



## 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*

There’s something very refreshing, exciting even, when we return to Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. Those of you who pray the Divine Office everyday can probably relate to this, but it’s more than just a change from the same songs and psalms we’ve been chanting throughout the forty days of Lent and seven weeks of Easter. There’s a distinct, spiritual grace reserved for Ordinary Time to remind us that holiness does not lie only in the exceptional, but rather is even more genuine when rooted in the normal. So get ready for the GLORY of the little, the GREATNESS of the simple, the EXTRAORDINARY hidden in the ordinary.

*“Daughter, men do not appreciate the hidden Life that I led in Nazareth, when in fact, after the Passion, nothing could benefit them more. By lowering Myself to all those little actions and those acts which men exercise during their daily life, such as eating, sleeping, drinking, working, starting the fire, sweeping, etc. - all acts which no one can do without - I made flow inside their souls a tiny divine coin of incalculable price. Therefore, if my Passion redeemed them, my hidden Life provided each human action, even the most insignificant one, with Divine merit and with infinite value.”*

(from the writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, *Book of Heaven*, Volume 11, 8/14/1912)



**Fr. Bernardino Bucci, O.F.M. and  
Mother Gabrielle Marie**

### Making some time...



Fr. Bucci, the only living priest that personally knew the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta once said, “In order to live in the Divine Will, one must be little, insignificant, and hidden.” The three things that probably repel our fallen human nature the most. Why? Because our pride, fueled by the spirit of the world, tells us that we need to be noticed, admired, considered important in order to have value. Our insecurity convinces us that love is something to be earned with deeds and accomplishments, even from God Himself. And so we work, push, and fill our schedules with lots of external activities while our interiors run on empty.

Regardless of what state or stage of life we find ourselves in, we all should continually reflect on the same question: *Do I really put God first in my life?* If we don’t have the time to dedicate to prayer each

day, perhaps some of the other occupations that keep us so busy – even though good or indifferent in themselves - may not be the Will of God. Sincerely ask Him, for His Will is the *only* reason we should do anything. Without It and without a life grounded in the interior, none of our actions (no matter how externally virtuous they may seem) will ever bear any real fruit.

So let's invite the Holy Spirit to rearrange our schedules, simplify our lives, and show us where our priorities should be focused. No one may ever see us pray our Rosaries, know if we attend daily Mass, or recognize any visible effects of our Eucharistic Holy Hours. It may even seem like we are doing nothing...but who cares? God sees all and knows all, and the more hidden we remain, the greater the work He will be able to accomplish in our souls. He may even hide the fruits from us so that we may learn to do everything for God's glory and not our own. What will we receive then in return? Lasting joy, profound peace, true love...and a great big sigh of freedom. Not a bad deal.



(Jesus to Luisa): *“All nature invites one to rest; but what is true rest? It is the interior rest and the silence of all that is not God. Look at the stars, twinkling with tempered light, not dazzling like the sun; the sleep and the silence of all nature, of men and also of animals – all look for a place, a den, in which to remain in silence and rest from the tiredness of life. If this is necessary for the body, much more is it necessary for the soul to rest in her own center, which is God.”*

(Luisa Piccarreta, *Book of Heaven*, Volume 3, 5/20/1900)

\* Have no idea who this “Luisa” is, but want to learn more about her and what she wrote? Click on the **Family Tree** page of our website and scroll down until you find the “Little Daughter of the Divine Will”.

Were you on fire to read *The 24 Hours of the Passion* during Lent? Did you faithfully meditate on Our Lady's daily lessons for the month of May collected in *The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will*? Great, but don't stop there. The writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta on living in the Divine Will should be read every day, all year long. As Jesus often repeats to Luisa, we cannot possess this great gift of His Will if we don't have the Knowledges of It. And how can we come to know It, if we don't read what Our Lord Himself revealed through the hands of His obedient secretary?



## Don't be fooled...God loves the little

There is a woman named Anna who lives just below our small town of Talamello. She can often be found at daily mass or praying for an hour or more before the Blessed Sacrament in the adoration chapel of our parish church. Whenever we're in need of substitute adorers to keep Our Lord company during the eight hours of daily Exposition, Anna can always be counted on to fill in. But like most women who work and have other family commitments, she can't always stay in church for as long as she would like...or even come at all if the car she shares with her daughter is unavailable. Many times the sister currently in adoration will see Anna pop in the chapel, kneel before her God and Father, and spend a few minutes in silent prayer. Though her visit lasts

but a moment, the love with which she gazes at Jesus so humbly exposed in the Eucharist cannot be measured in units of time.

We live in a “go big or go home” society. And, unfortunately, this worldly mentality has been projected onto our spiritual lives as well. The devil convinces us that God only wants and accepts the big...often leaving us doing nothing because we can't do it all. But don't be fooled. As Mother Teresa so often preached, God delights in the little when done with great love. The widow's two small coins were worth enough to be included in both Mark and Luke's Gospels. Veronica's veil, though not recorded in Scripture, survived over two thousand years of Church Tradition and continues to be honored as one of the fourteen Stations of the Cross.



God is not a demanding Father who asks the impossible. He's loving, compassionate and understands the various responsibilities and circumstances of life that keep us from doing as much as we would like. In fact, His Will requires faithfulness to our state and duties in life. But like the poor widow, Our Lord does ask for all that we do have to give...not just what we're willing to give up in our abundance. And as with Veronica, He desires our own sincere desire to be with Him, to console Him, to love Him. So let us do what we can, not worrying about the size of our acts, but rather the size of our love.

*“Do not think that love in order to be genuine has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”*  
~ Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



### **Another powerful intercessor:**

*Mother Angelica (April 20, 1923 – March 27, 2016)*

Known to the world as foundress of EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) and Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, for thirty-three years Mother Angelica was simply “Mother” to Sister Mary Catherine. Though the daughter eventually left the nest, founded her own community of contemplative sisters, and returned to her baptismal name, Mother Gabrielle Marie never once felt disconnected from her long-time Abbess, Mother, and friend. She would often tell us stories at table of how powerfully the Lord worked in Mother Angelica's life, repeat her words of wisdom, and share with us all that she had learned from her former superior's example. And when the news of Mother Angelica's death finally reached us in Italy late Easter Sunday evening, Mother Gabrielle Marie could only smile, saying, “I'm just so happy for her. She suffered so much and so well her whole life. Now she's finally with God.”

While blessed with much talent and success, we all quickly learned that Mother Angelica's greatness had nothing to do with what everyone saw on the outside, but rather what came from within – a deep love for God, fearless trust in His Providence, and the courage to always speak the truth. Thank you, Mother Angelica, for forming our own mother so well. Though millions love you and are now praying to you, know that you also hold a special place of honor in the hearts of the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will.

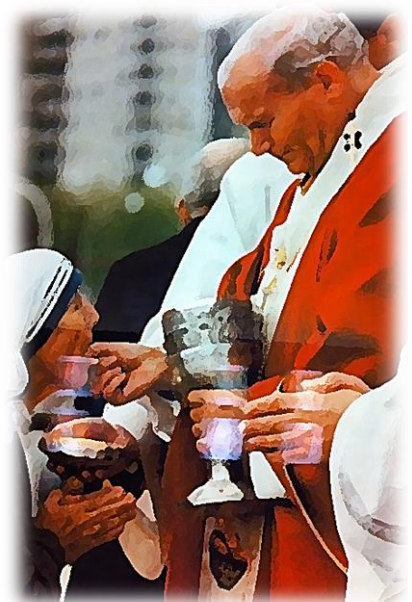


## Food for thought: *Holy Communion on the Tongue*

Like many American children of her generation, one of our sisters grew up receiving Communion in the hand. She and her second-grade classmates were taught to do so in Catechism class when preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time. Though not forced to adopt the method, when no one offers a seven year-old another option, she will follow what she is told. And so this continued into her late teens until she heard a Sunday homily preached by a young and fervent priest that opened her eyes and permanently changed the way she approached this most sacred of mysteries. Reflecting back, the sister recognizes the moment when she began receiving Holy Communion on the tongue as a turning point in her spiritual life. The external practice, little by little, transformed her interior...igniting in her soul a deeper faith and love for the True Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist.

To this day, our sister still expresses her gratitude for the courageous priest because, as she describes, "I just didn't know." As we'd like to share the same grace with others, here are a few interesting facts regarding the reception of Holy Communion that some of you may not be aware of...

- Receiving Holy Communion on the tongue remains the traditional and official practice of the universal Catholic Church. The reception of Communion in the hand, though now permitted, was never mandated by the Second Vatican Council nor by any other Church documents. The Church, in fact, strongly encourages the former practice yet advises great caution with latter due to the many abuses that often result. For example, a bishop can forbid the reception of Communion on the hand, but does not have the authority to prohibit Communion on the tongue.
- In the 1969 Instruction on the Manner of Distributing Holy Communion (*Memoriale Domini*), Pope Paul VI and the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship reaffirm the following...  
*"From the returns it is clear that the vast majority of bishops believe that the present discipline [receiving on the tongue] should not be changed, and that if it were, the change would be offensive to the sentiments and the spiritual culture of these bishops and of many of the faithful. Therefore, taking into account the remarks and the advice of those whom the Holy Spirit has placed to rule over the Churches, in view of the gravity of the matter and the force of the arguments put forward, the Holy Father has decided not to change the existing way of administering Holy Communion to the faithful. The Apostolic See therefore emphatically urges bishops, priests and laity to obey carefully the law which is still valid and which has again been confirmed."*
- In an effort to heal the disobedience of certain bishops who already began to allow the distribution of Holy Communion in the hand in their dioceses, an indult (*exception*) was reluctantly granted later on *only* to those Bishops' Conferences that formally petitioned the Holy See. But with that permission came several precautions...most of which are not widely followed.



- 16<sup>th</sup> century Protestant “Reformers” purposely introduced the practice of Communion in the hand to deny the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist.
- Responding to a reporter during his visit to Germany in 1980, Pope John Paul II said, *“There is an apostolic letter on the existence of a special valid permission for this [Communion in the hand]. But I tell you that I am not in favor of this practice, nor do I recommend it.”*
- And finally, we leave you with the words of Cardinal Malcom Ranjith, former Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments: *“Speaking of Communion-in-the-hand, it is necessary for all to recognize that the practice was introduced as an abuse, and hurriedly, in many places within the Church right after the Council, that it changed the centuries-long earlier practice, and that it is now becoming a regular practice throughout the whole Church... Yet, whatever the reasons put forth to sustain this practice, we cannot ignore what happens at the practical level when this method is used. This practice contributes to a gradual, growing weakening of the attitude of reverence toward the Sacred Eucharistic Species... an alarming lack of recollection and an overall spirit of carelessness have entered into liturgical celebrations... Then there are the abuses of those who take the Sacred Species off to keep as a souvenir, of those who sell the Hosts, or, worse yet, of those who take them for the purpose of profaning them in satanic rituals... The situation causes us to reflect on the grave loss of faith, but also on the outrages and offenses to the Lord, Who deigns to come to meet us, wishing to make us like unto Him, so that the holiness of God may be reflected in us.”* (from the Preface to DOMINUS EST – *It is the Lord!*, The Most Reverend Athanasius Schneider)



Now all that’s left is to ask ourselves the honest question –  
**What would Jesus prefer?**



## Tanti auguri a noi...

This past April 12<sup>th</sup>, the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* turned five years old. So Happy Birthday to us – and that includes all of you, too – because without your prayer support, economic assistance, and loving friendship these past few years, we would never have been able to hit this landmark. Or at best, it would have been a much bumpier ride. Thank you so very much for your goodness to us!



New to the Benedictine Daughters and curious about our history? Click on the *Community Videos* page of our website to find out more about how we got started, what we’ve been up to, and what we’re all about.

## Supporting the Sisters

As we continue to restore our garden and very unfinished basement, would you prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to help us cover the cost of supplies and labor? Though we try to do much of the work ourselves, some goes beyond our capabilities and we often end up in need of paid expertise. Also, being a contemplative community totally reliant on the generosity of others, we are always very appreciative of benefactors willing to donate regularly towards our cost of living expenses.



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](http://www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org)). Or simply send a check or money order to the address of our non-profit organization below:



**Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will**  
**P.O. Box 1002**  
**Hanceville, AL 35077**

We wish we had more creative ways to express our deepest gratitude for all of your help. Trusting that the Lord will not allow your charity to go unrewarded, we assure you of our continuous prayers for you and all of your needs and intentions.

Have a happy, holy, and safe summer!

