

Abbey of
Our Lady of Ephesus
GOWER, MISSOURI

+
PAX

At Ephesus

BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES



We are almost there! Please help us with the final \$100,000 needed to meet our \$500,000 matching gift by the end of November!

Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

In this last newsletter of the year, we are happy to share with you our joy in witnessing the Solemn Profession of Sister Maria Michaela Divozzo. Such days are when heaven truly reaches down to earth, both in our joy and in the solemnity of Sister's final and consummate gift of herself to God. I think it brings a thrill to the heart of every nun to hear once more those immortal words "I vow to God FOREVER stability, the continual conversion of my life and obedience." Interiorly, it is an invitation for each of us to renew our vows, as we shall all do at the end of our annual retreat which is quickly approaching.

It was also such a joy to be reunited with our dear Ava Sisters once more, who are doing splendidly in their new setting. We thank God with them and for them that He has not only seen them off to a good start, but that there has even been an increase in the flock with the arrival of candidates and visitors.

Our own candidates continue to trickle in from literally all corners of the globe. There are in fact only two Americans out of eight entering this year at Ephesus! God willing, all who persevere into postulancy will make their introductions via our Christmas card.

Speaking of Christmas cards, we attach here our order form in the midst of the pictorial rendering of Sr. Maria Michaela's beautiful ceremony. We have raised over 75% of the \$500,000 matching gift goal, and remain both trusting and grateful that it will be reached next month. We are moving forward with plans to extend greater Benedictine hospitality through the construction of a guest house for the laity, and continue to set aside funds for our dear pioneers down south. While the Abbey currently supports the Monastery of St. Joseph in Ava, several have asked about contacting the Sisters there directly. You will find the address below - they would certainly love to hear from you and receive your prayer intentions as well!

We wish you all a most blessed Advent in preparation for the birth of the Christ Child, knowing how closely He holds you in His heart, as do we all!

In His Merciful Heart,

Mother Abbess and Sisters



Above: Sisters "trim their lamps" in preparation for our rosary procession. Thanks to Sr. Tarcisia's family for the torches!



Three new arrivals (above) came around the same time as our first three candidates. Below: the crowning of a new statue of the Immaculate Heart from Fatima.



Monastery of Saint Joseph
RR 5 Box 1042
Ava, MO 65608



The chanting of the votive Mass of Solemn Profession.



The presenting of the chart of profession.



Sister pledges obedience to Mother Abbess.

SOLEMN PROFESSION OF SISTER MARIA MICHAELA



Bishop Finn congratulates Sister and the community.



Sister is the cousin of Sr. Assumpta, whose family was also able to join us.



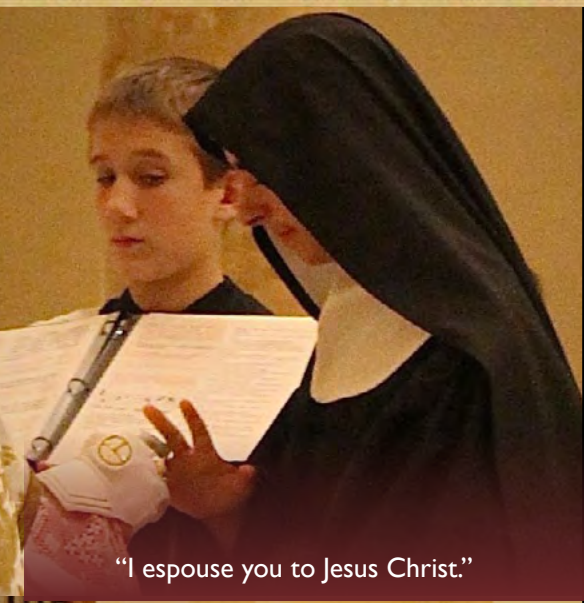
Sister proudly shows her ring to her sister.



Her whole family came from Michigan and beyond.



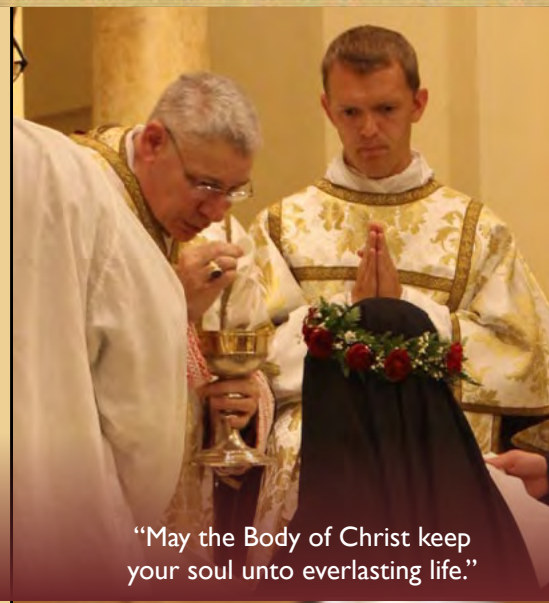
Her cousin also admires her ring.



"I espouse you to Jesus Christ."



"Receive the crown prepared for you from all eternity."



"May the Body of Christ keep your soul unto everlasting life."



Sister chants "I am espoused to Him Whom the angels serve."



Mother Abbess leads Sister to her choir stall.



"I am made one with Him in heaven Whom I have loved with complete devotion."

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019 MICHAELMAS EVE



Receiving congratulations from her former Novitiate members.



Sister cuts a cake with the inscription "Veni Sponsa Christi."



Pray for Sister Maria Michaela, who now completes her "FIAT" by reinforcing the Ava community in the strength of the graces of her Solemn Profession.



The Immaculate alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. She seeks souls that will consecrate themselves entirely to her, that will become in her hands forceful instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spread of God's kingdom.

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

