



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

It has been our intention for some time now to begin a newsletter for the CMRI Sisters, and we are happy that the day has come for us to now share our first edition with you. The beginning of the school year is an ideal time to launch this endeavor, and as you will see, the photos also tell the story of some of the activities of the Sisters over the summer months.

The name of our newsletter, *Anima Mariae*, means “Soul of Mary,” as taken from the Marian prayer patterned after the beautiful *Anima Christi*, so dear and familiar to Catholics. The first line begins:

Soul of Mary, sanctify me.

As you may note in the pictures, if you have never met any of us in person, the Sisters of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen wear a royal blue habit. The religious habit is symbolic not only of renouncement of the world and dedication to God, but also of the particular spirit and virtues of each order or congregation. The blue habit, then, betokens the Marian spirit of our consecration to the service of God. Fatima, the Queenship, and the Total Consecration taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort form the central focus of our devotions.

Soul of Mary, sanctify me! Heart of Mary, inflame me!

After the soul of Jesus Christ himself, the soul of Mary was the holiest that ever lived on this earth. Immaculate from conception, Mary continually grew in her love of and union with God every moment of her life. Who better then to teach us how to sanctify our own souls? And since, as St. Louis Marie de Montfort says, Mary gives herself to her slaves of love, her graces and virtues will fill us so that when God looks at us, poor sinners that we are, He will see rather the beautiful soul of His Holy Mother Mary. We must simply surrender ourselves to her and do our best to follow in her footsteps.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort teaches that Mary gives herself entirely to the souls that give themselves to her. Thus he prays to Our Blessed Lady, “*Let thy soul be in me to magnify*



The Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen gather around their beloved statue of Our Lady of Fatima, whose message they endeavor to live and spread in all their works and prayers.

the Lord; let thy spirit be in me to rejoice in God!” Unfathomable as it seems, her soul will be in us when we strive to copy her virtues; her heart will *inflame us* in the measure that we allow our sinful selves to be consumed and transformed by her influence. Her overflowing joy will wash away our tears, cleanse our wounds, engulf our littleness and set us safely on the shores of God’s infinite Love. Then we shall truly say with her, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior!”

The Message of the Holy Habit

A Sister who was recently traveling on an airplane received this note from the pilot:

Dear Sister,

Your lovely habit reminds me of the Sisters of Holy Names in Seattle who taught at St. Joe’s on Capitol Hill. Best wishes in your life work of helping to form inquisitive and compassionate young people.

The sky’s the limit. Or maybe not!

Fondly, S.R.

Captain, AA



In late June, all of our Sisters gathered at the motherhouse for the annual Religious Retreat.



Fr. Casimir snips a lock of Stephanie Miller's hair in the ceremony of reception into the Novitiate, June 27, 2010.



Sr. Mary Genevieve celebrated her 25th anniversary of vows on June 27, the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.



Newly clothed in the habit of the Marian Sisters, a radiant Sr. Madeleine Marie holds her Holy Rule close to her heart.



St. Philomena Camp: this was our fifth year of fun for young Catholic ladies.



At the close of the August Vocations Days, Alyssa Williams makes her Total Consecration before Our Lady of Mount Carmel in St. Michael's Convent.



Sr. Maria Kazimiera teaches the children hymns during a catechism mission to Santa Clarita.



Sr. Mary Loretta is happy to help on the Mount's window renovation project!



The junior Sisters visit with a family in western Washington during their catechism trip.



Even a picnic lunch in the woods can be the occasion for a spiritual lesson.



Students and teachers are happy at the beginning of a new school year at St. Michael's Academy.



Over Labor Day weekend, the younger Sisters at the new Novitiate babysat two goats for a parishioner — and learned to milk them! Some day we may “adopt” some of our own.

Vocational Questions

Dear Sister,

I know it's a wonderful thing to be a religious dedicated completely to God, but I want to be happy and successful in life. I want to have a career, and then some day get married and have children. There isn't anything wrong with that, is there? Sincerely, Anita

Dear Anita,

Of course not — it's normal to want to be happy and successful in life.

But haven't you ever finally attained something you really, *really* wanted, and then realized you still were not quite satisfied? And that the next thing you *had* to have wasn't quite enough either? The fact is that nothing in this life — prosperity, fame, wealth, beauty — will bring you perfect happiness. And sometimes these things even bring pain and misery, for often the rich and famous are often far from being happy.

St. Augustine spent much of his life searching after happiness and success in the wrong places. These words he wrote after his conversion say it all: "Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

It is true, too, that not everyone is meant to become a religious, but all *are* meant to sincerely seek and do God's will. It is in this that you will find a peace and happiness that the world cannot give. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all else will be given unto you."

For me, religious life is not so much about success or even happiness as it is about love. Anita, if we could see how much God loves us, we would die of joy! And a soul that *knows* she is infinitely loved has everything.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary

Convent Trivia

Did you know that whenever the Sisters go out on errands, they make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament both before leaving and upon their return? This only makes sense, since Jesus is their Divine Spouse and they want to make sure they spread His love wherever they go.



Are you worried about a loved one? Is there a problem that is weighing heavily upon your heart? Send your intentions to the Sisters using the address below and they will commend them in their prayers and Masses.

Calendar

September	8	Our Lady's Birthday
	12	Holy Name of Mary
	26	Sr. Renee Marie's feastday (St. Rene Goupil - North American martyr)
October	29	Sr. Michael Marie's feastday (St. Michael the Archangel)
	3	Sr. Therese Marie's feastday (St. Therese of Lisieux)
	6-10	50th Annual Fatima Conference
November	7	Feast of the Holy Rosary
	13	Our Lady of Fatima
	1	All Saints' Day (holyday)
	2	All Souls' Day
	5	Anniversary Requiem Mass for all deceased parents of CMRI religious
	7	Anniversary Requiem Mass for all deceased benefactors of CMRI
	19	Sr. Mary Isabella's feastday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)
December	20	Sr. Maria Providencia's feastday (Our Mother of Divine Providence)
	8	Immaculate Conception (holyday)
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday (Our Lady of Loreto)
	15-16	Singing Nuns' Christmas concerts
	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 or prayer intentions, please write or email:

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