



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*



The Trunk

“My Son took the place of Father and King within the families, and I took the place of Mother and Queen...Marriage is the substance from which arises the life of the generations; it can be called the trunk from which the earth is populated. The priests, the religious, are the branches; but if it wasn't for the trunk, not even the branches would have life...I constituted Myself Queen of families, and pleaded for the grace that the Divine Fiat would reign in them, that I might have families which would belong to me, holding the place of Queen in their midst.”

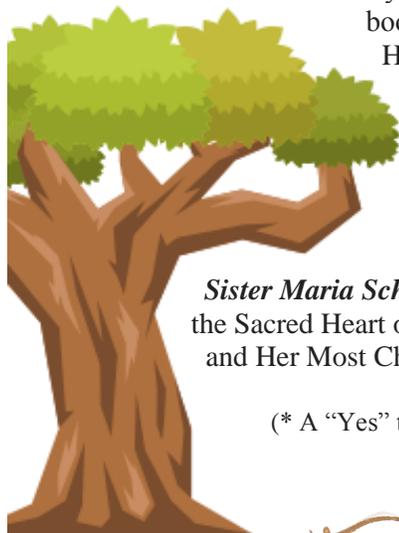
(The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will,
Appendix - Meditation 6, Luisa Piccarreta)



From left to right: Sisters Benedicta, Scholastica, and Gemma with Brothers Gabriele and Giovanni on Profession Day.

We had a big day for the whole Benedictine of Divine Will community this past May 13th: The Perpetual Profession of three sisters and one brother along with the First Profession of another brother. Though try as we might, the Lord never wants the focus to be on us.

Don't worry, of one thing we are all sure...our vocations are nothing more than a loud, booming proof of God's infinite mercy. But surprisingly, even that's not where He wants us to place the spotlight this time. Yes, you guessed it. As Our Lady hints above, we'll be celebrating not only our own FIATs* this issue, but those of our families as well...particularly our parents from whom we received life, love, God's grace, and the seed of our religious vocations (whether they were aware of it or not).



So we pass the baton to our three newest perpetually professed brides - *Sister Maria Scholastica* of Our Merciful and Loving Eternal Father, *Sister Gemma Marie* of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and *Sister Maria Benedicta* of Our Little Mother of the Divine Will and Her Most Chaste Spouse – for a firsthand glimpse into the hidden grace behind their “I do”.

(* A “Yes” to God's Will. The “Let it be done according to Thy word” of the Blessed Mother at the Annunciation which we must all strive to imitate.)



Sister Maria Scholastica

"Silent support. That's what my Mom brought to my religious journey from the early years of my life. Those who surrounded me had different expectations - a career and my duties toward my family. But my Mom told me I was free to follow my heart and to listen to my call. Time and the grace of God would suffice to nurture my discernment for a religious consecrated life. I'm so grateful to the Lord Who gave me a Mom who protected me and guided me by example and not just words. Now she is rewarded and blessed - she says - for being the mother of a nun. Praise be to Jesus!"



Sister Gemma Marie

"From when I was a little girl, I remember my mother's faith. I remember that she would bring me and my sister and brothers to church every Sunday, making us wear the most beautiful clothes. At times, she would even bring us to Holy Mass during the week. I also remember the times when I preferred to play instead of going to Mass, but she firmly gave me no choice and I had to obey. Only years later did I understand the importance of that seed of faith planted in my family from our childhood. And that seed, growing day after day, makes us bloom into beautiful flowers. I thank God infinitely for the gift of my practicing Catholic family!"



Sister Maria Benedicta

"I am forever thankful to our Lord for my wonderful parents. They have always strived to give us what they never had, but the greatest gift they gave me was an example of unwavering faith. Especially in times when things seemed hopeless, their perseverance in faith and trust in the Lord, their sharing the message of His love and mercy in the midst of trials set a foundation for my vocation. I am even more grateful to have been able to witness the abundant joy that this great call of being the bride of Christ has brought them, and to be able to share this special day with them is just another example of God's great goodness!"



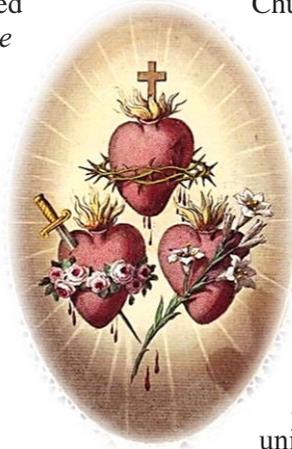


“...according to our way of life based on that of the Holy Family of Nazareth”



In our formula of profession, this is the phrase that immediately follows each sister’s vow to live her whole life in obedience, poverty, chastity, and charity. So what does that mean exactly? It could almost seem kind of scary, for who feels strong enough, virtuous enough, holy enough to live like the Holy Family? God Himself lived in that little house of Nazareth where the Divine Will reigned perfectly! But if Jesus implores us to “*be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect*” and teaches us to pray “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*”...it must be possible, no?

So what did the Holy Family do, how did they actually live... especially during those precious hidden years? They lived extraordinary lives in the most ordinary of circumstances. The Will of God wasn’t some big, complicated mystery to be figured out. It was a simple, natural way of being that animated their every breath, heartbeat, word, and work. Jesus glorified His Father as He learned to be a carpenter, Mary praised Him with every loaf of bread that she baked, Joseph adored Him in every act of chopping



wood. They prayed and humbly obeyed the Judean law. They loved God, one another, and all those they encountered. They looked at everything, even the greatest sufferings, as a way to fulfill the Father’s Will. Is that beyond our reach?

If we, too, humbly follow the teachings of the Church and remain in a state of grace, does God not also really and truly dwell in each of our hearts and souls. Is Jesus not really and truly present in every tabernacle? He does still live among us as at Nazareth, giving us His grace and waiting for us to respond with childlike trust. Sanctity is possible here on earth and we don’t have to search high and low in order to achieve it. Everyone is called to live in the Divine Will like the Holy Family, regardless of state in life, personality, charism, circumstances, or anything else that makes us all so beautifully unique. Because it’s not about the exteriors. It’s about doing whatever it is that we are called to do at each moment, asking Jesus to come and do it in us, glorifying our Eternal Father in that very act, and waiting for the Holy Spirit to point out the next step. No extra time or effort is required... just a wide open heart and eyes always lifted up to Heaven.

“Dear child, in this house of Nazareth, the Kingdom of the Divine Will was in full force. Every little act of ours – working, starting the fire, preparing the food – were all animated by the Supreme Volition, and were formed by the solidity of the sanctity of pure love. Therefore, from the littlest to the greatest of our acts, immense joys, happinesses and beatitudes were unleashed...Everything was peace, highest union, and each of us felt honored in obeying the other...how many seas of grace did [My Son] let flow in those acts for the good of creatures?...So, our hidden life of so many years served to prepare the Kingdom of the Divine Will for creatures...Tell Me, child of My Heart, will you make Me content, and also your and My dear Jesus, as We await you with so much love in this Kingdom so holy, to live together with Us, and to live only of Divine Will?”

(The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will - Day 25, Luisa Piccarreta)

Simple Practices



We know what you’re thinking. You’ve got this great desire to live in the Divine Will, but are in need of more specific examples of just exactly how to do that. The best way to learn is by regularly reading the writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta and trying to put into practice what you’ve absorbed each day. But for now, we’ve chosen a few very simple, practical passages that concretely teach us *how* we can live in God’s Most Holy Will...ways of praying that will transform not only our prayer time, but our whole being into

union with our Creator. Ways that glorify the Father, console the Son, and call down the Holy Spirit upon the earth. In other words, ways that make God happy!



The simple “I love You”



[Luisa]: “...When I fuse myself in the Supreme Volition, the little girl continues her round, and rising up high, she wants to requite her God for all the love He had for all creatures in Creation. She wants to honor Him as the Creator of all things, and so she goes around through the stars, and in each twinkling of light she impresses my ‘I love You’ and ‘glory to my Creator’... in the warbling of the bird, in the beating of its wings, ‘love and glory to my Creator’; in the blade of grass which sprouts from the earth, in the flower that blooms, in the fragrance that ascends, ‘love and glory’...And then, I bring myself to His throne, and I say to Him: ‘Supreme Majesty and Creator of all things, this little girl comes into Your arms to tell You that all Creation, in the name of all creatures, gives You the requital, not only of love, but of the just glory for the so many things created by You for love of us. In your Will, in this immense void, I have wandered everywhere, so that all things may glorify You, love You and bless You. And now...let Your Will descend upon earth’...

“... Then, after this, I feel that my office is not complete, therefore I descend down below in order to requite Jesus for the work of Redemption...I go back to my refrain, and I say: ‘I love You’ in Your act of descending from Heaven... ‘I love You’ in the first beat of Your Heart... ‘I love You’ in Your being born... ‘I love You’ in each word You spoke, in the food You took, in the steps You took, in the water You drank... ‘I love You’ in all the acts You did during Your hidden life. I seal my ‘I love You’ in each one of Your interior acts and in the pains You suffered... in all the sermons You gave during your public life. My ‘I love You’ flows in the power of the miracles You performed, in the Sacraments You instituted. In everything, O my Jesus, even in the inmost fibers of Your Heart, I impress my ‘I love You’ for myself and for all...my ‘I love You’ follows You in all the pains of Your Passion, in all the spit, scorns and insults that they gave You. My ‘I love You’ seals each drop of the blood You shed, each blow You received, each wound that formed in Your body, each thorn that pierced your head, the bitter pains of the crucifixion, the words You pronounced on the Cross. Up to Your last breath, I intend to impress my ‘I love You’. I want to close all Your life, all Your acts, with my ‘I love You’....My ‘I love You’ will never leave You – your very Will is the life of my ‘I love You’.” (Vol. 17 – 5/17/1925)



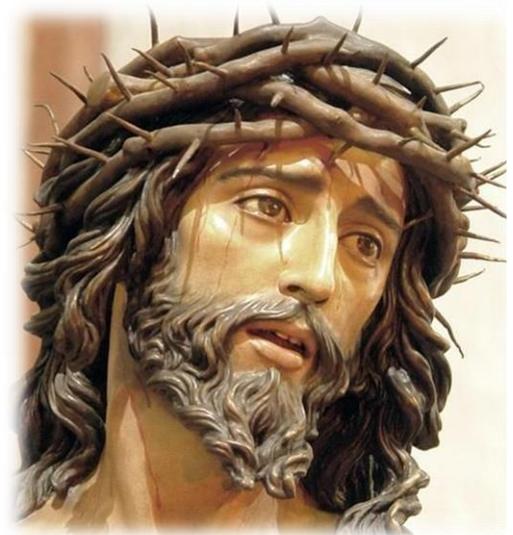
Praying the Passion



[Jesus to Luisa]: “My daughter, the world is in continuous act of renewing My Passion; and since My immensity envelopes everything, inside and outside the creatures, from their contact I am forced to receive nails, thorns, scourges, scorns, spit and all the rest which I suffered in the Passion - and still more. Now, at the contact with souls who do these Hours of my Passion, I feel the nails being removed, the thorns shattered, the wounds soothed, the spit taken away. I feel I am repaid in good for the evil that others do to Me, and in feeling that their contact does no harm to Me, but good, I lean more and more on them.”

(Book of Heaven, Vol. 11 – 11/6/1914)

* Visit the “Family Tree” page of our website to download a PDF of Luisa Piccarreta’s The 24 Hours of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Just scroll down to Luisa.



Making every act a prayer

[Jesus to Luisa]: *“My daughter, there is the prevenient act and the actual act. The prevenient act is when the soul, at the first rising of the day, fixes her will in Mine, and decides and confirms that she wants to live and operate only in My Volition. She anticipates all of her acts and makes them all flow in My Will. With the prevenient will, My Sun rises, My Life remains duplicated in all of her acts...and this makes up for the actual act. However, the prevenient act can be shaded - obscured by the human ways, by one’s own will, by self-esteem, by negligence and other things, which are like clouds before the sun, that render its light less vivid on the face of the earth.*

On the other hand, the actual act is not subject to clouds; on the contrary, it has the virtue of dispelling the clouds, if there are any, and it makes many more suns rise, in which My Life is duplicated, with such vividness of light and heat as to form as many new suns, one more beautiful than the other. However, both of them are necessary: the prevenient act gives the hand, disposes and forms the plane for the actual act; the actual act preserves and expands the plane of the prevenient.” (Vol. 14 – 5/27/22)



The final word from Sacred Scripture

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the Will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (1Thess 5:16-18)

“Through Him let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips confessing His name.” (Heb 13:15)

“All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: ‘Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’” (Rev 7:11-12)



Great will your reward be, too!

Jesus promises that those who have “given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of My name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life” (Mt 19:29). We usually think of that Gospel verse as referring to those who are called to *leave* and follow the Lord. But do not those left behind also give up a great deal? Will not the Lord reward them a hundredfold as well? Many, many, many priests and consecrated could recount a number of stories about the miracles of grace that God worked in their families after having accepted their religious vocation. And as for the eternal life to come? A priest once told the father of one of our sisters, “Rejoice! Your daughter’s vocation will be a great bargaining chip for you when it comes time to meet her Spouse face to face.”

So this plea is for all parents out there. Don’t be afraid to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life among your children. True...not everyone is called to the consecrated life. The Lord needs lots of strong trunks - loving, united, and faithful families for His Kingdom. However, many *are* indeed called to belong only to Jesus...more than we think. Then why the vocation crisis? Because many don’t grow up

exposed to the religious life. It's often not encouraged as a positive option. As a result, many young people, not being able to imagine happiness without a spouse, children, and/or a successful career, do not give their "yes". But we are happy...happier than we've ever been in our lives because true joy comes from following the Will of God. And if God has chosen you to be the father or mother of a future priest or nun, you will find great happiness too!



Moment of community joy after the Perpetual Profession.

Have you ever thought about the religious life? Do you think the Lord may be calling you to be His spouse? If so, visit the "Vocations" page of our website below or drop us an email at daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com to start the discernment process.



Mother Gabrielle Marie and Sister Francesca

Quick photo shoot from the big day



Prostration during the Litany of the Saints

Bishop Andrea Turazzi



Supporting the Sisters

If you feel called to help support the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will, visit the "Donations" page of our website to donate by credit/debit card:

www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org

Or simply send a check or money order to the address of our non-profit organization below:
(All donations are tax-deductible)

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Be assured that all of our benefactors remain in our daily prayers. Please keep praying for us. Have a wonderful, grace-filled summer in God's Most Holy and Divine Will!