



The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

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In Todi, Italy, in the early 1700's, a Poor

Clare venerated a Madonna and Child painting by Carlo Maratta, given to her by the artist himself. This holy nun lived a life of extraordinary prayer and penance, receiving visions of Our Lady and several saints, including St. Clare of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena. She suffered physically and mentally, battling depression and thoughts of suicide and apostasy. While Our Lord will never ask most of us to imitate the extreme mortification and penance of this Sister, whom He named His "Spouse of Sorrow," He certainly asks us to imitate the love with which she persevered in those penances and mortifications, even when the love is not felt. Love of God and confidence in Him proves itself in trials, not when "all is well."

Our Lady appeared to Sr. Clara Isabella Fornari and promised that whoever venerated the image venerated by the Sister, and who repeated the prayer "My Mother, My Confidence" would receive many graces and tender devotion to Mary.

Pope St. Pius X had a special devotion to Our Lady of Confidence, as did seminarians of the Major Seminary in the Lateran Palace. It was they who popularized the title of Our Lady of Confidence for this image, and they begged her aid with the simple prayer "My Mother, My Confidence." She preserved the seminarians from the Asiatic cholera in 1837, and in gratitude they asked for and received a papal crown for the image from Pope Gregory XVI. The crowning of "The Seminarian's Madonna" recognized the universal significance of the image. At the close of World War I, the seminarians attributed the safe return of 110 out of 111 confreres to her intercession. Many of them wrote letters describing the miraculous help she gave them during the war.

In 1941, closer to home, a Dominican Sister in Michigan lay unconscious, dying of pneumonia and given only a few hours to live by the doctors. Her temperature reached 107 degrees. The Sisters at her bedside promised to spread devotion to Our Lady of Confidence if Our Lady would cure the dying Sister. They repeated the short prayer "My Mother, My Confidence." The Sister awoke and made a complete recovery. Other cures and conversions attributed to Our Lady of Confidence took place in the United States at about the same time.

Our Lady could not have made devotion to herself easier. She does not ask for a long novena or heavy penances. Just venerate this beautiful image and often say to her "My Mother, My Confidence!" Our Lord points to His Mother, as if to tell us "I trust her, and so should you. If you do not trust Me, at least trust her." We can pray the prayer and look to her expectantly for a response, not as one looking at the mechanisms of a vending machine after inserting money and pushing buttons, but as one who trusts in the ways of God, no matter how mysterious those ways seem.

People often place their confidence in human means such as money, prestigious assignments, careful planning, natural talents, phones and search engines. Our Lady of Confidence reminds us that God's ways are not our ways, and we must trust in Him alone and in the help of His Mother. He made Himself helpless and put Himself in her arms. We can do the same, confident that she will lead us through life to Him by whatever means necessary for our salvation.



Sr. Clara Isabella Fornari also fashioned the Maria Bambina out of wax. This miraculous image received a papal crown under the reign of Pope St. Pius X and is now in Milan. In some cultures it is a custom to present newlyweds with a Maria Bambina. Also, couples hoping to conceive a child ask the intercession of Maria Bambina.



At the spring concert, held in a nearby building, the first graders sang a song about why we tip our hats to the priest.



Sr. Mary Bernard delivered this year's address to the graduating class of 2025.



As the school year came to a close, we helped children to prepare for their First Holy Communion at days of recollection. In addition to a recollection day here at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Missouri, we traveled to New York, Idaho, Connecticut, Georgia, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri. Sister Michaela Marie is telling the the parable of the lost sheep to children in Farmingville, NY (above, left,) and Sister Marie Louise and Sister Frances Marie pose for a photo with First Communicants and Father Danel in Atlanta, Georgia. We say prayers of gratitude for the priests of the Society of St. Pius X who fly and drive all over the country every weekend of the year to serve the faithful.

The Sisters and High School Girls fashioned Corpus Christi sawdust designs for St. Vincent de Paul Church.



The new sunflower patch invites goldfinches and also bees from the new beehive a benefactor has established at the back of the property.



Mother's brother sent us some party fire crackers which we used around the 4th of July.



We got a good deal on a 1998 Yamaha Grizzly to help with chores around the property. One afternoon, we took turns learning how to drive it.



The Denver Scouts, Seminarians, and other volunteers including Fr. Gregory Pfeiffer worked in oppressive heat to put a rock border along the fence and create a temporary gravel sidewalk. They also restored the confessional at the back of the chapel, pictured on the last page.

We are very grateful for the overwhelming support we received from donors purchasing items from our online wish list. Due to a number of circumstances, we have found it necessary to discontinue updating the list. Benefactors may still call if they would like to purchase items for us. Thank you!

Thank you to over 30 High School girls who came to our two work days this summer!



On the left, PJ is sanding the last ten-pane window. The final scaffold stage is pictured to the right. After a little over one year, all 482 windows have been carefully sanded, re-glazed and painted by a hard-working crew.



The restored confessional at the back of the chapel is ready for use, with only a few details to finish. This restoration included re-opening the arch on the east side of the vestibule. We plan to put a shrine to Pope St. Pius X in this space, and a shrine to Our Lady of Confidence to the right, out of sight in this photo.



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