

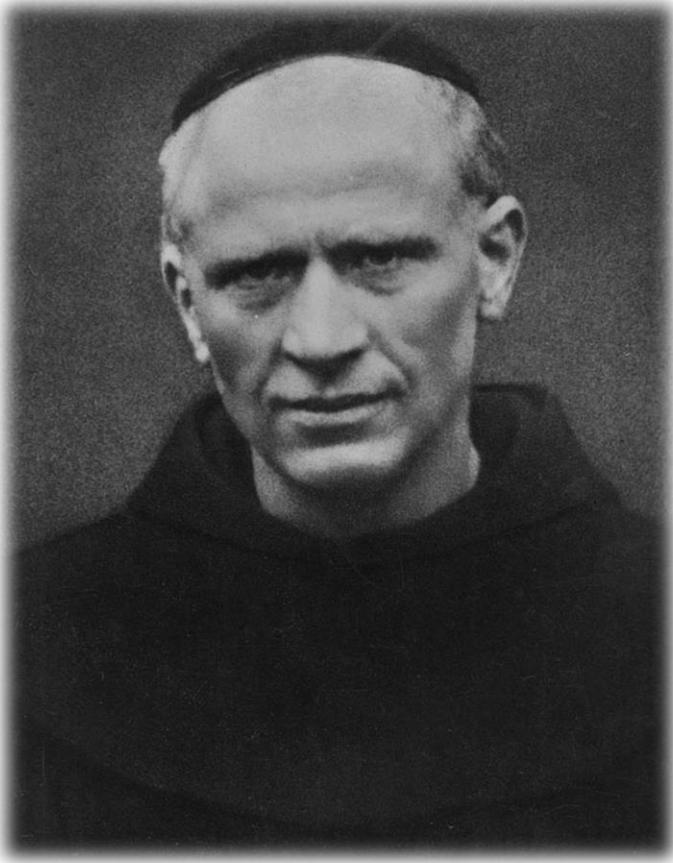


The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64131

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He was an ordinary man, and in this day and age that is no small feat. The paradox of achieving greatness by being ordinary will baffle the modern man, who measures greatness by possessions, job titles, college degrees, and the number of friends on his Facebook account. Almighty God has raised up holy men and women like Brother Jordan Mai to show us that true greatness has nothing to do with what we do, but who we are.

Brother Jordan, born as Heinrich Mai (Henry May) on September 1st, 1866, grew up in a poor family. At the age of 14, he entered an apprenticeship with his father, working as a saddler and tanner, and assisting at his father's slaughterhouse. He also enrolled in the Marian Bachelor Sodality of his local church. At the age of 17, he joined the Kolping Society, a German fraternity of Catholic workers designed to provide various means of

support for the young working man. He took on positions of responsibility in this organization.

Drafted in 1886, Heinrich fulfilled his two years of required military service. As a reservist, in 1889, he answered the call to active duty during the politically charged Coal Miners' strikes.

Several years later, two of Heinrich's sisters joined the Franciscans, and inspired him to leave the world and follow them into religious life. He entered the Franciscan order at the age of 28, received the name of Brother Jordan (after Jordan of Giano, Germany's first Franciscan Provincial,) and served as cook and gatekeeper. By about the year 1907, Brother Jordan started to suffer from severe migraines, and could only work in a limited capacity at his duties. He spent many nights in prayer, often kept awake by the pain of his headaches.

Brother Jordan lived at a high level of mysticism, and his brothers in Christ asked him for prayers for the success of their apostolate. Townspeople came to him to ask for prayers, revering him as the friend of the common working man. He also worked in the sacristy, and loved to assist at Mass. He died on February 20th, 1922, having offered his life in reparation for a sacrilege committed when the tabernacle was stolen from the church. Those who knew him, when questioned, could not remember him ever having failed in charity. His cause was opened at the diocesan level in 1934, and 100,000 people witnessed the transfer of his remains to a crypt in Dortmund in 1950. Named Servant of God by 1959, he was declared Venerable in 1991.

After the description of Brother Jordan, in the meditations section that followed, the author of *The Franciscan Book of Saints* makes the passing comment: "Brother Jordan, who was exteriorly not attractive, whose talents were hardly average, who was somewhat awkward in his ways, never complained about these deficiencies nor about corporal sufferings." In other words, Brother Jordan was a human being like the rest of us, but by the grace of God, he accepted himself as he was, with all of his strengths and weaknesses. Further, "St. Pius X once remarked that it is peculiar to the Saints of our day that they attain prominence less through extraordinary deeds than through simple fidelity in

their ordinary duties." One need not fear the ordinary! Surely, God has given us so many modern saints and holy men and women like Brother Jordan as an antidote to an all-too-human view of life. God will not judge us on any of those human values. He will ask "Did you Love Me?" We can imitate Brother Jordan's love of God as he cooked, as he answered the gate, and as he suffered from migraines. In doing so, whether we have mystical experiences or not, we will imitate the Love of the Sacred Heart, whom Brother Jordan venerated with special devotion, the same

Sacred Heart that pleased God the Father as much in St. Joseph's workshop as when He worked miracles. That kind of love, with a heart pierced yet still loving, looks at the Beloved, past the frustration and disappointment of everyday living, past the dollar signs and job titles to the eternal union that awaits. A heart full of Hope overcomes the need for security here and now. That kind of heart perseveres for Him, transforming the almost crucifying mundaneness of ordinary living into something supernaturally beautiful and fulfilling. May we embrace the ordinary with extraordinary courage, like Brother Jordan.



We hosted 96 girls at the convent for a girls' day on January 6th. Divine Providence also blessed us by sending His Excellency Bishop Fellay! He preached a sermon to the girls and visited them at the start of the day's activities. Activities included conferences, games, craft projects, and folk dancing.



The girls are concentrating on making bubbles during recess.



As a special privilege, the first graders can play Mass at recess under Sister's watchful eye.



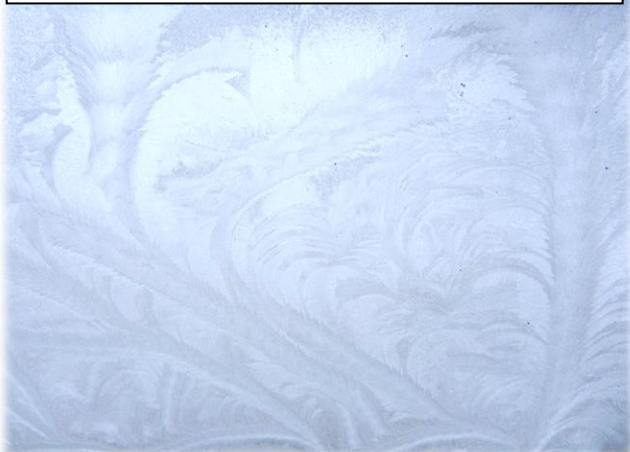
Over the winter break, we visited Sanford, Florida. After an activity day and visits with girls of many ages during the weekend, we accompanied the 7th and 8th graders on a field trip to St. Augustine on Monday.



Each Sunday morning before Mass, the convent is filled with music. In the chapel, Sister plays the organ, and in the recreation room, the schola rehearses. Chino the cat often joins the singing as the Sisters practice. Usually, he is on pitch. This day he must have been waiting for Mother to get a ride on the scooter (see below.)



Temperatures in the negatives helped to produce beautiful frost patterns on our windows.



Each year, right around February 14th, we can count on seeing robins spread out over the entire back yard as they return north from their winter migration. When so many people seem to be afraid to live out God's design for them, the example of the robin, faithful to God's plan, strengthens our hope in His almighty power.



Photo Credit: Def22 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:American_Robin_in_Grass.jpg



Welcome to our new postulants, Elizabeth Pfeiffer (left) and Isabella Conder (right,) both from St. Isidore's in Colorado. The crucifix behind them was once used by the Cristeros, and now hangs on the wall of our refectory

Chino loves taking rides. Whether it's a cart or a scooter, he wants to go along!



I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.

-St. Francis of Assisi



Our van is now 18 years old, but it still runs. We did not mind the jokes about all the rust, but when the sides started rotting, we decided to do something. We used up six cans of spray paint and two cans of bonding putty. The repairs look nice, as long as you are standing thirty yards away in the dark. It should keep the rust away for a little longer! With the cost of used vehicles now at an astronomical level, we have to keep ours going as long as we can!



This room has two types of old carpets. We hope the floor underneath will work to convert the space into a workroom and possible future novitiate area.

Kateris, working their way up to be Girl Guides (See our Winter 2023 Newsletter,) took on a number of projects for us one Saturday. They worked together in their "clans," scrubbing kitchen vents, gardening in three gardens, cleaning, and chipping edges off of retaining wall blocks, among other tasks.



Thank you for helping us raise the money we need to make repairs on the transept! We are in the process of scheduling a start date with the contractor. Our next big project will be the glazing and painting of all 300+ windows, a project we put off for as long as we could. In the meantime, a significant leak has developed in the roof. We would like to try patching this area one more time before re-roofing it. If you cannot support us financially, please pray for us to get the funds we need!



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