



Journeying with Josaphata



Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Our Prayer for Ukraine

Dear Friends,

"I sought the Lord and He answered me, He delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34:4)

We, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, together with Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians throughout the United States, and people around the world, are seeking the Lord's help in the crisis that is occurring in Ukraine. We pray that God's answer is peace, true peace, and that justice will prevail, but our fears run deep as we witness the violence and military interventions.

We want to believe that God will deliver us from our fears: the fear of a cold/hot war;

the fear of a divided Ukraine; the fear of Russia intervening; and the fear of more bloodshed.

Although our hearts are heavy with grief, having witnessed the death of our "new martyrs" and so many injured, our faith impels us to continue to pray with hope that the commitment of the Ukrainian people to independence, freedom and democracy may become a reality.

Let us continue to lift up our voices in prayer and offer sacrifices, especially during this time of the Great Fast/Lent, for all those who are suffering in Ukraine and around the world.



Sr. Kathleen, SSMI

His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk Imparts His Apostolic (Pontifical) Blessing upon the 60th Annual Holy Dormition Pilgrimage

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate will host the 60th Annual Holy Dormition pilgrimage on August 9-10, 2014. The theme will be:

The Holy Family is the Guide for the Evangelization of our Families:

"A Joy Ever New, A Joy Which is Shared" (Pope Francis)

Although His Beatitude Sviatoslav is unable to attend the Holy Dormition Pilgrimage due to prior commitments, he imparts his blessing upon us. His Beatitude was very affirming of the last 59 years, which have been marked with a great number of answered prayers and even miracles, attained through the intercession of the Mother of God.

It is with much joy that we begin announcing the Holy Dormition Pilgrimage and look forward to the thousands of pilgrims who come to pray with us and to experience God's presence in a special way on this holy mountain in Sloatsburg. We invite you to mark your calendars; get your children, family and friends excited about coming; and ask your pastor to reserve a bus for your parish. More details about the Holy Dormition Pilgrimage will be printed monthly in our Diocesan newspapers.



News from St. Nicholas School, Minersville, PA by: Sr. Thomas, SSMI

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School has been in existence for some seventy years. At present it is the only Catholic School in the Boro of Minersville. The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate have ministered in this school, in one way or another, during its entire existence.

St. Nick's has a Pre-K Program for 3 and 4 year olds, housed on the first floor of the Convent. These "little ones" are very active and earnest about their education. Already, they know their numbers, one to a hundred; their colors and how and where to use them; they can read certain stories. They not only study, they can act. Their Christmas program was a huge success and their classroom parties are really something to experience. They are getting ready for Kindergarten.

Grades, Kindergarten through eight are in the main school building. In addition to their prescribed academic subjects, our students engage in Spanish, art, music, and gym classes. Some students engage in extra-curriculum activities such as drama and band. They take part in various competitions. Three of our students won the first three prizes in the Veterans' Essay Contest. We have trophies galore for basketball and baseball. The school has produced two great productions. Mr. Curran, our fifth grade teacher, directed "*The Wizard of Oz*" last year and "*The Christmas Carol*" this year.

During Catholic Schools Week/ National School Choice Week, a large number of students spoke at the various Divine Liturgies, in church, on the topic "Why I like St. Nicholas Catholic School". The students from grades 2 through 8 had a retreat given by Rev. Daniel Troyan. The activities for the rest of the week included: The wearing of yellow scarves proclaiming National School Choice week, School Spirit Day, Open House, Hoops and Jump for Heart, Dress down Day with a "Souper Bowl" (collection of cans of soup for the soup kitchen).



News About St. Joseph's Adult Care Home by: Sr. Michele, SSMI



It is nearly three years now (September, 2011) since I came to *our* St. Joseph's Adult Care Home, here in Sloatsburg. I say "*our* home" because it is one of the few homes or buildings that we, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, own in the United States. Though it is owned by the SSMI, it is fully mandated by the state of New York, as well as the local municipality.

I honestly did not know what to expect when I came to the home; though there are still times I still do not know what to expect when I get up in the morning – what will face me this day! The challenges have been humongous: fixing leaking pipes, filling empty rooms, understanding medical terminology, following state regulations, understanding the elderly and, basically, being available 24/7.

Today I look back with gratitude to not only to have survived, but to have, hopefully, made some difference in the lives of those faces I meet every morning. Hopefully, I have added a breath of fresh air to their lives by my presence among them. I know that if there is a cause for which to fight regarding the elderly, here at home or on the state steps of the state capital in Albany, I will be there yelling at the top of my lungs. Their cause is my cause!

What does the future hold? It holds much promise for us at St. Joseph's, as we will celebrate 75 years of offering loving care to the elderly we have been called to serve, in 2017. If there is any dream that I now have and hope others will share with me, it is to be able to continue that same loving care for years to come. The elderly will always be with us. That is a

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Office of Religious Education in the Stamford Eparchy

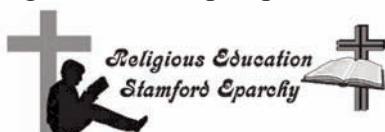
Sr. Natalya Stoczany, SSMI has been working as Director of the Office of Religious Education in the Stamford Eparchy. The Office is in the process of organizing and purchasing resources for catechists, parents and other individuals who wish to learn more about our Faith and our Church, with the hope of developing a library for the use of catechists. A recreated web page will also provide a variety of resources to help with this goal. Sr. Natalya is available to assist parishes with their catechetical needs and questions.

The goals of the Office of Religious Education includes supporting parents in their role as the primary educators of their children; teaching students about God, prayer, our Church and liturgies; providing opportunities for adult catechesis; and, ultimately helping students to accept responsible leadership roles in their parish and community.

Catechesis in summer camp programs, parish resources for events related to catechetical Sunday and an Eparchial Day for Catechists, to be held in the fall, are in the planning stages.

Sr. Natalya would be happy to assist you in any way she can.

Please feel free to contact her by email - sistematalya@gmail.com or call 845-709-0769.



Do you have a vocation to be a woman religious? a Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate?

The Sisters Servants have served God's people in the United States for over 75 years. Sloatsburg, the Motherhouse of the Sisters Servants, has become "the sacred place to come away to for a while" for thousands. In today's world there is a need to help and minister to so many people in various ways, and that is what we have tried to do. But as Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." (Mt.9-35) There is a shortage of sisters and priests throughout the world, but we continue to pray and believe that someone at this moment is really wondering,

"Isn't there something more to life for me than what I am doing?"

There are, though, other thoughts, those "buts" that can make a woman afraid to pursue her dream to becoming a sister.



For example:

"But most sisters are old."

"But I'm not that religious."

"But I will be forced to give up my peeps and tweets."

"But my family and friends will totally freak out."

Each one of these can be debunked with reason.



Today, there are still men and women answering the call to religious life and the priesthood because they had the courage to learn, discern, question and be open to the Holy Spirit, and they are joyful witnesses of the Gospel. Of course, not everyone who ventures along that road will enter and/or remain in religious life, but they have peace with having had the courage to try.

Therefore, the question is:

"Will you be one of those who will live your entire life with the regret that you never 'checked out' that nudge you experienced from within, or will you have to courage to begin asking questions and truly looking for the answers that God is waiting to give you?"

Contact us:

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e-mail: ssminy@aol.com website: www.ssmi-us.org

Vocation Directors:

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Sr. Tekla Gnatyuk, SSMI yuanah@gmail.com



Teen's Day of Reflection

Day of Prayer and Encounter
Journey with Christ

Ages: 13-17

April 6, 2014

9:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 11:00 AM



As Zacchaeus, we all are invited by Christ:
Come down immediately, I must stay at your house.



Some surprises are planned for you!

Donation: \$20.00
(Morning coffee, tea, hot chocolate with pastry, bagels, lunch, snacks with cold drinks, tea, coffee and fresh fruit will be served)

Registration can be downloaded from our Website:

www.ssmi-us.org

Forms must be returned by **March 28, 2014**

Donation checks should be written to:
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Contact:

Sr. Eliane @ (845)499-9721
ilnitskieli10@yahoo.com
Sr. Tekla @ (845)753-5100
yuanah@yahoo.com



known and proven fact.

We will not only praise God for the 75 years we have been called to serve the elderly among us, but we will embark on renewing and promising to commit ourselves to tomorrow's elderly, by adding a new wing or addition to our existing home.

Soon, a major campaign will be underway to create additional first floor bedrooms with private baths, a spacious dining area, a doctor's office, an enclosed outdoor sitting garden, an expanded kitchen and much more to enhance the quality of life for everyone who calls St. Joseph's their home.

Our hope and prayer is that this dream of many will become a reality in 2017, when the Sisters Servants celebrate 75

years of committed loving care at St. Joseph's Home, not only to the Ukrainian community but all men and women, elderly and those nearing their elder years.



*Opportunities
to Support
Our Ministries*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



**TRAVELLING ICON
OF BLESSED
JOSAPHATA
COMING TO OUR
PROVINCE**

2017 marks the 125th
Anniversary of the Founding
of the Congregation of the Sisters
Servants of Mary Immaculate.

To celebrate,
a newly-commissioned Icon of
Blessed Josaphata, containing her relic,
has begun touring the world.
The Icon will be in the USA
from Sept. 20, 2014 - Jan. 19, 2015.

The icon will visit parishes
during that time.

Journeying with Josaphata is a newsletter of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. More information about the sisters may be found on our website: www.ssmi-us.org or by contacting us at:

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
P. O. Box 9, Sloatsburg, NY 10974
Phone 845-753-2840 e-mail: ssminy@aol.com

PAVERS / BRICKS



Remember a loved one or express gratitude for a special person or event with a paver in the walkway leading from the road to the Blessed Josaphata Shrine. This beautiful remembrance can be purchased for \$50 each.

Order forms are available on our website:
www.ssmi-us.org
or by calling Sr. Kathleen at 845-753-2840

To have your paver installed by Pilgrimage,
please order by March 30.

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
SUPPORT THE WORK
OF THE SISTERS SERVANTS**

Consider becoming part of the work of the Sisters Servants by making a contribution to:
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Inc.

Have you considered remembering us
in your will or with an annuity?

*Your help makes our work possible.
Help us continue to serve you
and our Church.*

Any questions? Contact us:
(845) 753-2840

or write us at: P. O. Box 9
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

or email: ssminy@aol.com

*We remember you in our daily prayers
and Divine Liturgies.*

*We
Need
Your
Help!*