

Special Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate Jubilee Collection on Sunday 26 May!

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate joyfully announce the 100th Anniversary of the passing into eternal life of the first Sister Servant and Foundress, Blessed Josaphata Hordashevska, who died on April 7, 1919. We know that Sister Josaphata was the heart and pulse during the initial period in the life of this new religious community of women. Her heart beat for the people, whom she nurtured and served wherever the need was the greatest. Above all, she served with the gift of prayer, since prayer for her always had priority in her life. Sisters Servants throughout the world will be celebrating this Centenary.

Due to the persecution of our Church and religious orders, communities and lay-faithful under Soviet rule, the Motherhouse of the Sisters Servants was forced to re-locate from Lviv, Ukraine to Rome, where a building was purchased in 1947. The heart of this home is the chapel. To be faithful to the Eastern Byzantine tradition, the Sisters Servants would like to complete a project long planned and desired: installing an iconostasis in the Motherhouse chapel.

The Sisters in Rome welcome many visitors from various parts of the world yearly and the highlight of their visit is to pray in the chapel before the relics of Blessed Josaphata. It has been drawn to the Sisters' attention by some of the visitors that there is no iconostasis in the chapel. With the assistance of our faithful world-wide the iconostasis can be installed for the glory of God and as a way of thanking Blessed Josaphata for her intercession for all our needs since her entry to Heaven a hundred years ago.

The Superior General Sister Sofija Lebedowicz of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate is making her visitation with all the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in Canada, from coast to coast, arriving in early May. Her greatest joy would be to have the iconostasis installed in the Motherhouse chapel by April 07, 2020. And this will be a reality with the generous assistance of our faithful in all the Canadian Eparchies. Sr. Sofija will be visiting our Cathedral Parish on Friday 28 June for a special Moleben to Blessed Josaphata followed by light reception in the Cathedral Hall. At this time we would like to present the gift from our Eparchy her.

To mark this occasion, the Eparchy of New Westminster invites everyone to participate in a special collection Sunday 26 May towards the Iconostasis in the SSMI General Headquarters in Rome, where we have the relics of Blessed Josaphata. Special donation envelopes will be provided for your donation. Cheques should be made payable to your local parish and you will receive an income tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate have been working with our faithful in British Columbia for more than a half a century. We know of their many years of dedication in visiting our parishes providing catechesis for our children, working at our Eparchial summer youth camp, visiting the sick and shut-ins and in many other ways supporting our parishes and clergy.