



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

On September 30, at about 9:00 in the evening one of our beloved Sisters in Christ, Sister Maria Mechtilde, was called to meet her divine Bridegroom. She was 78 years old. Sister always told us that she wanted to “die in her boots” and this she certainly did. Although she had not been feeling quite up to par that Friday, Sister followed the convent schedule, which included preparing for the upcoming Fatima Conference and a choir practice for the Sisters’ concert. How shocked we were to receive word during night prayers that Sister was dying from a heart attack! Almighty God took her to Himself quickly, but not until she received the consolation of the Last Sacraments.

Sister Maria Mechtilde, Magdalen Mary Spenner, was born in Nebraska in 1932, the eldest of sixteen children. Hers was a late vocation to the religious life and it was not always an easy adjustment for her. Yet she was an example to all of us by her constant docility and humble conformity to the will of God shown to her by her superiors, who were for the most part much younger and inexperienced.



“But Sister, St. Peter and some of the apostles were fishermen...”

Sister’s duties in the convent were varied, and included cooking for over 60 boarders, sewing, household duties and teaching. She was assigned to several of our mission chapels and schools through the years: Omaha, Rathdrum (City of Mary) and Tacoma. It was at St. Mary’s in Tacoma that Sister spent over 15 years working in the parish and school, teaching kindergarten until she was no longer physically able to continue. She also prepared the young for their First Holy Communion, promoted



Four of Sr. Maria Mechtilde’s fifteen siblings were able to attend her funeral.



the Block Rosary and took care of the parish gift shop and bookstore. Her non-nonsense approach, empathy, common sense and rock-solid dedication to the will of God won the respect and love of all. Many came seeking the benefit of her wisdom and experience and they never left her disappointed.

In 2010 Sister was called back to Spokane due to age and declining health. At first she lived with the younger Sisters at the Novitiate. Sister was able to share some of her wisdom and experience with these young religious and they in their turn were able to “spoil” her a bit in her last years. In the summer of this year she made her final move to the Motherhouse, being with us only a few short months before God called her home.

As I was going through Sister’s things after her death, I came across the following prayer she had written out. This beautiful and inspiring prayer sums up Sister’s life better than the words any of us could write about her. And the beauty and inspiration comes not so much from the words of the prayer itself but the fact that Sister Maria Mechtilde was truly a living example of these words to all who knew her.

### My Ways and Your Ways

*O Lord Jesus, teach me, by Your example, to accept whatever the Father sends me, never discouraged, be the cross what it may. Give me strength and grace to sanctify myself in the situation where Providence has placed me, and never to desire any other. May His will be done in me, as it was in You, forever and ever. Amen.*



Sister Maria Mechtilde with one of her First Communion classes.



Students surprise Sr. Maria Mechtilde with roses on her feastday.





Sr. Mary and Sr. Theresa, our new postulants, receive their Miraculous Medals and officially become part of our CMRI family.



Sr. Renee Marie and Sr. Marie Vianney host a Catholic Jeopardy game on the opening evening of the Fatima Conference.



Sr. Michael Marie and Daisy work together in the girls' boarding house.



Sunshine + nuns + young ladies + volleyball = a delightfully spent fall afternoon. (The Sisters won!)



The beauty of the Divine Office, whether recited or chanted, never ceases to inspire those who attend Vocations Weekend.



Members of the Children of Mary are enrolled in the Miraculous Medal.



Sisters and St. Michael's Academy students enjoy the outdoors during a group activity to develop leadership skills.





Sr. Corinne Marie and her students from Holy Guardian Angels School (Olathe, CO) enjoy a beautiful fall afternoon.



Children love getting a little personal help from Sr. Louise Marie.



“Adore Te, devote...” The Sisters’ weekly holy hour is a most blessed part of each Thursday evening . . . and especially so on Thanksgiving.



During Thanksgiving dinner, shared with our priests and Brothers, the Sisters read sayings in remembrance of Sr. Maria Mechtilde, who passed to her reward on September 30.



Father and Mrs. Oswald share a smile and a meal with us on Thanksgiving Day.



Sr. Bernardine Marie’s primary students (of St. Mary’s School in Tacoma) show their fascination during a trip to the Seattle Pacific Science Center.



## 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.



## Comments about Vocations Days

- It impressed me how everyone is so unified and like a big family.
- My favorite part of the weekend that most impressed me was Compline. I loved hearing the prayers and singing in the chapel. I love how the voices resonate there.
- The prayers of the Divine Office — they are a reminder to me of how many comforts there are in my Faith. They're inspiring and helped me find peace.
- What impressed me most was the Novitiate because it was so different and beautiful — and volleyball with an army of Sisters!
- The scriptural singing, absolutely beautiful and full of so much meaning. It's like being in the presence of angels.

- The prayers, Holy Hour, and the peace.

I say the last part because for some, peace is "too quiet." For me, I loved the peace because I'm constantly shrouded in noise!

- Talking to the nuns and having a fun and spiritual time!
- The different talks were extremely helpful in describing the religious life and I loved hearing about the different apostolates.
- Every vocations weekend inspires me, gives me a new burning desire to pursue my vocation. Loved the talks.



## Reflections on the Anima Mariae

### Anima Mariae

*Soul of Mary, sanctify me.  
Heart of Mary, inflame me.  
Hands of Mary, support me.  
Feet of Mary, direct me.  
Immaculate eyes of Mary,  
look upon me.  
Lips of Mary, speak for me.  
Sorrow of Mary, strengthen me.  
O Mary, hear me.  
In the wound of the Heart of Jesus,  
hide me.  
Let me never be separated from thee.  
From my enemy defend me.  
At the hour of my death call me,  
And bid me to come to thine  
Immaculate Heart;  
That thus I may come to the  
Heart of Jesus,  
And there with the saints praise thee  
For all eternity. Amen.*

—The Reign of Jesus through Mary  
Gabriel Denis, SMM

As we conclude the month dedicated to assisting the souls in purgatory, it seems fitting that we have come to the section of our prayer which reads, "let me never be separated from thee." Surely the souls who undergo their expiatory time in purgatory cannot be more separated from their Heavenly Mother than they were on earth. In fact, since the souls in purgatory are confirmed in grace, they can be certain they will never again wound that Immaculate Heart which has been pierced so often by their ingratitude and forgetfulness of her divine Son. Soon their temporary separation will be forever ended when Our Lady comes to escort them herself to the throne of her divine Son.

And what of us, poor banished children of Eve?

*From my enemy defend me.*

Here we are, back at the season of Advent again, when we recall the awful fall that made us Satan's, one and all. From that enemy of our salvation, our Blessed Lady, the New Eve, terrible as an army in battle array, will without doubt defend us. Mother of our Savior and our Mother, His Might is in thy hand — or maybe rather in thy heel? Apocalyptic Queen, saved beforehand by the Blood of thine own Son from the thralldom of that very enemy, O Immaculate! Save us now who cry to thee in our turn. Let us also never be separated from thee.

During Advent we see Mary bearing Jesus within her chaste womb — an ineffable symbol of the even more real and transcendent union of her soul with her God. She reminds us that this union is the end for which we are all created. Draw us after thee, O Mother, to be united with thy divine Son, in our Christmas Holy Communion, and in the eternal bliss of which it is the pledge.

## Calendar

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 ( <i>Holyday of Obligation</i> ); Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday
Jan.	1	Feast of the Circumcision ( <i>Holyday of Obligation</i> )
	3	Sr. Mary Genevieve's feastday
	15	Feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor
	21	Rev. Mother Mary Agnes' feastday Sr. Maria Ines' feastday
	31	Sr. Giovanna Marie's feastday
Feb.	1	Sr. Mary Bridget's feastday
	5	Sr. Mary Agatha's feastday
	11	Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
	18	Sr. Mary Bernadette's feastday
	20	Sr. Mary Jacinta's feastday
March	4	Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday
	9	Mother Mary Dominica's feastday
	19	Feast of St. Joseph; Sr. Mary Josephine'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:

The Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen

St. Michael's Convent • 8504 N. Saint Michael's Road • Spokane, WA 99217-9333

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