

The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd Kansas City MO 64131

<https://ssp.org/franciscansisters>

Fall 2022

CONVENT NEWS AND VIEWS...



Our six acre convent property lies within what we locals refer to as "Southtown" Kansas City. Apartments, schools, and a shopping area surround us in close proximity. Vespers, always supported by the drone of passing traffic, is often punctuated by screaming sirens from the Fire Station across the street or police cars racing past. While sometimes distracted, especially when the entire chapel is filled with flashing lights, we do our best to embrace the victims, perpetrators, and first responders in our prayers. Blinding security lights on the north and east side of the property have prompted the sewing of incredibly thick curtains, but a look up at the night sky on the way to the dumpster during supper cleanup reveals beautiful stars emerging from their daytime slumber. We can even point out constellations to each other as the days grow darker, and we can always see them overheard later at night.

We have had surprising visits from wildlife, including deer in the orchard, a red fox sleeping on a snowdrift in the courtyard, and a very vocal hawk strutting and playing with a stick on the front lawn. At the end of September, monarch butterflies struggle their way to Mexico, flitting past us at the rate of one every two minutes. We have seen nearly forty species of birds, including Eastern and Western Kingbirds, the American Kestrel, Northern Flickers, a Baltimore Oriole, Brown Thrashers, and the Dark-Eyed Juncos

which arrive here at the end of October each year. The back yard hosts several species of migrating birds, who stop here on their journey, or gather for a few weeks before departing on their flight towards warmer weather.

On our walk after lunch, we enjoy the beautiful fall colors and listen to the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet. Sometimes, instead of the crunch of leaves, we hear the abominable pounding of downbeats from a passing car radio, but that soon fades away and we can almost forget that we are living in the city as we pass the Hackberry (photo, left) and the Basswood (right.) The orchard lies just beyond us and their apples will soon be ready for picking.

Many Sisters have admitted that they never once looked at a tree or a bird before coming to the convent. Often, they never thought of it. Now we frequently stop to take a closer look at how a new bush has taken root (or, ahem, has been mowed to the ground.) We watch the birds interact with one another at the feeder as the squirrel pushes its way through the crowd. We gasp at the beauty of a dozen brilliant red cardinals perched all over a snow-covered tree.

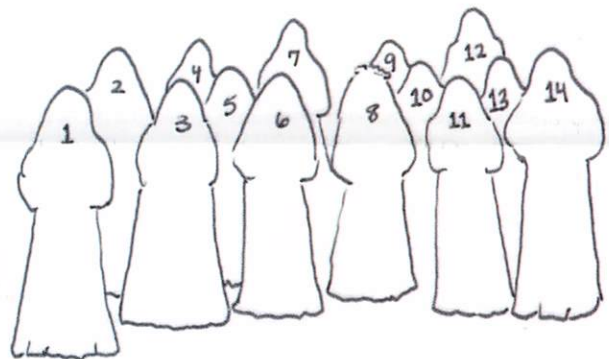
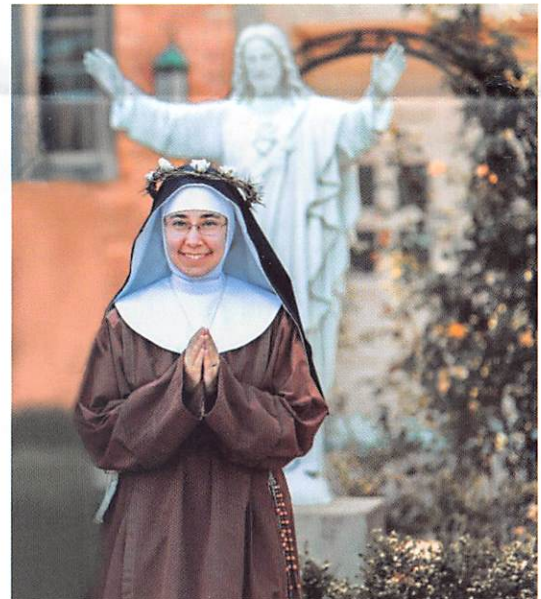
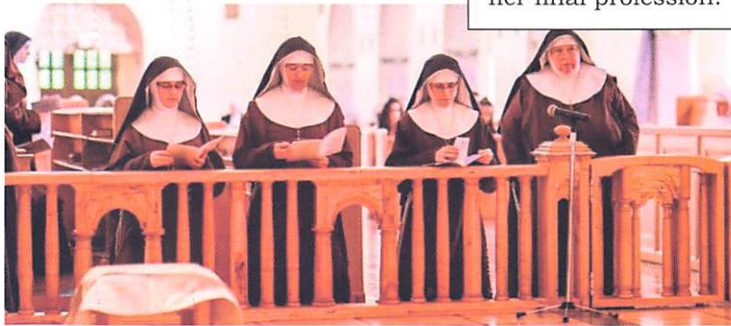
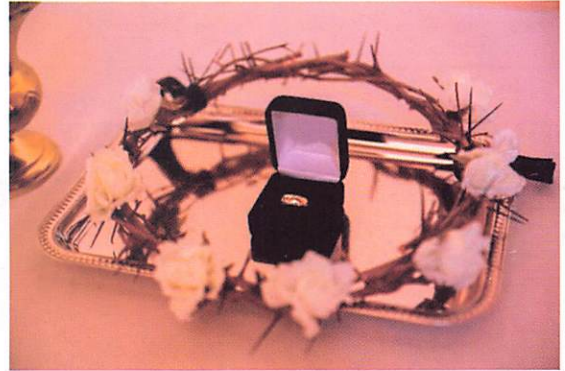
Then we think of Him who created all of this beauty. If this is our exile, imagine what heaven is like! Yes, we read the most recent *Angelus Magazine*, *Back to Land and Hearth*, and especially the article "Returning to Your Own Backyard," in which the author makes suggestions of ways to connect with God's creation even in the city or suburbia. We highly recommend the article, and a subscription to the *Angelus Magazine*! If you have not read the last issue, *Catholic Education*, get a copy today and read it cover to cover like we are!

We strongly believe in the old saying "bloom where you are planted." We can find God, and God sees us, wherever He places us. We just have to look for Him, and it is not always as hard as we think! Take a moment this fall to stop and really look at His creation, enjoy it, and in doing so lift up your hearts to Him!

Photos

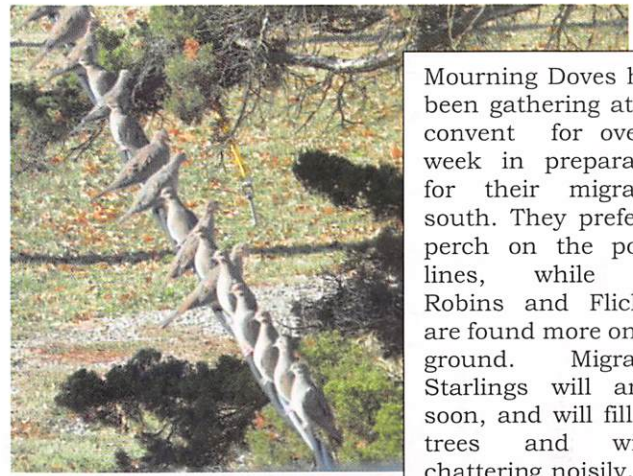
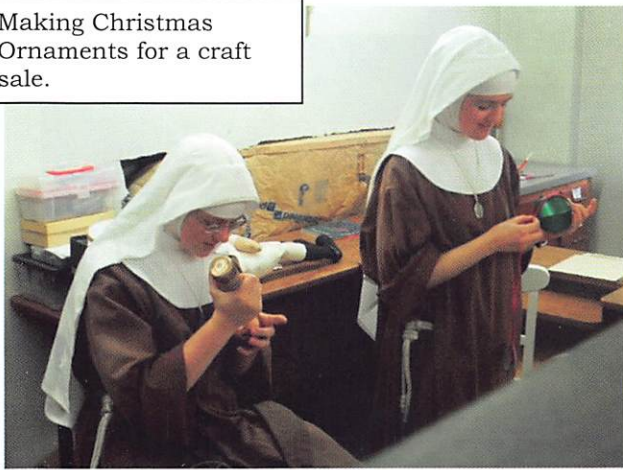


This year, three Sisters renovated their vows, and Sr. Mary Anthony made her final profession.



We have received several requests for a “cheat sheet” of Sisters’ names and titles. Here they are:
 1) Sr. Maria Agnes of the Blessed Sacrament 2) Sr. Michaela Marie of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart 3) Sr. Mary Leona of Jesus the Lamb of God 4) Sr. Frances Marie of the Immaculate Conception 5) Sr. Marie Louise of the Visitation 6) Sr. Cecilia Marie of the Holy Angels 7) Sr. Mary Bernard of the Annunciation 8) Sr. Mary Anthony of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Face 9) Mother Mary Joseph of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus 10) Sr. Mary Immaculata of Guadalupe 11) Sr. Jacinta Marie of the Infant Jesus 12) Sr. Mary Clare of the Immaculate Heart 13) Sr. Mary Elizabeth Rose of the Holy Ghost 14) Sr. Mary Philomena of the Stigmata of St. Francis 15) (wheelchair) Sr. Imelda Marie of the Blessed Sacrament.

Making Christmas Ornaments for a craft sale.



Mourning Doves have been gathering at the convent for over a week in preparation for their migration south. They prefer to perch on the power lines, while the Robins and Flickers are found more on the ground. Migrating Starlings will arrive soon, and will fill the trees and wires, chattering noisily.

Dr. and Mrs. Vern Otte gave a presentation to the Academy students about the Iditarod dog sled race. For years, Dr. Otte has volunteered his services as a veterinarian on the trail, and Mrs. Otte has also attended. The Ottes have cared for the convent's cats since we received our first pair in 2003, and they gave us Chino and Penny in 2019.



Thank you to the Saint Vincent's Grade 7/8 girls for volunteering to help us on a recent Saturday. They worked in the courtyard garden, baked cobbler, and cleaned the chapel for us. It was their idea to clean the St. Joseph statue.



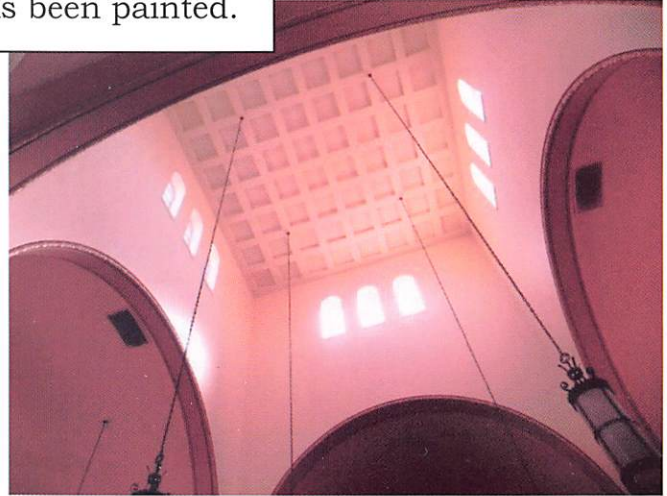
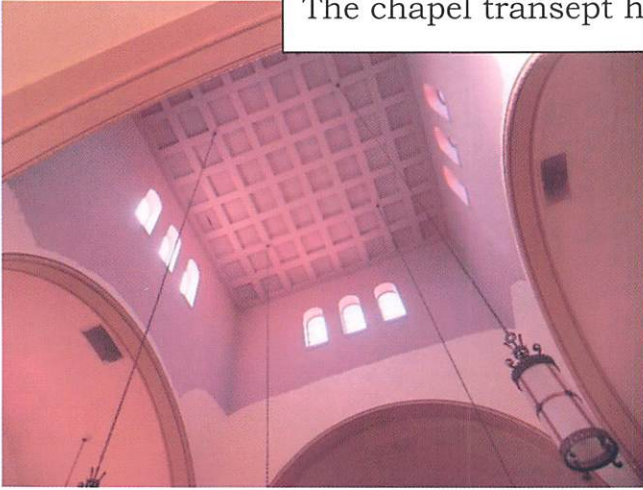
All too often, we tend to neglect what is right in front of us, imagining that the real object of greatness lies elsewhere. In fact, it may exist right beyond our door, and if so, might that not offer a beginning that suits us? If we leap in the car or board a plane to visit some spectacular sight (something one might do from time to time) but remain ignorant strangers in the place we live, doesn't that seem a bit backward?

-Robert Wyer, "Returning to Your Own Backyard"
Angelus Magazine, Back to Land and Hearth edition

The "liberal" in "liberal arts" insinuates freedom: freedom from the flux of a groupthink mentality, freedom to exercise the higher dials of the body-soul union. Ironically, what English students need is less support and fewer answers. They need to sit in a silent place, blink at nature, gape at art with senses wide open...They need to drown a little more in the world around so that they can breathe a little more in the Atlantis it has always been.

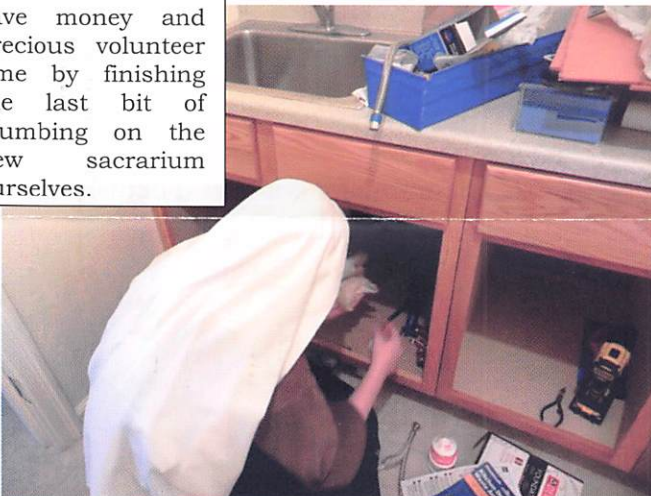
-Jonathan Wanner, "Love's Atlantis: The Lost Art of Poetic Knowledge"
Angelus Magazine, Catholic Education edition

The chapel transept has been painted.



All four bells are now ringing! Pictured here from left to right: John the Evangelist (D-natural), Eucharistic Heart of Jesus (A-natural), Immaculate Heart of Mary (C-natural). Not pictured is the largest bell, Holy Ghost (E-natural) We wish there were a way to play sounds on paper, but you can visit our website to hear them! Thank you to St. Vincent's volunteers who helped with preparations for the bell contractor. Thank you again to the benefactor who paid for this project.

We think we will save money and precious volunteer time by finishing the last bit of plumbing on the new sacrarium ourselves.



We have gotten as far as picking out some blocks for the renovation of the Mary Garden.



We received the bid for the steps and ramp project we described in our last newsletter. After nearly fainting at the price tag, we decided on a different solution, and that project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year for about 3% of the initial cost. This quarter, we hope to complete some smaller projects and work a little on the Mary Garden renovation. We are grateful for your continuing financial support, which is very much needed.

To make an electronic donation, please go to:

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1297193>