

Sisters of the Society Saint Pius X

540 West 8th Street Browerville, MN 56438
Phone: (320) 594-2944

Letter to Friends and Benefactors

Lent 2023

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

*“**T**ake courage; do not be afraid; I have overcome the world.”*

Our Lord is the One who left us these words before taking the road to His passion and death. Indeed, our Lord triumphed over the world, the world described by Saint John. “What is the world?” Saint John asks. “Concupiscence of the eyes, concupiscence of the flesh, and the pride of life.” What does this mean? Wealth, honors, sensuality, sensual pleasures; that is what the world is. Our Lord has vanquished the world. You just have to contemplate our Lord fastened to His cross, covered with blood, crowned with thorns, and look at His opened side to understand that He truly overcame the world. The world of material wealth, which seeks riches: Is there anyone poorer than our Lord on His cross? The world of honors: Is there anyone humbler than our Lord dying like a common criminal? Lastly, concupiscence of the flesh: Is there a greater example of sacrifice, of suffering, of pain, and of bruised flesh than our Lord covered with blood on His cross? Indeed, our Lord triumphed over the world; what the world loves, our Lord despises.

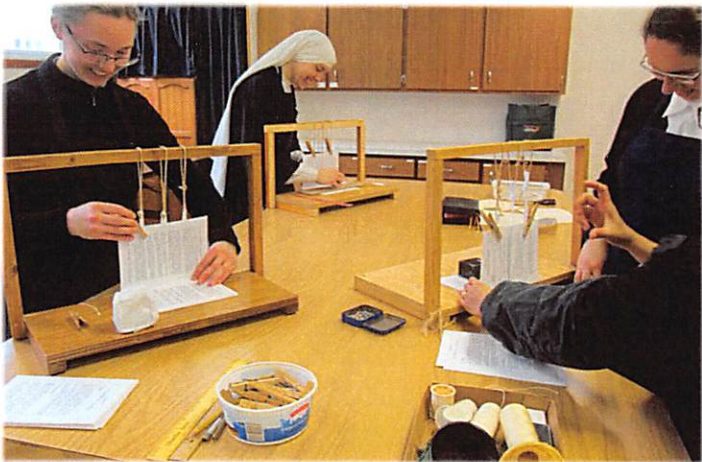
Why did our Lord disdain these things? In order to love His Father, to love God, because one cannot serve two masters; one cannot love both the world and God.

Now our Lord, on His cross, died of love for His Father, of love for God. His outstretched arms and opened heart likewise show He died of love for His neighbor. Our Lord’s victory over the world thus teaches us a great lesson. Because He vanquished the world, He necessarily triumphed over sin – original sin which is at the root of this deviation in which our souls are born and which is called the world. Through His cross, our Lord gained the victory over sin.

However, should we think that, having been delivered from our sins, we no longer have to fight? Should we think that our souls no longer have to undergo a spiritual combat? No. Our Lord could have removed all the effects of original sin from our souls, and consequently have alienated us from all these foolish desires, all these inordinate desires of the world, but He did not will this. As Saint Thomas says, He wants us to spend time fighting, suffering, experiencing trials, temptations, and difficulties. Each one of us has to go through his own drama, his



Sister working on vestment restoration



A professed Sister gives instructions in bookbinding

own big drama, the drama of the spiritual life, the drama of the interior life. Where do we stand in relation to God, to our Lord? Are our souls pure, filled with grace? Are they full of love for our Lord Jesus Christ and for our neighbor? Do we perform our duties of state? Do we obey God's law which commands us to love God and to love our neighbor? It is up to each one of us to examine ourselves, to find out where we stand, and to fight.

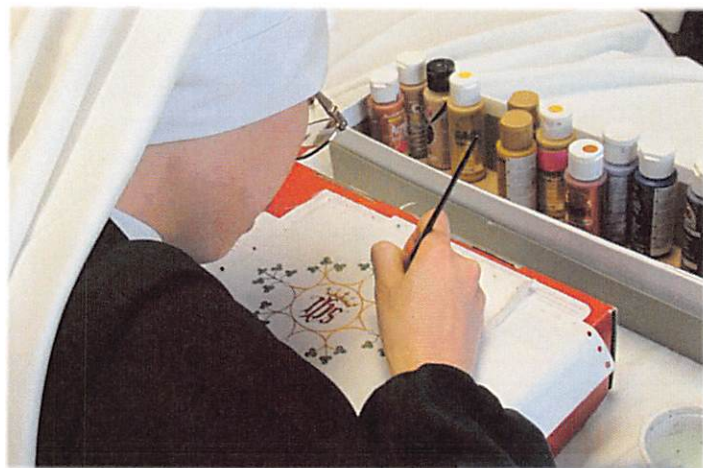
And since our Lord overcame the world and vanquished sin, He also triumphed over the devil. Yes, the devil has been driven out of souls that are baptized, this is true, but he still has an influence upon the world. He can tempt us externally; he can put pressure on our lives in all kinds of ways which the world places at his disposition. His defeat is nevertheless certain. It is up to us to fight, to be vigilant, to keep a watchful eye on all the diabolical influences around us so that our souls may remain united to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lastly, our Lord conquered death, death which is the consequence of sin. This is what we are celebrating today on the feast of the Resurrection: The consequence of our Lord's victory. We are assured that one day we, too, will have the joy of the Resurrection if we follow our Lord, if we love Him as the Virgin Mary standing near the cross loved Him. The words which I am going to quote are found in the Office of the feast of Our Lady of Compassion: "My Beloved, white and at the same time ruddy, by His blood which flows, wholly breathes love; His head bowed; His arms stretched out; His heart opened." Yes, let us contemplate our Lord Jesus Christ on His cross, and ask Him to give us this love. To obtain this love, we must sacrifice ourselves; we must engage in battle: this is what the whole cross shows us. If we do not fight, if we remain passive, if we grow slack, the enemy will again gain the upper hand and work his way into our souls. Let us ask the Blessed Virgin to teach us the cross. She will tell us the true way to heaven and, if we have followed our Lord Jesus Christ, she will receive us at the hour of our death. (Extracts from the sermon of His Excellency Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, Easter Sunday, March 26, 1978)

News from the Novitiate



Two children from a local dairy farm come every week for a catechism class with Sister who is preparing them to receive the sacrament of Baptism.



Several Novitiate members have been working on making painted palls



At the end of February we had the visit of Father Alexander Wiseman, a professor at Saint Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, Virginia. During his stay he preached a day of Recollection to the professed Sisters, helping them to prepare their souls to receive the many graces that God gives us during the holy season of Lent.

During this time of the year there is always much joy in our Novitiate, especially as the ceremonies of taking of habits, first vows and perpetual professions are being prepared. They will

take place on Low Sunday following our annual Easter Week retreat which, this year, will be preached by Father Paul Robinson, Prior in Denver, Colorado. For this occasion we will welcome our Sisters from Saint Mary's, from Veneta and from Dillwyn. This big family reunion requires a certain amount of preparation and organization. We have been busy doing some spring cleaning, painting, waxing of floors, and a few necessary repairs, including some plumbing and home improvement work in many of the bedrooms.

The Sisters also continue their apostolate of teaching catechism at St. John Vianney Academy and helping with the monthly meetings of the Eucharistic Crusade, while our Correspondence Catechism department has already begun packaging sets of lessons for the next school year. But there is also the preparations to make for our upcoming camp. Already in February, we began accepting registration requests for this year's Saint Maria Goretti girls' camp which will take place in Indiana, not far from Ft. Wayne, from June 11 to June 17.

In March two apostolic trips will take place. Sisters will be traveling first of all to Our Lady of Good Success Academy in Louisiana, Missouri where they will spend a few days with the students and staff. This Academy follows our Correspondence Catechism program and the students have Sisters who correct their monthly homework sheets and tests. Shortly afterwards another visit is planned at Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Walton, Kentucky where the Sisters will present our Congregation to the faithful and spend some time with the girls and young ladies of the parish.



At this time of the year the sewing room is a busy place. The postulants have the joy to make their religious habits while the second year novices work on their black veils.



Sacristy work is an important part of a Sister's formation

After Easter our Congregation will have ceremonies in all four of our novitiates; ten postulants will receive the religious habit, nine on Low Sunday (five in France and four here in Browerville), then one more in Germany on the 3rd Sunday after Easter. Eight novices will pronounce their 1st vows; two in France, four in Browerville, one in Argentina and then one more in Germany. Finally, six Sisters will pronounce their perpetual vows, two in France and four here in Browerville. We rejoice greatly and thank God for all His blessings.

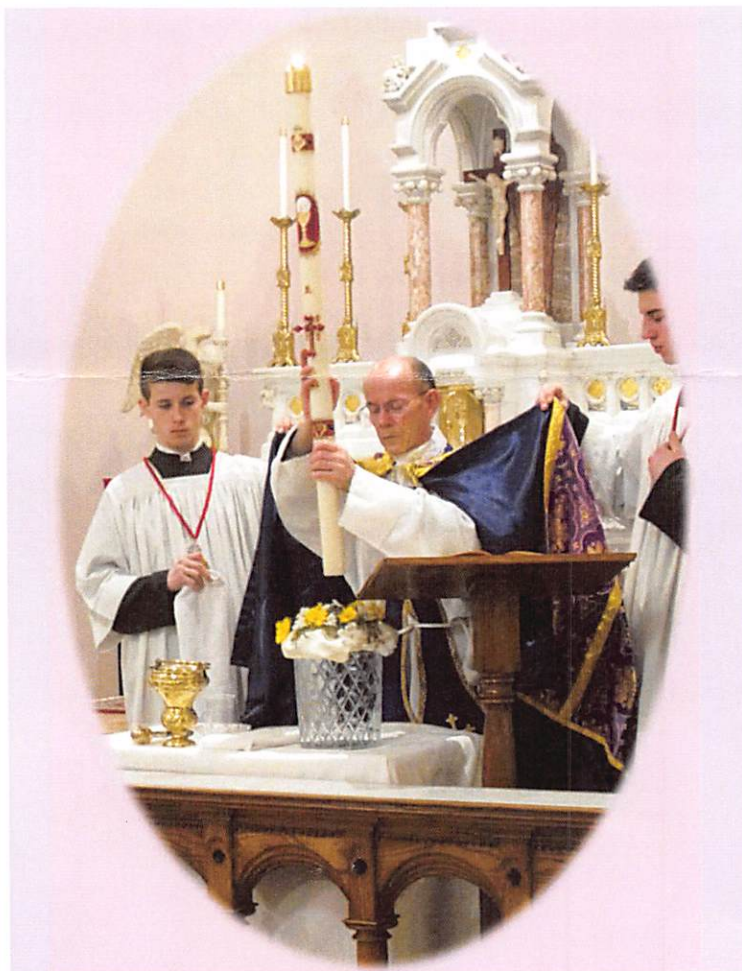
Dear Friends and Benefactors, we thank you for your generosity and all you do for us and we assure you of our daily prayers for all your spiritual and material needs. May the faithful practice of our religious life obtain for you many blessings. After a fervent and fruitful Lent, may you have a very blessed and happy Easter.

The Sisters of the Society Saint Pius X

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Holy Week 2023

Recollection for young ladies

from 18 to 30 years of age

The Sisters of the Society Saint Pius X organize a recollection for the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week to allow young women to follow the liturgical offices in a religious atmosphere.

- ◆ This is a recollection and not a preached retreat. In addition to the Office of Tenebrae and Holy Week ceremonies, there will be times for prayer and work, and conferences by the Sisters.
- ◆ Dates: from Wednesday in Holy Week, April 5 to Holy Saturday, April 8
- ◆ Space is limited; don't wait to sign up!

For more information or to sign up, please contact:

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