



Journeying with Josaphata



Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

SSMI's Celebrate the Blessing of Blessed Josaphata Mosaic



On November 15, a bus load of joy-filled Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate traveled to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia for the blessing of a mosaic of their Foundress, Blessed Josaphata, SSMI, and of Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Metropolitan Stefan Soroka.

These mosaics were created by the initiative of Metropolitan Stefan, as a way to honor these two pioneers of our faith. Blessed Josaphata, a woman ahead of her times and for all times has been described as: 'passionately in love with her God, faithful to her vows, sisters, church and ever-present to her people, who called her their *Angel of Mercy!*' the Servant of God, Metropolitan Andrew, for his part has been called our 'modern-day Moses'. Join us in praying that Blessed Josaphata and the Servant of God, Andrew, our modern-day saints, may soon be canonized and recognized by the universal Church.



Be still and know that I am God...

Since 1978, St. Mary's Villa has been a spiritual and educational center owned and operated by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. The Sisters have hosted thousands retreatants over the years through retreats, seminars and other meetings. The park-like grounds, enhanced with prayer paths, meditation trails, a pond and the proximity to Shepherd's Lake, create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, offering often-needed "space" to those overwhelmed with the responsibilities and worries of the world.

If you have participated in any retreats or programs at St. Mary's, you can attest to the hospitality of the Sisters Servants, the delicious meals served, and comfortable accommodations of the facility. If you or your parish have never booked a program or retreat at St. Mary's, our question to you is:

"Why not?"

St. Mary's Villa is open from the end of August through the beginning of July for morning, afternoon, overnight, weekend, and whole-week programs. For more information or to make a reservation, call Sr. Albina at 845-753-5100 or e-mail her at sisteralbinassmi@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Expansion - 'A Gift of Love' to our Elderly

by: Sr. Michele, SSMI

Have you heard of "Giving Tuesday?" Personally, I had not, until it was recently brought to my attention. It is in its 4th year with more than 30,000 non-profits participating. On December 1st, people from all walks of life around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity by giving.

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate have begun a "Major Fundraising Campaign" for the expansion of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home. This major project will cost approximately 7 million dollars. The expansion of St. Joseph's is a need that can only be fulfilled by generous donations from you, our benefactors.



Yes, I would like to donate towards the construction costs. Please accept \$ _____, my contribution to the expansion of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home:

- I would like to donate \$5000 towards the construction and furnishing of a room with engraved name plate on door.
- I would like to donate \$1,200 towards furnishings for a room with engraved plate on memorial plaque.
- I would like to donate \$300 towards a plaque on the "Benefactors Memorial Wall."
- I wish to donate towards the furnishings of the new Chapel:
 - _____ \$185.00 for a Kadylo (Incensor)
 - _____ \$350.00 each for Candlesticks for Altar – six needed
 - _____ \$1000.00 each for Sanctuary Chairs – four needed at Altar
 - _____ \$1200.00 each for Chapel Lighting – six chandeliers
- I would like to donate towards the Stained Glass windows for Chapel – engraved plate
- I wish to donate \$ _____ towards seating for the new Chapel – each chair \$150.00
- I wish to donate \$ _____ towards additional needs of the Sisters for this expansion

My check is enclosed.

This gift is in Memory of _____ or

This gift is in Honor of _____

Please make your check payable to St. Joseph Adult Care Home Expansion. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip code _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Be assured that in gratitude for your "GIFT OF LOVE" you and your family will be remembered in our daily prayer. No greater thanks can we offer you than our humble prayer.



SSMI's on the road again . . . Sharing Blessed Josaphata . . . Inviting Others to Live the Charism



On Sunday, November 1, 2015, Sisters Tekla and Eliane visited St. Michael's Parish, in Cherry Hill, NJ, with the Icon imbedded with a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska, Foundress of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

A prayerful and beautiful day was spent with the parishioners and Rev. Fr. Paul Makar, pastor. Sisters Tekla and Eliane shared Blessed Josaphata's life and some of the many miracles received by those who have prayed for Blessed Josaphata's intercession. The parishioners were able to pray at the icon.



St. Michael's parish also celebrated the parish Feast Day with a dinner that followed the Divine Liturgy. Sr. Eliane spoke about Vocations in general and asked everyone to pray and offer sacrifice for Vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and Married Life.

Sr. Eliane encouraged parents not to be afraid to encourage their child to serve God as a Priest or a Religious Sister or Brother.

Sisters Servants Participate in LUC Convention in Lansdale, PA

The Sisters Servants actively participated in this year's LUC Convention In Lansdale, PA, October 16-18, with Sr. Eliane as one of the guest speakers and Sr. Cecelia, the Correspondence Secretary.

The following is a summary of Sr. Eliane's presentation on the theme "*Honoring the Past, Building the Future*".

What does honoring the past mean to us? When we look to our past, we recall all the wonderful memories. Many of our memories of childhood involve our presence with our families in family reunions, community events, and, of course, our presence in the life of the Church. Many of these wonderful moments became a tradition for many of us. Do you remember your favorite family tradition as a child? Christmas and Easter, and many other little traditions that were created became very important in their own way for some families. Traditions enable us to honor the past, celebrate the present, and provide a legacy for the future. They play an important role in helping children create and define a sense of self, family, community and church identity.

Our ancestors left us a beautiful story written by their commitment, faith and love to their families, community and church. They passed on their faith, tradition and spirituality. Our Ukrainian Community and our Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was enriched by many of our ancestors, and I want to mention two of them - Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska, foundress of the SSMI and Venerable Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

The Catholic Church in Ukraine survived during the period of communism because of the mothers and grandmothers. They were the ones, who gathered in their houses for the Divine Liturgy, dressed the priests as women to protect them, to hide them. The grandmothers taught their grandchildren the prayers, led them in their faith. The grandparents played a very important role in the church, community and family's life. It's wonderful to hear about the past, the stories of how people survived, how they kept their faith and commitment during the storms they encountered during their time.



How about us today? What story are we writing? What are the traditions that we are passing to our families? What is the Faith we are passing to our young generation in our own family and community? What is our legacy? How will we be remembered and for what will we be remembered? Do we encourage and support our young people in our communities and churches? Do we support them or criticize them? One day it all will pass and the only thing left will be the faith, the legacy we passed to them. The only way we can leave to them our faith, legacy and tradition is by living it with them today, and each day, showing them the way. To be a family, community or church, we need to get involved, be present, and be there for one another. Working together as one Family and Church, we build a Vibrant Parish.

In a city, there was a little girl who was walking from street to street. Finally, after a while of going and coming back almost to the same street, she got the attention of a police officer. He approached her and asked if he could help her. She replied saying that she was lost and couldn't find her way back home. So the officer very gently asked her to get in his car and he would take her home. Driving for hours, she couldn't recognize her street nor even her house. She finally said to the officer, "Please take me to my church and from there I'll know my way home!" Wow! Let us teach our children, grandchildren, and our youth their way to Church, to God, so one day if they find themselves lost, they will find their way home, their way to God from their Church.

Stamford Eparchial Family Day Held



The Stamford Eparchial Family was held on October 17 at St. Basil Seminary. About 150 persons took part. As the adults participated in their program, Sister Natalya presented an all-day program for youth and children. Nearly 50 young persons, ages 5-20, participated in the youth program.

The program, which consisted of presentations, games, discussion and crafts, allowed young people to focus on the importance of their own family and being part of the family of God. Each young person was asked to bring a family photo and, with the assistance of the older youth and several of the Stamford Ukrainian School teachers, youth created a frame for their photo. As their day ended, the young people prayed for the needs of their families and families in Ukraine and throughout the world. They watched as their prayers symbolically ascended to heaven as they released blue and yellow balloons.



Opportunities to Support Our Ministries

Blessed Josaphata Shrine



You still have a chance to be part of this legacy by purchasing a brick or two on the walkway of our Blessed Josaphata Shrine. In years to come, you, your family and friends will be remembered by your permanently engraved paver brick. The cost of a brick is \$50. Information for ordering is available on our website, www.ssmi-us.org or you can contact Sister Kathleen at 845-753-2840. All are invited to light a candle and pray at this beautiful shrine.

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!*

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
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