

Tennessee on the other side of the Appalachians.



May, Mary's month, was full of plans as well as the unexpected. Our 10th anniversary of arrival in the Knoxville diocese fell on May 6th and Bishop Stika was able to mark the date with a visit.

On May 17th, Postulant Shannon entered the Novitiate with the new name in religion of *Sister Francis Clare of the Eternal High Priest*.



We brought our Diamond Jubilee Year since our founding to an end on May 25th. Bishop Stika came for Mass and a meal and brought our first surprise on May 26th: His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali. The Bishop shared a little of the Cardinal's long work serving the Church as a diplomat and educator of diplomats with our formation group.



Then God had his greatest surprise, and yet also a gift, for us. A simple medical procedure developed serious complications for our dear *Sister Mary Magdalen of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus* and became her opportunity to offer every last thing she could for the sanctification of priests. In return for her ever generous life, best characterized by unstinting gratitude in all circumstances, Our



Lord ensured she received all the last Sacraments at the hands of no less than three Knoxville priests. When she breathed her last, two Handmaids were praying by her side, "Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, I love you!" It was Pentecost Sunday.

The next surprise was witnessing the extraordinary outpouring of love from near and far on Sister as we prepared to have her funeral at Cor Jesu. Bishop Stika celebrated Mass assisted by Deacon Scott Maentz. The Knights of Columbus and several incredible volunteers and well wishers transformed our Chapter Room and Refectory into a larger than normal Chapel to accommodate the guests. We believe Sister broke some records on the number of guests at a Handmaid funeral and burial. Our Mass Chapel is currently a transformed two car garage unable to accommodate a coffin nor more than a very few guests, so her beautiful Requiem Mass down the hill at Cor Jesu building only heightened our need for the *Holy Family building*. We have the architectural plans to attach the building to Cor Jesu and it will solve our dilemma of needing more space for our growing community, address mobility issues of our elderly Sisters, and provide a much larger Chapel for the Divine Office, Adoration, and Mass.

Summer brought unavoidable repairs and replacement of the kitchen deck at Mater Dei House and the discovery that the wooden cross beams contained hidden steel beams. The Knights of Columbus brought and spread a gift of mulch to the garden areas around the property helping to keep the weeds down.



In Fall we received yet another mark of affection for our departed Sister, a Teddy Bear Magnolia tree in honor of her memory.

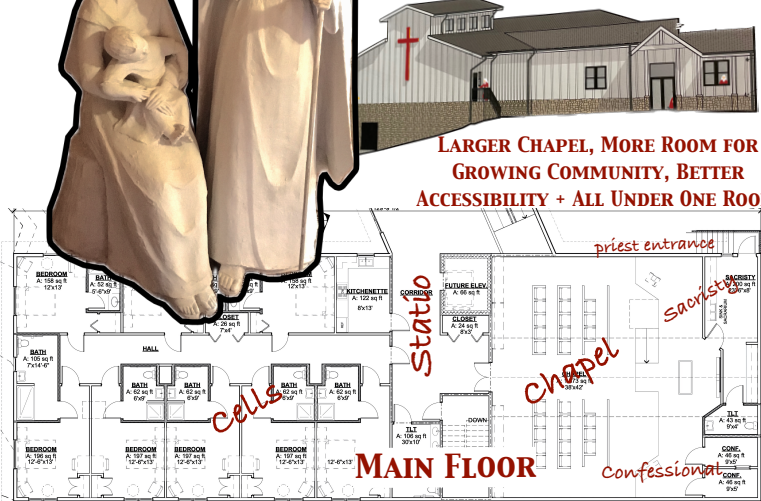


September 16th brought a vocations milestone as *Aspirant Chrissy Tworek*, a graduate of the Labouré Society's debt reduction program, entered Postulancy. To round out the year we enjoyed our yearly retreat in *October* carrying all your intentions in our extra time of solitude, silence, and adoration. We thank God for each and every one of you and ask him to bless you in 2024.



WE COMMEND THE FUNDRAISING & CONSTRUCTION TO THE HOLY FAMILY.

HOLY FAMILY BUILDING PROJECT



VARIOUS RENDERINGS OF THE DESIGN



From the Last 75 Years



Yearly Newsletter 2023

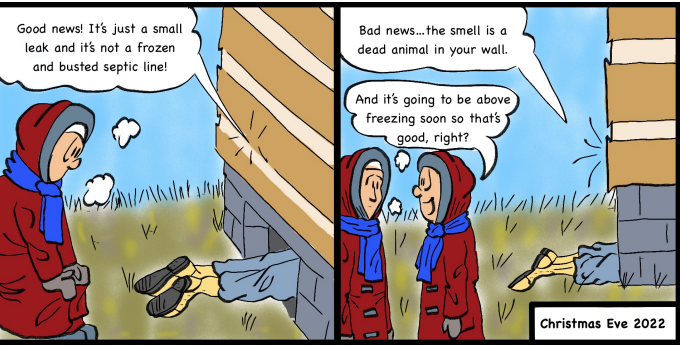
All of your needs and intentions will be remembered in our Christmas Novena of Masses at our Motherhouse Chapel from December 25th, 2023 to January 1st, 2024. Please mail us your prayer requests or visit our website to submit them using the prayer request form. May God bless you abundantly in the new Year of Our Lord 2024!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! When we last sent a brief letter for Corpus Christi, we explained that we would have a lot of news. We didn't know the half of it! God is providential but unpredictable. We thank our family members, friends, benefactors, and fellow prayer warriors who support us and our mission for the sanctification of priests. We especially thank our dear priests, without whom we cannot have Jesus.

In this time of *Eucharistic Revival* in the United States, we pray the beautiful truths of the Catholic Faith about the Real Presence will be



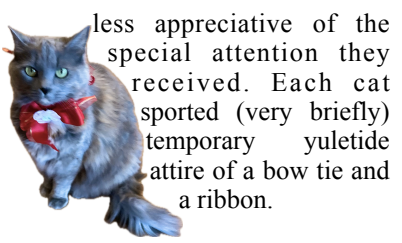
end of the ages and it wasn't for an idle purpose. He knew we would need him



physically. He doesn't need our adoration. We need adoration. We are the ones who benefit. No matter the difficult circumstances throughout the world, and in each of our individual lives, his Presence among us is a positive that not only outweighs all the negative, it gives us the strength to bear the burdens of life with joy. In 2024, make it a point to spend more time with the Lord. You will never regret it.

We ended the last part of 2022 enjoying Fall

less appreciative of the special attention they received. Each cat sported (very briefly) temporary yuletide attire of a bow tie and a ribbon. **Candlemas** was marked with a special holy hour in Cor Jesu. This requires a great deal of furniture moving but, as God planned, we would want the practice later in the year. A *Saint Valentine's Day* surprise was receiving many handmade Saint Valentine's Day cards that read "Jesus Loves You" from Infant of Prague Catholic School in Jacksonville, NC each with individual messages. It was a touching way to express their love for Jesus and his Nuns tucked away in the hills of East *See Back Page*



Grateful to Our Friends, Family, and Benefactors Who Help Us In So Many Ways!!



Grateful to Those Who Have Gone Before Us, Pray for us!



Grateful for Growth in Vocations!

Grateful to Our Sisters Still Sacrificing With Us!