



Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.” *Luke 18:16-17*



Father Elijah John Joseph with aspirants Ander Andreani (left) and Michele Magini (right).

“Behold, how good and pleasing it is for brothers to dwell in unity”
(Psalm 133:1)

Congratulations to Father Elijah John Joseph and the group of young men who have been eagerly longing to begin their monastic life together as Benedictine Monks of Divine Will! Just before sunset on July 4th, eve of St. Annibale DiFrancia’s birthday, His Excellency, Mons. Andrea Turazzi bestowed his official blessing upon the new community, thereby granting the much desired permission for the male branch of the Benedictine Daughters to finally commence. During the celebration of the Eucharist in our *Little Chapel of the Eternal Father*, the new bishop of the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro

received Father Elijah’s vows as Superior of the Benedictine Monks and clothed him in the white, Benedictine habit...rewarding several years of difficult, yet patient waiting.

In 2011, Father Elijah surrendered his deeply cherished solemn vows and monastic habit when he separated from his Benedictine community in the United States. Though the sacrifice proved painful, Father knew he could not do otherwise. More than a year prior, after serious discernment with their mutual spiritual director, both Father Elijah and Mother Gabrielle Marie had felt the very strong call to found a new religious order of brothers and sisters in Italy that would unite the Benedictine spirit of prayer, work, and hospitality with the Divine Will writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta.* An order dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and striving to live in God’s Most Holy Will with great love and charity like the Holy Family in Nazareth.

** For the full story, watch the latest version of the “History of the Benedictines of Divine Will” on the Community Videos page of our website.*



However, as with any new endeavor or mission that the Lord entrusts to us, we must first be tried through the cross...our perseverance and obedience to God's Will put to the test. And for Father Elijah, this cross took the shape of waiting. Serving first as a diocesan deacon and later as a parish priest in the Benedictine Daughters' Italian diocese for three years, he waited for the opportunity to fulfill what God had asked of his vocation. He waited to dress himself once again as the monk he always remained in his heart, clothed not just with a habit, but with the vows his soul never really renounced. He waited to live in unity with the young laborers Our Lord had already begun sending to take part in this new harvest.



Bishop Andrea Turazzi blesses the initiation of the BMDW – 7/4/2014

earnestly to initiate. And as Our Heavenly Mother first taught us in the little house of Nazareth when her very “yes” won for us the Redemption, total surrender to God's Most Holy Will always obtains the victory.

While participating in Holy Mass that Independence Day and witnessing Bishop Andrea give his own humble Fiat to Our Lord's plan for the men's community, we felt full of joy. A joy, we recognized, that did not stem only from a human happiness for our beloved Father Elijah and the expansion of our religious family, but from God's Will being done. A joy rooted in Our Lord's triumph, not our own. For only when we learn to seek our happiness in God's Will alone - whether It be manifested in the waiting or achieving, the successes or disappointments, the joys or the crosses - will we be able to find true and lasting peace and joy here on earth.

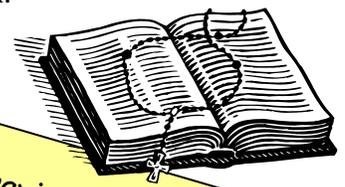
But with the strength and motherly protection of Our Lady's “let it be done according to Thy word,” Father Elijah proclaimed his own Fiat. Fiat to God's ways and God's timing. Fiat to all that His Will wanted to dispose for his own sanctity, for souls, and for the sake of the very community he desired so



Fr. Elijah professes his Holy Vows.



Please join us in praying for Father Elijah John Joseph and his first brothers as they prepare to take this next big step in their religious vocations, especially as they begin to tread along their sisters' former path - the search for a monastery.





The Two Shall Become One...



...and so they were on Divine Mercy Sunday morning, the 27th of April, 2014. *Sister Maria Scholastica of Our Merciful and Loving Eternal Father* professed first vows to her Beloved Spouse before receiving Him in Holy Communion at a private mass celebrated by Bishop Andrea Turazzi in our little chapel. However, as Sister Scholastica lovingly promised to live in obedience, poverty, and chastity for one year, consecrating her whole heart to the Lord as a Benedictine Daughter of Divine Will with the help

of her sisters, we realized more than two were involved in the marriage. Our newly professed sister's Fiat reminded us of our own "YESes", not just to be of one will and flesh with Jesus, but to be of one mind and heart with one another like the early Christian communities that the bishop so beautifully alluded to in his homily. To have nothing of our own, but everything in common. To suffer together and to rejoice together...all united under the same fount of God's Infinite Mercy that has both called and adorned such unworthy brides for so worthy a Husband.



Bishop Andrea with the newly professed Sister Maria Scholastica

Do you feel drawn to the Benedictine of Divine Will charism? Could the Lord be asking you for your "Fiat" to the religious life? Males can contact Fr. Elijah at padreelijah@gmail.com to learn more about the discernment process for the men's community. All young women interested in discerning a vocation with the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will can check out the *Vocations* page of our website for more information and/or email us directly at daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com.



For those who feel called to make a financial contribution to the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will, you can make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or sign up for automatic monthly payments on the "Donations" page of our website (www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org). Checks or money orders can also be sent to the address of our non-profit organization listed below:

The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will

P.O. Box 1002

Hanceville, AL 35077

Thank you all for your generosity, friendship, and prayers. Never doubt that each of you remain always in our own hearts and prayers, especially during each moment we spend before the Blessed Sacrament.

