

Special Edition



Las Servidoras

20th Anniversary of the IVE in the U.S.A.



Volume 6, Issue IV

20 YEARS IN THE PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

When the first IVE priests arrived in the U.S. in 1989, we couldn't have imagined all that God would do over the next two decades. This year, we celebrate our 20th anniversary in the Province of the Immaculate Conception with great joy, intense gratitude, and a sense of wonder and awe at all the opportunities that our Lord has provided to our Religious Family.



The first final vows professed in the Province in 1994.



One of our first convents, St. Peter and Paul Parish in Brooklyn

long after that, in 1994, our sisters arrived at St. Gabriel as well.

At the invitation of various bishops, the mid-1990s saw the expansion of the IVE priests and Servidoras beyond New York into many new places throughout the Province, including Massachusetts (1994), California (1994), Guyana (1995), Canada (1996), Sts. Peter and Paul (Brooklyn, 1996), Avondale, PA (1996), Philadelphia (1998), and Harlem (1998). Our sisters also



IVE Founder Fr. Carlos Buela and priests of the Province



Sr. Angeles on the day of her perpetual vows, with IVE Founder Father Buela and parish children

founded communities alongside these IVE parishes working in catechesis, sacristy and liturgy, and home visits to the sick. A special grace for all the missions of the Province came in 1998 when our contemplative sisters established the Monastery of St. Edith Stein in Flatlands, Brooklyn.

In response to vocations in the United States, the priests soon opened a novitiate (1993) and a seminary (1998) to welcome Americans called by God to consecrate their lives to Him through the IVE charism. The sisters likewise opened two formation houses: a Novitiate (1999) and a Juniorate House of Studies (2001).



Sisters of the Province in 1996



IVE seminarians with Theodore Cardinal McCarrick and Archbishop Donald Wuerl, former and current Archbishops of Washington, D.C.

In 2001, the Province was officially placed under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. The new millennium brought the foundation of still more new missions in the Province: Connecticut (2003), two new Maryland parishes (2004), the Bronx (2006), Arizona (2006), Minnesota

(2008), Chicago, IL (2008). During this time, annual province-wide traditions were born, including weekend youth festivals at the IVE Retreat Center in upstate New York, which began in 2001, the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation, when our Religious Family celebrates the event at the heart of our charism, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.



The first set of American novices with their superiors



Popular mission in Guyana in Summer 2009

May God continue to gift our Religious Family here in the Province of the Immaculate Conception with apostolic zeal, fidelity to our vows and to the Holy Church, and new opportunities to proclaim the Incarnation of Christ from coast to coast and beyond!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



In 2001, our province was officially submitted by the IVE Religious Family to the patronage of Our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception. The title was chosen because of its historical importance to the U.S., dating to 1792, when Archbishop John Carroll dedicated the See of Baltimore to the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. In 1846, during a time of increased persecution of Catholics in the U.S., Pope Pius IX placed the U.S. under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception at the unanimous request of American bishops. Many persecutions subsequently abated. As IVE religious, we take a fourth vow of total consecration to Our Lady and we entrust our lives, our apostolate and our growth as a Religious Family to her loving maternal care.

20 YEARS OF APOSTOLIC ADVENTURE

Parish Life – the Heart of the Church

The IVE Religious Family is committed, first and foremost, to the primary seat of life of the Church, the parish community, under the firm belief that a solemn and beautiful liturgy has a formative effect for all souls. The dignity and beauty of the Holy Mass is the first and foundational catechesis. As conduits of life-giving grace, the Sacraments are at the heart of IVE religious education. Our religious education programs are bursting at the seams!



Our catechism programs at the 23 parishes in our Province are currently educating thousands of people. The need for solid faith formation is urgent in the urban centers of America's biggest cities, especially among the Spanish-speaking communities where we so often work.

Taking the Gospel to the Streets

Here as around the world, our parishes have grown and reached out to neighborhoods through "popular missions," the door-to-door visitation according to the method of St. Alphonsus Liguori. During these intense weeks of evangelization, seminarians, sisters and parish laity



bring Jesus into the streets of Brooklyn, North Philadelphia, the Bronx, Phoenix, the suburbs of Washington, DC and Toronto's Jane-and-Finch neighborhoods. While Eucharistic Processions

have deep roots in Europe and Latin America, we have seen over the years the great gift that public witness and prayer bring to

communities here in the United States as well. So often, we have seen our new parishes in Maryland and Arizona blossom into active centers with increased catechetism enrollment and Mass attendance, as a result of the popular missions. Over the years, we have been blessed to be entrusted with 23



parishes. Much of this fruit could be attributed to the more than 35 popular missions conducted during the life of the Province.

Youth in the Third Millennium

Reaching youth with Christ's call to heroic love and virtue has been of prime importance to the IVE Religious Family since its founding, using the "oratory" method of St. John Bosco throughout our parishes. By providing a safe and consistent place for youth to have fun as well as receive solid faith formation, many children and young people have been able to grow into faithful Christian adults.



While all our oratories emphasize participation in games, sports, outings and frequent access to the Sacraments, the month-long Summer Oratory in California is unique. Since 2003, we have been working with over 400 children aged 5

to 15 at Our Lady of Peace Parish and Shrine, a center of perpetual Eucharistic adoration and prayer in the heart of Silicon Valley. Each afternoon all the children pray the Rosary in procession around the 30 foot statue of Our Lady of Peace.

The St. Patrick's Retreat Center in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York hosts each year a variety of youth events. The biggest is the annual IVE Youth Festival, a tradition since 2001. This weekend gathers mostly urban youth from our parishes into

the beauty of the mountains for sports, games, and bonfires along with daily Mass, a Rosary procession, spiritual talks, discussion groups, and extended Eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of Reconciliation. We also host week-long summer camp for younger girls as well as the Altar Boys Camp at St. Patrick's.

Defending the Sanctity of Life



Around the world, our Religious Family works to protect human life at all stages through education programs, care for women in crisis pregnancies, and homes for abandoned children. In our Province, we work in pro-life ministries and parish level pro-life formation. The annual event of the March for Life on the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision provides a unique opportunity for unity among the youth and adults of the parishes, our priests and seminarians, and our sisters from around the Province. For many young people, this is the first time they are able to see the Church as a public witness. Dozens of Bishops and hundreds of priests concelebrate at the 23,000 strong Youth Mass for Life and lead hundreds of thousands of pro-life activists for the March to the Supreme Court. It is also an opportunity for many to offer personal sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel of Life as they brave the January cold, the crowded accommodations, and the time lost from school and work.

Viva el Papa!

From the beginning, John Paul II has exercised a great spiritual paternity over our Religious Family. His dynamic outreach to youth found its special expression in the World Youth Day phenomenon, and continues today under our Holy Father Benedict XVI. As a testimony to the zeal of American youth, our Province has been able



to bring hundreds of youth and young adults to World Youth Days in Toronto (2002), Cologne (2005), and Sydney (2008). These extraordinary events have offered our young people extended time together with our priests, seminarians, and sisters, connect with groups from the other provinces of our Religious Family, grow in their love for the Holy Father and experience the beauty of the universal Church.



Go Out To All the World...

Responding to the characteristic impulse of American youth towards generosity, our Province has placed many individuals and led groups of young people as volunteers in our foreign missions. These volunteers have served in parishes, English literacy programs, and homes of mercy in Argentina, Peru, Guyana, Albania, Taiwan, and elsewhere. All experience the universality of the Church around the world, and some have even discovered their vocations to the priesthood or religious life.

BE NOT AFRAID!



Each vocation to our Religious Family is an unrepeatable act of God, a gift that we treasure. Our province has been blessed to open houses of formation to welcome and form local vocations. In 1993, the priests opened a novitiate for the first male novices, and the IVE seminary was opened just outside Washington, D.C. in 1998. Starting with two priests in 1989, the IVE now has over 100 members in the Province.



The sisters opened our novitiate in 1999 and our subsequent formation house, the Juniorate House of Studies, in 2001. Arriving in 1994 with 9 sisters, we now have about 100 sisters in the Province.



We believe that, despite our secular culture, there are many more young souls that God is calling and will call to a heroic life of total consecration. Please pray for many and holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for the perseverance of all our Religious Family.



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IVE THIRD ORDER

Our Religious Family includes a growing number of faithful laypeople who form the IVE Third Order, an association of parishioners, friends, benefactors and co-laborers who, while living in the world, desire to participate in the IVE spirit. The Third Order is an essential part of the IVE Religious Family because it further extends the IVE charism into the world, prolonging the Incarnation in every sphere of human life, especially family life. With differing levels of membership, Third Order members may affiliate through common purpose of life, through participation in apostolate, or even in the consecration to the spirit of the Religious Family through the taking of private vows.



For more information about the Third Order, visit the Third Order link on www.iveamerica.org.

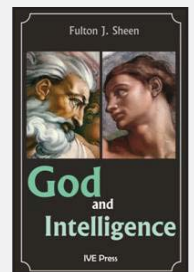
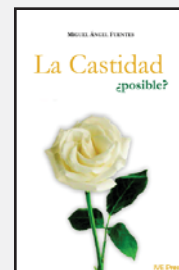
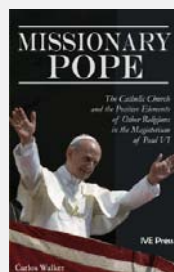
Members of the Third Order and IVE priests from Our Lady of Peace parish in California



In our effort to nourish souls, the IVE Press publishes books of enduring value on catechesis, youth, marriage and families, intellectual life and spiritual growth.

We focus on making outstanding Spanish books available, providing translations of important works from Spanish into English, and publishing classic out-of-print books by great authors such as Servant of God Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

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