

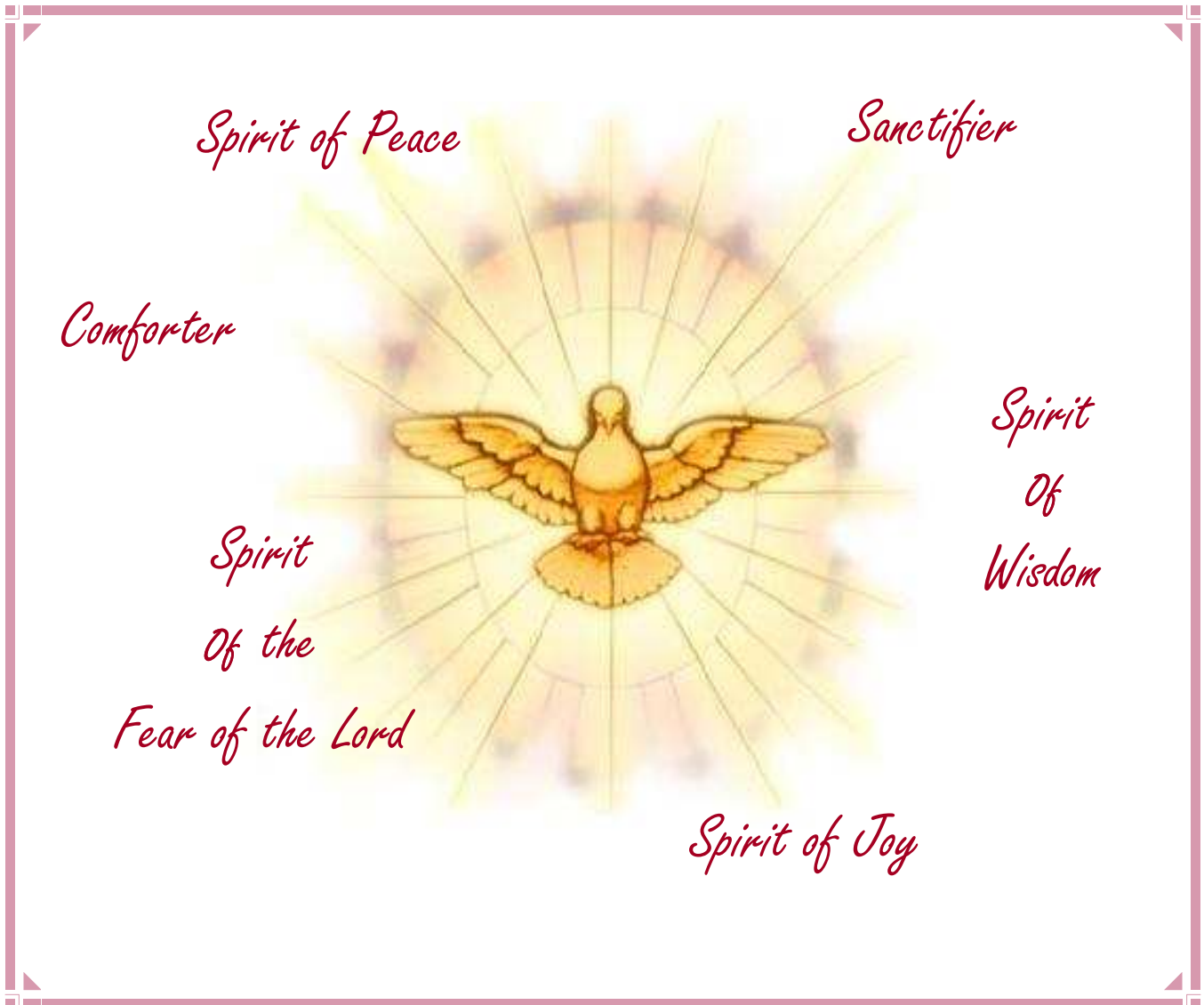
Volume 5, Issue 2  
Summer, 2011

# The Vine

A Newsletter of the Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

I am the Vine, you are  
the branches. Whoever  
remains in Me and I in  
him will bear much fruit,  
because without Me you  
can do nothing.  
John 15:5

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



*Enkindle in us the Fire of Your Love  
and renew the face of the earth*



*Letter from Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ  
Provincial Superior*

Dear Friends,

As we are closing the Easter Season, we rejoice in the gift of the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is at work in us, in the Church, and in the world, helping us to be witnesses to Christ, especially to His death and Resurrection. The Holy Spirit truly has a special place in my life, especially since my Confirmation and then in leading me to recognize my vocation and assist me in my religious life. There is no day that I do not say the prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit" because I need His guidance. I invite you also to invoke the help of the Holy Spirit in all your needs.

We are happy again to share with you our newest issue of the *Vine* in this Month dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



To contact us:

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OF THE MOST SACRED  
HEART OF JESUS**

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This is our first opportunity to share memories and photos from our second annual Gala Dinner held in February. What a beautiful celebration it was in which we could honor our Mother Amabilis Debicka who came to America 50 years ago. I would like to thank all Dinner Committee members and all our generous donors and patrons who made this event possible and enjoyable. Please be assured of our gratitude and our Sisters' prayers.

Now that warmer months have arrived, many more exciting things have taken place in this month of June! Our American Province was so very blessed to have experienced the

visitation of our General Superior from Krakow, Poland, Mother Agnieszka Kijowska, and the General Assistant Sr. Margerita Gruca, who visited the convents and apostolates of our Sisters in the United States and in Jamaica, West Indies. Mother General could see the many good works our Sisters are fulfilling for God's children and she encouraged us in our life of prayer and service on behalf of those whom we serve.



We also celebrated with Mother General the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our American Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. A Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> to mark this milestone and we were blessed to have as principle celebrants the Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown and Most Reverend Joseph Adamec, Bishop Emeritus, also as homilist. Many other priests and friends joined us for this celebration and we hope to share more on this in our next issue of the *Vine*.

Finally, at the end of the month of June, beginning on June 22<sup>nd</sup> we join in praying our **Annual Sacred Heart Novena** remembering all intentions sent to us and we observe our Annual Sacred Heart Triduum and Solemnity (June 28-July 1<sup>st</sup>) with this year's director being the newly ordained Father Brian Warchola of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

There are many graces we are receiving from the Loving Heart of our Lord and we also ask Him to bless and protect all of you!

United in prayer.

Mother Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ  
Provincial Superior

## THE HOLY SPIRIT GIFT OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*Based on the Writings  
of our Father Founder  
Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar*

Although the Lord Jesus ascended and entered into His heavenly glory, He did not sever His close union with humanity, rather he even strengthened it. Now in an infinite, spiritual realm, the Lord Jesus is able to give Himself at once personally to each and everyone in the world.

He does this by means of the Holy Spirit who is the personifying love between God the Father and God the Son. In the descent of the Holy Spirit and through His action, we can also recognize the gift of Jesus to us, that is, the love of His Divine Heart.

St. Joseph Sebastian reminds us that the Holy Spirit enlightens, sanctifies and strengthens the human soul, redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. In fact, through the future merits of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit was already doing so from the beginning of the world. The Savior promised to send this Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. He repeated this promise later after His Resurrection, and commanded them to *wait until they were clothed with power from on high* (Lk 24:49).

On the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of the Lord, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles gathered together in the Cenacle. There is a great mystery in such a number of days. Fifty days after consuming the paschal lamb and the exodus from Egypt, the Israelites received the old covenant on Mount Sinai.

Similarly, fifty days after the Resurrection of the Savior, who as Lamb of God had led humanity out of the Egypt of sin, the New Covenant of love and grace was promulgated to the whole world. The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the

radiant light of faith and enkindled in them a great fire of love toward God and neighbor.

The Holy Spirit desires to come to each person and abundantly bestow His gifts, but He requires that we desire and implore them. For this reason He gives us a spirit of prayer, and what is even more, He Himself makes intercession within us and for us, *in groanings*, as the Apostle says, *that cannot be expressed in speech* (Rom 8:26). All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are closely united with sanctifying grace and only in relation to sanctifying grace can these gifts be received and increased and unfortunately, lost. Mortal sin saddens the Spirit and separates us from Him.



The Holy Spirit strengthens and enlivens our faith, sustains us in our weakness, arms us for battle against evil, and gives us fortitude. He is the Spirit of light and holiness, power and consolation. He enlightens the teaching Church and gives her the gift of infallibility. He enlightens the faithful also

by preparing their hearts so that they can believe. He also indirectly acts through people and in the circumstances of life, in joys, as in crosses. He speaks directly through illumination and inspirations.

Through the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus renewed the face of the earth, renewing all humanity and through the sacraments the Holy Spirit pours out upon us the sanctifying grace that flows from the wounds of Jesus. As the personified love of the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit unites us with the Holy Trinity, as Consoler leading us to the sweetest and most sure sources, particularly the Most Merciful Heart of Jesus that ever beats for us in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Before each prayer and each important task, let us ask the Holy Spirit for God's light: Come Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind and enkindle my heart with the fire of your love. †



## Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dear Friends of the Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,

**“Living the Dream”** was this year’s theme for our Gala Dinner and Auction. We had the great joy and privilege of honoring Mother Amabilis Debicka, who left Poland fifty-years ago to come to America to fulfill the dream of Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar to spread the love of the Sacred Heart everywhere. Mother is so humble and would not like being the center of attention. We had to hide our plans from her. We kept the secret. This was not an easy feat to accomplish, as Mother is one quick-on-the-draw lady. We had many a meeting without her in attendance and that helped to put one over on her. I would not like to try that again. She was really surprised that the evening was about her.



If you were not able to attend the Gala Dinner and Auction sponsored by the Sisters, you missed a very good time. Paul Sloan was in his element as Master of Ceremonies. He told many stories and Mother Amabilis joked with him not to take her name in vain. Whenever he would go to the podium you would see smiles on everyone’s face.



The play about Mother Amabilis coming to America was entertaining and full of information. Sister Maximilia Maria, who played Mother Amabilis was exceptional and had Mother “down to a ‘t’”. The pierogi-making Sisters stole the show, thank you Sister Marietta Therese and Sis-

ter Maria Anna and, good job, Danny Trexler in the role of Bishop Pelczar. The Sisters’ singing was angelic. Ward Prostejovsky gave a fantastic testimonial about Mother Amabilis and what an amazing person to honor.

Cont’d on page 6



### PLEASE REMEMBER US

when making or revising your will.

Our name is:

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our federal ID Number is: **75-236-912**

## **Guaranteed Income for Life**

By Robert J. Allen

With this article I want to introduce you to a program offered by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus called “Charitable Gift Annuity”.

This is not an insurance annuity but is an agreement between you and the charity to assure you a fixed rate of return on your gift for the remainder of your life or for two persons (Joint or Survivor Annuity).

The Sacred Heart Charitable Gift Annuity offers you five financial and spiritual benefits:

1. You are helping your charity
2. You will receive a guaranteed fixed income
3. You are eligible for a tax deduction
4. You will have a tax-free portion for a fixed period
5. You will be enrolled in the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Legacy Society and enjoy sharing in the prayers, Masses and monthly Novenas of the Sisters.

Our gifts are held in a separate, segregated reserved fund managed by Morgan Stanley Asset Management and in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

If you would like more information on how this would benefit you, we will send you a confidential personalized Educational Illustration giving you the return you will be guaranteed with and your tax information.

There is no obligation to receive this report. Just send us your name, address, birth year and a request for a one or two life illustration. No one will contact you unless you request a follow up.

We hope you will give this your prayerful consideration for support of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and for your financial future.



THANKS TO ALL who responded so kindly to our appeal for a sewing machine! We had a wonderful response and the donated machines were shared with our convents in need. Some of our Sisters will even be receiving sewing lessons! Thanks for helping us to “mend” this problem so quickly!

## ***The Invitational—Sacred Heart Sisters***

### **Fourth Annual Golf Tournament**

**Friday, September 9, 2011**

**Summit Country Club, Cresson, PA**



**Sponsor or play and enjoy a day of golf at the beautiful  
Summit Country Club while helping the Sisters!**

**For more information call Richard at 472-5928**

# Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Continued from page 4

The set-up of the Imperial Room lent itself well to this nice event, and the staff was most accommodating. What can I say about the food? Very elegant and delicious! The Sisters out-did themselves. Everyone enjoyed the Sisters sitting at the tables with the patrons.

The Silent Auction had many exciting baskets and paintings. The Live Auction was lively and profitable. Great job, Mr. Chris Rowe!

The Dinner Committee again this year was full of ideas and great work. Joan Gregg, Sondre Harteis, Ruth Diehl, Cynthia Zack, and Roz Servinsky are a fun group to work with. Laughter was a big part of our time together. Thank you, ladies, for a job well done. May God bless you always for sharing your time, talents and treasure.



There were many generous contributors to this dinner and your names and companies are published in this Vine. Without your support the Dinner would not have happened. God bless all of you. To the friends of the Sisters who attended this dinner, thank you for making the evening so enjoyable.



We are not sure about next year. Maybe something different might take place but whatever it may be, it will be memorable and we hope you will continue to be part of the lives of the Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Betty Sloan

Dinner Chairperson



## NUNS ON WHEELS...

Would you like to donate a used vehicle...car, truck, van, as is?



While we may need to sell it or trade it, this donation will be a great help to us and you can claim its value as a charitable gift and tax deduction to the extent the law allows.

The Sisters will be grateful!

Are you seeking residential, personal care for your loved one? Please consider our **John Paul II Manor** in Cresson, PA where our Sisters offer 24-hour care in a loving and secure environment. For information, please contact: **Sr. Mary Andrew 814-886-7961**



**THANK YOU TO ALL DINNER SPONSORS!!!**

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**LIVE AUCTION**

Anonymous (Willow Tree Nativity Set)  
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Sisters' Monthly Soup & Bread

**THE CONGREGATION OF SISTER SERVANTS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

is an international religious community engaged in educational and charitable works founded in Krakow, Poland in 1894, by Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar for the holiness of its members and works of mercy towards the poor, sick and marginalized.

In 1959, Sisters of the Sacred Heart arrived on the North American Continent to serve at a Vincentian Seminary in Erie, Pennsylvania, and three years later, through zealous prayer and through the generosity of others, the Sisters were received into the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at Portage, Pennsylvania, where they were able to open their own first mission post on American soil. In those early days, the Sisters were engaged in the study of English and American culture as well as in work as teachers, sacristans and nurses, apostolates that continue to this day. With the support of new American vocations, the foundation grew, eventually being named a Province in 1986, with Mother Amabilis Debicka as the first Provincial Superior in the United States.

Presently the Province has houses represented in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in the Dioceses of Altoona-Johnstown PA, Wilmington, DE, and Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

From humble beginnings, the Sisters now serve in many varied endeavors to extend the Kingdom of God's love within themselves and in everyone, that God may be glorified everywhere:

- Dedicating their service to the elderly and needy at their personal care home, John Paul II Manor, Cresson, PA
- Religious training in parishes
- Parish work as secretaries and organists
- Working in Wilmington, Delaware in early childhood training and with the impoverished, unchurched, elderly, and sick
- Work in conducting retreats and summer camps for children and youth
- Since 2004, serving in Maggoty, Jamaica, West Indies in the Diocese of Mandeville in our clinic, in teaching and above all bringing the Love of the Heart of Jesus to the poorest
- Helping all those who come to us for assistance, remembering the words of our Holy Father Founder, Saint Joseph Sebastian Pelczar:

*LOVE IS BORN IN THE HEART IS EXPRESSED IN WORDS, BUT LIVES IN DEEDS.*

*Canticle of Glory*

Glory be yours, O Heart of Jesus  
At every time, in every season,  
In every home, at every hearth,  
Glory be yours through all the earth!  
Glory is fitting  
To You, O Great King,  
Glory be yours, in everything!  
Glory by conquest,  
Glory by right,  
Glory be yours from morn till night.

Glory in great things,  
Glory in least,  
May your great glory be ever increased!  
Glory in gladness,  
Glory in tears  
Glory be yours through all our years.  
Glory in prayer  
And glory in labor  
Glory in love we extend to our neighbor.

Glory in good health  
Glory in ill,  
Glory be yours in all that you will.  
Glory in life and glory in death  
Zeal for your glory consumes us and yet  
In this does your Servant  
find joy and contentment:  
To work for your Glory  
your Kingdom's extension

Until all the world  
will exclaim all together,

**GLORY BE TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS!  
GLORY FOREVER!**