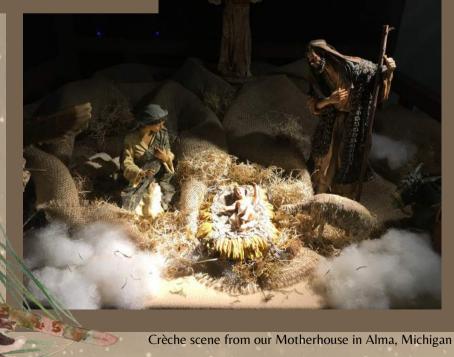
50th Jubilee NEWSLETTER

Christmas in our founding years



Come, let us adore Him!



A PARTICULAR PRAYER REQUEST

"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labor." (Psalm 127:1)

Psalm 127 provides the focus of our plans to expand the Motherhouse footprint. And we ask for prayers from our Sisters, families, and friends.

Noting that we cannot all fit into Our Lady of Grace's Chapel, that the postulants spill over into Saint Joseph guest house, and that our Sisters in retreat cannot all be accommodated, the perpetually professed Sisters asked for a plan. And the plan must also include an infirmary so that we may be able to provide care for our elderly or ill Sisters and to teach younger Sisters to do the same.

We want to expand according to need and to make each space beautiful! Beauty, especially in the Motherhouse Chapel, will elevate the minds and souls of Sisters in generations to come.

In December, Mother Mary Christa, RSM and the available members of the General Council will meet with Duncan Stroik, a professor at Notre Dame and renowned architect of

Catholic churches and buildings.
Reliant on your abundant prayers, we will let you know of next steps.



Stained glass from our Motherhouse Chapel in Alma, Michigan



In the News



Article in the Diocesan Magazine, Great Lakes Bay Catholic

CLICK IMAGE TO SEE FULL ARTICLE

Or visit: https://catholicmagazines.org/magazine-archive/great-lakes-bay-catholic/sag0923

From the Motherhouse



Burning of incense on the altar during the consecration





Preparing the relic of Pope St. John Paul II with wax and seal to be placed under the altar



Placing the relic under the altar

September 1, 2023

At the Motherhouse, the Jubilee Year opened with the celebration of the Holy Mass. His Excellency, Most Reverend Robert Gruss, celebrated the Mass with Fr. Paul Werley concelebrating. Mother Mary Patricia, RSM, a founding member, gave a presentation in the afternoon about the founding of our Community and the first foundation day. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was held throughout the day. The Sisters also had a zoom call with Mother Mary, RSM, Mother Mary Quentin, RSM, (two founding members) and the Sisters in Germany.

September 24, 2023

On September 24, 2023, the altar of the main Chapel at the Motherhouse was consecrated and a relic of Pope St. John Paul II was placed under the altar. His Excellency, Most Reverend Robert Gruss, celebrated the Mass with Fr. Paul Werley concelebrating. The appropriate Mass parts of Mary, Mother of Mercy were incorporated into the liturgy of the Consecration of an Altar. Following the liturgy, Bishop Gruss joined the Sisters for breakfast at Our Lady of Grace.

From the Motherhouse, continued...

November 11, 2023

In honor of Mother Catherine's death day, on November 11th the Motherhouse community hosted a Symposium on her and her legacy. In addition to the Sisters who live at the Motherhouse, they were joined by the Sisters from the convents in DeWitt and Saginaw as well as a few from outside the community who learned about the Symposium through various means. Three Sisters presented about various aspects of her life. The first presenter was Sr. Mary Raphael, RSM, who reflected on the concept of perfection of the ordinary action in Mother Catherine, both as she lived it in her own life and as she expressed it in her writings. Secondly, Sr. Mary Christine, RSM explored the concept of asceticism of participation, a term Mother Catherine herself never used but concretely lived. Finally, Sr. Catherine Marie, RSM prepared a PowerPoint presentation which described the historical background that placed Mother Catherine's actions in context with the society around her. All three presentations were very well done and engaging, available on our website for viewing!

Benerable Mother Catherine McAuley Symposium

Saturday, Robember 11, 2023 Death Day of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley Our Lady of Grace Educational Center Alma, Michigan

8:00am-Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Meditation

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

10:45am-First Conference: Sister Mary Raphael Paradis, RSM

"Perfection of the Ordinary Act in the Thought of Venerable Catherine McAuley: Application in our Religious Life"

12:00pm-Lainch

1:30pm-Second Conference: Sister Mary Christine Cremin, RSM

"The Asceticism of Participation as Seen in the Life and Writings of Venerable Catherine McAuley"

2:30pm-

2:45pm-Third Conference: Sister Catherine Marie Chong, RSM

Perhaps It Was for a Time Like This-Life and Circumstances in Georgian Dublin contributing to the Life of Venerable Catherine McAuley"

5:10pm-Holy Hour



Burning of incense on the altar during a consecration

Saginaw Celebrates!

In Saginaw, we have combined the Cathedral parish's response to the Eucharistic Revival with our Jubilee Year celebration. The Cathedral's Eucharistic Adoration is now being held in our chapel, giving an opportunity for parishioners and friends to receive a plenary indulgence. As one enters the Bishop Murphy Center, we have prepared a wall display to help the faithful understand what we are celebrating this year and how to

gain a plenary indulgence.

By October we were hosting the Cathedral's weekly Eucharistic Adoration from 9 am to 8 pm. A highlight of the day has been having people join us for our Holy Hour. Whether parishioners join us singing the hymns, praying the rosary or just being present during Holy Hour, we have the possibility of growing in communion with our Lord and each other. Eucharistic Adoration is the start of our local convent's celebrations, as we

ucharistic Adoration is the start of our local convent's celebrations, as we have invited different groups to join us for Adoration and a meal.

To date we have had three groups join us for Eucharistic Adoration and meal; the Diocesan Deacon Candidates, our Diocesan priests, and the Faith Formation catechists from the Cathedral. Each group is so unique. We have mutually appreciated the time to pray with and get to know the deacon candidates; they are such fine men desirous of serving our Lord and His Church. The time with our diocesan priests was precious too, as it was their day off and they chose to spend it with us and our Lord! Over dinner they shared some of the joys and concerns of their ministry, knowing that we were supporting them through prayer. Our latest group, the Faith Formation catechists are lay people working to spread the Gospel. These

catechists come from a variety of backgrounds and stages in life, but all come together working for the glory of God. This combination of prayer and hospitality has been a beautiful initiative helping us and others to grow in greater union with our local dioceses.

in greater union with our local diocese.











From Knoxville

At our Convent in Knoxville, the Sisters hosted two very special Masses to celebrate our Jubilee Year. On September 1, 2023, Fr. Christopher Floersh celebrated Holy Mass in the full Convent Chapel for friends, coworkers, and parishioners who joined us in prayers of thanksgiving for the opening of our Jubilee Year. Following the Mass, all were invited to stay for lunch and to take time for personal prayer in our Chapel to receive the Plenary Indulgence. On September 24, 2023, some of the religious from the Diocese joined us for Holy Mass to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of Mercy, followed by a brunch afterwards. Fr. Adam Royal was the main celebrant for the Mass, assisted by Deacon Sean Smith. Following the White Mass at the Cathedral on October 15, members of the new St. Gianna Guild in Knoxville of the Catholic Medical Association and their families joined the Sisters for a Sunday brunch and time for personal prayer in our Chapel. Sr. Mary Lisa, RSM explained to the children present what an indulgence is, and they took our

responsibility to pray for the faithful departed very

From Winona

In Winona, we had the blessing of having Bishop Barron come to bless our newly-renovated chapel at the opening of our Jubilee Year. We had a special Mass with those who helped with the physical building of the chapel, along with Fr. Schaefer, the vice-rector of the seminary, Fr. Arens, the diocesan liturgist (and emcee for the Mass), and Xavier Kaufman, son of Kris Kaufman who helped with the sacristy, who held Bishop's mitre through the Mass.

On November 11th, we were invited to the Diocesan Women's conference and introduced Venerable Mother Catherine as one of the three patrons of the day. This was a special gift, being Mother's death day! Within this event, we offered a video we created on the life of Mother Catherine, and Sister Agnes Mary and Sister Mary Frances participated on a panel for vocations. We also helped to lead the women in praying Vespers at the end of the day.



From Lake Charles

Our Sisters in Lake Charles hosted two major Mercy celebrations this Fall: the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, and the Memorial of Saint Martin de Porres, the patron of our local Convent. We celebrated our Solemnity with Holy Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and Bishop Provost was the main celebrant. Afterwards, everyone was welcomed to the Convent for an opportunity to pray in our Chapel, to visit, and to enjoy cookies, sweet tea and an ice-cream bar.

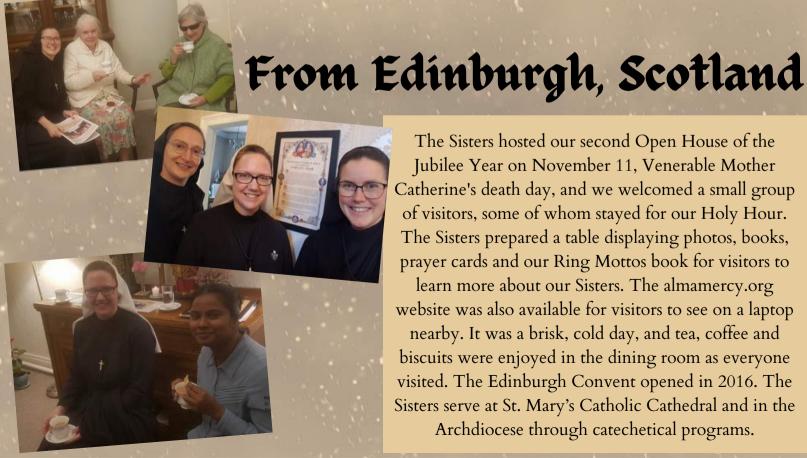
We celebrated the Memorial of St. Martin de Porres with a Eucharistic procession, beginning at a local parish, the parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, carrying our Lord through the neighborhoods of North Lake Charles, ending in our Chapel. Around 40 people joined, many of whom were confirmandi from our African American parishes. We prepared a plethora of goodies, none of which was Cajun food, because we did not dare try to compete with the locals! Many stayed for the reception and spent time with our Lord in the Chapel. Celebrating with our people here in Lake Charles is a delight and a privilege! They just love our Lord and His Church, and they like to eat! The orzo salad was a hit and the recipe was shared many times!



The crowd finishes singing "Holy God we praise Thy Name" with hearts full of gratitude for the gift of our faith, and enough incense to perfume the Chapel for



Our Lord approaches our Convent as the sun sets in Southwest Louisiana.



The Sisters hosted our second Open House of the Jubilee Year on November 11, Venerable Mother Catherine's death day, and we welcomed a small group of visitors, some of whom stayed for our Holy Hour. The Sisters prepared a table displaying photos, books, prayer cards and our Ring Mottos book for visitors to learn more about our Sisters. The almamercy.org website was also available for visitors to see on a laptop

nearby. It was a brisk, cold day, and tea, coffee and biscuits were enjoyed in the dining room as everyone visited. The Edinburgh Convent opened in 2016. The Sisters serve at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral and in the Archdiocese through catechetical programs.

From Phoenix

Just like in every other neighborhood in America, there were several houses around our Convent that were decorated for Halloween.

One house, that was just a few houses down, did a particularly thorough job. They started weeks before and utilized every inch of their front yard. With a growing emphasis on the grotesque and goblins we wanted to offer a reminder of the true meaning and beauty of this Hallow's Eve. Thus, our pumpkin was a 'light in the darkness' for the young, and some not-so-young, trick-o'-treaters who came to our door. St. Therese, St. Teresa of Kolkata, and our Blessed Mother from the Pietà greeted our visitors. The Sisters took turns answering the door and provided a short explanation of who they saw on the pumpkin. From the comments and smiles, I think we offered another sweet treat that night!

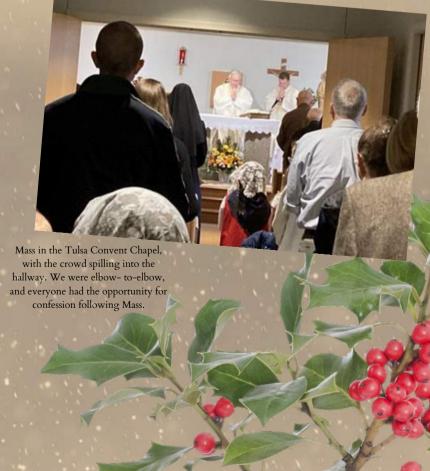
All you holy men and women, pray for us!

From Tulsa

On November 11th, the death anniversary of our Venerable foundress, Mother Catherine McAuley, we hosted our second open house for the Jubilee Year. With over 50 people in attendance, we placed extra chairs in the hall outside our Chapel to accommodate all of our guests. Local priests, Fr. Bryan Brooks and Fr. James Porter, came to celebrate Mass for us, and afterwards heard confessions. Everyone was provided the opportunity to meet all of the conditions of the Jubilee plenary indulgence while they were with us.

After Mass, we had time to visit over scones and tea, using the fine silver, which reminded us of Mother McAuley's Irish hospitality. It was a great joy for us to celebrate the day together and to share our home with so many!





From Sydney, Australia

As part of the celebration for our 50th Jubilee, the Sisters here in Sydney have begun to open up our Chapel at specific times, to family, friends and benefactors so that they can learn about the life and legacy of Venerable Mother Catherine.

It has been a genuine delight to have the faithful such as parents with their children, family members, and parishioners, pray in our Chapel and to share with them the significance of intercessory prayer, Confession, and indulgences as part of the treasury of God's mercy offered by the Church. The beautiful life-sized statue of Mother Catherine and the stunning landscaped area around it (both gifts from benefactors for our Jubilee Year) have become a place of prayer and peace in our garden, most especially for those who are visiting sick and suffering loved ones at the local hospital. Our street library, which was crafted by a member of the local Men's Shed, provides literature on our Jubilee Year as well as catechetical materials.



Top: Street library box, made and donated by the local Men's Shed Bottom: Statue of Mother Catherine

From Clinton, Maryland

Our Open House will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 1:00-5:00pm followed by a Eucharistic Holy Hour and we are excited to host many of the local faithful from our two nearby parishes, families and friends, and our neighbors. It has been a joy to offer to many people in our local area the opportunity to celebrate our Golden Jubilee with us and gain the plenary indulgence. We've opened our Convent to different groups, including young Knights of Columbus for a vocations event and a group of students from a Catholic school in Virginia. This was in addition to Sisters' families visiting and local friends of our community. It is in the spirit of Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley to invite others into our home with great hospitality. We hope that those who join us will be caught up in our charism of mercy by experiencing the infinite mercy of Our Lord in the granting of a plenary indulgence and witnessing our joyful lives as Religious Sisters of Mercy. We are very grateful for the generosity of our benefactors who support us in our mission, especially with their prayers, and are thankful that we are able to invite them, and all who attend our Open House or join us at other times for prayer and repast, to be with us in this privileged year of celebration of our Institute.



Our Chapel in Clinton

From Philadelphia

On November 18, the Sisters hosted our second Open House that culminated in Holy Hour. A dozen guests joined us for Holy Hour, who spanned ages and professions, from young women, missionaries with Christ in the City, to local parishioners, teachers and benefactors of our local community. Questions ranged from general ones about our Institute, *horarium*, and common life to more intimate ones about the faith, the efficacy of indulgences, and purgatory. Many experiences were shared by the guests and the Sisters of encountering Jesus in another.

It was a privileged time in the Heart of Christ in His Church. Many guests of this second Open House also attended the first and plan to come to each Open House we offer, to our joy and theirs!



From Rome, Italy



To celebrate the 50th Jubilee, the Sisters are joyfully welcoming our friends, old and new to join us in prayer, share meals, and meaningful conversation. Our open house in September allowed us to share our new Convent with friends and provided us the occasion to meet many of our new neighbors. Our parish priest has allowed us to display an invitation on the parish bulletin board, welcoming parishioners to contact us if they would like to join for one of our Holy Hours and stay for a simple dinner.

We have had several people respond and it has been a joy to

In November, we hosted a Day of Recollection for Women. Beginning with a short conference, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration was available all day. We provided a warm and simple lunch, and more quiet time. The day concluded with the opportunity for Confession and Holy

welcome them!

Mass.

From Dewitt, Michigan



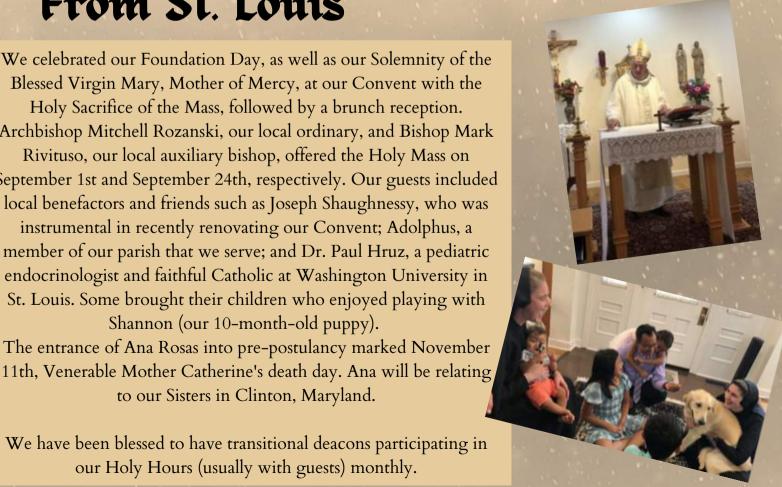
On November 2nd, the Commemoration of All Souls, the Sisters in DeWitt hosted the Motherhouse Community for Mass and dinner. Because of the cold weather, the Mass was held inside, although the Sisters had a chance to visit the cemetery before Mass. As the site of our original cemetery, DeWitt hosts the remains of four of our Mother-Foundresses— Mother Mary Honora, RSM, Mother Maureen, RSM, Mother Jane Mary, RSM, and Mother Barbara Anne Marie, RSM—as well as other Sisters and family members who supported our early foundation. For our 50th Jubilee, we celebrated with fond memory the lives of those who went before us in the life of faith. Our Sister-postulants and novices were regaled with stories of the Sisters who are buried in our cemetery. In his homily at Mass, Fr. Firestone—brother of Mother Jane Mary, RSM, and a witness to the early days of our foundation—reminded us to call upon our forebears in faith to intercede for the needs of our Institute. Our charism of union and charity does not die with the Sister but remains in the life to come and will propel our Institute for the next 50 years and beyond. Moreover, we remembered with gratitude our Mothers and Sisters who founded our Institute and are still with us today.

From St. Louis

We celebrated our Foundation Day, as well as our Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at our Convent with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, followed by a brunch reception. Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, our local ordinary, and Bishop Mark Rivituso, our local auxiliary bishop, offered the Holy Mass on September 1st and September 24th, respectively. Our guests included local benefactors and friends such as Joseph Shaughnessy, who was instrumental in recently renovating our Convent; Adolphus, a member of our parish that we serve; and Dr. Paul Hruz, a pediatric endocrinologist and faithful Catholic at Washington University in St. Louis. Some brought their children who enjoyed playing with Shannon (our 10-month-old puppy). The entrance of Ana Rosas into pre-postulancy marked November

We have been blessed to have transitional deacons participating in our Holy Hours (usually with guests) monthly.

to our Sisters in Clinton, Maryland.



From Gypsum, Colorado

In celebration of our Foundation Day, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated by Father Irek Kuzmicki at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School in Edwards, CO, where all of the Sisters in Gypsum currently serve. The entire school community was present. The Sisters sang Salve Mater Misericordiae during the Offertory Procession. We were surprised to be honored at the end of Mass when our students presented us each with a bouquet of flowers. We are blessed as an Institute to serve the mission of Catholic education here in Colorado!

In this Jubilee Year, we have opened up our Convent Chapel and have invited parishioners and anyone who would like to join us for Holy Hour each Thursday evening. We have been blessed to have several small groups join us for Adoration at our Convent, gaining the plenary indulgence.







From Shaw Island



Openhouse at the Convent





Limerick, Ireland, the Original Foundation

The first foundation of the Limerick Convent by Mother Catherine McAuley took place on September 24, 1838. Here is a description of the arrival of the Sisters as related in the Positio: Documentary Study for the Canonization Process of the Servant of God, Catherine McAuley:

The foundation party arrived in Limerick at eight o'clock on the evening of the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, 24 September 1838. Mother Catherine's first impressions were favourable: she saw unlimited apostolic possibilities on every side, for beyond the north, south and west walls of St. Cell which was to be their temporary abode, lay a festering slum of indescribable wretchedness. ... Her deep feeling for the poor whose plight so affected her is reflected in the following prayer she composed while in Limerick:

My God, look down with pity and mercy on your afflicted poor, and give us grace to do all we can for their relief and comfort.

We most humbly ask your blessing this day, in the name and for the sake of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"HURRA FOR FOUNDATIONS, MAKES THE OLD YOUNG AND THE YOUNG MERRY."

Letter to Sr. Mary Cecilia Marmion (in Baggot Street), Jan 4, 1841 Written from the new foundation in Birr.

Our New Foundation in Limerick, Ireland



Our Convent in Limerick



The Chapel in our new Convent

The Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan began a new local Convent in Limerick, Ireland on November 9, 2023! We were graciously welcomed by Bishop Leahy, the local Ordinary, as well as the delegate for Religious Life, Sr. Phyllis, a Sister of Mercy from the wider Mercy family. We were so grateful for our first Mass in Limerick being on the day of our arrival, the Feast of Saint John

Lateran, celebrated by the Bishop. We look forward to serving in the Diocese in the areas of education and social work. We are so grateful, during our Jubilee Year to be able to return to Ireland, the homeland of our Foundress, Venerable Catherine McAuley and to serve the Church in Ireland, to which we owe so much! We look forward to welcoming people to our beautiful Convent during the coming year!



Sr. Phyllis Moynihan, RSM and Sr. Miriam, RSM on the day of our arrival!



Mother Mary Patricia and Sister Miriam at the Original Convent in Charleville on

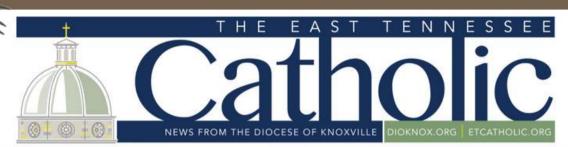
Pilgrimage.



medal of the Blessed Mother

honoring the Year of Mercy





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Religious Sisters of Mercy celebrate 50th anniversary

October 12, 2023



Article in the Diocesan Newspaper, East Tennessee Catholic

CLICK IMAGE TO SEE FULL ARTICLE

Or Visit: https://etcatholic.org/2023/10/religious-sisters-ofmercy-celebrate-50th-anniversary/



Video on Consecrated Life for the Vocation Office, Archdiocese of Sydney



Communication from Washington University in St. Louis with participation of Sister Grace Miriam during Diabetes Day on November 9, 2023

CLICK IMAGES TO SEE FULL ARTICLES

Or visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1jQ62HF1qU and https://endocrinology.wustl.edu/2023-diabetes-day-symposium-recap/



Upcoming events in the local houses

Philadelphia: Chapel open to the public on the weekends to join us for Holy Hour or for a time of prayer and a "comfortable cup of tea."

Lake Charles: February 20: Getting to Know the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Dinner at 6:30pm followed by Talk on the founding of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan at 7:00pm at the Convent. Evening to conclude with Compline

Winona: January 27: Mother/Daughter day at the convent. February 24: Teen Girl's retreat day in preparation for Lent

Tulsa: Jan 27, Apr 6, 9:00am Mass with Confessions, coffee, tea and treats available after Mass until 11:00am

Edinburgh: Jan 13, March 9, Apr 20 Openhouse with Vespers to follow

See more below and on the next page



SAVE THE DATE!

ST. THOMAS SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 "ST. THOMAS ON EVANGELIZATION"

Presentations include:

"Perfection Through Connaturality" Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, RSM, and Sister Mary Juanita Gonsalves, RSM

"The Catholic Physician's Transformation from Imago Dei to Imago Christi" Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM

"Lessons from Saint Thomas Aquinas for Evangelizing through Education" Sister Mary Elisha Glady, RSM

Please email <u>motherhouse@almamercy.org</u> for more information! In celebration our 50th Jubilee year

you are invited to an OPEN HOUSE with the Religious Sisters of Mercy

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2014 FOLLOWED BY A EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR AT 5:10 PM

> 6100 WOLVERTON LANE CLINTON, MD 10735



RSVP: saintandrewsrsm@gmail.com
Interested in praying with us on another day? Please send us an email

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has granted that a

Plenary Indulgence

may be obtained by praying in any of the oratories of our Homes of Mercy throughout the Jubilee year September 1, 2023 - September 1, 2024



An Indulgence is a favor granted to a baptized Catholic by the Church that brings healing from the remaining effects or wounds of sins that have been forgiven. This healing is necessary even after God has forgiven us. To seek the "favor" requires action by the person desiring it and the desire of the Church who was entrusted by Christ with imparting a merciful distribution of the graces of salvation through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The "favor" or "Indulgence" can be either partial or entire in the case of a Plenary Indulgence.

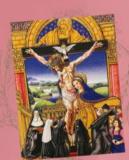
We all sin and once we are forgiven, we need to be purified from the wounds of our sins, mortal or venial. A Plenary Indulgence may be sought by all who, having fulfilled the customary conditions set by the Church, have joined in prayer of thanksgiving with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma during our Jubilee celebrating 50 years of foundation.



you are welcome to join us for Holy Hour at 5:00pm Siete invitati per la nostra l'Ora Santa alle 17:00.

THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS of MERCY

50 Years of Blessings



50 Anni di Benedizioni

To assist with our planning please rsup to rome@almamercy.org

Si prega di rsup a rome@almamercy.org







Christmas Past and Christmas Present















CONTACT INFORMATION:

Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan 1965 Michigan Ave Alma, MI 48801 Email: info@almamercy.org Website: www.almamercy.org Facebook: Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan

"Upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom a light has shone."

- Psaiah 9:26