

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration

August September 2011

Deo Gratias Per Jesum In Sanctissimo Sacramento

In this day and age, there are many people struggling with an identity crisis. In our turbulent world, we need to have a firm grasp of the identity that Our Lord has given us, first as Christians and then more specifically in each of our particular vocations. At times it is important to step back from the hustle and bustle of daily life and ask ourselves: Who are we? What is the purpose of our life? To whom do we belong? We need to know who we are and what we are about.

First of all, it's imperative to recognize that our identity doesn't come from ourselves. Our identity comes from God. He's the One Who reveals us to ourselves. God is the one who gives us our identity. He created us with our gift and talents with a particular plan and goal for our lives.

We belong to God first and foremost -at Baptism we became **His!** We are no longer our own, but have been "purchased and at a great price" (1 Cor: 6: 19). That price was no sum of silver or gold, but the Precious Blood of Christ paid for our redemption.

Recently, our Community made our annual 8-day retreat, led by Fr. Matthew Buettner. The theme of our retreat was this very idea of identity: a deeper awareness of our identity both individually and communally, in the Church, in the world and before God as Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. "...It is the duty, the responsibility and the joy of nuns to understand, maintain and defend, firmly and intelligently, their special vocation, safeguarding the identity of their specific charism from any attempt to alter it, whether coming from within or from without." (# 9 Verbi Sponsa)

Each Christian has the responsibility of spreading the kingdom of God in our world today. As consecrated religious, our personal covenant of love, initiated at our Baptism, is intensified by our religious profession which sets us totally apart for God. Following the example of Our Blessed Mother, the handmaid of the Lord, we give Him our "fiat" and participate in the Church's mission through our consecrated obedience.

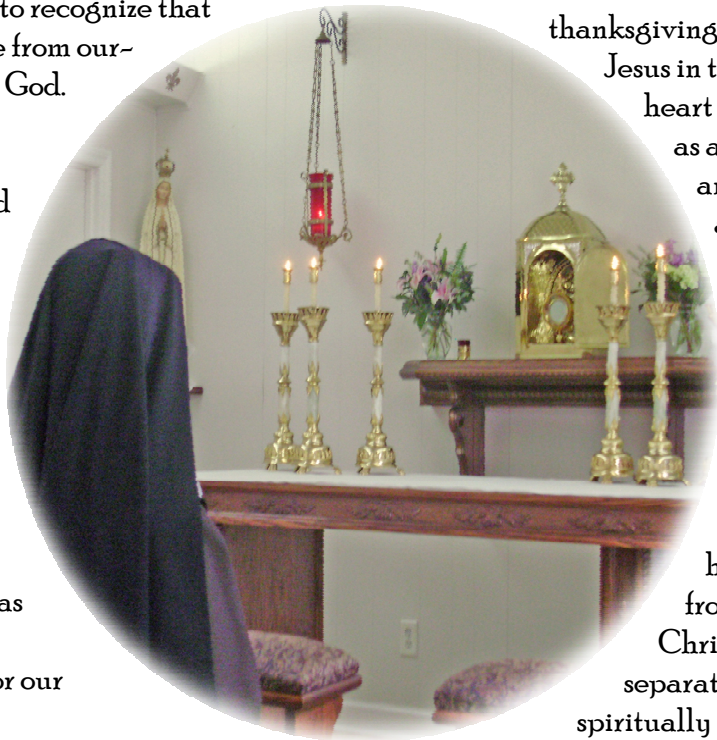
We, as Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration are called to live the Church's vocation of praise, thanksgiving and love in a particular way.

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the heart of our community and our lives as adorers. It is our role to support and make fruitful the apostolic activity of the Church by our life of prayer and penance.

As daughters of our Holy Mother St. Clare, we follow her example of humility, poverty and charity. We too embrace an enclosed contemplative life as Clare and her sisters did. By our withdrawal from the world to live hidden with Christ in God, we are physically separated from those in the world, but spiritually united with them in the Heart of Christ. United in our same tradition and spirit,

we live a common life as true sisters, praying, working and recreating together. We look forward to the day when our new monastery will be built and we can *fully* live our cloistered vocation once again!

Fidelity to our God given vocation and the identity that God has given each and every one of us is so important! Let us pray to Mary the Mother of God and our Mother for the light of the Holy Spirit to know what is God's particular plan for our lives and the grace to fulfill it faithfully and generously!





Our life as adorers of the Most Blessed Sacrament makes us keenly aware of the necessity of the priesthood; no priest, no Mass, no Eucharist. Therefore prayer for priests and seminarians is very dear to our hearts! We are blessed to know so many good priests and seminarians and we are truly grateful for all their help and friendship. But prayer for priests is not restricted to nuns! All Catholics should pray for priests. A document by the Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy released on December 8, 2007, entitled "Adoration, Reparation, Spiritual Motherhood for Priests" describes a life of prayer and sacrifice for priests. We highly recommend reading it! To find a copy of it go to our website:



www.stjosephmonastery.com



We enjoyed our time with newly ordained Fr. Ty Tomson and Fr. Charles Griffin who was ordained over 50 years ago, who came to visit us recently.



Above: Fr. Buettner preaches during our 8-day retreat

Congratulations to Fr. Joshua Voitius and Deacon Matthew Codd who were recently ordained for the Charlotte diocese. Above left, Fr. Voitius gives one of the Sisters his blessing. Above right Deacon Codd poses with his parents and grandmother.

Cloister Q & A



Q. What is a plenary indulgence and how does one obtain it?

A: A plenary indulgence is the total remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. In addition to a particular specified prayer or pilgrimage, to which one can gain a plenary indulgence, there are "usual" conditions which one must fulfill. These are:

- a detachment from all sin and to receive sacramental absolution in confession
- to receive the Holy Eucharist and
- to pray for the intention of our Holy Father.

Send us your questions about our life and we will publish our answers in future issues of this newsletter.

Questions can be mailed to: 3452 Willow Oak Rd. Charlotte, NC 28209
Or e-mailed to: nuns@stjosephmonastery.com



The Year of St. Clare



It was with great joy that we celebrated the feast of our Holy mother St. Clare on August 11th! Even more so this year, because this year marks the 800th anniversary of the religious consecration of St. Clare of As-

sisi. The Holy Father, *by reason of his loving solicitude for the Universal Church and his special affection for the Poor Clare Nuns*, has granted that a plenary indulgence may be gained once a day during the jubilee year, which began April 16, 2011 and will conclude on August 12, 2012.

This indulgence may be gained by all the Faithful if they participate devoutly in some jubilee celebration or pious exercise, or if they dedicate themselves at least for a certain amount of time to pious meditation, concluding with the Lord's

Prayer, any legitimate formula of the Profession of Faith, and invocations of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Francis and St Clare of Assisi. Or if they devoutly assist at jubilee celebrations: on the Feast of St Clare (11th August 2011 and 2012) as well as on the Feast of the Seraphic Father St Francis (4th October 2011), during the tridua immediately preceding these feasts, and on other days to be properly determined.

The elderly, the infirm and those who cannot leave home for a serious reason can also obtain the *Plenary Indulgence* if they sincerely repent of all their sins and have the intention of fulfilling at the earliest opportunity the three usual conditions, and if they unite themselves spiritually with the jubilee celebrations, offering their prayers and sufferings to the God of mercy through the intercession of Mary.

Let us take advantage of this wonderful gift the Church gives us to celebrate this anniversary of St. Clare's generous "Yes" to Christ! Be assured of our special prayers for you to our Holy Mother St. Clare during this special year!



Sr. Gabriella smiles with Sr. Katy, a postulant of the Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, who we met while she was in Charlotte on her home visit.



We recently made a trip to see our dear Sisters Carlton and Vincentia at Mohun Health Care Center. It is always such a joy to be with them!



Many thanks to our faithful helpers who come over to help us get our newsletter ready to mail!



Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we try to purchase land for our future Monastery!



Door Clares of Perpetual Adoration
3452 Willow Oak Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC 28209
Permit No. 860

Return Service Requested

Prayer Requests

Send Us Your Intentions:

Sign up to receive our newsletter!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Name _____

Street Address _____



May the Lord
bless you
and keep you.
May He show
His Face
to you and be
merciful to you.
May He turn His
Countenance to you
and give you
peace...
May the Lord be
with you always
and may you be
with Him always.

Blessing of St. Clare on
her deathbed