



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Since our first newsletter last year, we have been sharing reflections with you on the lovely Marian prayer from which this publication takes its name, the *Anima Mariae*. This issue, however, will be dedicated to telling you more about the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen, our life, our spirit and our works.

One thing that makes the Marian Sisters stand out today is our full-length blue habits. People often stop us and thank us for wearing this symbol of consecration to God's service, often lamenting that they have not seen a nun in habit for many years. So, you see, our habit alone is a little sermon expressing many things. First of all, it tells people that we live the traditional religious life which Sisters have lived for centuries, which basically means a life of detachment from the world, poverty, purity, obedience, silence and prayer. It also reminds people of how the Catholic Faith was lived when Sisters in full habit were common — of things like the Latin Mass (which, of course, we attend daily), of the Baltimore Catechism, of the nuns' insistence on girls dressing modestly, of reverence in church, of respect and order in the classroom, and of the quiet joy that comes from living a life of love of God. This is the same Catholic Faith we live and teach today.

People often ask why our habits are blue instead of black or brown. It is because blue is Our Lady's color, and we are devoted in a special way to her. One aspect of our Marian devotion is our Total Consecration to Jesus Christ through her according to the method of St. Louis Marie de Montfort (as we have begun to explain in our past newsletters). We are also committed to living and spreading the message Our Lady gave to the world at Fatima in 1917. She asked men to amend their lives and to cease offending God, to make reparation for sin, to pray and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners, and to pray the daily Rosary for world peace. As she also made known that God wishes to give men graces through her Immaculate Heart, we promote this devotion and encourage people to pray to her for help in all their needs.

We have two main apostolates: Catholic education and the apostolate of the press, both of which serve as means of



What a privilege to walk right behind the Blessed Sacrament in the Corpus Christi procession!

spreading our holy Faith and the Fatima message. Our teaching Sisters have the privilege and responsibility of not only educating children, but of giving them a solid foundation in virtue and faith that will stay with them throughout their lives. The Sisters who work at our apostolic center have a modest printing apostolate and maintain the web site of the Congregation (www.CMRI.org). We also staff a gift shop at Mount St. Michael and a comprehensive online store (www.MIQCenter.com) that makes Catholic books and religious goods available to the faithful all over the world.

Some of you may also be acquainted with the Sisters at our missions around the country, where they staff schools, instruct both children and adults in the Faith, visit the sick and elderly, and help keep our chapels running smoothly. And finally, there are those who know us best as "the Singing Nuns." We began singing and making recordings in 1979 primarily as a means of support, but it was not long before we saw that our music had a power to touch people's hearts and souls in a way nothing else could.

In all she does, the Marian Sister tries to remember that she is the Spouse of Christ and the living reflection of Mary, her model. She must be as the hands of Mary at work in the world, animated and informed by the graces of her Immaculate Heart. By her life of self-sacrificing love, she is a light in the world, and the world cannot help but be enlightened by her quiet shining. Her place in society may be insignificant; she may never be known beyond her convent walls — but by her life of love and oblation, she radiates Something, Someone. She is another Mary; she brings Christ to the world, and the world to Christ.



Visiting the novitiate chickens



The Sisters and parishioners work together to prepare the Mount grounds for the 4th of July Sing-along.



Sr. Mary Petra prepares a planter of flowers for the convent yard.



Sr. Mary Genevieve working in a convent flower bed.



The Sisters take advantage of the summer break to attend classes to help them in their apostolates and to strengthen their family spirit.



Sr. Bernardine Marie and Sr. Maria Mechtilde help make thank you cards for the newly-ordained priests.



Three Sisters decorate the gazebo for the Corpus Christi procession.



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the outdoor altar in the decorated gazebo during the Corpus Christi procession.



Fr. Dominic Radecki delivers a conference during the Sisters' annual retreat.



June 27: Sisters' Vows Ceremonies. Sr. Augustine Marie is received into the novitiate.



Profession of Final Vows: Sr. Giovanna Marie lies beneath the pall while the Litany of the Saints is chanted.



Sister Giovanna Marie is crowned with thorns to symbolize that she is espoused to Jesus Crucified.



Profession of First Vows: Sister Madeleine Marie's white veil is exchanged for a blue one.



Silver Jubilarians Sr. Mary Josephine and Sr. Mary Loretta recess from chapel carrying their wooden crosses.



On June 29, the Sisters and the combined choir sang for the priestly ordinations of Fr. Brendan Legg and Fr. Michael Oswald.



Receiving a first blessing from newly-ordained Father Michael Oswald after the ceremonies.



On July 4, the Sisters held an informal sing-along concert on the front lawn of the Mount.



A guest buys a CD from the Sisters' table before the concert.



Sister Bernardine Marie and her (alpaca) friend smile for the camera.



Four of our Sisters and two CMD Sisters attended the Traditional Catholic Music Festival in Denver. Here choristers are learning a hymn by Nicholas Wilton.



The Sisters and other participants of the Music Festival chant Vespers with Fr. Casimir Puskorius.



There's nothing like a campfire in the great outdoors!



This year Camp St. Philomena took place in western Washington. (Inset: The girls enjoy kayaking on the lake.)



The girls' camp adventures included a blowout on the drive home. ("O my Jesus, it is for love of Thee...")



The Sisters at the novitiate have been busy working on a new chapel.



Rev. Mother visits the novitiate on Sr. Augustine Marie's feastday. The postulants are Mary Knox (right) and Theresa Peck, who entered on August 22.



A group of our Sisters drove down to California in July to teach catechism. Here Sr. Michael Marie is teaching students from the Santa Clarita area.



Sr. Madeleine Marie encounters a new flower in California — it's called a bird of paradise. Can you guess why?



The Sisters had the opportunity to visit some of the California missions...



...and to see the ocean, and even walk on the beach.



Our California catechists, along with their students from the San Diego area and pastor Fr. James McGilloway, pose for a group photo.



Sr. Mary Genevieve gives a catechism class to little ones in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts.



Sr. Marie Vianney and Sr. Mary Genevieve host a Catholic Jeopardy game at St. Michael's Chapel in Glenmont, New York.



Sister pauses for a quiet moment at a waterfall near the home of a Catholic family in the Berkshires.



Rev. Mother and Sr. Marie Janae pose with catechism students from Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church in Sulphur Springs, Ohio.



Visiting the shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.



Rev. Mother and Sr. Marie Janae visit Mr. Otworth after accompanying Fr. Trough on a sick call to his home.



Sr. Marie Janae speaks about the First Commandment in her class with the teenagers of Sulphur Springs.



Rev. Mother leads a lively discussion on Our Lady of Fatima with the Neaus family in Pennsylvania.



Students and faculty of St. Mary's Parish in Tacoma, Washington, gather round Baby Mary's crib to honor her on her birthday.



A wonderful aroma fills the convent (and the whole Mount) when Sr. Renee Marie and Sr. Corinne Marie get together to bake cakes.



Sr. Giovanna Marie will have her hands full this year teaching the 2nd grade class of 21 students.



Two Sisters and St. Michael's Parish children's sodality drove to Kennewick, Washington, and Redmond, Oregon, to join Father on his Mass circuit. Here Sr. Maria Regina and the sodalists are practicing hymns for Sunday Mass.



Several Sisters at work in the printing department of Mary Immaculate Queen Center.



Sr. Maria Providencia greets visitors to the gift shop at Mount St. Michael with a sweet smile.



Our Boston Sisters kneel before Our Lady of Fatima at St. Anne's Shrine in Fall River, Rhode Island.

The Symbolism of the Habit

Habit: The habit is like the wedding garment the Sister wears to remind her that she is the bride of Christ, and that she must therefore live a life of simplicity, poverty and humility. Its blue color reminds her that she must live as another Mary, her model.

Veil: The Scriptures tell us that a woman's hair is her glory. By her veil, the Sister makes a sacrifice of this aspect of her womanly beauty. Her veil, then, is a symbol of humility and modesty. It is a constant reminder to herself and others that she belongs to Christ, that she has pledged herself to live in Him and for Him alone; that like Him, she must live a life of poverty, simplicity and obedience.

Ring: At the ceremony of her perpetual profession, which takes place after at least four years of temporary vows, the Sister receives a ring on the third finger of her left hand to symbolize her union with Christ. The ring, a simple band, also a symbol of eternity, is made of gold, which symbolizes love. Inscribed inside it are the words she pronounces after receiving it: "To Jesus, my heart, my all, forever."

Medal: The Marian Sister wears the Medal of the Immaculate Conception on a blue cord around her neck. Our Lady appeared to a young Sister in Paris in 1830 and asked her to have this medal made. She said that great graces would be granted to those who wear it with confidence. Soon so many heavenly favors were granted by means of this medal that it became known as the "Miraculous Medal."

Rosary: The Rosary was given to St. Dominic in 1214 by the Blessed Virgin, who told him that it was the "weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world." And at Fatima in 1917, Our Lady repeatedly asked for the daily Rosary to obtain world peace and the conversion of sinners.

Crucifix: The crucifix reminds us how much our dear Savior loves us: "Greater love than this no man hath, to lay his life down for a friend." By her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, the Sister, too, places herself on the cross. With St. Paul she can say: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom the world is crucified to me, and I am crucified to the world."

Scapular: Most of the time the Sisters wear blue scapulars with their blue habits, but on Sundays and special feasts they wear large brown scapulars in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This, too, came to us from the Blessed Virgin, who appeared in 1246 to St. Simon Stock, the general of the Carmelite Order and gave him the Scapular as a pledge of her protection. The brown scapular is a sign of consecration to Our Lady.

Convent Trivia

Did you know that the Sisters say the same prayers while dressing that a priest says while vesting for Holy Mass? This is to remind her that her day is to be a living Mass — a sacrifice of all she is and all she does for the salvation of souls, in reparation for sin, and for the conversion of sinners.

An Apostolate of Prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of special prayers? Send your intentions to the Sisters using the address below and they will commend them in their prayers and Masses.



Vocations Weekend

November 4-6
St. Michael's Convent



Is God calling you? How can you know for sure?

You'll never know if you don't find out what it's all about. Come and see how the Sisters live, work, pray, think and play.

Young women who are at least juniors in high school and single women 35 or under, please contact the Vocations Directress at the address at the bottom of this page.

Calendar

Sept.	6	School begins
	8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	12	Feast of the Holy Name of Mary
	26	Sr. Renee Marie's feastday
	29	Feast of St. Michael: Titular feast of Mount St. Michael, St. Michael's Convent, and St. Michael's Academy
		Sr. Michael Marie's feastday
Oct.	3	Sr. Therese Marie's feastday, Theresa Peck's feastday
	7	Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
	5-9	Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael: "Magnificat Anima Mea Dominum"
	13	Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima (Miracle of the Sun)
Nov.	4-6	Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent
	19	Sr. Mary Isabella's feastday
		Sr. Maria Providencia's feastday
Dec.	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
		Mary Immaculata's feastday
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	14-15	Christmas Concerts at the Bing Theater
	25	Christmas Day; Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday

Anima Mariae is the free quarterly newsletter of the CMRI Sisters.

To join our mailing list, or to send comments, questions, prayer intentions or donations, please write or email:

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