



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Often the Sisters have sung the Christmas hymn, *Once in Royal David's City*, in their Christmas concerts. The last line certainly can have more than one meaning, and might give some a picture of bored folks in white robes waiting around in heaven for something to happen. Waiting. It is something that only happens with the passage of time, and could never happen in heaven. Waiting. Advent in the season of waiting. Waiting for the birth of the Baby.

Who is waiting? For four thousand years the descendants of Adam waited for the Redeemer that was promised to their father after his Fall in the garden.

For nine months, Mary waited to see the Face of her Child, Who was also her God.

For nine months He waited, now that He had come into time; He waited in silence and seclusion, the nine-month retreat of the God-Man as He prepared to reveal Himself and His Love.

And we wait. We wait for the celebration of His Birth at Christmas. We wait for His purposes to be fulfilled in our lives. We wait for the final summons that will at last take us into His presence.



“O admirable exchange!” sings the Church, “The Maker of man hath taken to Himself a living body and hath been pleased to be born of a Virgin. He is come forth conceived without seed and hath made us partakers of His Divine Nature.” This reminds us of the second Offertory prayer at Mass, “...by the mystery signified in

the mingling of this water and wine, grant us to have part in the Godhead of Him Who hath vouchsafed to share our manhood, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord...”

Our Blessed Mother is with us through our time of waiting. From her Immaculate Conception in December to Candlemas in February, she is lighting our way, leading us on in the footsteps of her Son. With her, then, let us ponder within our hearts the wonderful mysteries of the life of the Incarnate God as we see them unfold before us during these months of holy waiting.

*Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars  
His children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.*

## Our Earliest Apostolate

Although the Marian Sisters are known for their work in Catholic education, when our Congregation first began, our main work was that of spreading the message of Our Lady of Fatima by means of printing and distributing literature, arranging lectures and conferences, organizing and conducting weekly study groups, and sending out mailings. And this apostolate continues to this day, although it now makes use of more modern technology.



*Sr. Mary Bridget (left), our order-filler, and Rev. Mother both worked at our center in the early days of our Congregation.*

In our early days, our mailing list consisted of about 10,000 names. Each Sister received a shoebox of envelopes to address — *by hand* — and she considered these to be her “spiritual children,” even though she might never meet them. And so the Sisters made addressing each envelope an act of love to gain graces for souls.

With time, the Sisters became more involved in the print shop, eventually even operating the printing presses. Then came the computers, and more changes in technology that led to our presses being replaced by large multi-function color printers. Finally, in the mid-90's, our apostolate expanded to include maintaining

web sites, which enable us to reach people all over the world.



*Sr. Mary Agatha and Sr. Mary Loretta look over a project before it is printed.*

“Go teach all nations,” Christ commanded His disciples. Through this apostolate, the Marian Sisters take part in the missionary work of the Church by helping to spread the Catholic Faith far and wide. (*cont'd on p. 4*)



Repairing the storm windows in the convent has been a huge, ongoing project involving both Sisters and laity. But what a difference it makes now that the cold weather has come back. We are so grateful to those who organized and helped with this much-needed work.



On September 8, the mothers of our students joined the Sisters for a breakfast get-together.

Sr. Maria Kazimiera, the instructor of the archery program, identifies the parts of a bow.

Sr. Theresa splits wood for the Novitiate stove.



Huge ditches were dug in the grounds around the Novitiate this fall as water and electrical lines were placed so that the Sisters can have farm animals.

Colton holds up a tube of DNA he extracted from a strawberry during a hands-on field trip to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.



*“Anyone want a ride?” Sr. Mary Imelda enjoys posing in this antique automobile owned by a parishioner at St. Mary’s Church in Tacoma.*



*Sr. Bernardine Marie and her students share stories of the saints during an All Saints’ Day celebration.*



*Sr. Marie Emmanuel and Sr. Mary Bernadette sing a Requiem Mass in the small chapel in Palmyra, Maine.*



*Sr. Therese Marie and students of Holy Guardian Angels School in Olathe, Colorado.*



*The Sisters sang at Hennessey-Smith Funeral Home during a ceremony to remember those who had died during the past year — including some of our own parishioners.*



*The first-ever Teacher-Family Game night was fun for everyone. “Spoons” was a popular game for all ages.*

## Our Earliest Apostolate

(cont'd from p. 1) As the patron saint of the Catholic press, St. Anthony Mary Claret, so aptly said, "Since we cannot send missionaries everywhere, let us send good books, which can do as much as the missionaries themselves." Souls who would not otherwise be reached learn about our holy Faith through materials published and distributed by the Sisters, who are well aware that it is by sacrifice, obedience and a fervent prayer life that they earn graces to win souls to Christ and repair for the sins of men.

## Vocational Questions

Dear Sister,

I hope you don't mind me asking you a question. I'm just wondering if it would be wrong for me to ask for a sign to know if I have a vocation. I would really like to put this question to rest so I don't have to worry about it any more. —Cindy

Dear Cindy,

It is fine to look for the normal signs of a vocation, but I don't recommend asking for extraordinary signs. It comes too close to putting conditions on God.

By the "normal" signs, I mean the necessary qualities: good physical and mental health, proper maturity for one's age, a spiritual life, a spirit of sacrifice and commitment, a supernatural motive, and freedom from impediments, such as responsibility for a dependent family member. If we have these qualities and the desire (even though we may also be struggling with other desires — which, by the way, is normal), it is safe to assume that we may have a vocation. Two things are then in order.

The first is *prayer* — but not just any kind of prayer. Too often when we pray, we seek for what *we* want, and close ourselves off to what we do not want. What we must pray for is an increase in generosity and selflessness, and for the grace to love Our Lord above all else so that we will embrace *whatever* vocation He sends us.

Second, we must *act*. This means learning about the vocation we think God may be calling us to, getting to know those involved with it and asking their advice. During this time, we need to keep this vocation in mind as we make other choices in life — our activities, our friends, etc. It is important that we keep our hearts open to God's grace by doing those things that will favor the vocation and avoid those things that may endanger it.

In closing, it may help you to know that there are Sisters who at one time in their lives had their hearts set on marriage, but upon realizing they had a possible vocation and just *giving it a chance*, discovered a dimension to themselves that they didn't know they had — a profound spiritual dimension where they found a peace and a joy the world cannot give. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all else will be given unto you..." —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.



## Vocations Weekend

**March 8-10**  
**St. Michael's Convent**



*Is God calling you? How can you know for sure?  
Do you sometimes wonder if you might possibly have a vocation?*

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

Dec.	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception ( <i>Holyday</i> ) Mary Immaculata's feastday
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	12-13	Christmas Concerts at the Bing Theater
	25	Christmas Day ( <i>Holyday</i> ) Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday
Jan.	1	Feast of the Circumcision ( <i>Holyday</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
	8-10	Vocations Weekend
	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  
[www.CMRI.org/sisters-news.shtml](http://www.CMRI.org/sisters-news.shtml) • [Sisters@CMRI.org](mailto:Sisters@CMRI.org)