



## 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*

**“Ask and you will receive; seek and you  
will find; knock and the door will be  
opened to you...”** (*Luke 11:9*)



Welcome to Casa Tomasetti

Although God enjoys watching us trust and wait until the eleventh hour for Divine Providence to kick in, He never fails to come through

in a big way. After several months of asking, seeking, and knocking, the Lord has not only opened a door for the *Benedictine Daughters*, but He has handed us over the keys...literally. With the contract for our current housing situation coming to a close at the end of the calendar year, Our Lady has found us a new place rest our heads. We have a home for 2013 and every year thereafter!

Through the generosity of Bishop Negri and our local pastor, Don Armando, the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* have been offered a vacant house right in the central piazza of Talamello, only steps away from the parish Church and minutes from where we currently live. The “Casa Tomasetti” – as it is commonly referred to – has a monastic history within the town. When the Tomasetti family donated the house to a community of Salesian sisters back in the 1800s, they intended it to always remain a

convent for religious. However, aside from occasional parish functions, Casa Tomasetti has been left virtually empty for over fifty years after the last of the sisters passed away. In fact, Talamello has lacked the presence of any religious community in all these years...that is until we showed up a year ago.

Though the move will be less than a kilometer away, we look forward to the shift from an isolated house hidden behind a large, black gate, to a home in the center of town where we can more easily mix with the people who have already so warmly welcomed us with open arms. While our contemplative spirit must never be compromised, sharing our life of prayer with others and promoting Eucharistic Adoration are also indispensable elements of our charism.

The light of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament cannot be hidden. It must be “set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house” (Matthew 5:15).





At the moment, though, our lampstand could use some work. Before our projected move-in date at the end of February, some minor, yet costly adjustments are immediately needed in the Casa Tomasetti. In addition to

furnishing the three-floor house...showers and extra toilettes must be installed; each room must be cleaned and painted; the ceilings need reinforcement; the old tile floors have to be stripped; most of the windows are falling apart and must be changed (estimated to be about \$300-400 each). For the long-term, we would also like to replace the radiators with a more cost-effective heating system and restore the heavily weeded garden to working condition. Most importantly, one of the downstairs rooms



must be transformed into a chapel, complete with an altar, tabernacle, linens, mass vessels, and vestments – all of which we lack.

God is infinitely wealthy and could provide for each of these needs in a second. However, in His Wisdom,

Goodness, and Mercy, He asks us all to help each other accomplish His Will on earth. He wishes to share the merits and rewards with all of His children, because at the end of the day,

this project, this community is not ours, but His. So we humbly ask you to discern if Our Lord and Our Lady may be calling you to make a financial contribution to the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will*. Remember, each time we give of ourselves, we store up a multitude of treasures in Heaven.



### So what happened to Sant'Igne?

Nope...we haven't forgotten about Sant'Igne. In fact, the Lord seems to be connecting all of our puzzle pieces at once. Several engineers and architects have already approached us with plans about how we can bring the 800 yr. old piece of Franciscan history back to life. The first step involves attaining all the required permits and permissions to begin construction on the monastery, a five to six month process. Once work officially begins, the total restoration of Sant'Igne is estimated to take an additional two to three years. With enough room to accommodate twenty-four sisters, we intend to make Sant'Igne our future Motherhouse when the community outgrows the eight-bedroom Casa Tomasetti. However, if the grace of God continues to send vocations, our goal is to fill both homes with sisters, maintaining two permanent convents of *Benedictine Daughters* for the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro. Please continue to pray for us, that we may successfully obtain all of the necessary funds and permissions needed to make God's plan for Sant'Igne a reality.

*For more pics of the Casa Tomasetti and Sant'Igne or to make a donation, check out our website below...*

## A new little priest son for Our Lady

On the evening of November 24<sup>th</sup>, vigil of the *Solemnity of Christ the King*, our brother in Christ, Elijah Joseph, became a new Father for Holy Mother Church. In a powerful ceremony that brought palpable graces to all those in attendance, Bishop Luigi Negri laid his hands upon Elijah's bowed head, ordaining him a priest in the Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro. Father Elijah is currently serving the Parish of St. Andrew in the Republic of San Marino, but soon hopes to receive permission to found a male branch of the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will*. Eight men from four different continents already feel called to follow Father Elijah Joseph, so please help us to pray for the swift establishment of our brother community according to God's Most Holy Will.



## Another one is on the way...

Beginning on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the sisters will be heading back to America for a few weeks in order to apply for religious visas. But we'll be returning to Italy with much more than just travel documents. A new postulant is on the way! After spending two months in discernment with our community this summer, a young aspirant from the U.S., Alessandra, has decided to officially enter the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* on February 10<sup>th</sup> of 2013, the *Feast of Holy Mother Scholastica*. Thank you to all those who have been praying for vocations to our new community. Keep 'em coming!

*The Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas season and a grace-filled New Year! Thank you to all those who have supported us in 2012, whether with your time, prayers, or financial assistance. We sincerely appreciate the love you have shown to our community and we want to assure you of our continuous prayers for you and all of your intentions.

