

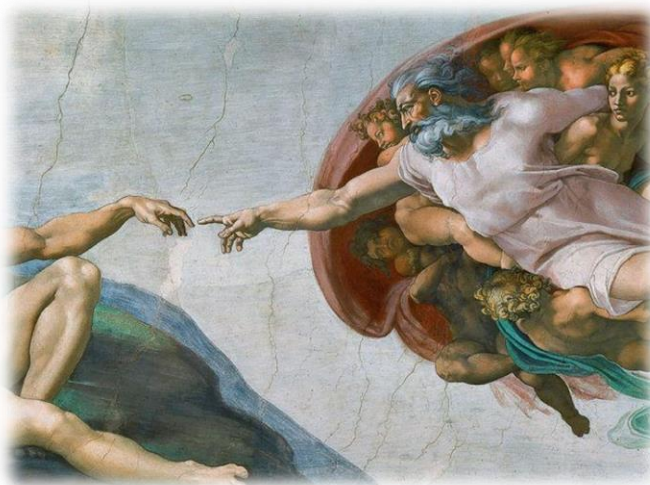


## Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will

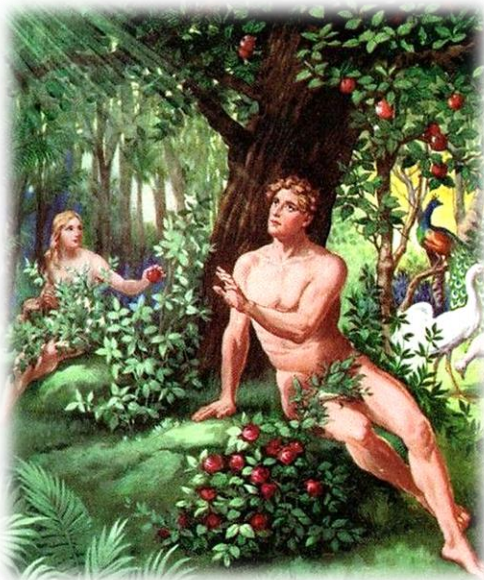


**“The whole creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed...” Rom 8:19**

Before discovering the Divine Will writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, most of us didn't really think much about Adam and Eve or original sin...other than the fact that we often struggle with its effects. But the more we read about our glorious call *"to the order, the place and the purpose for which [we were] created by God"* – a subtitle Jesus Himself gave to Luisa's diary – the more we realize the need to ponder our beginnings. Who are we as human beings, as God intended us to be? What exactly did we lose at the Fall? And through the Gift of the Divine Will, how is the Lord restoring us to His original plan? As St. John Paul II urges us, *"Man – precisely the one who listens – **must rediscover the lost fullness of his humanity and want to regain it**"* (TOB 43:7, General Audience 10/8/1980).



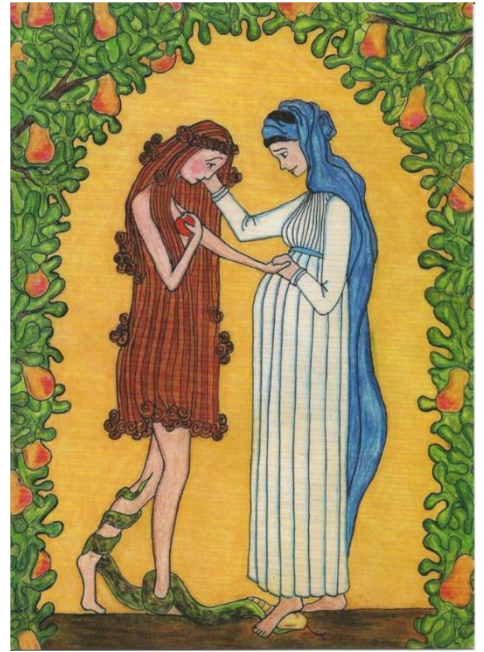
### **And behold, it was very good**



In addition to rupturing man's relationship with God, with himself, and with others, original sin also ruptured man's relationship with creation. It's something we don't often consider, but the Catechism teaches us that "Creation was fashioned with a view to the sabbath and therefore **for the worship and adoration of God**" (CCC #347). Since the Divine Will completely animated Adam and Eve before the Fall, they experienced the whole created world as an opportunity for liturgy – a means through which they could give honor, glory, praise and thanksgiving to their good, good Father. All created things, including each other (the masterpieces of creation), spoke to the first man and first woman of God's love. They were sacred

vessels through which that very divine love could be received and returned, in an ever-deepening union and communion between Creator and creature, Father and child. God made the physical world in order to intimately engage with His children and reveal spiritual and divine mysteries to them. Do we see creation in that way? Do we even notice the beauty that surrounds us?

By giving us back the Gift of the Divine Will, God wants to reawaken both our physical and spiritual senses and teach us how to glorify Him in this way again. But this is only possible through the union of the New Adam with His Bride, the New Eve – Mary, as the perfect embodiment of the Church, *and* each one of us regenerated in Her womb through Baptism. In order for us to *recognize, receive, and reciprocate* the Heavenly Father's love hidden in all of His gifts *on the level He deserves*, it takes divine eyes, a divine Heart and a Divine Will operating in our souls. Uniting our "*Fiat*" to Mary's at the Annunciation and *opening* ourselves up to the indwelling of Christ, we must freely and fully consent to becoming one with our eternal Bridegroom as She did. And if we remain in this posture faithfully, divine life will be conceived in each one of our acts...rendering us abundantly fruitful.



So whether you are gazing with contentment at a gorgeous sunset, breathing in the sweet smell of a Jasmine plant in full bloom, enjoying the affection of your dog after a long day of work, savoring a juicy steak and cold beer or sitting peacefully by the fire with your husband or wife, invite Jesus into every moment. He not only desires to delight with you in His gifts, but He wants to *increase and deepen* that delight to the max by directing you back to their source. Together with you, He wants to receive the fullness of the divine life and love found in all of these natural joys. And together with you, Jesus wants to return that love back to the Father – ***infinitely, perfectly, eternally and on behalf of everyone*** - in union with the Holy Spirit. Your little drop of human love will be there, but it'll be completely immersed in His perfect and divine love.

This means that, whether creating the world at the dawn of time or preserving the life of His works in the here and now, the Heavenly Father will always have the joyful company of His beloved child *through His Eternal Son*. All of creation will eternally sing this glorious song of reciprocal love between you and God. It's precisely our fusion with Jesus that allows us to participate in the life and love of the Most Holy Trinity in this way, giving us foretastes of Heaven here on earth. The consummation of His

Will with our own is also a foretaste of the eternal destiny to which we are all called – the marriage of the Lamb.



Celebrating Mother Gabrielle Marie's visit to Italy and Sr. Gloria's return to San Marino with some sweet, heavenly delights.

## Understanding the Rounds

In a nutshell, this is what lies at the heart of doing Rounds in the Divine Will. They are not as complicated as some may think and you don't need to be experts in them to get started. Jesus makes up for what we lack! They require neither specific formulas (though some may find that helpful) nor eloquent or poetic verses (though this may be the language of some people's hearts). All it takes is a little awareness, letting yourself get lost in awe and wonder at the goodness and beauty all around! And all that is required is the language of

your own heart, placed there from eternity to love, honor, and glorify God in *your* unique and unrepeatable way.

Rounds may even involve nothing more than a simple desire or movement of your heart toward Heaven. You might pray them during specific prayer times or spontaneously throughout the day. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in peace, trying to avoid pressure and rigidity at all costs. Imagine how Adam and Eve lived the Rounds before the Fall. How might Our Lady have prayed them? In her diary, Luisa describes many ways in which she *entered into relationship* with God through Rounds, inviting us to develop our *own* voice or love language with Him. And whenever you find yourself stuck, remember that it takes nothing more than a simple, "I love You." Jesus told Luisa that one "I love You" said in His Will contains *everything* and that all of creation, all of His acts, can be found right on His lap. Giving and receiving love is the vocation of every human being. We were created by Love, in Love, and for Love. And all of creation is meant to help us live out this vocation with Love Himself.

Rounds are the answer to St. Paul's exhortation: "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God for you in Christ Jesus*" (1 Thess 5:16-18). They are ways of keeping Holy Mass always present to us - by not only receiving Our Lord at Holy Communion once a day or once a week, but *living continually* in that one-flesh union. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the more we are nourished by the *consummate expression* of God's love for man - by "*the sacrament of the Bridegroom and the Bride*," as St. John Paul II referred to the Eucharist - the more our eyes are opened to the infinite other expressions of God's love that embrace us in all of creation. In each of these gifts, we can also echo the words proclaimed at the height of every Mass: "*Through [Christ], with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen.*"

The more we learn to experience relationship with God according to His original plan through the Gift of the Divine Will, the more life becomes liturgy. Everything becomes an opportunity for holy communion with our Beloved. "Beholding the glory of the Lord, we are all being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another" (2 Cor 3:18). We journey closer and closer to the destiny for which we were created: "*Constituted in a state of holiness, man was destined to be **fully 'divinized'** by God in glory*" (CCC #398). Or in other words, we live madly in love with the One who has been madly in love with us from all eternity...and, thus, become more and more like Him.

"The mystics are those who see the divine wisdom inscribed in all of creation, especially in the human body as male and female...Mystics are the ones who hear the Song of Songs echoing in their hearts and have dared to allow themselves to enter into it, and to sing back to God, dancing wildly as David did before the ark...There is an 'everyday mysticism' to which we are all called, an everyday encounter with the 'great mystery' that is Christ and His love affair with us, His Bride, the Church...In other words, appealing to the imagery of the Song, God calls us *all* to enter His wine cellar in order to have our fill of His wine. *Everyone* is invited mystically to enter the gates of the 'garden closed.' Everyone is called to enter into 'heaven's song'."

(Christopher West, Heaven's Song. Ascension Press. 2008. Ch. 4, p.75-76)



In the garden of the Daughters of Divine Zeal, where Luisa enjoyed the beauty of God's creation after having spent decades indoors and confined to her bed.

[Jesus to Luisa]: *"My blessed daughter, Creation is the sweetest enchantment of Our love revealed to men. There is the blue of the sky with its stars, the shining sun, air, wind—always fixed, never moving, telling man of Our constant love. Then, on the earth, there are flowers, plants, trees, tiny blades of grass, each with a voice, motion and loving life from its Creator—even the tiniest blades of grass—to tell everyone the love story of the One who created them for man. Things created in this lowly earth seem to die—but it is not true. Rather, they rise again, more beautiful. This is nothing but the new resurrection of God's love for men...One could say that each flower and plant bears the kiss, the 'I love you' of its Creator to the one who sees and takes hold of it. This is why Our supreme love hopes that the soul will recognize Us in all things and send Us her 'I love You'."*  
 (from the mystical diary of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, Vol. 36, 5/2/1938)

It's impossible for us to do the Rounds justice in just a few short paragraphs. But the 36-volume diary of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta is filled with teachings from Our Lord Himself on the beauty and effects of praying the Rounds along with many other divine truths about living in His Most Holy and Divine Will. Reading a little every day, saying one "fiat" at a time, surrendering one moment at a time will – *little by little* – transform you from one degree of glory to another. God's not in a rush. He just wants you to get started and He'll take care of the rest. For all of Luisa's writings and other great Divine Will resources, visit the "Family Tree" page of our website and scroll down to the Servant of God.

## A "Ruff" Winter at San Marino

On December 15th, Christmas came early for us here at San Marino in the form of our first official pet. *Lily May*, a black and white Staffordshire Bull Terrier, arrived just a week after she celebrated her 9th birthday. When one meets this sweet loving pup, it's hard to believe she had a rough past, spending the first seven years of her life in a small enclosed garden where her only daily human contact was in the form of receiving just one meal a day. During this time, she had one litter of puppies. In January 2023, Lily May's owner abandoned her, leaving her enclosed in that same



garden while she left for a job in Mexico. Thankfully, Lily May managed to break out, and she roamed the streets before being found and brought to a shelter, where we met her eleven months later. Lily May enjoys remaining near us whenever possible (regardless of what duty we're performing at the moment), napping in the sun covered with her blankies, exploring every nook and cranny in our city's historic center and meeting new people during walks, knowing and following our prayer schedule by beating us to the chapel first...and much more. We are very happy with our newest addition to our house as we continue carrying out the mission here on top of Monte Titano. Please keep us in your prayers, as we do for you! - Sr. *Benedicta* and Sr. *Scholastica*



## Our sisters in Italy & San Marino have a new bishop!

Please pray for His Excellency, Msgr. Domenico Beneventi. A priest from the Diocese of Acerenza, in the southern Italian region of Basilicata, Msgr. Beneventi was ordained to the episcopate this past April 20<sup>th</sup> and officially entered the diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro on May 18<sup>th</sup>. His joy, enthusiasm, love for the people, and deep devotion to the Eucharist were apparent from Bishop Domenico's very first homilies. We have been blessed to get to know our new shepherd the past several weeks and are excited to see what the Lord has planned for him and his flock!

Please also pray for our Bishop Emeritus, Msgr. Andrea Turazzi, who has been a true gift to our community the past ten years. He renewed and confirmed the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will as a Public Association of the Faithful in his diocese, approved the founding of our male branch, facilitated the establishment of our Motherhouse in the U. S., and blessed us immensely with his loving paternity. Our diocese here in Italy is special...a real jewel with a family spirit, as we've heard it often described. Bishop Andrea played a big role in fostering that spirit, and we hope that he will one day know the profound impact he has had on all of the sheep under his care.



Mother  
Gabrielle Marie

Bishop  
Domenico

Bishop Andrea

Fr. Elijah

## Updates & Adventures



Sr. Gloria with Sr. Rica from the Philippines. With the blessing of her bishop, Sr. Rica is visiting us for six months to learn more about the Divine Will and how to incorporate it into the life of a religious community.



Sister Gloria has moved back across the ocean! She's been living in our San Marino convent since May, making the sisters there a happy trio...not including Lily May, who now knows how to sit in English, Italian, Spanish *and* Korean.

# Garabandal

Pilgrimage to Garabandal, Spain, where Mother Gabrielle Marie was asked to speak at a Divine Will retreat held at the site where Our Lady appeared to four young girls in the 1960s. Thanks to the generosity of Totally Yours Pilgrimages, a few sisters were also invited to attend.



Mother kissing the same cross that Our Lady kissed during one of Her many apparitions to the visionaries of Garabandal.

## "The Pines"

Apparition site of Our Lady of Garabandal



Praying where Our Blessed Mother appeared

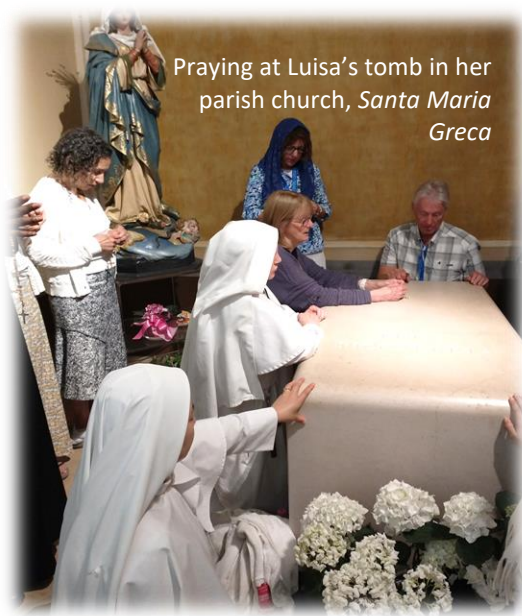
Visiting the Home of the Mother, Sr. Clare Crockett's religious community. Mother holds the guitar that the now famous nun died with in a 2016 earthquake.



In front of the miraculous image of Santa Maria Greca.

## Corato

Next stop – Corato, Italy! Continuing our pilgrimage to the hometown of Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta. She was born and baptized here on the first Sunday after Easter (now Divine Mercy Sunday) in 1865. Here she lived the rest of her mystical life, suffering for the world and – under obedience – writing a 36-volume diary of Our Lord's teachings on how to live in His Most Holy and Divine Will.



Praying at Luisa's tomb in her parish church, Santa Maria Greca



## Back together again...

*Mother finishes out her trip to Europe spending some quality time with her daughters in Talamello and San Marino.*



## Supporting the Sisters

If you feel called to financially support the Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will this summer or throughout the year, visit the "Donations" page of our website to make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or to sign up for automatic monthly contributions...

**[www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org](http://www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org)**

**From our Motherhouse in  
Maryville, TN - USA**

You can also simply send us a check or money order at the following address: *(All donations are tax-deductible)*



**Benedictine Daughters  
of Divine Will  
2425 Tipton Loop Rd.  
Maryville, TN 37803**

Your generosity not only helps support our sisters in the U.S., Italy and San Marino, but it will also contribute to the building of our new Motherhouse in the diocese of Knoxville, TN. Thank you for your goodness to us and be assured of our daily prayers!