



## NEWSLETTER OF THE HANDMAIDS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

### ✠ O Jesus, I choose You! ✠

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is a day of special joy for us because of the great love and honor shown to Jesus throughout the world in all the Eucharistic Processions, Benedictions, and devotions offered on this day. It is also our Community's Feast day and a day when we renew our vows at Mass right before we receive Holy Communion. Gazing upon Love Divine, we humbly wonder: *"What return can we give to the Lord for all that He has done for us?"*

To tell Jesus that we have chosen Him and chosen to belong to Him forever is a gift we can give to Him *every day of the year*. Everyone longs to be chosen. To know that we are loved and accepted and that this love will endure. Aware that Jesus, too, has the same desire, our Founder Father Gerald wrote this prayer from his heart:

**O Jesus, I choose You,  
not only as the end of my journey,  
but as the end of today.  
As the beginning of my morning,  
as the fullness of my noontime,  
as the rest and consolation of my evening;  
as my last thought at night,  
as my God and my Love forever.**

What a beautiful thing to say to Jesus, who has chosen us, not just at the end of our life as we ask for forgiveness, but at every moment beginning from before we were born. Jesus always wants us,

He is always loving us, He is always there for us, even when we forget Him and are busy with many things.

Jesus is so amazing in all the ways He reveals Himself and His love to us. We are especially grateful for the wonderful Shepherd He has blessed us with here in the Diocese of Knoxville. Bishop Stika shows us over and over that he is here for us, that he wanted us before we arrived, that he accepted us from the beginning and that he is with us not just for the happy occasions, but also in our trials, struggles and growing pains.

It is truly a grace to be chosen, to be loved, and very humbling as well, for we know we could never deserve it; it is a pure gift from the Heart of Jesus. And so it is before this most loving Heart, that we offer our lives in thanksgiving for His and for yours too, as we share with you some of the blessings of this Jubilee Year.





## Thy Overflowing Chalice

The great generosity and beautiful witness of our Bishop and priests are a constant manifestation to us of the outpouring of love and mercy from the Precious Blood of Jesus. Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the gift you are to us and to the whole world!

Upper left is Father Pontian Kiyimba, AJ and in the center of our Mothers is Father Patrick Resen.



Fr. John Dowling (above) and Fr. Jerry Daniels (left) - our chaplain in Benton, TN giving us Benediction at Midnight Mass on our first Christmas in New Market



**WE LOVE OUR PRIESTS!** Here we are with our beloved Father Jesus Antonio Giraaldo.



Fr. Dowling being interviewed for a video presentation on our life (coming soon). Recorded by Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey



Fr. Ron Franco, C.S.P.  
To the left is our famous chalkboard in our Refectory that lists the names of priests to specially pray for each week.



Fr. Thomas Petri, O.P., Dean at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. and a Missionary of Mercy



## Blessed Sacrament Cemetery



*"Jesus Christ stands at the center not just of the history of the Church but also the history of humanity. In Him, all things are drawn together."*

*St. John Paul*



*Very special thanks and eternal gratitude to Bishop Stika and Dennis and Kim Bridges.*



Yes, our Lord draws us together and keeps us united both in life and after death. On March 29th, our deceased Sisters were transferred once again to our new Cemetery with the chalice and host design - inspired by Kim Bridges. We are overwhelmed by the goodness and support we receive here. May God bless and reward you all!



One month later, Jesus called our Sister Mel Pierre Home. We marvel at God's timing! (If you can, see the story in our news on our website.) With the generous help of our dear friends, the inside of our Monastery was transformed into a temporary chapel large enough for Sister's Funeral Mass. Bishop Stika was the main celebrant with Cardinal Rigali and Father Patrick Resen concelebrating.



*Sister Mel Pierre of the Mercy of God entered Eternal Life on April 28, 2016 in the Year of Mercy*



*Bishop Stika and His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali show us the deep love of the Heart of Jesus. We were so honored by their presence!*





*The Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women very kindly allowed us to attend and set up a display at their annual Convention. It was a very blessed three days with a marvelous group of faith-filled women.*



*Gisela Chaparro did an excellent job helping to plan and prepare for this event. We are so grateful to her and for her!*

*We especially wish to thank Pat Ryan, the President of the Diocesan Council for the warm welcome and wonderful support we have received from various parish groups ever since we arrived in the Diocese. It was a great joy to hear the keynote address given by Beth Mahoney, representing the National Council. In the photo above, Beth is on the left and Pat is on the right of Bishop Stika.*



**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:**

**COR JESU MONASTERY 596 CALLAWAY RIDGE NEW MARKET, TN 37820**

Visit our website [www.nunsforpriests.org](http://www.nunsforpriests.org). Follow us on Twitter and view our posts on Facebook.

*For those who have access to the internet and our website, be sure to check the news section for the latest updates and photos. We are also offering reflections, inspirational articles and an email newsletter that will come regularly to your inbox. Interested? Please sign up on our website.*

## **Welcome Home, dearest Sisters!**

*Handmaids in Illinois move to East Tennessee*



This year we have the great joy of celebrating our Community's Feast day for the first time in New Market, TN - together. Here is a photo of our "Lake Villains" with Fr. Donald Dietz, O.M.I. who has been our faithful chaplain for many years at our Heart of Mary Priory.. Now, we begin a new chapter in our history in our wonderful home in the Diocese of Knoxville. We all wish you a most blessed Solemnity of Corpus Christi! Praised be Jesus Christ!