



Easter 2018

Sentinels of the Dawn

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery
Troyes, France

Issue 21

Experiencing the Resurrection in our daily lives

On the first Easter Sunday morning, just as the sun was rising, the holy women made their way to the tomb of Jesus. Yet their journey would bring them to the threshold of something they would never have dared to imagine. Grief-stricken and concerned about how to remove the stone which blocked the entrance to the tomb, they were amazed to find that it had been rolled back.

The stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb in many ways symbolises the 'stone' which impedes their vision, that weighs down their hearts and at times, ours as well. It symbolises those obstacles that can restrict our ability to understand, to believe in and accept God's offer of love and life. The empty tomb becomes the womb of new life. The tragedy, injustice and pain of Good Friday are transformed into the hope, joy and healing of Easter Sunday. The passion, death and resurrection represent the supreme gift of God to His people, the supreme act of His self-giving love.

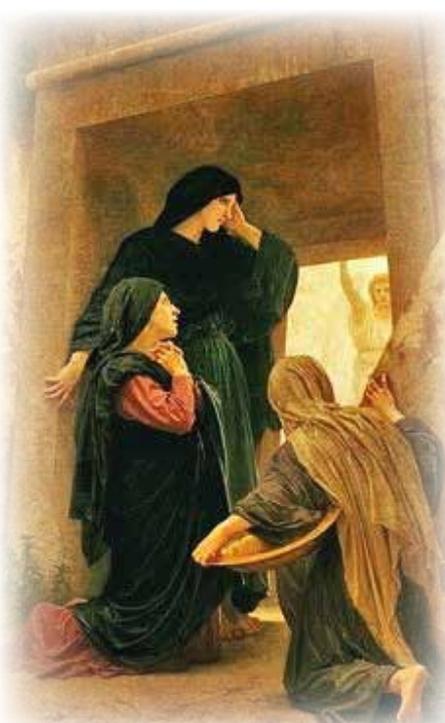
At Easter, we celebrate that our God is indeed the God of life. We affirm that life, and give thanks for it, rejoicing with all who share in it through Baptism. Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, rolls away the stone that encloses us in darkness. He commissions us to go without fear and tell others of the gift of life that is offered through Him.

At Easter, we celebrate the fact that Christ is a living person and that His life is experienced and revealed in many and various ways in our own lives. Through our Easter faith we believe that the meaning and purpose of life is that we are called to love - to love God with all our heart mind and soul, and to love one another as He has first loved us.

In what ways do we experience that He is a living and loving Lord for us? We will come to know that Easter is real, that He is alive, when with His help, we make our own lives sources of light and life for others; when our words heal and encourage; when our hearts become more alive with compassion; when we stand firm for the value of life itself in all its aspects. Easter is real when we become "sacraments" of the presence of the risen Christ, the light of the world, and of the values which he taught during His life on earth.

In the life of each one of us, we experience "Easter moments". It may be in prayer, when we experience the love of God, especially having felt His absence, like the disciples who experienced the emptiness of the tomb. It may be that moment when we are touched by a word of Scripture - like the disciples on the road to Emmaus when their hearts were "burning within them" as the Lord opened up the Scriptures to them. Or it may be during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, after we have acknowledged our sinfulness and come to experience His forgiveness. Indeed there are times in our lives when we know, through faith, that the times of calm after the storm, of joy after sorrow, of restored vitality after weary days on our journey of faith, are truly times when we share in His paschal mystery.

At Easter, we are called to commit ourselves afresh to following in the footsteps of the Risen Lord. Along with the apostles and all the faithful down through the ages, we have a duty to witness to the fact that Jesus was put to death because of our sins, but that God raised Him to new life. God challenges us to give expression to our new life every day of our lives - in our homes and in our communities and in our society. In this way, our faith comes alive and we become an "Easter people".



Easter Blessings to you from your Poor Clare Sisters in Troyes

A look back over the past 10 years



August 25, 2017 marked the 10 year anniversary of our return to Troyes to re-open the Monastery where our Order was instituted. We give thanks to God for all of the graces and blessings that our Lord has bestowed upon our Community during this past decade. We would like to share one very concrete blessing with you in this newsletter since it is thanks to your generous support and prayers and several large

grants from the Foundation of Monasteries, that four major renovation projects have been realised under the direction of Mr. Jacques Téqui, as architect.



2011: Restoration of the Chapel



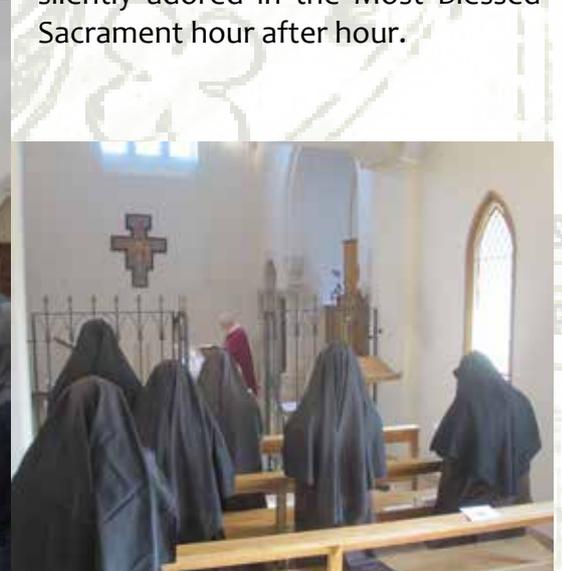
The first project, naturally, consisted in restoring the Chapel and the entire liturgical space. This included:

- creating a small Mass Chapel for the Sisters to the side of the sanctuary.
- creating a vestry for the priests and a work sacristy for the Sisters.
- restoring the vaulted “forechoir”, dating from the 14th century.

In addition all the symbols of our cloistered life were designed, executed, and positioned with great care:

- a handcrafted, wooden Enclosure Door
- a metal grill which separates the Sisters’ Mass Chapel from the Sanctuary as well as a Communion Rail.
- a reredos which separates the Sanctuary from the Sisters’ Choir and where the Tabernacle and Eucharistic Throne are incorporated.

The Chapel is truly a holy and beautiful place where the Eucharist and Divine Office are celebrated daily and where Christ is silently adored in the Most Blessed Sacrament hour after hour.



2012-2013: A New Roof



Next it was finally time to put an end to emptying the large buckets which quickly filled with water flowing through leaks in the roof every time it rained. Except for one small section, the framework of the roof, built from solid oak in the 16th and 19th centuries, was in very good condition, so the main work was installing all new laths and tiles as well as thermal insulation.



2013: Renovation of the Sewing Workshop

At the far end of the Monastery, facing the vegetable garden, is a small building that was waiting to be converted into the Sisters' sewing workshop.



Two large rooms, separated by a staircase coming from the ground floor, were completely remodeled. Over a period of several months, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters



transformed two old rooms into a modern workspace! With bright, natural light coming from the north and the lovely view of the garden, our Sister seamstresses produce professional quality garments for several stores here in France.

2017-2018: Creation of a Library, Archives, and 9 bedrooms

The renovation project consisted of installing:

- 1st floor : an area reserved for the souvenirs of our Founders and the archives of the Community; another large section for the library.
- 2nd floor: 9 bedrooms for the Sisters, and common bathroom facilities.

The first difficulty in this construction project was finding a solution to the problem the workers' access into the construction area. The decision was made to open a large window on the 1st floor and to install scaffolding on the street side. It worked perfectly: the workmen had continuous access to the work site, and except for the sound of hammers and

drills, our daily life continued peacefully "as usual".

To date, the major work is finished. By the end of April, the bookshelves will be installed, as well as some blinds and curtains on the windows, and then begins the imposing task of moving in!

2018... The work that still remains to complete the renovation of the entire Monastery is immense! But we do not lose hope; we trust that God will take care of all of our needs in His own time and in His own mysterious ways. Please join us in our daily prayer to good Saint Joseph, whose powerful intercession has obtained for us an abundance of blessings!





At the end of 2017, another project was undertaken to insure the security of the Community. Our old, dilapidated back door was replaced with a beautiful new aluminum door which opens with a digital code and closes automatically.

The front gate also needed some attention, as during the winter we were often not able to open the large double gate completely because the frozen earth would push up the paver bricks and block the doors. An anti-gel sheet was installed last fall and this winter we had no problem. The doors of the gate were also re-aligned and the same digital

code system was installed. Our dog Symba is hoping that we'll give her the code. We're still praying about that!



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Christ is risen!



Alleluia!

Holy Week and Easter 2018



at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Troyes, France