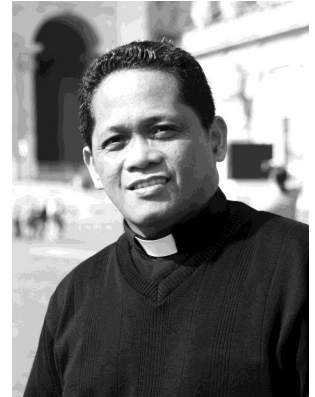




# Communio

As we enter the Holy Season of Lent, we are once again given the opportunity to reflect on the Paschal Mystery of the Lord. And I believe this is also a moment for us to recollect the past years' events and graces that we have received in our lives as members and missionaries of our Lady's Society. This will help us face and continue to move forward in serving the Lord in his vineyard, as we serve the Church, our country, our family and other people in the missions. Our founder, Fr. James Flanagan reminds us to live the Paschal Mystery of Christ. Living and experiencing the Passion, death and Resurrection of Christ, will make a difference in serving and relating with other people, so that when we serve and work with the members in our ecclesial teams and the Church in general, we will be like our Lord, making our modes and ways of thinking and acting patterned after Jesus' ways.



Observing the current situations of the world, where people of some nations are experiencing difficulties from various problems, whether it is because of some political and economic turmoil or because of some natural disasters, the more that we are called to live and proclaim the one and true Gospel of Jesus - the gospel which calls each one to be sincerely united with God. And we, as members of the Church and as members of Our lady's Society, we have a very important task to do for the betterment of this world of today..... We are called to be heralds and troubadours of the gospel. We are called to real witnesses of the One who came in order to elevate our frail human nature. And this I believe that we must start with ourselves. Personal conversion is very necessary in making a change in the world. Conversion of the world and of the Church always starts from the "I". In one of the General Audiences held at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome with Pope Benedict XVI, he mentioned that: "There can be no reform in the Church without personal conversion".

The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity is preparing for the 5th General Chapter which will be held at the Our Lady of Corpus Christi, Texas which is tentatively dated on July 4-13 and this will be followed by the General Assembly from July 14-17, 2011. In the General Chapters we will be having the elections of the new General Priest Servant and his council, the General Sister Servant and her council to be presided by the Bishop of the Principal Seat, and the election of the General Lay Servant and his Council to be presided by the GPS or his delegate. It is also in this chapter that the chapter members will discuss matters that pertain to the Constitutions and directories, and the lay statutes.

Please pray for this 5th General Chapters as we choose the new Servants of our community who will serve in the next 5 years in the life and mission of the Society of Our Lady. Let us all be guided by the word and teachings our Lord in serving in his vineyard and let us all be guided by the **THEME of our 5th General Chapter: "THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY"**.



In Communion, +

Very Rev. Fr. Rogel B. Rosalinas, SOLT



Bosque Mission

Two of the Postulants, Sister Anna and Sister Therese have been sent to ask a few questions concerning God's Divine Providence in bringing us originally to Holman, NM, and now coming full circle to Bosque, NM, where we were originally. I'll be very happy to share with them what is certainly a witness of the Divine Plan of the Father for Our Lady's Society. It certainly witnesses the Divine Plan that the Father has for our Lady's Society to be returning here to New Mexico. Our first coming was filled with gifts and graces and blessings from God for which we are eternally grateful, and now in our returning we hope to make even more fruitful the work in the Church here in New Mexico. Again, we must be very grateful for all the gifts and graces and blessings that have come again to us, Our Lady's Society.

[Before I returned,] I had many breaks in the bones in my right side from falling, so I was placed in a nursing home. One evening the head nurse came and said to me, "I have a confession to make to you, Father." So I thought she was talking about going to Confession. She said, "No, that's not it, Father. The night before last in my room at the hospital, someone came into my room. It was the figure of a man. And he said to me, 'I want you to tell Father Jim that his sufferings aren't for himself, they are for others.' And I was afraid to come and tell you that." I was very grateful for that sharing and thank God for His blessings.

However, the Society decided that I should come and be with the Society and they would provide the care for me along with the Veterans' hospital system here in New Mexico. The wounds that I received are now healing and I'm becoming stronger and stronger and am able to take up many of my duties for Our Lady's Society again for which I am very grateful to God and Our Lady.

We began in Holman with Our Lady's sisters at the beginning of Our Lady's Society and I have returned to be with her sisters again for which I am exceedingly blessed. I am able to assume preaching again, in the rotation that the priests have here, with the sisters. Also I am working again with the teachings of the Holy Father, his encyclical and his writings and to share them as teachings with Our Lady's Sisters. This is a great joy and delight and I thank Our Lady for it. I was told by a doctor in the beginning that I would never walk again. I am walking, however, with a walker and hope to come to walking free of any support as soon as God gives that blessing.

I find that Our Lady has brought many vocations to Our Lady's Sisters, and we are exceedingly grateful for this great blessing to the Most Holy Trinity for the calling and vocations of our Sisters for Our Lady's Society. The Society has grown with many priests for in the beginning it was Father John and myself, but now we have many brother priests and seminarians and brothers for Our Lady's Society. Many of them are in the missions, and thank God, are serving as Jesus served. And we are eternally one with our brothers in their priesthood, especially in these times where the

priesthood is under such tremendous attack. Our Lady has many lay faithful, married with their families and also single laity. This time is the age of the laity, so we want to stress the unity of the lay vocation and calling, together with the priests and those in consecrated life as sisters and brothers, and we have a wonderful development in consecrated widows which the Church has brought to consecrated life. We are hopeful to bring the other vocations which the Church has brought to serve in consecrated life as consecrated widowers and hermits and hermitesses and consecrated virgins in the world. Some of these forms of consecrated life have been present previously in the Church, but some are entirely new to serving in the Church. We hope to serve in both these areas of new forms of consecrated life. It is such a great privilege and honor to be able to serve in the Church. And we ask Our Lady to bring her Society to all that is in the will and plan of God in the Trinity. We are grateful also for the prayers of the People of God and all those in the various vocations and callings serving in the Church in the different parts of the world. We ask that it continue to pray for all the members of Our Lady's Society throughout the world that we may become one with our Heavenly Father and with Jesus and the Holy Spirit as Our Lady became one with Them, as the Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Spirit. We are most grateful for all the gifts that you have bestowed upon Our Lady's Society and ask God to reward you a hundredfold, pressed down and flowing over with Our Lady's gifts.

We are especially grateful for all those members of Our Lady's Society that God has taken into Eternal Life to be with Him as one family of Our Father. We ask all the angels and saints to intercede and bring all the members-- all *her* members and all those who are to come in the future, to the holiness to which God has called them, to be holy as God is holy, and to bring them to give honor and glory to God, to exalt His majesty, that is to restore all things in Christ and to manifest His greatness in all the Apostolic Works of the Church.





## Apostolic Visit

**Submitted by:** Sister Anne Marie Walsh

The Sisters would like to give a special thanks to Fr. Flanagan, who helped prepare us for an Apostolic Visitation by members of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, which occurred in December, 2010.

The visitation was very positive. Several times the visitators made informal comments, saying they saved the best for last (We were their last onsite visitation, at least for this team of visitators.) This is a process that has been going on for about 2 years now. We had initial contact with the Visitation office to introduce the community. (I sent a letter and one of our anniversary books.) Then we were asked to fill our statistical reports, and written reports regarding the community, through questions they provided. It was all fairly extensive. After that, 25% of all the religious women's communities in the US were chosen for onsite visitations, based on whether they were representative of growth or decline. We were chosen, I presume, for the former reason.

We had an opening prayer service on Dec. 5, after which the visitators were introduced and then got up to speak a little about the process and how it would work. We had 55 Sisters in attendance, including some of the postulants and novices. From Dec. 6 then to Dec. 9, there were group and individual interviews. The visitators (Sr. Maureen Martin, Apostles of the Sacred Heart, and Fr. Dominic Izzo, a Dominican) began with the leadership team, myself and my council. We were given time to share on each of the areas that I had already submitted in written form: administration, formation, finances, spirituality, mission, charism, etc. Then they had a series of questions which they asked. The whole session went very well, and they seemed pleased with our presentation.

They met also with the formatters as a group, novices as groups, first professed as groups, perpetual professed as groups, as well as doing individual interviews with those who requested them, and several interviews by phone, with those who couldn't make it. We set them up to meet Fr. Jim via a SKYPE conference, and they were quite impressed with that, commenting several times on how blessed we were to still have our Founder. They also met with a Focus group consisting of Bishop Carmody (Bp. Gracida was scheduled to come but got sick at the last minute), Fr. Ogie, Fr. Dale, Fr. Gerry, Mona Lisa Biberstein, Jenny Rizzio and Mike Pond. We were not present for that but heard it went well.

Finally they met with Bishop Mulvey. When they came back they asked to see me. They began by thanking us for all we are doing to serve the Church, and asked us to make sure Bishop Mulvey knows all the good things going on with the Sisters. They said the Sisters know the charism well and articulate it well (they seemed very interested in and encouraging of our charism), they understand well their vocations as Spouses of Christ, and they have an obvious love for the Church. They told us that the Sisters are ready for Pontifical status. They encouraged us to continue to develop financial means to sustain the growth of the Sisters.

We tried to give them an experience of our charism where possible. The first 3 Masses were presided over by Fr. Ogie, Fr. Dale and Fr. Gerry. Fr. Dominic Izzo presided over the closing Mass for the Visitation. The Brothers were present on campus and at meals, and very helpful in assisting us with various needs. And of course our Lay faithful were in and about as well. Special thanks should go to Fr. Sam, who managed the technical set up, and overall, tried to accommodate us in every way with special needs.

**Kansas City Mission - Our Lady's Montessori School**

**Submitted by:** Sister Mary, Mediatrix of All Grace  
and Sister Mary Elisabeth of the Coronation



**Our Lady's Montessori School (OLMS)**, formerly called Children's House, is one of the oldest operating apostolates of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. The **Kansas City Ecclesial Team** founded the original school in 1975 on Tracy Avenue, where it served up to sixty children from three to twelve years of age. A variety of SOLT members and volunteers staffed the school throughout its history. At one time, Children's House served a number of Vietnamese refugees who the team helped resettle in the area.

In 1998, the team closed the school on Tracy Avenue while seeking a better facility for the program. In 2002, Angeline Rasoamialy located a Knights of Columbus Hall in Kansas City, Kansas, and reinitiated the program.

At present, OLMS serves young children ages one to six. Utilizing the Montessori philosophy advocated by Fr. James Flanagan, it helps children reach their highest potential. Dr. Maria Montessori recognized that young children experience "*sensitive periods*" in their development, a range of time wherein an attraction to a particular work explodes. This method of education allows children to work in the areas they are drawn to during the various sensitive periods to develop those particular skills; their incremental accomplishments give them a sense of mastery in their work.

Located in the center and heart of the school is the Oratory, where Jesus is present in the Eucharist. Twice-monthly Mass, daily prayers and instruction by the teachers, and the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Program** offered by our Sisters ensure the Catholicity of the school. The CGS program utilizes the same principles found in Montessori and is based on Scripture and Liturgy. The children listen to scripture or learn about the liturgy using hands-on materials that help them understand what they have heard and seen.

**Our Lady's Montessori School** has been developing and improving its current program and facility. Renovations have made it a beautiful place to allow the young children to grow. The presence of religious sisters in the school has helped develop its identity in the community, and this past year novices have served at OLMS during their apostolic year of formation.

Father Jim has spoken of the need for Montessori education to be taken to the missions and propagated. Perhaps this little gem of Our Lady will be a foundation on which future Montessori educators and catechists will be formed to go out and bring this dream to fruition.



### Consecrated Widows

We ask, St. Bakita, Saint of abused women, Our patron, to help us as we focus our prayers and energies for these women.

**Please pray with us:**

Most high Loving Father, Creator of all Humankind, we ask you as Consecrated Widows, to hear this special prayer:

We know that we merit nothing for ourselves, by yet, we dare to ask You on behalf of all those who are annihilated, cast out, tortured and abused simply because they are female.

We beg You to rescue them from their plight. We pray for each of these souls, that they may receive the promises of Christ and enjoy the help and protection of our Mother of the Most Holy Trinity. Amen



Our numbers continue to grow, thanks be to God who graces us with many gifts. While our apostolate is mostly one of prayer, Our Lady's CWs are involved in many other works.

Abused females are helped physically as well as spiritually. Several CWs are helping in shelters, others are counseling these families. CWs are collecting personal care items for abused women prisoners. But most of us are serving out families and friends, endeavoring to bring them closer to Our Lady and the Most Holy Trinity.

Pray for those in Formation; pray for CW Billie Ann Steward who is very weak and in great need of everyone's prayer for a peaceful transition "home". She is our oldest CW and is in a very good nursing care facility.

Also pray for Sharon Blue who will make her Consecration Promises very soon. Hopefully on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

May God bless you all, Nikki Sullivan, CW SOLT



**Drawn by :**  
Linda Shellenbarger  
- 2010 -



### Profession of Perpetual Vows

Sister Janet Marie Newcome made her profession of Perpetual Vows in the presence of Sister Anne Marie Walsh on Friday, February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at a 5:30PM Mass at St. John's Church in Robstown, Texas. Fr. Vincent Albano was the main Celebrant with approximately 13 of Our Lady's Society priests con-celebrating.

In attendance were many Society Sisters, Laity and four visiting Communities of Sisters from the Diocese. Following the ceremony a lovely reception was enjoyed by all!!

**Congratulations, Sister Janet Marie!**

Submitted by Rosemary Houghton

### Members of Our Community Who Are Sick and Need Prayers:

Fr. Jim Flanagan	Ann Craig
Conrad Gonzales	Sr. Mary Joseph Bregin
Stephen Lickteig	Philip Bauer



### Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Deacon Paul McCarlle  
Fr. Ogie's father, Antonio Rosalinas  
Juanita Correa  
Sr. Heather's Grandfather, Edward Danda  
Sr. Mary of the Incarnation's Sister, Mary Howland  
Brother Philip Howard, deceased 2/28/11



### **Solt American Region Lay Council**

During the past two years, Fr. Gerry Sheehan (our Regional Priest Servant) and members of the American Region Lay Community, have been working on the building of the American Regional Offices. The offices will be located on the Rancho Santo Tomas property, which sits on 100 acres, in Violet, Texas.

With God's help, our hope is to fish for souls and to help form disciples of Jesus and Mary.

#### **Our Servant board members are:**

**Mike Pond, Elected Regional Lay Servant.** Mike joined SOLT in 2001, in Covington, Ga. Mike and his wife, Melinda, have been blessed with seven children.

**Mike Rizzio, Assistant to the Regional Lay Servant.** Mike has been a member of SOLT since November 21, 1998. Mike and his wife Jen (Jen's family have been members of SOLT since 1993), have been blessed with three children.

**Ken Dawson, Second Assistant to the Regional Lay Servant.** Ken became a member of SOLT in 2004. Ken and his wife, Christine, have been blessed with eight children.

**Mona Lisa Biberstein, Third Assistant to the Regional Lay Servant.** Mona and her husband, Dr. Joseph, were assigned as the "family" on the lay formation team, in 2001. They became definitive members in 2004. Mona and Dr. Joseph have been blessed with four children.

### **Series of Videos by Fr. Antonio Anderson**

In obedience to Fr. Dale Craig and Fr. Zachary of the Mother of God, Fr. Antonio Anderson has taped a series of videos in Spanish that will serve to form lay people in the Spirituality of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. The thirteen part Spanish series will soon be available on dvd and online.

In the meantime, you can see Fr. Antonio online with a sample teaching in English on the Holy Rosary at: <http://franciscanjourney.com>

Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Spirit  
 American Regional Headquarters  
 3816 County Road 61  
 Robstown, Texas 78380  
 Telephone: 361-387-8090



March 22, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Our Lady:

May the blessings of the Covenant Communion of the Most Holy Trinity be with you!

We are in the process of preparing for the 2011 General Chapter and Assembly. We thank God for the blessings of this past year and seek His guidance for the future of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. Our theme for this year's Chapter and Assembly will be:

**"THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY"**

Our tentative schedule will be:

Monday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	General Chapter – Arrival & Registration
Tuesday, July 5 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	General Chapter of respective Vocations
Tuesday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	General Assembly – Arrival & Registration and Entrance into Novitiate of Sisters
Wednesday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Renewal for all Vocations
Thursday, July 14 <sup>th</sup>	General Assembly – First Profession of Sisters
Friday, July 15 <sup>th</sup>	General Assembly – Consecrated Widows
Saturday, July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation Day – Perpetual Profession of Sisters
Sunday, July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Closing Mass at 9:00 AM and departure

Accommodations at OLCC will once again be available; however, it is best to register as early as possible. We recognize the rising cost of everything and are trying our best to keep the cost to a minimum. If you are attending the General Chapter and the Assembly the cost will be \$125 for a bed and \$175 for food. If you are planning to attend only the General Assembly the cost will be \$100 for food and \$75 for a bed for the week. The arrival date for those attending both the General Chapter and Assembly should be July 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. The arrival date for those attending only the General Assembly should be Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. When making departure plans we ask that everyone be conscious that we have a retreat group coming in on the evening of Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> that will be using Our Lady's House where many of you will be staying. Please let us know if you are planning to attend by filling out the Registration Form enclosed. **Note: Those who are eligible to attend the General Chapter are the following: Priests and Brothers who are perpetually professed, Professed Sisters and Committed and Definitive Lay Members.**

We ask that each mission provide a mission report and that each mission or individual (if you do not have a team) provide a financial report. Please send these reports in before the Assembly.

Trusting in your kind consideration  
 I remain your humble servant in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Gerry Sheehan, SOLT  
 American Regional Priest Servant

Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of persons attending (*yourself included*): \_\_\_\_\_

*For a family, please list each child's name and age separately.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I (We) need housing at **OLCC: Yes / No**  
**(no single rooms available, rooms will be given out on a first come first serve basis)**

I (We) need to be **picked up** at the **Corpus Christi Airport: Yes / No**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight #: \_\_\_\_\_

People in Party: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I (We) need to be **dropped off** at the **Corpus Christi Airport: Yes / No**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND TO:**

SOLT General Chapter & Assembly 2011

ATTN: Sr. Mary Anne Boonsawang, SOLT

P.O. Box 9785

Corpus Christi, TX 78469

## Little Saint's Corner

### Prayer Pots Teach Lessons from Ash Wednesday through Lent

#### Making Small Clay Lenten Pots



Give each child a rectangle of modeling clay. Don't use Play-Doh or clay that will dry up. Regular modeling clay or Sculpey brand clay is best. Let the children mold the clay into a pot or bowl shape.

Older children may want to decorate their prayer pots with small beads or by carving designs into them with a toothpick.

#### Prayer Pot Instructions:

**On Ash Wednesday:** Place the prayer pot in a special place where it can't be missed, perhaps the center of the family table. It reminds everyone that Lent is here, but remains empty for the next few days.

**On the First Sunday of Lent:** A small heart cut from construction paper is placed in the pot during the main meal, to remind everyone of God's love and that they should show their love for, and be kind to, others.

**On the Second Sunday of Lent:** A small seed is placed in the pot to remind everyone that God's love for them constantly grows and that they should show love and compassion for other people.

**On the Third Sunday of Lent:** Place a rubber band in the pot as a reminder that God always stretches His patience and everyone should do the same for others, even when it isn't easy.

**On the Fourth Sunday of Lent:** A marble is placed in the pot to remind everyone to take turns and share with others in all that they do.

**On the Fifth Sunday of Lent:** Add a Band-Aid to the pot to remind everyone to help other people when they are sad or hurt.

**On Palm Sunday:** Place a tiny piece of the palm you get at mass, to remind everyone that Jesus is their King and they should remember to say their prayers to Him.

**On Easter Sunday:** The last item is a tiny piece of eggshell to remind everyone that Jesus will always be with them and is always ready to hear their prayers.

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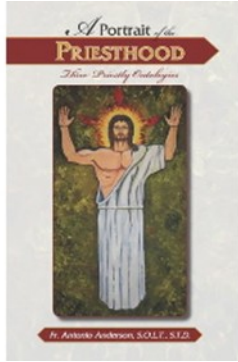
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#### Newsletter Information

Our goal is to publish the next newsletter in May, so that you may receive it before the General Assembly.

We will contact you in April, and ask that if you have something to submit, that you would do so by April 15th. Please email your information to Rosalie Buergler at [burgsbeach.me.com](mailto:burgsbeach.me.com)

Thank you, and God bless you! Gert Patterson



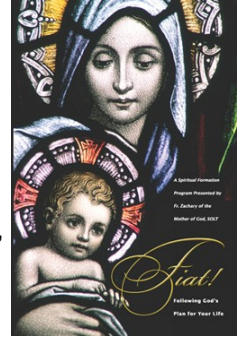
**A Portrait of the Priesthood**

**Author:**  
Fr. Antonio Anderson

This little book on the priesthood is recommended by Fr. John Corapi to priests, religious and lay faithful as "insightful and incredibly relevant." Bishop Rene Gracida commends "this book to all who seek to understand what it means to be a priest of Christ in today's world." Bishop Thomas Olmsted calls the work "solid" both philosophically and theologically.

Get a copy for your self, and also consider giving it as a present to your lay or ordained friends. **The proceeds go to help Our Lady's mission in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.**

To order from Amazon, go to: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and please search by the title.



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**Author:**  
Fr. Zachary of the Mother of God,  
SOLT

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