

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!*

There has sure been a lot to celebrate recently! On July 9th our sisters had a special tour of the new OSF St. Francis Medical Center/Children's Hospital of Illinois building. That day Monsignor Bliss blessed the new little Chapel and the tabernacle where the blessed Sacrament will be reserved. There were special events and tours every day until the blessing and dedication on July 16th. Bishop Daniel Jenky blessed the **new hospital building** with the help of several priests and deacons. It is an absolutely beautiful building! You'll have to take a look at the [video tour](#) (It's down at the bottom of the page.)

Sister Faustina, Sister Veronica and Sister Rose Therese had a great time with the girls at the **St. Therese Vocation Camp** for the Diocese of Rockford July 18-21.

The evening of July 30, our annual summer **retreat** began. Father David Turner, O.S.B. from St. Procopius Abby in Lisle, Illinois. He gave wonderful conferences tying together some themes which at first glance might not seem closely related: the Beatitudes, living the Christian life as St. Francis - the Gospel life, and the Canticle of the Sun. He brought out some new insights for us and reminded us of truths we should already know, to inspire us to renewed vigor in our spiritual life. After all, that's what a retreat is for.

Near the end of retreat, after evening prayer on the fourth, Postulant Yvonne offered her prayer of thanksgiving before altar with all the sisters present. (It is a tradition in our community for the sister to have such a thanksgiving service the evening before her reception into the novitiate or before professing vows.) The next day, at 2:00 PM, the **new novice** was received into our community and given the name Sister Mary Francis. There was a little get together for the sisters afterwards.

That evening, Sister M. Veronica and Sister Rose Therese had their thanksgiving service. Sister Veronica received her professed sister's habit, newly blessed by Father David at the morning Mass.

Guests started to arrive the morning of August 6th, the feast of the Transfiguration, for the profession Mass for Sister Veronica and Sister Rose Therese. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Daniel Jenky with many priests from the area there to concelebrate. Sister Veronica professed her **first temporary vows** and received her black veil and her crucifix. After the lita-

ny of the saints, Sister Rose Therese professed her **perpetual vows** and was given a solemn blessing and her profession ring. (Click on the picture to see more photos. Or you can visit our page on [facebook](#).) There was a special banquet for all those who attended the Mass. The day after their profession both sisters went back home with their families for vacation.

I guess I have run out of room, so it must be time for me to sign off. Hope your summer has been as joyful as ours has. You are in our prayers.

Pax et bonum!



*The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis*

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