



# Joyful Praise



## From the desk of: Sister Marie Tersidis, OP

One Sunday morning, while chanting Psalm Three at the Divine Office, I experienced a compelling desire to stay with this psalm for the rest of that day. I have chanted this psalm many times in my religious life but this time it came to me with a different touch. In many ways, I identified myself with the psalm—I complain, lament and I pray. At the same time, I am confident that God in his compassionate love does not abandon His loved ones. But how could someone like David maintain peace in the midst of persecution? This seemed too good to believe. But the psalmist challenges us to welcome distress, injustices and daily crosses and use them as stepping-stones to a new way of seeing things. God is greater than our fears and the multitude of enemies within and without. Salvation is from the Lord (v.8) who comes into our life gently, compassionately and yet mightily. Humility really is greater than knowledge and faith is greater than argument. This new standpoint sheds light on our daily laments and complaints, transforming these into trust and praise of God. God's gentleness and compassion quell the heat of our many violent enemies and restore peace and tranquility to the afflicted suppliant. Perhaps I can also count myself as a woman of peace wherever I go, and in whatever circumstances. I can receive peace myself and transmit that peace to those around me. *I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear*"

—From a paper entitled "Psalm Three: A Psalm of David when he fled from his son Absalom"

Sr. Jean Marie of the Annunciation had to wait until April 9 for her feast this year—but it was worth it...



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Dear Friends,

"The Lord is risen, alleluia, alleluia!" We wish you all a joyous Easter, and pray that, wherever this Paschal season finds you, the light of Christ will shine and cast out all darkness and sorrow from your hearts.

One exceptional Easter joy and honour for our monastery was the visit on April 13 of Friar Bruno Cadoré O.P, Master of the Order of Preachers (middle row, fourth from right). He was in Western Canada for a visitation of the Vietnamese Dominican vicariate, and detoured north to our monastery for a lovely morning of sharing and fellowship. This was Friar Bruno's second visit to Queen of Peace monastery. Please join us in holding our brother in prayer as he carries out his apostolic mission as the 86th successor of St Dominic.



But before we can really talk about the Resurrection, we can't forget our Lord's Incarnation! Christmas began with the blessing of a new icon of Christ the Word Incarnate, written by Sr. Isabelle, during the First Vespers of Christmas Eve. And, after weeks of more or less hidden prayer, the novitiate sisters received a present on Christmas Day—snow! Our Christmas liturgy and rejoicing were additionally blessed by the presence of Friar Thierry-Marie Courau, a Dominican brother of the Province of France currently in North America on a book-writing sabbatical. During the Christmas Octave, he treated us to a fireside lecture series on topics ranging from interreligious dialogue to the opening chapters of Genesis.

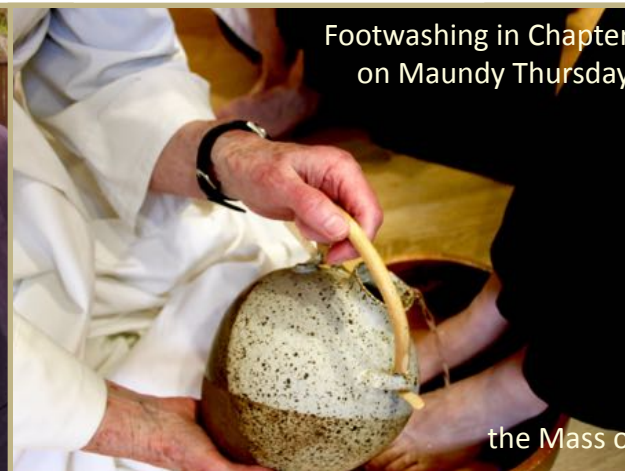


Our aspirant's first snow angel!





Procession on Palm Sunday



Footwashing in Chapter on Maundy Thursday



Adoration after the Mass of the Lord's Supper



Tenebrae on Good Friday



Paschal Fire at the Easter Vigil



Chanting the Exultet

# “The Lord is risen, alleluia, alleluia!”

Soon, Lent began. While our hearts were keeping watch, our hands were busy, with many new projects on the go. Our monastery received donations of two looms and a lathe this winter, and all are now up and running, much to everyone's delight. Postulants Marguerite and Jessica have settled into the pottery and soap workshops respectively, and in January Sr. Florentina Marie travelled to St. Clare's Monastery in Duncan, B.C. to study candle decorating with the Poor Clare sisters. You can see one of her creations to the right.

Also in the works is an exciting new project for our chapel for which we are deeply grateful to you, our benefactors—a new tabernacle. A dear friend of the community had handbuilt our existing tabernacle, but the wood proved to be susceptible to warping in Squamish's humid climate. Sr. Claire designed panels with figures of the four evangelists from the Book of Ezekiel, and thanks to your generosity we are able to have them cast in bronze. You can see some progress pictures (of a clay panel and wax cast) below. Thank-you, too, for the overwhelming response to our request for aid in our last newsletter. We were able to purchase a new gently-used 4WD vehicle just in time for the snow at Christmas. Please be assured of our prayers, both daily at the Divine Office and in a special Mass intention every week. May God bless and reward you a thousandfold for your generosity, without which our life of prayer would not be possible.

Just before Holy Week, we concluded an e-lecture series on Pope Francis's document *Vultum Dei quaerere* (*Seeking the Face of God*), on women's contemplative life, taught by Friar Michael Monschau, O.P. (pictured below, right). It was a joy to share this 12-week study with some of our fellow West Coast sisters, the Dominican nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery in Menlo Park, California.

After a beautiful celebration of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, a glimpse of which you can see above, we were blessed with sun for the first few days of the Easter Octave, and the dahlias went into the ground on April 2. As we send out this newsletter, we'll be planting lettuce, squash, potatoes, corn and other organic vegetables for our refectory, and uncovering the overwintered garlic. Meanwhile, the elk have made appearances in our southernmost field, and we saw our first bear of the year just before Vespers on April 22.

Looking toward to this summer, we're eagerly anticipating the solemn vows of Sr. Florentina Marie of the Heart of Jesus in June. Her final profession will be the first to take place at Queen of Peace Monastery since our foundation, and we thank God for the gift of her vocation and joyful presence among us. In August, we'll be celebrating sixty years of fidelity with the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Mary Magdalen of the Cross. When not in chapel or at her desk, Sister can be usually found up to her elbows in clay, wood shavings and other obscure substances... it reminds us that, with a bit of patience (and heat or sharp objects), beauty can emerge from even the most unlikely places, when touched by a master's hand—much like the work of grace in our souls!

As we await the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us remain united in witnessing to the joy of the Resurrection: may all of you *have life, and have it abundantly.* (*Jn 10:10*) We hold you all in prayer, and wish you a very happy Easter season.

God bless,

*Sister Marie Tersidis, OP*

Sister Marie Tersidis, OP  
and your sisters at Queen of Peace Monastery

*P.S. If you are moving, please don't forget to tell us your new mailing address!*

