



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*



“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding...”

(Proverbs 3:5)

God really does take care of everything if we just let Him. All it takes is a little trust. Unfortunately, trust can only be learned and

proven through suffering, through difficulties, through those moments when we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. But if we clench our fists and hold onto faith with our bare hands, the resurrection will ALWAYS follow the cross.

realization that our new home needed much more than some minor adjustments. The walls in almost every room needed extensive stripping and often crumbled with every stroke of the paintbrush. Ceilings had to be repaired. The heaters often produced more dust than heat while the old, drafty windows left the house quite cold.



After spending some weeks in the U.S. obtaining religious visas, the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will returned to Italy this February to find a few new tests of our trust in Divine Providence. We were welcomed back by several large utility bills waiting for us in the mail and the

The bathrooms required reconstruction, the kitchen had to be furnished, and the backyard still resembles more of a jungle than a garden. Human logic told us that five sisters with little to no experience in this type of work and without the funds to hire laborers could not do it. And we were right. We could not...but those are exactly the moments when the Lord asks us to trust and then He takes over.





Did Jesus not tell us, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of

the harvest to send out laborers” (Luke 10:2). We didn’t know how to plaster or stucco yet, but we got to work doing what we do best... praying. Soon enough, volunteer after volunteer came knocking on our door offering their help, expertise, and even material goods. These loving souls – both friends and those we had never met before - came day after day, for hours at a time to help get our house ready. They often brought their children, filling our home with the angelic sound of little ones playing and laughing. They made our bedrooms livable, our bathrooms functional, our chapel beautiful, and the whole house full of warmth.



But the exterior fruits of these labors were just a thin veil covering the most

powerful work Our Lord and Our Lady were doing. Hearts were touched, masses were shared, rosaries were said, hours of adoration were prayed, confessions were heard (some after many years), bonds were formed. We learned more than just painting and drilling, but the definition of true Christian charity. All because of the cross. All because of our incapability to carry it on our own. This is the Body of Christ! This is the reason we know we must continue to spend hours before our Humble Head in the Most Blessed Sacrament who asks us to be instruments of His mercy for one another! Because through prayer and through our total and utter weakness, God can accomplish great things! And it is not because we are good (as we certainly are not), but because HE IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!



Would you like to join the bandwagon of grace? We are still very much in need of monetary support from our brothers and sisters. Moving into the Casa Tomasetti at the beginning of March, we quickly realized just how cold the house can get in the winter. With unreliable heaters and single pane windows without any kind of insulation, it was very difficult and expensive to keep the rooms warm. Thanks be to God, spring has finally arrived here, but we still hope to raise enough funds to change our heaters and windows by next winter. *Replacing twenty windows at approximately \$550 each would require at least \$11,000 in addition to the cost of a \$13,000 new heating system.* We humbly ask you to please consider making a financial contribution to the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will. You can donate online by credit card at our website or send a check/money order to our non-profit organization in the U.S at the address below. All of your help, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated.

Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will
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Let the little children come to Me...



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, or jetlag was going to keep our newest little sister from making her appointed entrance ceremony! After dodging a blizzard that grounded several planes and hopping on an earlier flight across the

Atlantic from her home town of Conyers, Georgia, Alessandra Monserrat Hernandez-Soler decided to brave the fatigue of a sleepless night and multiple layovers in order to officially enter the BDDW on the evening of February 9th, the liturgical “kickoff” to the Solemnity of Holy Mother Scholastica. Immediately following a simple mass at a quiet retreat house, our young aspirant became a postulant! With tired eyes and a glowing smile,



Sister Alessandra professed her desire to “spend [her] life at the feet of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and prepare [herself] for the great day of union with Bridegroom and Bride,” thereupon receiving the signature black veil and Benedictine medal.

So when did the blushing bride-to-be first realize she only had eyes for Jesus? Like most children, Sister Alessandra remembers being asked quite often what she wanted to be when she grew up. But unlike most little girls, rather than revealing a thousand different dreams and desires for her future, she broke into a cold sweat instead. She didn’t dream of being a beautiful princess, a rich wife, or a famous actress (although she can reenact movie scenes better than most Academy Award winners). In fact, she had no clue what she wanted to be until a simple, little idea popped into her head at eight years old. . .*why not be a nun?* A flood of peace immediately followed that one simple thought. A peace that she had never experienced before and has never experienced since. A peace that can only come from the FIAT of a child. And from then on she desired nothing but to be a bride of Christ.



To the great benefit of the community, Sister Alessandra has not lost the childlike simplicity of that eight year old girl. After only three months with the community, she has already brought a unique, docile, and lighthearted spirit to the Benedictine Daughters. She has truly entered into the joy of the Lord.



For more pictures of the Casa Tomasetti, Sister Alessandra’s entrance ceremony, Sister Maria Chiara’s investment, and Sister Maureen Christine’s vows, check out the “Photo Gallery” page of our website at www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org.



The Wedding Dress is Ready!



Another step closer to that great day of union! Thanks to the grace of God and the many prayers and sacrifices offered for Sister Giorgia, she proclaimed another big “yes” to her beloved

Jesus who popped the question through the lips of Mother Gabrielle Marie after the Palm Sunday vigil mass on March 23rd. After listening to the Gospel of the Lord’s Passion and receiving the total gift of His Humanity and Divinity in Holy



Communion, the former postulant freely and joyfully responded to her Divine Fiancée with her own gift of self. She received the

holy habit as a sign of her love for Jesus and with the hope that it be transformed into the



“vestito della santità” (garment of sanctity). She allowed her hair to be cut as a renouncement of worldly vanities and a promise to the Lord to remain always His. And finally, Giorgia Tallarini gave up her name, the most powerful

symbol of one’s identity, as a sign of her desire to be transformed completely into the image of her Creator, Father, and future Spouse. Please continue to pray for our new novice, Sister Maria

Chiara Veronica of the Most Holy Rosary, as she begins a new phase of her religious life. Much like her patroness, St. Clare, who gave up everything on Palm Sunday to offer herself to the Lord,



may she live a life truly poor in spirit in order to obtain the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth!



Investment, January 2012

Please pray for our beloved **Sister Maureen Christine of the Divine Mercy** who recently underwent the amputation of her left leg. She is a victim soul and professed member of the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will who so generously and with heroic resignation offers all of her sufferings for the glory of God, the salvation of souls, and for all the needs of our community. Help us to thank her with prayers and supplications for all of her needs and intentions, especially during this most difficult period in her life.



Vows, January 2013