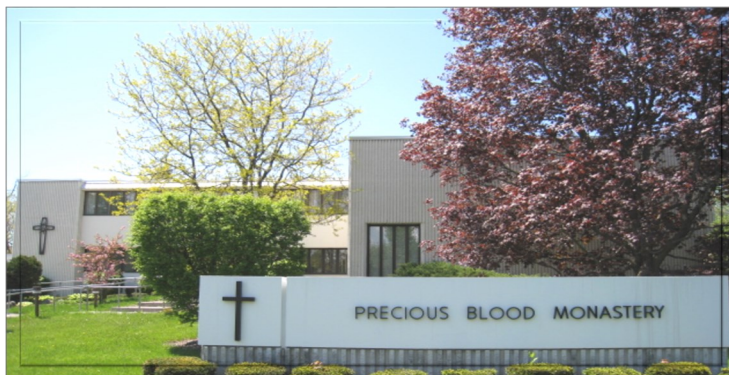


# CLOISTER ECHOES



Summer 2021	A Newsletter for All Our Friends	Issue 149
Precious Blood Monastery Tel: 315-788-1669	400 Pratt Street www.sisterspreciousblood.org	Watertown, New York 13601 Fax: 315-779-9046

## *July ~ Month devoted to the Precious Blood of Jesus*



*“... you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the Precious Blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.”*

*1 Peter 1: 18-19*

July 1st is a very special Feast Day for us, reserved to our Institute by Indult of the Holy See. We are privileged to offer the Liturgy of the Hours for the Solemnity of the Precious Blood on that day. Our community Mass will be that of the Solemnity, also. This Feast ushers in a whole month when so many of you join us in giving particular attention to Precious Blood devotion. We are always so pleased when you ask for blessed articles such as the Stamp, the Heart, the Chaplet of the Precious Blood. Each of these fosters remembrance of what Jesus did for us that memorable day on Calvary when He poured out the last Drop of His Precious Blood. Volumes could be written (and have been) on what His Sacrifice means....on what it SHOULD mean in these times when life itself is held in such little regard. Jesus Himself made no distinction.....every single person in the whole of creation was—and is—”worth it” in His eyes. His Life-Blood was the cost and He paid it with such love.

Thank you, dear Friends, for helping us spread this devotion to so many far-away places. Here at the monastery, each morning as Sister rings the rising bell, she prays aloud: **“Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, in supplication for the souls in purgatory and for the needs of holy Church. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.”** We all join Her in offering the first prayer of the new day. You and your loved Ones are always gratefully remembered. Please pray for vocations for us and our entire church.

# ORDAINED TO SERVE

Our Diocese is blessed with a dynamic group of dedicated Deacons, who daily assist at our altar in addition to countless other ministries. The Feast of Corpus Christi was made all the more solemn this year when not one, but two Deacons were here to celebrate with us. Ordained to serve, these Deacons assist our Chaplain, Monsignor Paul Whitmore. What a privilege it is for us to listen to the Word of God and receive the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus from him daily.



Deacon Joel Walentuk, Monsignor Paul Whitmore and Deacon Don Wilder

Deacon Joel lives about 30 miles outside of Watertown – on Wellesley Island. His route to the Monastery each morning for Mass can be quite daunting. The only direct route leading into town is the Thousand Island Bridge which seems to be forever undergoing construction. Deacon Joel owns a family video arcade business and to his daily agenda is able to add many joyful hours on the water as a rowing instructor. He was ordained a Permanent Deacon in a class of twelve other men in 2013. On Sundays, Deacon Joel joins us for Eucharistic Adoration during which he gives Benediction. As a third-Order Carmelite, Deacon Joel treasures time before the Blessed Sacrament. St Teresa of Avila must be proud of him!

Deacon Don retired from military service in 2001 and moved to St. Patrick Parish to serve in Lay Ministry. He often prayed in our chapel as he was discerning the Lord's Call to make room in his busy life for what the Lord seemed to be asking of him. He was ordained by Bishop Terry LaValley in 2020 at the height of the COVID Pandemic. When interviewed by our diocesan newspaper following his ordination, Deacon Don said "I want to help my community and be of service. I just want to serve in whatever capacity I can and whatever capacity is needed. I am looking forward to serving on the altar during Mass. I also feel this feeds into my work as a prison chaplain, as well, I'll be able to do more for the inmates. I'm looking forward to serving the bishop, serving our church, and serving the community. Service is the big thing. It's how I envision my ministry."

# Thank You for Your Support

*“Never doubt that a small  
group of thoughtful,  
committed people can  
change the world.  
Indeed it is the only thing  
that ever has.”*

Margaret Mead



## Auxiliary Members Do Make a Difference

*“By our support of the Auxiliary,  
by our desire to do something more  
for the Sisters,  
we are helping others  
and ultimately ourselves.”*

Peggy Ann Ryan  
(1930-2018)  
Past President of the Auxiliary





## Our Mailbox



A couple of weeks ago, a dear friend wrote from Abingdon, IL:

*"I circle around the monastery all the time in my prayers, asking for love and protection for each one of you. You may recall that my daughter and her husband were both stricken with COVID-19 - at the same time! And then - WITH PNEUMONIA! It was a frightening time but we placed all our trust in the Precious Blood of Jesus and today I am happy to tell you: ALL IS WELL!"*

Messages such as the above give so much joy to our hearts because they are each one-another example of the power of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Another Friend wrote from Peoria, IL:

*"I often save "Cloister Echoes" to read again for inspiration. Today I re-read Issue #148 in which you wrote: In this time of the Pandemic, eventually, "All shall be well." And you encouraged us to take those words seriously, reminding us that God never abandons us. Many forget this. Some simply don't believe it."*

May our constant prayer be: **"Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief."**

## Mandy's 911 Rescue



The best thing about being the ONLY Dog at the Monastery is that I have the whole backyard for myself, "Queen of the Road." I am free to run, jump, chase rabbits, birds, squirrels and the deer too. But one Sunday, a few weeks ago, I stumbled into a very interesting stony stick. Of course, out of curiosity I bit into it, chewed it and suddenly before I knew it, **PANIC! ABSOLUTE PANIC!!!** The bone got stuck horizontally in the roof of my mouth. Fortunately, Sister Catherine saw me struggling and quickly called 911. I thought those men in the yellow jackets would soon come to rescue ME, after all I was a "damsel in distress." Instead, the operator directed Sister to call the VET. Sure enough, it was closed on Sunday and she was put on hold by the emergency service. Sister quickly called Steve, our maintenance man, to come to my rescue. Boy! I was glad to see him!... A few minutes later Katie, Steve's daughter, arrived to assist him... She said "Mandy sure knew how to pick the right size bone - a perfect fit in her mouth!" So they whisked me off in Katie's car to the ER... I don't remember a thing. When I woke up, **NO STITCHES!** I was sure lucky, thanks to Steve and Katie, who came to my rescue... **MY HEROES!** Boy, have I been pampered! The Sisters wondered if I will remember my mishap and learn from my "too big stick, too little mouth." Well, I sure hope so, we'll have to just wait and see! Until next time.

Love, Mandy