



from the desk of *Mother Della Marie*

Under His Mercy

AUGUST 2025

In this issue, our sisters share reflections of their experiences of perpetual profession and first profession of vows which took place this past June.

Dear family, friends, & benefactors,

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, God is pouring out grace upon His Church!

This summer, the Lord has blessed us with signs of hope through the faithful witness of our sisters' "yes." Sr. Lisa Marie professed her perpetual vows, giving a stunning testimony to the beauty of laying down one's life for love of Jesus through the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Sr. Emma Ruth and Sr. Emmanuelle professed their first vows. Amanda Dick and Christian Sponsel entered the novitiate and received the names Sr. Lily and Sr. Magdalen, respectively. These sisters are a gift to our Community and to the Church, and we are filled with gratitude.

Let us continue to keep one another in prayer, that we may be faithful to all God asks of us, trusting that He will provide what we need in each moment.

In Christ's Love,

Mother Della Marie Doyle, TOR

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New Novices



Sr. Lily



Sr. Magdalen

First Profession



Sr. Emma Ruth & Sr. Emmanuelle



Kissing the crucifix

Perpetual Profession



Sr. Lisa Marie prostrate



Making her profession

Perpetual Profession TO BE HIS

BY SR. LISA MARIE SHATYNSKI, TOR

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

*He will dwell with them and they will be his people and
God himself will always be with them as their God.” Rev 21:3*

His. There’s something in the heart of every woman that longs to belong, to be taken, to be exclusively someone’s and no one else’s. I am no exception. My heart was made to belong and as my adolescent years drew on into adulthood, I discovered it was made to belong exclusively to the One who created it.

His. That one word has a ring to it that settles my soul in peace and rest. To be His, to belong to your beloved, is to be secure, protected and provided for. As I journeyed through my years in religious life, I made the happy discovery that my Spouse, who is God Almighty, can provide all those things.

Time and again, in moments of my poverty, I experienced the Lord’s hand providing for me. In moments of grief, He was the one who could handle the intensity of my emotions. In moments of confusion, He would hold me until my mind could make sense of hard situations. He was the one who would relish in the glory of His creation with me. In light-hearted moments He would laugh with me. In Him I found rest, consolation, peace, hope, strength and the list goes on. To sum it up, in these past eight years of religious life, I found that in Him I have not just what I need, but everything I desire. In Him, my heart is satisfied (Psalm 107).

His. Professing my final vows was two-fold. Through my vows, God almighty - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, eternally promised that same faithfulness and fidelity to me that He had been showing me all these years. On my end, I made the biggest act of faith that I’ve ever been given the opportunity to make. I proclaimed that my God is who He says He is, that He can be trusted and He is enough. I trust Him to take care of me as His beloved for the rest of my life. I trust that He will bring me, by His grace alone, into His Heavenly Kingdom, where every longing and desire will be satisfied completely and fully in Him.



Bishop Lohse blesses Sr. Lisa Marie

Every person, no matter their state in life, is called to a two-fold exchange of discovering who God truly is and can be for them and learning to trust that He actually is enough.

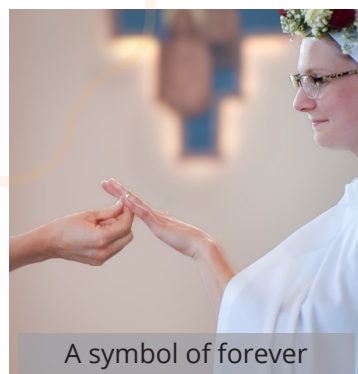
I am no longer just His. The ring I now wear, a symbol of forever, reminds me at every moment that I am His eternally.



Perpetual Profession Mass of Sr. Lisa Marie, TOR held on June 7th is available for viewing on the **FranciscanSistersTOR** YouTube Channel



Sr. Lisa Marie and her family



A symbol of forever



I am His eternally

SUPERNATURAL JOY

BY SR. EMMA RUTH GREATHOUSE, TOR

Supernatural joy is what characterized the day of my first vows. I woke up singing “Hosanna in the Highest” and knew I wasn’t the only one rejoicing! Leading up to my vows, I had asked the Lord for the grace that His joy may be in me, and that my joy may be complete. (John 15:11) Truly, nothing could take away my joy on this day!

On the day of my first profession of vows, I had a spiritual sense that I was not alone in this endeavor. The Lord was with me. He had invited me to this day and had desired it long before I had.

I knew I wasn’t making my vows alone – I was making my vows to Jesus Christ, and since then, I have a newfound sense of His presence with me every day. It’s such a blessing to know that everything I do down to the smallest task is with and for my beloved! I’m not a single woman – I am a woman who is vowed to another, and that adds an element of meaning to everything I do.

One of the most profound moments in the ceremony for me was signing the community register. We had just made our vows in the hands of our Reverend Mother, received our habit, crucifix, and rule of life, and, as if to validate our vows, the bells chimed noon like a “truth bell.”

As I was signing my name on Friday at noon, the tolling bells commemorated the moment when Jesus was nailed to the cross in his ultimate act of obedience and love.

My joyful “yes” to the Lord echoed His “yes” for me on the cross. By signing my name, I was uniting myself to my crucified Lord in this beautiful community He prepared for me, where my sisters and I will venerate in a special way this act of love on the cross. The ringing of the bells was a tangible sign of the Lord’s faithfulness to me ‘in good times and in bad,’ made complete by His gift of supernatural joy.



Mother Della Marie observes the sisters as they sign the community register

SURPRISING MERCY

BY SR. EMMANUELLE SCHRATZ, TOR

Preparing for my first profession of vows is how I came to experience and know deep within that Jesus is my Savior and that His spousal love is intimately connected with salvation.

A tangible way I prepared for my first profession was through a general confession, which is an examination of one’s life and is commonly practiced during a major life change such as a profession of vows. This experience allowed me to repent more deeply of areas in my heart that before I hadn’t even noticed. While feeling nervous before my confession, the Lord gave me the image of a bride opening herself to her groom in complete and total vulnerability. He showed me that as I laid out my heart to Him in the Sacrament of Confession, He was there to receive me with tender love and mercy just as a groom receives his bride.

After confession I experienced a great newness and joy as I was washed clean by the blood of Christ like the bride in Ephesians: “Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word” (5:25). Yet my heart was still wanting more. I wanted to be freed even more from my sin like I was on the day of my baptism. Religious consecration is, after all, a deepening of baptismal graces and I wanted my heart to be as free as possible to give to Jesus. It was at that moment that I remembered our Father of Mercy Chapel is a pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of Hope, and that I could receive an indulgence. My heart overflowed with awe and joy as I received more of the Lord’s mercy with great ease.

Salvation is truly a gift! We can’t earn it, we just have to receive it. Although sin will inevitably continue to be part of my life here on earth, I have greater confidence in His mercy. I know that His yoke truly is “easy,” and that when He calls me to the eternal wedding banquet, I can trust in the Bridegroom’s gift of salvation.



With gratitude to God, we celebrated the first profession of vows of Sr. Emmanuelle and Sr. Emma Ruth on June 13th



Professed sisters smile after making their vows

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If you wish to switch to an electronic newsletter or discontinue receiving our newsletters, please contact Dena Serrano at mission@torsisters.org or 740-544-5542 Ext. 115.

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*Ignatian
Silent Retreat*
SEPT 26-28, 2025

The retreat will be hosted on our Motherhouse property and will be a time for silent imaginative prayer according to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Retreatants will be guided through several "prayer hours" each day and will be given a few prayer exercises to pray with during the weeks prior to arrival. Daily spiritual direction by the sisters will also be offered. To find out more information (including the suggested donation amount) and to sign up, contact Sr. Sarah Rose at 740-544-6287.

ALL SOUL'S DAY MASS

Sunday, November 2nd in Father of Mercy Chapel

FRANCISCANSISTERSTOR.ORG
CONTACT US! (740) 544-5542



PARISH MISSION AT RESURRECTION PARISH

September 28-30, 2025 (Sunday to Tuesday)

If you're in the Pittsburgh area, join Fr. Michael Ackerman and the Franciscan Sisters, TOR, for parish mission Sunday to Tuesday evening, featuring spiritual talks on the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Faith-Sharing Group

Join Sr. Katherine and Cruz Hawrot for **Gifts of Imperfection Women's Faith Sharing** in-person and virtual groups begin meeting on September 3rd, from 7:00-8:30 PM on the first and third Wednesday the month, at 369 Little Church Road, Toronto, OH. To sign up, email Sr. Katherine at srkatherine@torsisters.org

Share His Mercy Benefit Banquet

SATURDAY EVENING: OCTOBER 25, 2025

You're Invited to our Benefit Banquet honoring all of our priests!
All are welcome! The event is FREE, but we ask that you RSVP by Oct 13th.

You can find more information on our website under the "Events" tab or through the mailed invitation.

RSVP to attend in-person or participate virtually via livestream by scanning the QR Code provided:

We hope to see you there!



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