



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

As I write we are beginning the beautiful month of May dedicated to our Blessed Lady. You who are reading this are in the midst of the month of June which is devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thus it is an appropriate time for all of us to consider the phrases of our prayer which epitomize the purpose of our consecration to Mary and indeed of everything in our life:

*And bid me to come to thine Immaculate Heart,
That thus I may come to the Heart of Jesus...*

God created us so that we and He could share a relationship of mutual love. This is the ultimate end and the only true purpose of our life on earth. All that we do can and should be a means to that end, as St. Paul says — “whether you eat or drink or whatever

you do, do all for the glory of God.” But we get so sidetracked by all the things we have to do in our fast-paced society, and unfortunately get the *means* confused with the *end*. We put a lot of focus and energy into our job so that we can get enough money to get the things we need or want, into our education so that we can get the job we want so we can make the money we think we need, so we can get the things we want...or so we can get our children what they want and the education they need to perpetuate the cycle. Education is good and work is good, but they are *means* and not *ends*. Health is good and life is good, but *neither* are *ends* or *goals in themselves*. If

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*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.
Sorrows 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

we put any of these things before our love of God and consequent duties to Him, we have a very mixed up picture of the purpose of our existence.

So to return to the point, “...and bid me come to thine Immaculate Heart, that thus I may come to the Heart of Jesus.” In his preface to *True Devotion*, Father Faber bewails the evils of his times, which are certainly no greater than the evils of our own times, and draws



On Holy Thursday, the Sisters had a meal in honor of the Last Supper.

this conclusion: “It is the miserable unworthy shadow that we call our devotion to the Blessed Virgin that is the cause of all these wants and blights.” It is through Mary that Jesus came to us, and it is in her that we can most easily find Him and through her that we can most surely and perfectly reach Him. St Bernard tells us that we should return to God by means of the same channel through which He came to us — that is through Mary. A lovely hymn in honor of Mary’s pure Heart contains this verse:

*And when from thy loved Heart we’ll go to that of thy dear Son,
Oh, shall we leave thee
then? Ah, no! His Heart
and thine are one!*

By taking her as our Mediatrix and our model, we will fulfill the end of our existence. The example of Mary’s virtue, her wholehearted dedication to God and His Will, is the blueprint of our own spiritual mansion. Her guidance and help which we ask in prayer will be the assets which purchase for us the materials with which to construct our spiritual edifice.



During the Living Rosary on the Feast of the Queenship, each Sister presented a flower and lit a candle before Our Lady.



The Sisters and the parish lay choir practice together for the Palm Sunday ceremonies.



Sr. Mary Loretta helps Fr. Dominic Radecki prepare the framework for Holy Thursday's altar of repose at Queen of Angels Parish.



Sr. Giovanna Marie and Sr. Mary Loretta visit Mission Santa Barbara in California.



Sr. Maria Ines and Mother Mary Dominica work in the sacristy of St. Mary's Church in Tacoma.



Fr. Casimir Puskorius, Sr. Maria Kazimiera (his sister), and Sr. Mary Genevieve visit a family in Redmond, Oregon, on Easter.



Sr. Michael Marie, Sr. Therese Marie and Sr. Mary Petra on the Miraculous Staircase of St. Joseph in Santa Fe.



Rev. Mother and Sr. Mary Agatha spend a day at the convent of the Sisters of the Mother of God in Persia, Iowa, while visiting Omaha during Easter week.



Sr. Marie Vianney (and several other Sisters) enjoys a chuckle with Mrs. Urban during a recent visit to her home.



The Novitiate Sisters live across the road from St. Michael's Mission Cemetery, where a number of Catholic Indians and settlers were buried by the Jesuit missionaries. A monument to Fr. Joseph Cataldo is also nearby.



Sr. Marie Emmanuel makes rosaries with Helen, one of our traditional Catholic friends in the Boston area.



The Sisters take turns crowning Our Lady's statue every day during May.



Sr. Augustine Marie works on a secret Mother's Day gift for Rev. Mother — one of several games made by the Sisters.



Rev. Mother was really surprised when she opened her Mother's Day gifts!



Sisters lead students of St. Michael's Academy in procession to the Lourdes grotto for the May Day crowning ceremony.



The Sisters enjoy their traditional Ascension Day picnic, this time at Corbin Park on the Spokane River.

Vocational Questions

Dear Sister,

Why do you think vocations are so rare today? Maybe God wants more women to become saints in the married state. After all, they can save souls out in the world too, especially by raising good Catholic children. —Marjorie

Dear Marjorie,

Yes, God definitely wants married women to become saints, but He also still calls others to the religious state: “Go, sell all thou hast and give to the poor, and come follow Me.” It is these souls who can be the spiritual mothers of countless souls because they give their *all* to Him and are not hindered by obligations to their own families.

The typical modern girl dreams of a career of her own, beauty, popularity, wealth, independence... The pull of the world is so strong! A living spirit of faith and a solid spiritual life is necessary to provide the fertile soil for the seeds of vocation to take root and grow. If a girl sees life as being all about what *she* wants, how can she be open to God's will? Perhaps too many girls view our holy Faith (and, even more so, convent life) as a system of constraint rather than as a relationship with a *Person* Who loves them more than they can imagine. Just as a mother unselfishly sacrifices herself for her children out of love, a young woman who sees God as a real and infinitely lovable Person will *want* to serve Him and be impelled to please *Him* rather than herself. And this means she will also love what He loves, and give of herself for souls, her spiritual children, including the many who may be lost because no one prays and sacrifices for them.

It is so important to stay open to God's grace through faith and prayer. Technology is one of many ways that the world intrudes upon a girl's spiritual life. Things such as texting and Facebook introduce so much distraction that it is nearly impossible to be alone with one's thoughts, let alone rest quietly in prayer with God. How can His whispered invitations even be heard?

Sometimes a young woman simply wishes to “postpone” serious consideration of a religious vocation. When I was a young adult at a crossroads in my life, someone dear to me wrote to tell me that God offers some graces only once, and if they are not accepted, there is no second chance. I rather resented this advice, but *I had to admit it was true*. Think about it: it's not that God is miserly with His graces. *But when we choose to not accept a grace, it often means that we choose instead something that creates an obstacle to further graces*. It may not even be a sin, but at some point it may become impossible to retrace our steps. In my case, after much thought and agonizing prayer I decided to take a very painful step, the first of many that led me to my vocation. It was one of the the hardest things I ever did — but I have *never, ever* regretted it. On the other hand, I have met many women who deeply regret *not* having made similar choices.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Sister Mary

An Apostolate of Prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of special prayers? Send your intentions to the Sisters and we will remember them in our daily prayers, Masses and good works.



Convent Trivia

Did you know that during May, the Sisters prepare for the annual renewal of their Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin on the feast of her Queenship using the 33-day preparation outlined by St. Louis Marie de Montfort? Usually this begins on his feast, April 28, and ends on May 31, the titular feast of the Congregation.

Summer Catechism

The Sisters will be traveling to the following areas to teach catechism this summer:

July 6-15 Southern California
Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island
Ohio, Pennsylvania

Would you like the Sisters to teach catechism in your area next summer? Or would you like to help sponsor the Sisters' travels for catechism? Please contact us!

Calendar

June	4	Feast of the Queenship BVM (Titular Feast of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen) Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
	13	Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday
	15	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
	23-26	Sisters' Annual Retreat
	27	Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Final Vows – Sr. Michael Marie and Sr. Mary Veronica; Triennial Vows – Sr. Madeleine Marie; First Vows - Sr. Augustine Marie; Entrance into Novitiate – Sr. Mary Knox
	29	Sr. Mary Petra's feastday
	30	Sr. Mary Paula's feastday
July	12	Sr. Mary Veronica's feastday
	July 31-Aug. 7	Camp St. Philomena (see CampStPhilomena.com)
August	9	Sr. Marie Vianney's feastday
	15	Feast of the Assumption BVM
	28	Sr. Augustine Marie's feastday

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

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