



The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64131

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Who does not look

up into a clear night sky with a sense of wonder at the beauty of the stars? Ancient astronomers named them. Pagan cultures placed the heroes and heroines from their myths into constellations. Our Lord asked Job: "Shalt thou be able to join together the shining stars the Pleiades, or canst thou stop the turning about of Arcturus?" (Job 38:1) and later "Canst thou bring forth the day star in its time, and make the evening star to rise upon the children of the earth?" (Job 38:32) He used a miraculous star to draw the Magi to the Christ Child. Scripture contains over eighty references to stars and constellations. It is fitting, then, that our Lady has also received the titles Morning Star and Star of the Sea.

The Litany of Loretto calls on Our Lady, Stella Matutina, Morning Star. While the Litany of Loretto gained approval in the 16th century, at least one earlier form of a Marian litany refers to Mary as a bright Star of Heaven. The meaning is that as the morning star in the east heralds the sun, so Mary heralds her Divine Son. The Morning Star, now known as the planet Venus, has no light of its own, but brightly reflects the light of the Sun, as our Lady reflects the Light of her Son. The scripture reference from Canticles of Canticles 6:9, "Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array," supports the title.

The hymns *Ave Maris Stella* and *Alma Redemptoris Mater* call upon our lady, Stella Maris, Star of the Sea. The hymns date from the 9th and 11th centuries, respectively. Scholars have not pinpointed with certainty the origins of the title Stella Maris, but it seems to have first appeared in a 5th century manuscript of the writings of St. Jerome, who lived in the 4th century. St. Jerome referred to the meaning of the name Mary as *Stilla*



Maris, or "Drop of the Sea." It appears as if a 5th century copyist wrote *Stella* Maris, or "Star of the Sea" instead, and the title grew rapidly in popularity. What a lesson for us who panic when we make a mistake. God did not say to Himself, "Oh great, what do I do now?" He never does that. He used the mistake for His glory as He does all our mistakes, and see how the Church is better for it!

Many churches throughout the world have taken on the name Stella Maris, usually those along the coasts. Seafarers love Our Lady under this title, which should resonate with us as we navigate through some of the stormiest times in the history of the Church. Tossed about on the sea of modernism and apostasy, we can look up at the shining bright Star guiding us safely to Heaven's shores.

Mother named our new novice Sister Maria Stella-Maris. The day after the ceremony, we received a delightful surprise. A group of young ladies on camp with the SSPX Sisters sent us a card with original artwork depicting Our Lady, Stella Maris, or Star of the Sea (see the artwork on the next page.) The girls had prayed to Our Lady under this title for vocations for our community! Thank you, girls! Please continue to pray to Our Lady, Star of the Sea, that she will guide girls through the stormy world, and that they will follow their vocation, whatever that may be. May Our Lady, Star of the Sea, guide some of them our way!



This is the drawing of Our Lady, Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) made by a camp counselor and camper on camp with the SSPX Sisters, as explained on the previous page.



Preparations for “Lunch with the Sisters,” an auction item to help with fundraising for St. Vincent de Paul Academy.



Thank you to the high school girls for helping us with two work days over the summer (left.) Thank you also to the Denver Scouts for 18 years of service (right.) They completed a number of projects in July.



Before the school year started, Mother Mary Joseph toured the Sisters' classrooms.



Our sunflower patch.

We are not without hope in this hour of calamity – for only those who walk in darkness ever see the stars.

-Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Ceremony August 2nd



Sisters receiving the habit, taking first vows and renovating vows sat beside Mother. The high school girls sang the Mass.



Sr. Jacinta made her final profession at the Gradual. She received a crown of thorns.



Sister Jacinta Marie received her ring.



The aspiring novice, dressed as a bride, ascended the steps of the altar to receive her tonsure.



Sr. Maria Bernardine made her first profession. Sisters making their first profession receive a flower crown (above.) At left, from left to right, stands Sister Jacinta Marie of the Infant Jesus, who made her perpetual profession; Sr. Maria Bernardine of the Holy Name, who made first profession; and Sr. Maria Stella Maris of the Blessed Sacrament who took the habit. Novices wear a Miraculous Medal. They receive the profession crucifix when they take first vows, and attach the Miraculous Medal to the Franciscan Crown rosary worn at the side.





25 Years!



Congratulations to Mother Mary Joseph on 25 years of vows! We celebrated the joyous event on August 6th, the Feast of the Transfiguration. Father John Fullerton, District Superior, celebrated the Mass, assisted by Father Gerard Beck and Father Steven McDonald. Father Fullerton wore the chasuble acquired as a gift to Mother for the occasion. Our Sisters sang the Mass. After Mass, Mother enjoyed a brunch with Sisters, family and friends, who presented her with gifts.



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