



Sisters of Saint John the Baptist Baptistine Associates

Community Happenings



Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter.

Around the Province



Associates from St. Raymond's continued their annual tradition of working with The Rosary Altar Guild of St. Dominic's Church to sponsor a parish-wide gift collection to benefit and pay tribute to the

Sisters of St. John the Baptist who served at St. Dominic's for close to 75 years and are NEVER forgotten.

At the start of Advent, gift tags were put on a Christmas tree near the church sanctuary with suggested gifts for the residents of Providence Rest and the retired Sisters at Mt. St. John Convent, Purchase.

Parishioners wholeheartedly supported the effort with many gifts to show their deep appreciation to the Sisters for everything they have done and for all they mean to them.

St. Raymond's Associates met with the Sisters on January 8th and celebrated a beautiful Prayer Service for the Feast of the Epiphany. All had the



chance to reflect on one's own giftedness and how like Father Founder, each is light for the world. Then all enjoyed a wonderful home-cooked dinner.



Saint Roch Associates met in September and November for

Lectio Divina and supper

afterward. On December 3rd, they joined the community at St. Roch for their Advent Day of Prayer with the theme of "being a light to others". Lunch was provided, the Sisters and Associates created "O Antiphon" projects, and Msgr. Whalen gave an enlightening talk regarding the presipio in Precious Blood Church, Manhattan.



St. John Villa Associates usually meet on Thursday evenings. They join the

Sisters for evening office, dinner, conversation, and prayer night. Two new Associates, Eugenia Perrotta and Lenora Palermo, will be installed on Founders Day.

St. Fortunata has an associate, Maria Del Deo, joining them for Wednesday morning prayer. Maria participated in their Advent Day of Prayer.

The installation of new Associates and renewal commitment of all Associates is February 4th (today) at Providence Rest.

Each year, every Associate is required to attend either the Installation or the liturgy for the deceased Sisters and Associates.

St. Philomena Convent On Saturday, Dec.7, 2016 the Baptistine Associates, the Baptistine Friends of St. Philomena Parish and all of the Sisters of this local community shared a day of prayer. The day began with all participating in the parish morning Mass; then gathering at the convent all enjoyed coffee and...

Sr. Regina facilitated the day the theme of which was "Gifts". Included in the day was time for reading material relative to the theme, quiet prayer and reflection and sharing. A guided meditation ended the retreat portion of the day.



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All enjoyed continuing the sharing at a delicious lunch enjoyed by all.

Thank you notes and much positive feedback in the days following the retreat were greatly appreciated.

Founder's Corner

The Spiritual Life/Charism Committee asks that all Baptistines and Associates reflect upon one of the Founder's virtues each month.

February: hope

March: forgiveness

April: compassion

Ask yourself the following questions:

How does this virtue pertain to Father Founder?

How does it pertain to me?



A Sister's Reflections on the Canonization

Sr. Anne Dolores

Joy everywhere we went...Hope Restored!

The canonization of Alfonso Maria Fusco for me was a dream come true. My entire religious life, I had faithfully prayed the prayer for the "Glorification" of our Founder and I can now admit that while I had Hope that this dream would come true, my faith wavered many times.

The joy I felt attending the Beatification of our Founder was great but the canonization, for me, was filled with pure joy and promise of great things to come. How was this joy and promise measured? Everywhere we went we were welcomed with love and smiles of pure happiness. Language was not necessary. The work of our Sisters in Italy was astounding untiring. They put their heart and soul into this

celebration and we all caught that spirit. It was a time of fulfillment of God's promise and for now we knew all would be well. I had to catch my breath so many times during the celebration - in wonder and awe at all I was witness to. The Proclamation of the name Saint Alfonso Fusco was truly the fulfillment of a dream. The hospitality and love of our sisters, no matter where we were, was outstanding. The joy and happiness we experienced as we walked the streets of Anagni will forever remain in my heart as a symbol of hope living in each of us. It was also specially a time renewed love for the sisters in my community and the **HOPE** that remains alive as we move forward to bring the virtues of our beloved Founder to our present world. **It was Hope Restored!**

Provincial's Corner

**From the Desk of
Sr. Claudette Marie, Provincial Superior**

I want to congratulate the Board Members of the Baptistine Associates for undertaking this new project of a Newsletter to be published three times a year. The success of this endeavor will rest with the members of the Association by engaging in the project, firstly, by reading the newsletter, secondly, sharing the good works and activities of your local group through the newsletter, and thirdly, by cooperating with the Board to submit material for publication when asked.

In joining the Baptistine Association, you have joined the Sisters of St. John the Baptist whose charism is to foster discipleship and mission. We have inherited this from our Beloved Father Founder, St. Alfonso Maria Fusco and we share this with you as our Associates.

As our friends in this Association, we ask you in this time of celebrating the gift of our Founder's canonization, to devote some time to reading the life of our Founder and ask

Turn me over



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yourself, **“How can I be the Founder in today’s world?”**



Prayer Intentions

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Joan’s mother, Mary Godeski, and the needs of her family. Condolences may be sent to Sr. Joan at St. John Villa Convent, 57 Cleveland Place, Staten Island 10305.

An Associate's Reflections

Matt Tomasulo (St. Roch)

Invitation, Encounter, Engagement - these three words encapsulate my initial and continuing experiences with the Sisters of St. John the Baptist and the Associates. When I was first asked/invited if I wished to be an associate, my first thoughts were: Never volunteer for anything, Never, Never, Never! But, of course, with my wife's pressure and having known so many of the sisters at St. Roch and the Baptistine community, I did the unimaginable - I joined, along with my wife, Susan. Walking into the unknown always produces some anxiety but still, I walked into the Valley of Baptistianism. Extended friendships, a variety of prayer experiences and, of course, ever present food lifted the fog of uncertainty. A clarity of understanding was revealed - a better understanding of who I was and what was important in life was revealed. One experience led to another as my list of intentions expanded to people I didn't know, including deceased sisters. My prayer life increased dramatically. In honesty, I prayed little before. Now other people mattered and I mattered to other people. It's a unique experience to have so many members of the community combining to pray for your health.

It's even more impressive when their concern is matched by a God who is listening. Oremus.

Future Happenings



The St. John Villa Associates are setting up a date to visit the Sisters at Mount St. John and are planning to collect pencils and sharpeners for our children in after-school in Mexico.

At the invitation of the pastor, the Sisters and Associates at St. Roch are organizing a food pantry.

A new Baptistine website will be launched by March 1st.



March 25th – Provincial Celebration of the Founder’s Canonization at Blessed Sacrament on Staten Island.

May 6th – Day of Prayer to celebrate the canonization and reflect upon how we can continue the Founder’s mission. All are welcome: Sisters, Associates, friends and students. This day will be at St. John Villa.



The next issue of the newsletter will be in May. Please send all suggestions and submissions to Sr. Theresa Ann at SRTADCSJB@aol.com