



The 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*

Behold the Handmaid of the Lord...

Sister Mary Catherine, Mother Superior of *The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will*, has decided to change her name to **Mother Gabrielle Marie of The Annunciation**. After much prayer and discernment, Mother Gabrielle felt inspired by Our Lady on September 29th – Feast of the Holy Archangels – to return to her baptismal name. "Although my legal name was Gayle Marie, a very holy priest Christened me Gabrielle Marie and I believe the Holy Spirit was really working through him on that day," Mother Gabrielle explained after announcing her decision. Despite the name change, Mother assures us that St. Catherine of Siena won't be leaving her as patron and intercessor. St. Gabriel is just joining the club:) May the FIAT of Our Lady at the Annunciation continue to rest in the heart of Mother Gabrielle Marie so that her lips may always proclaim, "*Be it done unto Me according to Thy Word!*"

Movin' on Up

The Benedictine Daughters have packed up and moved! After a grace-filled period of studying Italian and promoting Eucharistic adoration in the little town of Urbania, Italy, the Lord has asked us to begin planting roots in our new Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro under Bishop Luigi Negri. After several bitter-sweet goodbyes, we loaded up our Fiat and headed to Talamello, a quaint village perched on a hill about four hours north of Rome. Our new, though temporary, residence housed another religious community along with orphans under their care in years past and will be used for retired priests in the future. However, for the next year, we feel blessed to live in such a warm home, equipped with the greatest perk of all – a small chapel with Jesus in the tabernacle!

Our community prays all seven hours of the Divine



Daily adoration at the Church of St. Lawrence in Talamello

Office along with a daily Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary together in our private chapel, but we attend mass and spend our adoration hours in the local church – Chiesa di San Lorenzo. Though we feel the cloistered life is an incredibly beautiful path to sanctity, God is calling us to share our contemplative life of prayer with the people. So, within one week of our move, Mother Gabrielle Marie asked the pastor of Talamello, Don Armando, to publically expose the Blessed Sacrament every afternoon in his church. Now all the local residents have access to Eucharistic Adoration for almost four hours each day. Our goal is to eventually establish perpetual adoration here, so please join us in praying for more vocations to our community as well as increased involvement among the people of our village.

"The best, the surest and the most effective way of establishing everlasting PEACE on the face of the earth is through the great power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament." - Blessed John Paul II

Wedding Bells are Ringing



On December 11th 2011, the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete (*Rejoice*) Sunday, three Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will espoused themselves to the Lord.

Mother Gabrielle Marie of the Annunciation, Sister Mary Rose of the Seven Swords of Sorrow, and Sister Maria Francesca of the Two Hearts vowed to perpetually “live in **chastity** for the Kingdom of Heaven, embrace voluntary **poverty**, and offer to God the gift of **obedience**.” After a beautiful homily about the importance of obediently following the call of the Holy Spirit, His Eminence Mons. Luigi Negri, representing the Bridegroom Jesus Christ, accepted the vows of the three eager brides at the Church of Our Lady of Grace.

Mother Gabrielle Marie, formerly a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration in the United States, solemnly professed her consecration to the Lord for the first time twenty-five years ago. After nine years as Vicar and sixteen years as Novice Mistress, Mother Gabrielle (then known as Sister Mary Catherine) received a sabbatical. She spent her first few months away from the cloister making retreats and taking courses at the Angelicum University in Rome, fully intending to return to her Poor Clare community at the end of the sabbatical period. However, the Holy Spirit, always full of surprises, began inspiring a different plan. After much time in prayerful discernment with her spiritual director, Fr. Jacques Daley, a Benedictine monk, Mother Gabrielle Marie felt a clear call by God to found a new Benedictine religious community in Italy devoted to Eucharistic adoration and God’s Most Holy Will. Despite the crosses involved - including a necessary release from her solemn vows as a Poor Clare - Mother Gabrielle persevered with total peace, knowing that obedience to God’s Will surpasses everything. Though her consecration to the Lord never wavered in her heart, Mother Gabrielle had been looking forward to the day when she could profess her vows for the second time under the official recognition of the Holy Catholic

Church. At approximately 5:15 in the evening of December 11th, the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – “the Woman clothed with the Sun” – Mother Gabrielle espoused herself to Jesus once again...but this time clothed as a Benedictine mother.

Her two new daughters beamed with the same joy that can only be found on the face of a loving bride on her wedding day. Sister Mary Rose, also a former Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration, spent her first seven years of religious life under the guidance of Mother Gabrielle Marie in their monastery in the United States. Despite her love for the cloistered life, Sister Mary Rose could not ignore God’s promptings to make a change. With a heart full of trust in God’s Will, she left the Poor Clares and followed Mother Gabrielle Marie. Over three years after making temporary vows as a Poor Clare, Sister Mary Rose finally professed her long-desired perpetual fidelity to the Lord as a Benedictine Daughter.

Sister Maria Francesca, a school teacher in New York for seven years, discovered this blooming community through a mutual friend while discerning the religious life. The Holy Spirit, working powerfully in her heart, lead her to join Mother Gabrielle Marie and Sister Mary Rose in Italy. Falling prey to the Lord’s wooing, Sister Francesca also professed her perpetual consecration to Jesus with a heart full of gratitude for His Infinite Mercy and Love!

Please continue to pray for the three Benedictine “newlyweds” of Divine Will...that we may live each day of our consecrated lives humbly and with Divine Love.



Have you ever discerned the religious life? Do you feel the Lord may be wooing you? Please contact us via email at daughtersofdivinewill@gmail.com if you are interested in exploring a possible religious vocation with The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will.

GRAZIE MILE!!!

From the bottom of our new white habits to the tops of our veils, we little Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will want to thank you for your generosity and support! Whether you have showered us with prayers, made a financial contribution, offered us a service, sent a loving email, or helped spread the word of our blossoming new community, we are all deeply grateful! The gifts we have received over the past several months have helped us put food on our table, pay our monthly rent and utility bills while living in Urbana, and fill our car with gasoline. Thanks to your generosity, our community was also able to purchase all the necessary appliances, linens, and furniture for our new home in Talamello. Most importantly, our habits would not have been possible without the means to buy fabric, sewing supplies, and other essentials. However, we still humbly beg your help.

In addition to daily living expenses, utility bills, and the costs associated with making habits, the Benedictine Daughters are also in need of funds for another major area – a *permanent* place to live. By the end of our transitional year in the parish house of Talamello, we must be ready to move into a monastery where our infant order can continue to grow and welcome more vocations. Furthermore, having a place to call our own would be an integral step for our community to establish itself as a permanent part of the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro.

Over the past several months, we have searched for and visited many empty monasteries within the diocese. In fact, Italy seems to be full of abandoned structures, just waiting to be filled again with life! We had hoped and were even preparing to move into one such building by the end of this year; however, for various reasons, that plan is no longer a possibility. But the Lord always seems to laugh at our plans as He lovingly prepares something better! As we picked up the search once again, the Holy Spirit lead us to an unoccupied monastery built by St. Francis of Assisi, dating back over 800 years. Needless to say, this one is our favorite and the most promising! Like all of the available buildings we found, though, the monastery needs reconstruction. However, the foundation and structure are

strong and the adjacent church is even functional, already being used by the diocese for weekend masses. We confidently pray that with the grace of God, the proper help, and all the necessary funds, the humble home built by the hands of St. Francis, himself, will become our new monastery. Please prayerfully consider helping us fulfill God's will through a financial contribution.

If you feel the Lord calling you to make a tax-deductible donation, checks can be made out to ***The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will*** and sent to the following address where our financial matters are being handled in the United States. *For those who have donated in the past, THANK YOU! and please note that the address of our non-profit organization has changed, as well:*

The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will
PO Box 1002
Hanceville, AL 35077



800 yr. old cloister built by St. Francis

Don't forget to check out our new video on YouTube for a sneak peak of our everyday life. Just go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type in keyword "**BDDWslideshow**."

On Facebook? Make sure to friend request "**Divine Will Daughters**."

The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas Season and a grace-filled New Year! Please be assured of our continuous prayers for you and all of your intentions.

