

Important Dates in December

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- 3 1857 The first six sisters depart from Ottmarsheim, Switzerland, for Gurtweil, Germany, where they open a house for abandoned girls.
 - 3 1903 Adorers celebrate the 50th anniversary of U.S. foundress Clementine Zerr's profession of vows in Wichita, Kansas.
 - 4 1977 Official commitment of the first Adorer Associate in Ruma, Illinois
 - 8 1832 The Adorers' U.S. foundress, Clementine Zerr, is born in Baden, Germany.
 - 11 1872 The third group of sisters (14 professed, 7 novices, 1 postulant) departs from Gurtweil, Germany, for the U.S.
 - 12 1949 Nazareth (Zagreb) transfer of the provincial house from Nazareth to B. Aleksandrovac
 - 12 1976 Missionary sisters from Wichita open the hospital of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Belem, Brazil.
 - 12 1929 Mother Paulina Schneeberger leaves Columbia, Pennsylvania, to succeed Mother Ida Keller in Gutenberg, Germany.
 - 16 1909 Dedication of the newly built Nazareth Home in Alton, Illinois.
 - 17 1972 Adorers from Ruma, Illinois, go to La Paz, Bolivia, to start a mission.
 - 19 1845 Rev. Rolfus, spiritual director, and Abbot Henry IV of Einsiedeln draft a Rule for the Steinerberg sisters that includes profession of the three vows.
 - 19 1845 The Rule is approved for the Steinerberg Congregation by the Bishop of Chur, in whose diocese the sisters live.
 - 24 1929 Mother Paulina Schneeberger arrives at Gutenberg (Schaan) as provincial superior.
 - 25 1869 Gurtweil sisters swap religious garb for secular dress at 12 noon for fear of suppression by the Baden government.
 - 25 1947 Adorers from Wichita arrive at Coari, Amazonas, in Brazil.
 - 25 1985 First sanctuary family arrives in Ruma, Illinois.
 - 30 1853 Reception of Clementine Zerr
 - 30 1860 The German sisters don the habit of Maria de Mattias' community.
 - 1854 Rev. Behe begins to instruct German sisters in the Rule of Maria de Mattias.

1837 Dec. 28 During 1815, when the ideals of the Enlightenment took hold and already had begun to germinate into a host of “isms,” the Papacy suffered much from Napoleonic domination. Among the Roman clergy who had refused to take the oath of allegiance to the emperor and who remained loyal to Pope Pius VII, was the young Gaspar del Bufalo for which he endured prison and exile. In 1815, however, he was freed to resume his missionary work in Rome and its surroundings for the glory of the Blood of Christ. In the same year, he established a community to foster Precious Blood devotion. With a small band of zealous, saintly priests, St. Gaspar achieved notable success, especially among the bandits in the Papal States. Within two years, lawlessness was overcome in central Italy and new missions were established as centers from which work prospered. During a mission that he was conducting in Vallecorsa in March of 1822, a special impression of grace was made upon Maria De Mattias, who became foundress of a congregation of Sisters for the Precious Blood that St. Gaspar had long desired to establish. After he died in 1837, many miracles were attributed to him. He was canonized in 1954.

1845 Dec. 19 Rev. Karl Rolfus, spiritual director of the sisters at Steinerberg, and Abbot Henry IV of Einsiedeln drafted a Rule for the Steinerberg Community, which included the profession of three religious vows. The Rule and the congregation were approved by Bishop Kaspar del Karl of Chur in whose diocese the sisters lived.

1869 Dec. 25 Realizing that the convent at Gurtweil was in danger of suppression by the government of Baden, the sisters attempted to forestall prohibition of apostolic activity in which they were engaged by not wearing their religious garb. There, before the crib of the Christ Child on Christmas Eve, they gathered in secular dress to offer their sacrifice for the good of their apostolate.

1847 The 10 sisters who left Switzerland in December in disguise to seek an asylum for the community in Alsace, were destined for Blodelsheim, a small village near the Rhine, where they had been cordially invited by the pastor of the place to establish a house in his parish. On their way, they passed through Ottmarsheim and, according to their custom, paused to devote some time to adoration in the church. Upon leaving the church, the sisters were met by the pastor, Father Behe, who asked where they were going. He dissuaded them from going to Blodelsheim because of its extreme poverty, promising them suitable accommodation and generous assistance if they remained in his parish. He secured lodging for them in a house belonging to a wealthy man named Duett. This house became the first foundation of the sisters at Ottmarsheim.

1847 Dec. 1 The first foundation of Maria De Mattias' congregation in Rome was established in the home of and under the patronage of a convert to Catholicism, Princess Adelaide Zenaide.

1872 Dec. 11 The third group who came to Belle Prairie from Gurtweil in Germany included 14 professed members of the community, seven novices, and one postulant. For two months, all but three of this group enjoyed the hospitality of Mother Aloysia Winkler and the other Ursuline sisters at their motherhouse located at Twelfth and Russell Streets in St. Louis, Missouri. The site of the old Ursuline Motherhouse became St. Joseph Croatian Parish, a mission of the Sisters of the Columbia Province.