

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

20120 Barnett Road

Brooksville, Florida, 34601



Angelica - Winter 2015-2016

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Dear Reader,

Just before Advent, the Sisters from Florida traveled to the Motherhouse for the annual retreat. This lasted eight days – each day taken up with the usual community devotions, spiritual conferences, and private time for reading and meditation. The Sisters are very grateful to Father Selway and Father Palma for preaching the retreat conferences.



Sr. Mary Avila pronounces her temporary vows.

We were happy to have the entire community together for the profession of temporary vows by a novice, which took place on the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady at the conclusion of the retreat. The same morning, each Sister in turn renewed her vows as she knelt before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

After several days of vacation together, the Sisters returned to their respective convents. There they began the new Liturgical year with the all-important work of preparing souls, their own and those of their students, for Christmastide. Advent resolutions and devotions, as well as many hours of choir practices enabled them to participate in the celebration of the holy feast of Christmas. The Sisters and students of the academies sang Midnight Mass. The day was further sanctified by the hearing of a second Mass and the singing of the Office of the day.



The first days back to school after the break were grueling ones for both Sisters and students as they prepared for the semester finals. They are now happy to settle back into the daily school schedule, for a little while at least, before the Holy Week preparations begin.

Those Sisters teaching the second grade will be using these next few months to prepare their students for the reception of First Holy Communion which will take place in the Spring. The children daily make ready for this great event not only by hearing the religious instruction of the Sisters but by attending Mass, listening to

Father's conferences to the students, making the class meditations before the Blessed Sacrament, and keeping the school rules and class resolutions. A few of the Sisters also teach a Sunday Catechism class for the children who cannot attend the school.



And finally, a few days before the close of the Christmas season, both religious houses celebrated the feasts of Saint Francis de Sales and Saint John Bosco with special solemnity. The Sisters strive to put into practice the words of Saint Francis de Sales "to accept all things and refuse nothing." This maxim teaches the Sisters to be prepared to do anything that is required for the good of souls, provided it conform to their Rule. The Sisters also pray to Saint Francis to acquire his virtues of meekness, kindness, and affability. To the patron of youth, Saint John Bosco, the Sisters pray that they may imitate his joy of soul and zeal for the youth in their own teaching apostolate.

The Sisters thank you for your prayers and support over the past years and recommend you, as well as your family and friends, to the care of Our Blessed Lady.

In Jesus through Mary,

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On the feast of the Epiphany the Motherhouse received a new postulant.



Every day the Sisters chant the hours of Prime, Vespers and Compline.



The procession on the feast of the Purification symbolizes our soul's journey through the spiritual life, during which we fall back if we are not always moving forward. By the flame of the candle is understood charity, or the love of God.



The Sisters have added to the curriculum a twenty minute daily music class which teaches the students to sight sing music.



The priest asks St. Blaise to intercede for us that we may be preserved from troubles of the throat.



Hiking through the Arizona mountains is one of the favorite vacation activities of the Sisters.

