

Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Thomas A. Krosnicki, SVD

The Sacred Heart and Scripture

On June 23, 2017 the Church celebrates the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. At Mt. Grace Convent the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters celebrate it with special devotion. The reason is that the Sisters have come to know that the Heart of the Redeemer, as noted in their community Constitutions, is “the symbol of his intimate union with the Father and his perfect surrender to the Father’s saving will.” The Sisters’ strong community devotion to the Sacred Heart came, of course, from St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the community of Adoration Sisters. One brief, but memorable, prayer St. Arnold left all three missionary congregations which he founded is: “May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.” The starting point, however, is with ourselves.

For the Heart of Jesus to live in us means that “we should accept the frame of mind, love, sacrifice, and zeal of Jesus and from this devote ourselves to the service of the Holy Triune God and burn with zeal for God and souls” (Fr. Fischer, SVD, 1932). To be able to accept that challenge and then to live it means that we must come to know Jesus well. The main source for such personal knowledge of Jesus, symbolized by his Heart, is found in the Gospels—a living and loving gift to those who

follow Jesus. From the pages of Sacred Scripture we can begin to understand who Jesus really is, what he was sent by the Father to accomplish, and how we can identify our lives with his in terms of a loving heart.



Often the life of Jesus and his message, as presented in the New Testament, seem to have become too familiar. The result is that we have, as they say, the feeling that we have “heard it all before.” The challenge offered us is not only to read the Scriptures, but to take the time to pause and ponder them. Such personal, prayerful reflection will help us to internalize the sacred texts and, in time, we will come to actually apply them in our daily lives. Jesus, who is love, will teach us to love God and others more. Jesus, who is obedient, will teach us to respond to the Lord with ever greater fidelity. Jesus, who gave his life for others, will teach us to reach out from our very hearts and tend to the needs of others with greater care and devotion.

The Sacred Heart is an engaging symbol. The biblical texts about Jesus remain a challenge. The challenge is to let them transform our hearts!



*Loving Jesus,
send from the Father
the Holy Spirit
with his seven gifts.
May the burning love
of your Sacred Heart
remove from our hearts
everything that would
obstruct the effectiveness
of these gifts and our
receptivity to them.*

--St. Arnold Janssen, SVD
Our Founder

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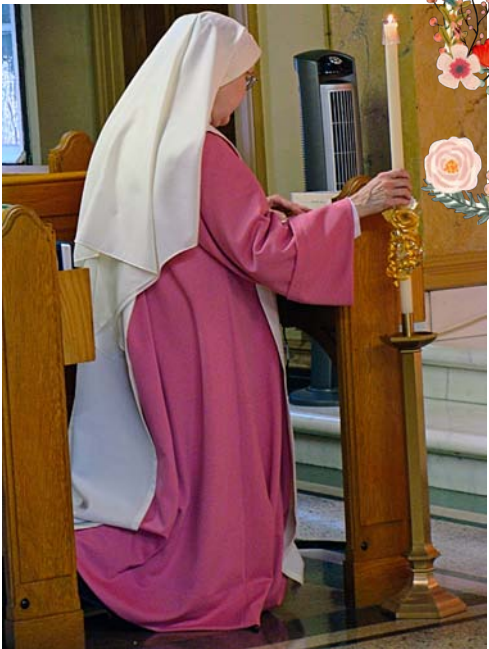
St. Louis, MO 63107



Congratulations to our new auxiliary bishop, Most Rev. Mark Rivituso, ordained May 2! We've known Bishop Rivituso since he was the associate master of ceremonies to Archbishop (now Cardinal) Burke. 2010 was the first year he was a guest celebrant for our June Novena (his date for this year's novena is June 20). We'll certainly be keeping him in our prayers as he begins his new duties.

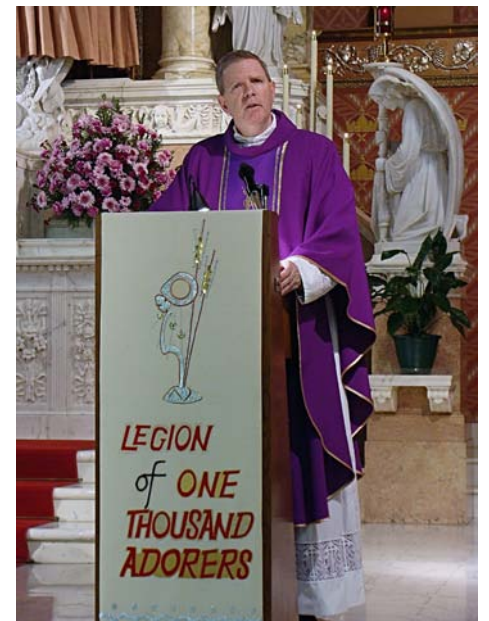


Mount Grace Happenings



After Bishop Edward Rice was appointed to his new diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau last year, we knew that he would have to give up his long-time service as the director of our Legion of Adorers. The post was not left vacant, however. We are happy to report that Archbishop Robert Carlson has appointed Monsignor Timothy Cronin as the new spiritual director for our Legion of Adorers. Msgr. Cronin was formerly the Rector of the

college seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and is currently the senior associate pastor at St. Clement of Rome parish. The Legion of Adorers celebrated the 59th anniversary of its founding with a Mass on March 4 over which Msgr. Cronin presided. The Mass was well attended by our Legion members and Monsignor gave a stirring homily. We are looking forward to hearing more of his wisdom in the future!



Sister Mary Catherine returned from her sabbatical in Corpus Christi, refreshed and renewed, just in time to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of her profession of vows on October 29. The golden bride was radiant with joy at the beautiful Mass celebrated by our former chaplain in Philadelphia, Fr. Joseph Dieckhaus. Nine priests concelebrated, four of whom were SVD's, and one of whom had made the eight-hour drive from Lincoln to attend. Also present in the sanctuary was Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, auxiliary of Philadelphia. The community greeted Sister's guests, her relatives, and our benefactors in the Marian Hall following Mass. Sister Mary Catherine had a wonderful day. Glory be to the Triune God for fifty years of vowed fidelity!

