



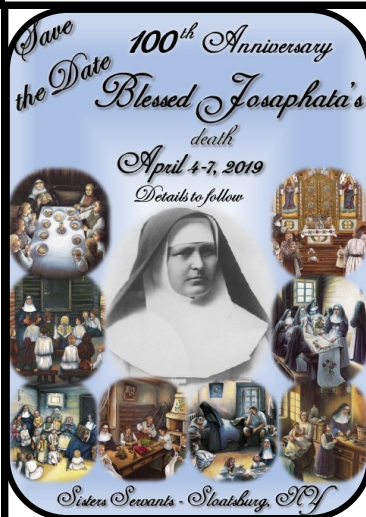
Newsletter of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

Journeying with Josaphata

Great Fast/Lent 2019



Sisters Servants celebrate historical centenary of Foundress



Some of you may be thinking, didn't the Sisters Servants just celebrate 125 years as a Congregation, and the 75th of St. Joseph's Adult Care Home in 2017, and the 100th Anniversary of the passing into eternal life of co-founder Fr. Cyril Seletsky in 2018? It seems the Sisters are always celebrating something.

My response to you would be, YES, as we are called to celebrate those moments God gives to us to acknowledge His awesome wonder and presence in our lives. We celebrate Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays. Parents celebrate the first steps of their child, their First Communion, their first trophy, and on and on. Grandparents celebrate the first time their grandchild says Baba, Dido, Grandma or Grandpa! Life is good with much to celebrate.

Yes, the Sisters Servants joyfully announce the 100th Anniversary of the "passing into eternal life" of the first Sister Servant and Foundress Blessed Josaphata Hordashevskia, who died on April 7, 1919.

We are dedicating this issue of "Journeying with Josaphata" to her life of prayer and service.

"Sister Josaphata was the heart and pulse during the initial period in the life of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate." (Prayer & Service)

Her heart beat for the people, whom she nurtured and served wherever the need was the greatest. Above all, she served with the gift of prayer, since prayer for her always had priority. In dedicating this newsletter to Blessed Josaphata, we hope to share a glimpse of why we believe she is a "Woman For All Times" and why we pray that she may soon be declared a Saint in our Eastern Catholic Church.

Sisters Servants throughout the world will be celebrating this Centenary. We, in the American Province will be celebrating during our 65th Pilgrimage, but also during a special weekend in April. The following is a schedule of events that we invite the faithful to join us at St. Mary's.

Thursday, April 4th - Opening of the weekend with a 2:00 pm Moleben to Blessed Josaphata, followed by a presentation and refreshments

Friday, April 5th - 6:30 pm Akathist to Blessed Josaphata, followed by a presentation and refreshments

Saturday, April 6th - 1:30 Chaplet to Blessed Josaphata followed by a video/narration - Q & A period, followed by refreshments

6:30 pm Moleben to Blessed Josaphata followed by a video/narration - Q & A period, refreshments

Sunday, April 7th - Closing of the triduum weekend with 1:45 Welcome by Sr. Kathleen Hutsko and a 2:00 pm Pontifical Divine Liturgy, followed by festive dinner in the Gallery

PLEASE NOTE: In order to prepare accordingly for the honor of your presence, please RSVP by March 21st to 845-753-2840 or you can e-mail to srkath25@gmail.com

Josaphata: Pioneer, Woman of Prayer, Mystic, Woman for All Times!



The First Supper

(artist: Jeanette Shewchuk)

Pioneer: Michaelina Hordashevskya was strongly drawn to religious life as a young girl. She was also keenly aware of the *crying need for a spiritual and moral uplifting of her people*, as a young girl. She was guided and asked by Rev. Jeremiah Lomnitsky, OSBM and a beloved parish priest Rev. Cyril Seletsky, to become the founding member of the new Congregation in Zhuzhel. Michaelina truly believed it was the will of God for her. Rev. Lomnitsky, OSBM and Rev. Seletsky would become the co-founders of the Sisters

Servants. On August 23, 1892, Michaeline is vested in the religious habit and received the religious name of Josaphata. On August 27, 1892, Josaphata and the first six postulants ate their "First Supper" as members of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. How overwhelming it must have been for this young 22 year old to suddenly now be their spiritual guide and mother. Josaphata did not have a "blueprint" to follow, but was gifted with three great virtues: wisdom, courage and strength. Josaphata needed all three as she faced seemingly unsurmountable odds at times, from outside the Congregation, and sadly within the Congregation. However, the mantra that always was on her lips in prayer was for each Sister Servant to be *"a living light for the deprived people of Ukraine."*

Woman of Prayer: Mary, the Mother of God is the mother and patroness of the Congregation. She was a woman of deep faith and prayer, and her daughter Josaphata, followed in her footsteps. Sr. Tekla Rudyk who knew Sr. Josaphata testified: *Sister Josaphata had the gift of prayer. The sisters often saw her on her knees before the crucifix in deep prayer. Prayer for her always had priority.* Sr. Josaphata's unconditional love for God and deep prayer life made her most passionate in serving the needs of the people, as this testimony demonstrates: *"Upon her arrival in Krystynopil, Josaphata heard that an elderly woman who used to live from begging, now abandoned by everyone, was living in a barn. Sr. Josaphata carried her into the convent, and put her in her own bed, and cared for her day and night and helped her receive the Sacraments before her death."*

Mystic: A person has reached high sanctity when any creation turns one's thoughts to the Creator. Sr. Josaphata had reached deep union with God, if even the sight of a dry flower turned her thoughts to God. We are blessed with many meditations of Josaphata...*Like a dove, tired by a long journey, craves fresh water, so my soul craves for You, my God!.*

Woman for All Times: Josaphata was a practical, prudent woman. She was able to interpret the social, cultural and religious needs of her time. Although the means for education was limited, she educated herself in whatever need she saw, and passed on the knowledge to her sisters to be well-prepared for their ministries. Sr. Tekla Rudyk, described Sr. Josaphata: *"She was everything for everyone...a daughter to her people...she loved her people for whom she sacrificed her life."*

The Fruits of Sr. Josaphata's "Yes" to this day and beyond...

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate throughout the World



Where SSMI's Began

Ukraine - 1892

Province in 1934

Canada - 1902

Province in 1934

Serbia - 1906

Province in 2001

Brazil - 1911

Province in 1934

Slovakia - 1928

Province in 1985

USA - 1935

Province in 1959

Poland - 1947

Province in 1968

Generalate

Rome, Italy - (transferred
from Ukraine in 1947)

SSMI's are also missioned in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Kazakstan spreading the Gospel with their lives of prayer and service. There are approximately 700 Sisters Servants world-wide today. The three main apostolates are: education, care of the sick and concern for the beauty of the houses of the Lord. The Sisters in some of the countries own and operate their own schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Some sisters work closely with His Beatitude Sviatoslav, or in chanceries and seminaries. Here in the USA, we continue to make "care of the elderly" a top priority, as we strive to make the expansion of St. Joseph Adult Care Home a reality soon.

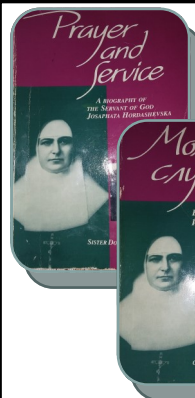
Intercession Prayer to Blessed Josaphata

O Blessed Josaphata,
you who lived heroically your consecration as a
Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate,
teach us by your example to place our
complete trust in God.

Hear our prayer and intercede with the
Most Holy Trinity to grant us the grace for
which we so ardently plead, for the greater
glory of God.

Blessed Josaphata pray for us.

Please send acknowledgement of answered
prayers to: Postulation Office
Via Cassia 102-104 00191 Rome, Italy



We have available the
biography of the first Sister
Servant & Foundress,
Sr. Josaphata in Eng-
lish and Ukrainian.

The cost is \$15.

We also have available
SSMI mouse pads for
\$3, as well as other
books about our foundress and co-founders.

If you would like to purchase any items,
please use the contact information posted
on the back page of this newsletter.



The Sisters Servants extend gratitude to the Turula Family Fund Inc. for their generous donation of \$10,000 to be used to fund the stained glass windows for the new St. Joseph's Chapel.

May God grant the Turula Family many blessed years. Mnohaya Lita!



Pavers/Brick for walkway of our Blessed Josaphata Shrine

Remember a loved one, or express gratitude for a special person or event. This beautiful remembrance can be purchased for \$50 each. Order forms are available on our website, or by calling 845-753-2840.

To have your paver installed by pilgrimage, please order by April 1, 2019

The Blessed Josaphata Shrine is open throughout the year. We invite you to come pray and light a candle for your special intentions.



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23rd - Calendar Party

Theme: Countries Around the World

November 17th - Tricky Tray

Details for the above events will be on our website, Facebook and in the newspapers.

The following events are sponsored by and for the benefit of St. Joseph's Home



64th Holy Dormition Pilgrimage Commemorative DVD now on SALE!

The 7,000 + pilgrims in attendance lived this mem-

orable moment in our church in person, and you can experience a bit of this historical event in your own home.. Supplies are limited. Please call Sr. Kathleen at 845-753-2840 or e-mail: srkath25@gmail.com



The Sisters Servants celebrate their 2019 Jubiliarian

75 years - Sr. Albina Gregory

A celebration will be held in August. God grant Sr. Albina many blessed and happy years!

Your Contributions Support the Work of the Sisters Servants

We need your help in continuing to serve where the need is the greatest as Blessed Josaphata commissioned us to do so. Please be a part of our work by making a contribution to: **Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Inc.**
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Sloatsburg, NY 10974
845-753-2840
e-mail: srkath25@gmail.com