



The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

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(Photo credit: istock/Nastja Pungracic)

Recently, we learned a little bit about the Lippizaner horse and the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria. The Lippizaner received its name from Lippizza, where in 1580 Archduke Charles of Austria-Hungary established a stud where Spanish horses were crossed with those of the Turks. The horses and riders received specialized training for military purposes, and from that the elite Spanish Riding School evolved and is still in operation today, although only for show purposes. Now, many of us know nothing about horses and would prefer to do no more than pet one on the nose and feed it a carrot. However, even someone ignorant of the ways of horses cannot help but recognize the extraordinary beauty of these animals and the impressive horsemanship of the men who ride them in Vienna.

The Lippizaner stud and the Spanish Riding School were carefully managed to preserve traditions passed down from generation to generation of riders. How could the Spanish Riding School survive after the world became mechanized? There really is no purpose to it anymore, is there? Why bother to go through so

much expense to keep breeding these horses and keep the school running?

The answer, at least in part, is beauty. Beauty gives us hope. Beauty reaches the inner parts of a soul and transforms it. Beauty calms us. Beauty points our eyes away from ourselves and reminds us that we are made for God. We all need beauty in our lives, and beauty is worth preserving.

During World War II, when the Allies approached Vienna, the Lippizaners from the Spanish Riding School were loaded onto trains along with the most treasured pieces of art in the city and taken to safety. Later, the Colonel in charge of the riding school put on a show for General Patton and his men at the Manor Home to which the horses had been relocated. He convinced the General, an avid horseman himself, to rescue the remaining horses at the stud which had been relocated to an area that had since fallen under Communist control. These men, even if they did not fully understand the supernatural aspects of beauty, certainly recognized its importance. The utilitarian, materialistic Communists had no use for beautiful horses and had already shot several of them. "Operation Cowboy" succeeded, and the Spanish Riding School survived war and destruction.

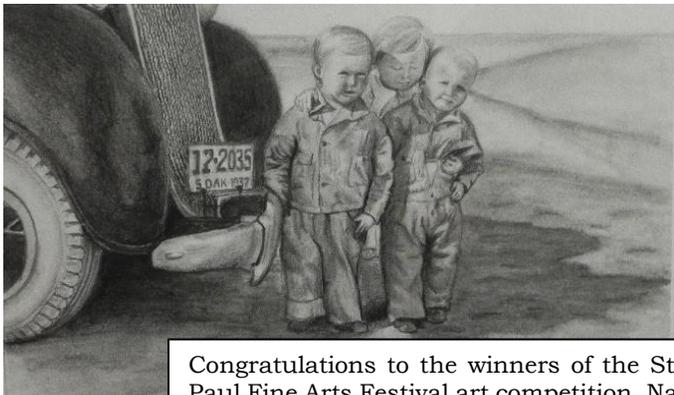
We, too, can help beauty survive, and pass a love of beauty on to our children. It does not take years of specialized training to recognize beauty. Look at a sunrise. Watch the fall leaves turn colors. Look at good art. Listen to beautiful music. If we keep beauty in our lives and share it with others, we will help raise up a fallen world.



Photo Credit: Vincent Clarendon



We had the honor of attending the consecration of the Immaculata in St. Mary's on May 3rd. We were encouraged to see that there were artists who were not only able but willing to paint beautiful art for the Church. The size of the structure reminded us of the immensity of God and the gift He has given us in allowing men to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, even though we creatures are so small. In the early years of the Church, the priests and faithful came out of the catacombs. Now Tradition comes out of the hotel rooms, barns, and funeral parlors into a church like this. Yes, the Mass is the same Mass in both places, but is it not fitting for some places of worship to resemble the humble surroundings of Bethlehem, and other places the glorious mount of the Transfiguration? Deo Gratias!



Congratulations to the winners of the St. Vincent de Paul Fine Arts Festival art competition, Natalie Tomac, who composed the graphite drawing above, and Marianne Spencer, who created a copy of painting by Charles Bagniet.



Thank you to the girls from St. Vincent's for helping with the sawdust art for the Corpus Christi procession.





This year, we conducted First Holy Communion days of recollection for SSPX chapels in Kansas City, St. Louis, Ridgefield, and Mukwanago. The children on the left are looking at clues for a treasure hunt in St. Louis, and on the right they are rehearsing at St. Vincent's.



Congratulations to Reverend Mr. Joseph Brauner, who received the Diaconate this year in Dillwyn, Virginia. Reverend Mr. Brauner was one of our former students. We were very edified to see him open the tabernacle during benediction at our convent this summer.



Reverend Father Carl Sulzen celebrated his 25th anniversary of priesthood at St. Vincent de Paul Church. His nieces, Sr. Michaela Marie (left) and Sr. Cecilia Marie (right) were able to attend his Mass and the banquet that followed.



A recent scouting event that was really a goodbye party for Fr. Goldade took place at the new property purchased by the SSPX in Perry, Kansas. The Guides pushed the Sisters into the water for a canoe ride, and we were also able to visit with the Kateris. This secluded property has large cottages, a "lodge" and is destined to become a retreat center in the future.





Thank you to the young adults from St. Vincent's who helped with taking down the deteriorating wall which surrounded the Mary Garden, painting, and other projects.



Thank you again, dear benefactors, for helping us to put in a new sidewalk that can be used by those who cannot walk up the stairs. Our dear Curly and Luke Schwanbeck are enjoying a smooth ride straight into the building! No more being carried up the steps!



Our High School girls helped us to eliminate the termite-feeding mulch in our gardens, replacing it with brown pea gravel. They filled buckets with manageable amounts of gravel, then carried the buckets into the inner courtyard and filled the whole garden bed area in less than thirty minutes!



Heavy rain and straight-line winds revealed leaks in our transept windows. Yes, this is the transept that we just painted inside. So far, there are no stains. There are three windows on each side of the transept tower, and two rose windows on the east and west transept walls. This repair project will require a large crane. While we are up there, we would like to fix broken tiles on the tower roof and the west transept roof, inspect the mortar on the tower, add ice clips to the roof tiles, and repair the gutter. We are in the process of receiving an estimate.

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