



SLEEPING JOSEPH - WHY PRAY TO HIM? “The LORD pours gifts on his beloved while they sleep.” Ps 127:2

Four times in a dream Joseph bar Jacob ‘heard’ the ‘voice’ of the Lord speaking to him through an Angel. Each time he was given insight and direction. Each time, when he awakened, he immediately acted. Is it Joseph’s obedience to the voice of the Lord that gains for him answers to prayer even while he sleeps? Or is it something more?

On the occasion of his first dream, Joseph was a man torn between two loves. Evening and morning, he declared his first love,

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deut. 6:4

Joseph’s second love had been publicly declared when he was betrothed to his beautiful soul-mate, Mary. Tradition holds that both Joseph and Mary, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, had separately taken vows of virginity. This shared secret bound them together in a love deeper than any human affection. Lk.. 1:27-34; Num. 30:3, 6-8; Jerome in 382-383, Para 21

However, the Gospel of Matthew tells us that when the grace they had awaited actually came to Mary, the young groom was caught off guard.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. Matt. 1:19



Joseph fell into a fitful sleep. A merciful escape from the anguished thought of being parted from his beloved Mary.

However, God had another plan.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matt. 1:20-21

As the fog of sleep began to lift, did a well known Messianic prophecy whisper in his heart?

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel - God with us.”

When Joseph was fully awake ‘he did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary his wife into his home, and when the Child was born they named him Jesus. Now Joseph’s two loves were incarnate in the womb of Mary; and, worthy or not, he would guard and cherish them both.

The circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth were perplexing yet they continued to confirm the messages of the angel to both Mary and Joseph. A census having been called, the new husband had to take his wife, nine months with child, to Bethlehem, the city of his ancestor King David. A cave and a manger were all Joseph could provide for the Child’s birth. However, shepherds came paying homage to the babe and speaking in awe of a sky full of angels. Later, when Joseph

*On my desk,
I have an image of
St. Joseph sleeping. Even
when he is asleep, he looks
after the Church. Yes! We
know that he can do that,
So when I have a problem,
a difficulty, I write a little
note, and I put it underneath
St. Joseph, so that he can
dream about it! In other
words, I tell him: “Pray for
this problem!”*
Pope Francis, Manila, 1/16/2015.



presented the boy to his Heavenly Father in the Temple, a rejoicing prophet greeted them. Taking the child in his arms he exclaimed:

Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel. Lk. 1:29-32

Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was being said about their Son especially when Simeon blessed them saying to his mother:

This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too. Lk. 1: 33-35



While Mary kept all these things cherishing them in her heart, Joseph's mind turned toward keeping his little family. We can conclude from Scripture that he provided them with a small home and took up his carpentry trade in Bethlehem. Here the three Magi found Mary and the Child.

Having determined, by the sighting of a star, that a long-awaited King of the Jews had been born, they went to Herod in Jerusalem inquiring:

"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." Matt.2:3

Very troubled when he heard this news, Herod gathered together all the chief priests and scribes to determine where the Messiah was to be born. They answered, "In Bethlehem of Judea." Herod encouraged the Magi to find the new born King and tell him so he, too, could do him homage. The Magi followed the star until it settled over Joseph's home:

After coming into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matt.2:8-11

Why these gifts that were meant for a king, a priest and the burial of the dead.? Were these, too, confirmations? Did they confirm the boy's name, 'God saves'? Or Simeon's prophecy that left them with a vague sense of foreboding?



That night two men dreamt. One was a Magi warned of Herod's treachery and told to go home by another route. The other was Joseph:

Now when the Magi had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." So, Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. Cf. Matt.2:13-15



News of the slaughter of all the boys in Bethlehem, from newly born to two years old, may have reached the Jewish community in Egypt because Joseph decided to stay there until the death of Herod. There the Angel broke into his sleep for a third time:

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead." So, Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. Matt.2:19-21

'Home at last!' Joseph must have sighed. But when Joseph heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, was reigning over Judea in his place he was afraid to go there. Again, the angel came. His message

confirmed Joseph's concern for the Babe,

Then after being warned by God in a dream, Joseph left for the regions of Galilee, and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene." Matt.2:22-23

Four times Joseph 'heard' the Lord speaking to him through an angel and each time when he awoke he acted. To some it can appear that Joseph was merely acting in obedience. But, "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7
What if Joseph the righteous 'lover of the Law' was more like the bride in the Song of Songs? When she awakened from her dream she exclaimed: "I was asleep, but my heart was awake. It is the voice of my beloved who knocks." Cf. Song of Songs 5:2

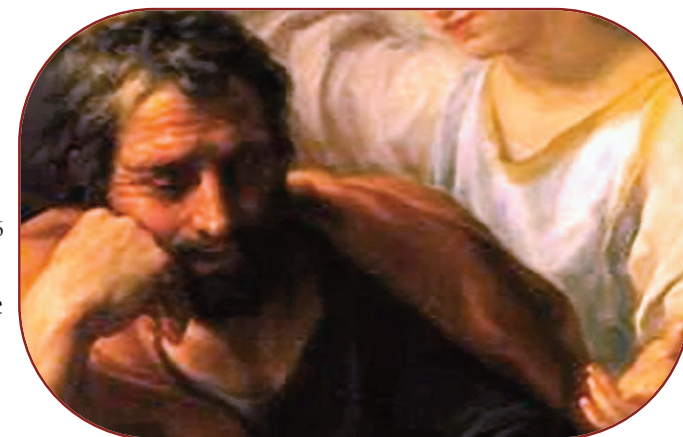
What if this was the prayer of Joseph's heart?

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
For you my soul is thirsting.
On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. Cf. Ps. 63:2-9

And, what if, the Lord responded?

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him.
Protect him for he knows my ways.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you." Cf. Ps. 91: 15-16

Could it be that even now, our Heavenly Father recalls finding Joseph's heart awake and clinging to him in love even while he slept? Could this be why the prayer of Joseph is so powerful - that whenever he calls upon the Lord, the Lord answers, "I am with you?"



*O St. Joseph, you are a man greatly favored by the Most High. The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams, while you slept, to warn you and guide you as you cared for the Holy Family. You were both silent and strong, a loyal and courageous protector.
Dear St. Joseph, as you rest in the Lord, confident of his absolute power and goodness, look upon me. Please take my need (mention your request) into your heart, dream of it, and present it to your Son. Help me then, good St. Joseph, to hear the voice of God, to arise, and act with love. I praise and thank God with joy. St. Joseph, I love you. Amen.*

2023 DISCERNMENT RETREAT July 21-23rd



*Presented by our Monastery Vocation team
with Fr. Nick Monco, OP.*

*"When I found Him Whom my heart loves
... I would not let him go!" Song of songs*

Single, Catholic women ages 18 to 35

Please, spread the news and pray for those the Lord is inviting.

Contact: Vocation Directress at dnfvocations@gmail.com

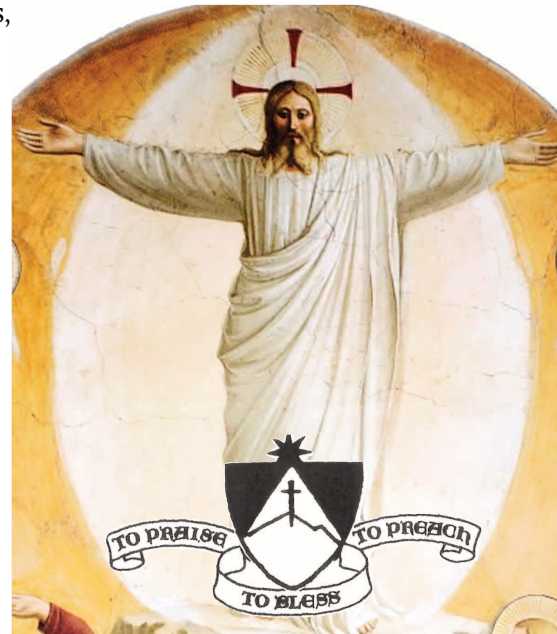
A LIFE TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Sr. Anne Mary of the Trinity, OP - A Faithful Friend and Daughter of the Church - by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, OP

We begin this story on the life of Sister Anne Mary of the Trinity, not where her journey started, but where it ended. In January 2022, Sister Anne Mary traveled with her companion, Sister Mary Joseph from Ortonville to Farmington Hills to begin yet another chapter in her life as a Dominican Nun. Unknown to any of us at that time, this would be her final chapter.



in New York with her two best girlfriends, Jane and Regina. They were so often together that they acquired the nicknames, "Faith, Hope, and Charity". Sister Anne credited Jane with being the



Sr. Anne, a natural patriot and historian, was taught by her father to have a genuine love of her country with a deep sense of duty and loyalty. These virtues, strengthened by her faith in Christ, would become her sure anchor when, before and after the Second Vatican Council, the winds of change blew through the Church and the Monastery.

In the late 1960's these winds shook her Monastery, also, known as the 'Blue Chapel.' Some sisters left religious life and, for others, a new grace entered into their religious vocation. In changing times, the Holy Spirit may inspire changing visions. Sr. Anne had no intention of leaving religious life, but, at the same time she experienced a call to begin a new community.

conceived." Ortonville proved to be the perfect place for the Sisters of Mount Thabor to bring to fruition their beautiful and powerful vision for a simple form of Dominican monastic life; a life that retained the essentials of the Dominican contemplative vocation, while allowing greater contact with the people. With a less strict cloister, approved by the Archbishop, others could experience their life on the Mountain :

A way of life, that unites the soul intimately to God. Sublime in its simplicity, it radiates to the whole world. The mountain trail is rocky, but the climb is peaceful, to the solitude where one can realize the great mystery of God's power in the gift of Himself. Sr. Martin



Sr. Anne Mary of the Trinity was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 22, 1932 to William and Florence Kearney. She grew up in a

strong family. Her mother was of German descent and her father Irish. She had two older brothers, Bill and Ken, who always kept a close eye on their little sister and never ceased to keep things light with their Irish wit and charm. Family life being the foundation of her upright life, Sister Anne was never short of edifying family stories of steadfast faith, practical German wisdom and good Irish humor.

During a family visit, Sister told her brother, "The nuns say that if a girl sleeps well, eats well and laughs well, she has a vocation." Just then a stout and joyful looking sister passed behind Sr. Anne. Her brother smiled lovingly at Sr. Anne and quipped, "I think that sister has a vocation."



Proud of her Brooklyn roots, she loved to tell stories about growing up

impetus for her religious devotion and vocation. It was Jane who led Barbara and Regina to this or that Church, for this or that novena, and they willingly followed.

When Jane entered the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Union City, NJ, Barbara, who had followed her to all those novenas, followed her into the Monastery. Becoming a Postulant in 1955, Sr. Anne was very happy with the Dominican monastic life. She was formed in the life by her Novice Mistress, Sr. Martin di Giambattista, who would become a lifelong friend. Sr. Anne made her first Profession of Vows on May 11, 1960 and final vows three years later. After Profession Sister served as bursar making use of the banking skills she had learned working at a bank after H.S. graduation.

*Sister Anne Mary of the Trinity, O.P.
Barbara Jean Kearney
June 22, 1932 – November 14, 2022*

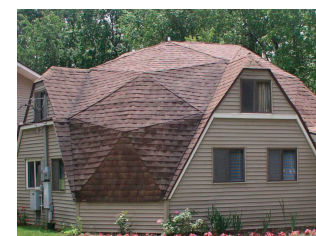


by a bishop to West Virginia, the two sisters were sitting on a mountain top, when they discovered a shared vision to a life of 'Transfiguration'. From there they would then set out together on a 50-year journey as, 'Sisters of Mount Thabor.'

A year later, at the invitation of John Cardinal Deardon, they traveled to the Archdiocese of Detroit. In Ortonville, Divine



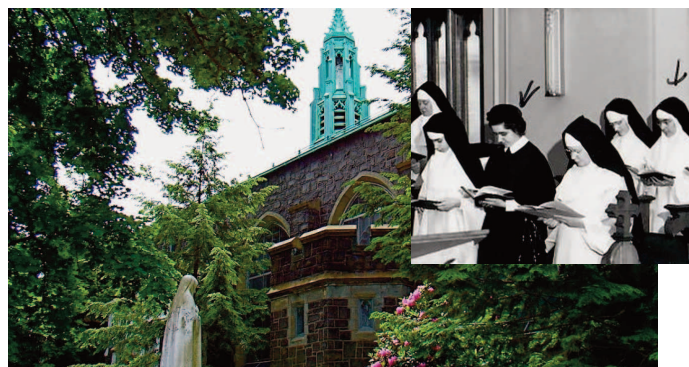
Providence provided a beautiful plot of land and generous neighbors with building skills to help them assemble a geodesic dome Monastery. The Geodesic structures were simple and cost effective at \$2,000 each. And according to the American Institute of Architects they are "known to be the strongest and most energy efficient human shelter



From the beginning, the charism of the sisters was "simplicity." They started with hardly a penny in their pocket relying on Divine Providence for everything. They literally built the Monastery with their own hands. Eventually a small number of sisters would come, take vows and share their life.



But in 2016, Sr. Martin went to her Lord and by November 2022 only two sisters remained. Although the vision had in on way faded they realized that it could not be lived with just two.



SR ANNE CONTINUED

And so, discerning to take a journey south they knocked on the door of the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament. Over the years, the Nuns had provided Mt. Tabor with ongoing support that formed bonds of friendship and sisterhood; therefore, a move to Farmington was a natural fit and answer to prayer. And so, as the Farmington sisters lovingly embraced Sr. Anne and Sr. Mary Joseph, that loving embrace would guide Sr. Anne on the last leg of her journey here on earth. On November 14, 2022, only eleven months after her arrival in Farmington Hills, Sister Anne followed Sister Martin one final time into Eternal Life.

*We behold the splendor of God shining on the face of Jesus.
And oh, how his beauty transforms us, the wonder of presence abiding.
Transparent hearts give reflection of Tabor's light within, of Tabor's light within.*
Rev. Carey Landry

Together with Sister Martin Sister Anne witnessed both the rise and fall of the Dominican Sisters of Mount Tabor, which lasted for a short but glorious 53 years, from 1969-2022. The extraordinarily beautiful lake front property had become an oasis of contemplative prayer and monastic life. Sr. Martin and Sr. Anne's vision bore lasting fruit in hundreds of lives that were transformed by the power of their prayer and witness. The life of the Sisters of Mount Tabor will forever be remembered as a real Transfiguration experience, their fruits not just lasting but Eternal.



*Faithful Friend:
Sharing her vision with Sr. Martin and her heart with the people of God.*



Sister Anne, faithful friend and daughter of the Church, experienced the Transfiguring grace at Mount Tabor, "as in a mirror darkly."

Now we pray that she is seeing the Lord of Tabor's Light "face to face."



In 2022, Sister celebrated 90 years of life with family and friends.

MEETING OUR 88TH MASTER GENERAL, FR. GERARD F. TIMONER, III, OP



Twice in his nine year term the Master must visit every one of the 44 Provinces of Friars world-wide. In December 2022, Fr. Gerard F. Timoner, III, also, met with the Nuns of the Central Province at the Monastery of Mary the Queen in Girard, IL. Sr. Mary Grace and Sr. Clara Marie represented our Monastery. With us was Fr. Louis Morrone, the Vicar of the Master for our Monastery.



Father Gerard is from the Philippines. Our Sr. Mary Catherine, his compatriot, baked for him a special treat. He hugged this taste-of-home to his chest saying, with an impish grin, "These are mine!"

The Prioresses met with the Master for approximately 30 minutes each - Sr. Anna Marie face to face in their Chapter Hall and Sr. Mary Peter, our Prioress via Zoom.



HOLY WEEK LITURGIES
EASTER SUNDAY ~ THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
APRIL 6TH ~ 9TH



HOLY THURSDAY **4:00 pm** MASS; Doors open 8:00 am; Gift Shop closes 2:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY **3:00 pm** Veneration of the Cross with Communion Service
Doors open 8:00 am; Gift Shop Closed All Day

HOLY SATURDAY **8:00 am** Doors open until 2:30 pm; Gift Shop open until 2:30 pm

EASTER -
VIGIL MASS **11:00 pm** Doors open 10:45 pm
MORNING MASS **9:30 am** Doors open at 9:00 am and close at Noon

Intentions: _____

Please check here if no acknowledgment needed

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

2022 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Shortly after Mass on Thanksgiving Day our Prioress, Sister Mary Peter, was assisted by Sr. Mary Elizabeth who drew one the winning tickets for our Sweepstakes. The winners were :

First Prize of \$1,000.00: Stella Stimac Troy, MI
Second Prize of \$500.00: Felicia Messina D'Haiti LaPlata, MD
The five *Third Prize* winners of \$100.00 were:

Joanne Jorissea	W. Bloomfield, MI
Marilyn Heath	Kalamazoo, MI
Juanita Lim	Berkley, MI
Cynthia Nuno	Warren, MI
Gary Kudron	Livonia, MI



We rejoice with these winners, and offer our sincere thanks to them and to all who so graciously joined in our sweepstakes.

The total amount donated was \$16,724.00

May the Lord bless you and all whom you love a hundredfold for your generous support of our life of prayer.



WEB ADDRESS: www.opnuns-fh.org
Donate on-line via PayPal or "Givng"
Prayer Line: 248-626-8253



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Please, share this Echoes with your friends.

Please, donate on-line by going to www.opnuns-fh.org, click on **Giving Tab** - And please consider remembering us in your will.

NOVENA OF SAINT JOSEPH ~ MARCH 11TH~ 19TH

Ite Ad Joseph - Go to Joseph! - St. André's powerful mantra, a call to Faith and Hope.

St. Joseph, man of prayer, help us to stand with you before God, humble, attentive, faith-filled, awaiting the loving mercy of His providence. Teach us to pray as you did, with the inner simplicity and trust of silent prayer and the purity and strength of worship in union with our brothers and sisters.

The whole world is your child, Joseph.

Be protector and advocate for the searching and the sorrowing, the struggling and the straying, for all of us who long for peace and the fullness of life.

Take our lives, our times, our needs into your fatherly care, so that we may follow Christ Jesus down pathways of holiness and wholeness. Enfold us and those we love in your prayer, father Joseph.

Obtain for us the daily bread of grace we need for this life, so that we may come at last in your company to the eternal joy of Heaven. Amen.

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The whole world is your child, Joseph.