

# THE ROSARY PILGRIM

MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

*Dominican Nuns of Summit, New Jersey*

FALL

2022



## SOLEMN PROFESSION OF SR. MARIA JOHANNA, OP

ON THE feast of the Transfiguration, August 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, Sr. Maria Johanna of Our Lady of Grace, OP made her solemn profession into the hands of our prioress, Sr. Mary Martin. Sr. Maria Johanna's parents and all nine of her brothers and sisters were able to travel from Canada to be present, along with many other friends and family. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Ignatius Schweitzer, OP with Deacon Kevin Reina assisting at the altar.

After the Gospel, Sr. Maria Johanna prostrated before the altar. At each step of religious life—receiving the habit, making first profession, and now solemn profession—a sister is asked, “What do you seek?” She replies, “God’s mercy and yours,” acknowledging her dependence on God’s mercy as well as that of her community.



Fr. Ignatius then preached a beautiful homily relating the contemplative life to the feast of the Transfiguration celebrated that day. After the homily, the prioress questioned Sr. Maria Johanna on her intention to make solemn profession. Sr. Maria Johanna responded, “I do wish it, with the help of God and yours.”

As Sr. Maria Johanna prostrated cruciform on the sanctuary floor before the altar, the litany of the saints was chanted, imploring the intercession of all the saints and angels. Strengthened by the prayers of the communion of saints, she knelt and placed her hands in those of Sr. Mary Martin, our prioress, and professed obedience as a Dominican Nun until death. The newly-professed sister then receives the blessed black veil and ring, signifying her consecration to God, and His promise of fidelity to her. After the Mass, Sr. Maria Johanna signed the Book of Professions, testifying that she has vowed herself to God by Solemn Profession in this monastery.

A reception followed the Mass for all of Sr. Maria Johanna’s friends and family, many of whom had traveled a long way to be present for the occasion. Sr. Maria Johanna is originally from Canada, where all of her immediate family still lives. We give thanks to God for Sr. Maria Johanna’s vocation, and for the blessing she is to our community!





# NEWS AROUND THE MONASTERY



In *May*, we celebrated Rosary Sunday with Fr. Jonah Teller, OP as preacher. Later in the month, newly ordained friar Fr. Bernard Knapke, OP came and celebrated Mass for us. Over the next few months, several more of his ordination classmates followed him. We enjoyed a beautiful Memorial Day with gorgeous weather, outdoor games, and a picnic dinner on the cloister.

In *June*, Corpus Christi Monastery in the Bronx, NY petitioned to elect Sr. Mary Catharine as their prioress. The Holy See approved the petition and she accepted the office, so we said goodbye to her for the next three years. At the end of the month, Fr. Isaac Morales, OP gave us a series of lectures on the biblical roots of Baptism.

In *July*, newly-ordained Fr. Bartholomew Calvano, OP offered Mass and visited with the community. Our monastery hosted the third year of the Monastic Theological Studies program for sisters in temporary vows, and two sisters traveled from the monastery in Lufkin, TX to participate, while one more joined via Zoom from Menlo Park, CA. Midway through the week, COVID swept through the monastery! With just a few sisters left on their feet, many friends and neighbors pitched in to bring food and other needed items. All recovered quickly and are back to good health. While we were sick, Fr. Maximilian Jaskowak, OP came to celebrate a first Mass for us. We were disappointed not to be able to visit with him afterwards.



In *August*, Sr. Maria Johanna made her solemn profession. A week later, Fr. Damian Day, OP came to celebrate a first Mass for us, and blessed a newly donated statue. The next day, we began our annual 8-day community retreat. At the end of the month, we clothed our postulant, Sr. Rebecca, in the Dominican habit. She chose the name Sister Maria Julia of the Eucharist, after Bl. Julia Rodzińska, a Polish Dominican who died in the Stutthof concentration camp in 1945. Please keep Sr. Maria Julia in your prayers as she begins her novitiate!





# NOVEMBER—THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

*“It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from sins.”  
(2 Maccabees 12:46)*

Catholic tradition has long associated prayers for the dead with the month of November. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate All Souls Day. Throughout the entire month of November, we are encouraged to remember the deceased in our prayers. Why do we pray for the dead? Catholics believe that after death, many or perhaps most souls must undergo purification before entering into the beatitude of heaven. All the little imperfections that remain in us must be purged away before we are pure enough to behold God face-to-face. The prayers of those here on earth are able to help those souls who are undergoing this purification in Purgatory, which though healing and cleansing, is like God, a “consuming fire.” (Heb 12:29) By our prayers, the souls of our relatives and friends and even the strangers we pray for are speeded on their journey toward God.

During the month of November, a basket is kept on the altar, in which we place the names of the deceased souls who have been recommended to our prayers. They are remembered in our prayers and Masses offered for the holy souls throughout the month. If you would like to add the names of any loved ones who have died, click the link below to fill out a form on our website.

[SUBMIT ALL SOULS INTENTIONS HERE](#)

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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