



AUTUMN 2013

# SENTINELS OF THE DAWN

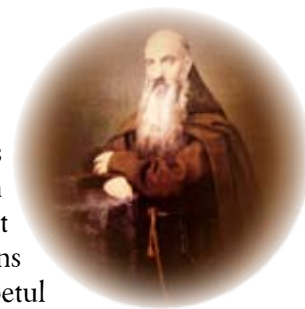
POOR CLARES OF PERPETUAL ADORATION  
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS MONASTERY  
TROYES, FRANCE

ISSUE 14

## CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF OUR FOUNDER



November 13th, 1887. On this day a holy priest in the diocese of Troyes passed from this life into Eternity. Buried in the cemetery next to the church of Saint Maurice in Nogent-sur-Aube (approx. 25 miles from Troyes), it is here that Father Bonaventure Heurlaut, co-founder of the Franciscans of the Most Blessed Sacrament (today known as the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration) passed the last few years of his priestly ministry in humble service to others and a life of prayer. He left behind a great spiritual legacy, but to this day little remains known about him. Last year his spiritual daughters, here in France and throughout the world, celebrated the 125th anniversary of his death with great fervor in a spirit of thanksgiving. To commemorate this event, a special Mass was planned for the spring of the following year.



April 28th, 2013 marked the day of solemn celebration in honor of Father Bonaventure. Despite the gray sky that threatened to pour down rain, this did not dampen the joyful spirit of this memorable day. Instead, a torrent of graces and blessings were showered on all those who participated in the event. The Most Reverend Marc Stenger, Bishop of Troyes, honored our Founder's memory by presiding at the Solemn Mass. Local and regional government officials, priests, religious, many people from the neighboring villages, as well as so many good friends and benefactors of our Community filled the little church. At the close of the Mass, everyone processed to Father Bonaventure's tomb, where Mother Marie Emmanuel adorned it with roses arranged in the form of a cross and Mr. Hervé Drivière, the mayor of Nogent-sur-Aube, placed a bouquet of flowers.



It is to Mrs. Agnes Branche, a long-time friend of our Monastery, as well as to her family and Father Jean-Luc Depaive, Curé of the Parish Sector, that we offer our heartfelt thanks for having arranged all the details, great and small, for this Mass and the reception that followed. A special thanks to all those who volunteered to restore our Founder's tomb, to clean the church beforehand, or who donated a variety of items for the festivities. Mrs. Branche and her family invested a lot of time and energy into seeing that nothing was lacking on this special day, everything from designing and sending out invitations to overseeing all the preparations of the Mass and the reception that followed at her

family-owned restaurant. Over thirty years ago, Mrs. Branche and her husband restored the rectory next to the church where our beloved Founder lived in the heart of Nogent-sur-Aube. It had been vacant for a long time and was in a dilapidated condition. We invite you to visit their website <http://assiettevalleedelaube.fr>.

Today, 37 Monasteries exist in six different countries where our Sisters adore Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. 125 years after our beloved Founder passed from time into eternity, we continue to benefit from the fruits of his humble life. Deo gratias!





# MUSIC FOR ALL SEASONS



This past year has proved to be a busy one for Sister Marie Antoinette, as the sounds of her music have filled the air! Sister had the opportunity to participate in several different events that provided an occasion for many to enjoy her music. On May 11th, Sister and Mr. Michael Matthes, the titular organist of the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Troyes, performed together at *La Nuit des Cathédrales* ("Night of Cathedrals"). The two were joined by Mrs. Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, a professional soprano and voice professor at Birmingham Southern College (USA). Mrs. Warsaw is a long time friend of Sister Marie Antoinette and our Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville,

an unforgettable performance!

As most of you know, Sister Marie Antoinette and Mr. Michael Matthes recorded a CD in the Troyes Cathedral in 2011 to help raise funds for our roofing project which is now half finished. (More on that subject in another article.) The CD was a real success, so they decided to tape another one—this time Bach and Handel—to launch our fundraising for completing

In between concerts and recording, Sister Marie Antoinette



welcomed a group of First Graders from one of the local Catholic schools here in Troyes which is run by the Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales. This year the children were learning about the four seasons of the year. Their teacher, Sister Françoise Raphaël had the marvelous idea of introducing the children to Vivaldi's well known *The Four Seasons*. She and Sister Marie Antoinette worked out very creative and lively sessions—sometimes the students even accompanied Sister Antoinette with their own instruments! It was a joyful learning experience, both for the students being instructed and for Sister Marie Antoinette who played for them. Who knows... perhaps there were some future musicians "in the making" among all the sounds of the seasons!



Alabama. We are grateful to her for taking time from her busy schedule to come to Troyes. The "talented trio" gave



the renovation of our roof. We hope that the CD will be available for Christmas giving. We wish to express our deep gratitude to our Bishop Marc Stenger who enthusiastically supports all our endeavors, the Rector of the Cathedral, Father Dominique Roy, for allowing us to record in the Cathedral, and of course to Mr. Michael Matthes, for graciously offering his time and talent to help our Monastery. May God bless each one of you!



## UP ON THE ROOF ...

January 2013 literally started out with a bang, as workers "attacked" our Monastery roof! Scaffolding was put in place and for the next five months the sounds of hammers, saws and electric nail guns permeated the daily routine of our life of silence and prayer. Half of our roofing project was completed at the end of July. We have fewer buckets to empty now when it rains, but we have an urgent need to finish the project. We are most grateful for the generosity of the *Fondation des Monastères* and to all of you who helped us get this far. But we are at a standstill for lack of funds, and we need to ask if you would be so kind as to help us again?



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

Where two or more are gathered in my name,  
I am in their midst... Mt 18:20

When Pope Benedict XVI opened the Year of Faith in October 2012, we opened our hearts to all that the Lord would have in store for the Church, the world, our community. The weeks passed, and gradually He revealed to us just how we could best express our own faith in a very tangible way. It was simply by inviting others to come to our Chapel and pray with us, to draw them to the Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, the source and center of all life. With the events in the Church and the world that evolved throughout the course of the year, the opportunities were not lacking to invite others to our Chapel for specific times of prayer.

In January, legislation was being proposed here in France by President Holland's administration to change the definition of civil marriage from a union between a man and a woman to include a union between two persons of the same sex. Changing the legal definition of civil

marriage would open the door to questions that touch on the nature of the family and the rights of children concerning their adoption and their parentage, as well as questions concerning medically assisted procreation, surrogate mothers, and more. Demonstrations against this legislation sprang up all over France. National demonstrations were organized in Paris

on January 13th, March 24th and April 22nd. Hundreds of thousands of citizens marched through the streets, expressing their protest in a strong but non-violent way. Here at the Monastery, we invited all to participate in days of prayer. Many joined us in silent Eucharistic Adoration. In the early evening, our Chaplain, Monseigneur Saviourat, presided at the Rosary, followed by Vespers, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. On May 17th the law opening marriage to couples of the same sex was passed as has been the case in many other countries. We live in a world where technology is tempting us to "eat the apple" from the Tree of good and evil. Since Adam and Eve the temptation has always been the same—the desire to live without limits,

to be gods. Let us be aware, let us be informed, let us make conscious choices as Christians. Let us take time to be together as a family, as a community. Let us fast and let us pray. We are only in the beginning stages of a great spiritual struggle.

On June 2nd, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, our Holy Father Francis asked the whole Church to join him in one hour of Eucharistic Adoration. For the first time in the history of the Church, millions of people knelt before the Blessed Sacrament

exposed in their Cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the world, at the very same hour that the Pope knelt before our Eucharistic Lord in Rome. It was a powerful moment of grace and blessing. Our Community participated in this world-wide event and invited others to come and adore with us.

In September our Holy Father made an appeal for peace throughout the world, most especially in Syria and the Middle East. On this day in which people of many different faiths prayed and fasted for our brothers and sisters suffering in war-torn countries, many participated in a special time of prayer in our Chapel.

Every Wednesday evening since October 2nd, our community participates in *The Sentinelles* (Watchers)—a time of prayer for families and all that concerns human life from the moment of its conception until natural death. It is a time for opening our hearts to God's Word and to be rooted in it. It is a time to bring to the Lord in the silence of our hearts the needs of our own families and to offer intercessory prayers for the many complex and important questions that seem to present themselves in ever increasing rates before us.

For those of you who live across the ocean, will you join us spiritually by making a brief visit to a church on Wednesdays, or by offering a Rosary, an act of kindness, or five minutes of silent prayer for this intention? May God bless you!



It's no news to anyone that postage and the price of paper are going up! You can help us reduce our cost and save a few trees at the same time by receiving our newsletter via e-mail. If you are not already receiving it this way, would you consider sending us your name and e-mail address? You can contact us at:

[secretaire@clarissesdetroyes.org](mailto:secretaire@clarissesdetroyes.org)

Thank you for your support ! We look forward to hearing from you!



## THE BEGINNING OF a new CHAPTER...

A new chapter in the life of our Community began this past June when Sister Margaret Mary and Sister Mary Franciscal returned to their Monastery of origin in Vellore, India. We are very grateful to both of them for their loving dedication as Adorers of the Most Blessed Sacrament, their talents and hard work which helped to build up and strengthen the life our Community in its early days. We trust that they are both happy to be “home” again. Knowing that their departure would leave us a bit short-handed, we sent out an appeal to some of the Monasteries of our Order. Two Monasteries responded graciously to our request. Sister Marie Rose from Zabkowice (Poland) arrived on August 8th, the anniversary of the death of our beloved Foundress, Mother Marie de Sainte Claire Bouillevaux; Sister Mary Raphael from Visakhapatnam (India) joined us one month later on September 9th. They are both diligently studying French and fully participating in the life of the community. God has truly blessed us !



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## *The Holy Spirit at work among us*

Our Bishop Marc Stenger presided at our triennial Chapter of Elections which finished on September 13th. Mother Marie Emmanuel was re-elected Abbess, Sister Mary Antoinette, Vicar, and Sister Mary Rosalia, Councilor.



We invite you to join us in giving thanks to God for the working of the Holy Spirit in the heart of our Community.

*ADOREMUS IN AETERNUM SANCTISSIMUM SACRAMENTUM!*