos



Three Sisters travelled to Dillwyn to be present at ordinations. They were able to visit with the Dominicans and SSPX Sisters, and also received a tour of the seminary.



The Novices enjoyed a new kite during Easter Week.

This year's ceremony will take place as usual on August 2nd at 9am. The banquet afterwards is for family and invited guests only. However, visitors are welcome to return from 2 pm to 4 pm to see the Sisters. Sr. Mary Anthony will be taking final vows, and other Sisters will be renovating their vows.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Rose's recovery from brain tumor surgery has been going well. She was able to make a brief visit to the school during the week before vacation.



Sr. Marie Louise's students put on various performances for the school Fine Arts Festival, including scenes from *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Many of Sr. Mary Elizabeth Rose's students submitted their completed art class projects for viewing at the Fine Arts Festival. To the left is a graphite drawing by 8th grader Alexis Rubio, and to the right is a soft pastel drawing by 9th grader Marianne Spencer.



Sisters took their students on a field trip which included a visit to a one-room schoolhouse and interaction with many animals!



High School girls adapted the field day events they arranged for the younger grades when rain drove them inside. The Kindergartners below are running their first ever three-legged race.



We are in the process of signing a contract for the painting of the chapel transept, which we hope to have completed before mid-September. As a part of this project, volunteers helped us to start painting two areas between the sanctuary and the sacristies, which we are trying to finish off before school starts. In the sacristy, they installed ceiling fans with better lighting, a new sink, and started to work on a sacrarium. The high school girls helped us paint the sacristy walls after a new floor was laid professionally. Lastly, we hope to have a back installed on the altar.



We evicted six raccoons who turned two roof sections into "luxury apartments". They caused thousands of dollars of damage, which after the deductible and depreciation was covered only fractionally by insurance.



High school girls helped us install 175 feet of privacy slats. Thank you to everyone who put time into this tedious but worthwhile project.

The next project on the list (barring unforeseen events) is the renovation of the large set of chapel steps where we have our photo taken annually after the ceremony. We hope to replace the badly deteriorated, unsafe limestone steps with concrete, and to install an ADA compliant ramp for use by family and friends who cannot use stairs. This is the only location on the property where we can install a ramp that allows visitors to come and go without entering the cloister. We would have to start now in order to obtain city approval for this project before cold weather sets in. We do not have any estimates yet, and no money for this project, but we would like to spend what it takes to design something that blends in with the existing architecture, and to renovate the adjacent Mary Garden, which is also falling apart.

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