

Journeying with Blessed Josaphata

“SPECIAL EDITION”

Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
Dormition 2014



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SSMI 2014 JUBILIARIANS

by Sr. Kathleen Hutsko, SSMI—Provincial Superior

“I ...vow to your Divine Majesty, obedience, chastity, and poverty in the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, in the presence of my Sisters, and all the faithful, until my death, according to the Constitutions of this Congregation. So help me God and this Holy Gospel.”

The above words were spoken by these Sisters Servants, 80, 70 and 25 years ago respectively. They have lived their religious commitment in different ways. We honor them here to thank them for serving God’s people so faithfully and joyfully. We will celebrate them in a special way in August, but we share a bit of their lives with you now. We hope their stories will inspire someone to consider Religious Life!



Sr. Bonaventure Kalawsky is the twelfth of 13 children. She was born in Round Hill, Alberta Canada. Her most prized possessions are her faith, family, friends and her religious community. Sr. Bonaventure touched the lives of hundreds of children as a teacher throughout the U.S. She was missioned in Germany for five years at Bishop Kornyliak’s residence. One of the most treasured moments in her life was the invitation in 1992 to go to Ukraine to testify to the miracles obtained through the intercession of our foundress, Blessed Josaphata. Sr. Bonaventure has made a difference in the lives of so many people by her joyful presence, her diligent letter writing and most of all by her living witness of the sacred gift of her vocation for 80 years.



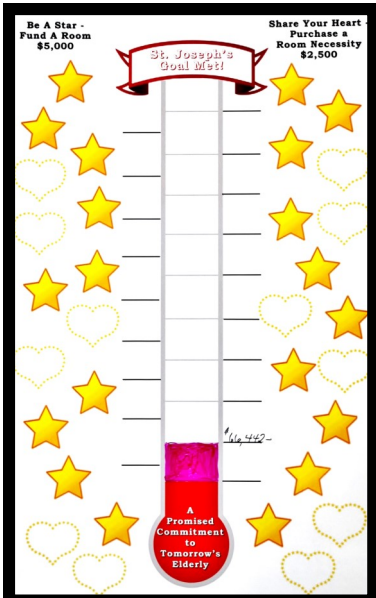
Sr. Albina Gregory is the youngest of nine children born in Belfield, North Dakota. She spent 50 years educating the minds and instilling the faith to children as a teacher and/or principal. Sr. Albina’s most joyful times in the classroom were when she was preparing the children for First Holy Communion. In 2002, she became the Administrator of the St. Mary’s Villa Spiritual/Educational Center in Sloatsburg, NY where she is instrumental in nurturing the spiritual life of adults now. Sr. Albina is noted for: the tireless hours she dedicates to whatever ministry she does, her “green thumb” in her vegetable garden, her orderly closets, her angel food cake, but most importantly her unconditional love for her God for 70 years as an SSMI.



Sr. Tekla Gnatyuk was born in Ukraine and has a twin sister and two brothers. She entered the Sisters Servants when the church was still “underground.” She was missioned for nine years at our Generalate in Rome in the culinary department. Sr. Tekla transferred to our Province in the USA because she saw our need for young sisters to help us serve “where the need is the greatest.” Her passion is to minister to those in prison and to abused women, to show them compassion and to give them hope. She enjoys teaching catechism to children. Sr. Tekla’s commitment 25 years ago was prompted by the Gospel words, “You did not choose me, I chose you.”



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For more information about how you can donate towards St. Joseph's building campaign or for more information on this extension project, please contact Sr. Michele at 845-753-2555 or srmicheley75@aol.com



Following in the footsteps of our foundress, Blessed Josaphata, we continue our Charism, "to serve where the need is the greatest." Amidst working in schools, our Adult Care Home and Retreat Center, our sisters dedicate some time in preparing Priestly Vestments. Our expert seamstresses keep the art of Eastern Christian vestment creation alive in a specially-designed sewing room at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg. Our goal is perfection and our seamstresses create beautiful vestments to a high standard of quality. Custom fittings are done to attain a perfect fit for the customer. Designed to be strong, vestments can last decades, depending on the amount of

use. We create vestments for priests, bishops, deacons, and altar servers in a variety of ecclesiastical colors. We also make rigid or foldable bishop's miters, altar covers, purificators (white or red, linen or cotton), corporal and custom banners and flags for schools or religious societies. We do not handle cross-stitched (embroidered) designs. If you are interested in custom ecclesiastical articles, call Sr. Eliane at 845-499-9721 or email @ lnitskieli10@yahoo.com.

Your contributions support the work of the Sisters Servants. We need your help to continue to serve you and our Church. Please consider remembering us in your will.

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Please share with us your prayer intentions during the Dormition Novena which is Aug. 1-9