The Countdown is on: only 67 days to Reception!!

Our Foundresses’ story continues. It is now September 4th and there are only 67 days left until Reception Day. Rosa was in Milwaukee at school most of the summer until August 1. Theresa would not be done teaching until October 31. We can only imagine what is going on in the upstairs of “Little Nazareth” as they make preparations for Reception. Not only are they educating the children of the area, but are also educating themselves regarding the guidelines of the times for a religious community. The Rule of Saint Francis has been chosen as the foundation of their lifestyle. Surely they are busy sewing their new habits, veils, making rosaries, and getting cords ready with help from Mother Caroline. The gardens still needed tending if they wanted food for the winter months. Prayer, quiet, and sharing were vital to these special days. They prayed also that Sophia might finally decide to join them for Retreat and Reception. Time will tell.

EDUCATION: CLARKS MILLS
Patti Pasterski wrote: I am currently taking a Grant Writing class. I am looking for any information on St Mary’S St. Michael’s School that you would have. She spent an afternoon reviewing historical information about Clarks Mills and the dedication of the historical marker.

EDUCATION: OUR SISTERS IN QUINCY, IL—ST. ANTHONY’S: Judy Yeast from Sciota, IL. Sent a photo taken around 1910 at St. Anthony School in Quincy, IL. She identified the sisters as: Sr. Irmengard (Schoenstein), Sr. Bartholomew (Lemberger) and Sr. Domitilla (Nolden). She was looking for a record that would identify the children. We had no such list. In turn, she provided the clue to why the location was called Antonius (a mission) not Quincy (the city) in our database. She will also send us the 100th anniversary book with these photos—not in our archives.

EDUCATION: NAME CHANGES Anna Statkovic was born 8/24/1894 in Russia and immigrated at age 3 to America. She came to our community 12/16/1913 and was received and given the name Sr. Regula of the Obedience of the Sacred Heart on May 27, 1914. She was the aunt of Francis Carl Starr, whose father was Sr. Regula’s oldest brother. When they immigrated, the last name was too hard to pronounce or understand so upon request they noted their last name meant “star”. Thus the change. A second “r” was added to identify them (and others) as immigrants. Francis Starr, on the way to the shrine, stopped here to see the court he remembered from visiting here in the past.

EDUCATION: MADONNA SPELLER Sr. Maria Josepha, Congregation of the Mother of God in Burlington, CO, asking for a copy of the Madonna Speller Grade 4 written by Sr. Roberta Wolf. Has been searching for the school they are setting up. Has Grade 2 but needs Grade 4. Catholic University Press held the copyright but only had Grade 6-8. Received okay to scan copies for her and also to loan our copies for them to add to their archives for others to use.
Our FSCC Heritage contains several references to St. Michael the Archangel, St. Francis Chapel, our Manual of Prayer and Pope Leo III. How are all of these connected?

Research revealed the following. All through medieval times Saint Michael’s Day was kept as a great religious feast, venerating him as the guardian angel of the kingdom of Christ on earth. The feast, celebrated on September 29, coincided with the ancient “quarter” celebration of the Germanic nations, held at the end of a three-month season. It was the time of the fall meeting (Thing) of all freemen for the purpose of making laws and sitting in court. Great markets and celebrations were held.

On October 13, 1884, Pope Leo XIII had a remarkable vision. When the aged Pontiff had finished celebrating Mass in his private Vatican Chapel, attended by a few Cardinals and members of the Vatican staff, he suddenly stopped at the foot of the altar. He stood there for about 10 minutes, as if in a trance, his face ashen white. Then, going immediately from the Chapel to his office, he composed a prayer to St. Michael, with instructions it be said after all Low Masses everywhere. The Prayer to St. Michael in our Manual of Prayers reads:

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and the other evil spirits, who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls.

When asked what had happened, Pope Leo explained that, as he was about to leave the foot of the altar, he suddenly heard voices - two voices, one kind and gentle, the other guttural and harsh. They seemed to come from near the tabernacle. As he listened, he heard the following conversation:

The guttural voice, the voice of Satan in his pride, boasted to Our Lord:
"I can destroy your Church."

The gentle voice of Our Lord: “You can? Then go ahead and do so.”
Satan: "To do so, I need more time and more power."
Our Lord: "How much time? How much power?"
Satan: "75 to 100 years, and a greater power over those who will give themselves over to my service."

Our Lord: "You have the time, you will have the power. Do with them what you will."

Two years later, in 1886, Pope Leo XIII decreed that the prayer to St. Michael be said at the end of every "low" Mass (not "high", or sung Masses) throughout the universal Church, along with the Salve Regina (Hail, Holy Queen); and the practice of praying these prayers continued until about 1970, with the introduction of the new rite of the Mass.

Four years after the vision, in 1890, when St. Francis Chapel was dedicated, a statue of St. Michael stood on the north front wall high above the Sisters as though protecting them. We no longer have the statue.

In 1903 Father Louis Miller brought a bust of Pope Leo XIII from Rome for Mother Alexia. It is made of a heavy metal and is 6" high. Also received was a large, round, thick plaque of Pope Leo XIII. Pope Leo XIII reigned as Pope from February 20, 1878 to his death on July 20, 1903. He was the oldest pope, and had the third-longest confirmed pontificate, behind that of Pius IX and John Paul II.