



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

On the 13th of each month from May through October, the parish here at St. Michael's leads a public Rosary procession through Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane. As the long line wends its way through the site of the 1974 World's Fair, crossing and re-crossing the roaring falls of the Spokane River, carrying banners, praying our Aves and singing hymns, you can be sure we attract quite a bit of attention in varying forms. Some do their best to ignore or avoid us, while others are brazen in their heckling. A few visitors to the area have actually interrupted the Rosary to get their picture with the Sisters. Thankfully there are those who will join us for part or all of the fifteen decades. One man I particularly remember was a tattooed fellow with multiple ear piercings who walked along fervently praying the rosary with us.

This public devotion is, of course, in honor of the apparitions that took place at Fatima in 1917. The Fatima message is something we Sisters think of frequently, since it was the catalyst for the founding of our Congregation back in 1967, the year of Fatima's 50th anniversary.

What exactly was the message which Our Lady gave to the three shepherd children at Fatima?

In each of the apparition over the six months, the Blessed Virgin repeated the request for the daily Rosary.

In May Our Lady asked the children if they were willing to accept in a spirit of reparation for sin, all the sufferings God would send them. On their assent, she assured them that His grace would sustain and console them.

After promising to take them all to heaven, Mary told Lucia, the oldest of the seers, that she would have to remain on earth for some time to help establish the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She promised that those who would embrace this devotion would be very dear to God. She promised Lucia, "Don't lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

The bulk of Our Lady's message seems to have been given during the July apparition. Here she taught them the familiar "Sacrifice Prayer": "O my Jesus, it is for love of Thee, in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and for the conversion of poor sinners." Our Lady also showed the children a vision of hell which remained indelibly impressed on their minds. The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was the means held out to save sinners from hell, to bring about the end of the war, the conversion of Russia and world peace, while a



*The Sisters join hundreds of other participants in the Rosary March in downtown Spokane on the 13th of every month from May through October.*

neglect to follow her desires would bring on new wars, the annihilation of nations, and persecutions of the Church and the Holy Father. But most of all, her message was one of hope: "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

It was at this time that Mary taught the children the prayer to be said after each decade of the Rosary: "O my Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of Thy mercy."

The final apparition in October will ever be remembered for the amazing Miracle of the Sun which was seen at great distances, and was described even by the secular newspapers of the time. The sun danced and swirled about the sky sending off rainbow colors and finally seeming to plunge toward the earth. While this was happening, Our Lady was speaking to the children, giving them the long awaited confirmation of her identity: "Have a chapel built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary." After a few more words about the end of the war, she stated, "Do not offend the Lord our God any more; He is already so much offended."

So the pith of the Fatima message is that we should amend our lives and cease committing sin, that we should offer penance and prayer in reparation for the many sins that have been committed, and that we should pray the Rosary daily. The Rosary, prayed devoutly while meditating on the mysteries of the life, suffering and glory of Our Divine Lord, is a powerful means to learn how we should live and at the same time gain the graces to follow in the footsteps of Jesus through His Blessed Mother.



At the close of the annual retreat, three days of strict silence and recollection, the Sisters gather in the main chapel at Mount St. Michael to renew their Holy Vows.



The ceremonies on the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help began with the Sisters processing into church with lighted candles while chanting the Salve Regina.



His Excellency presents Sr. Marie Vianney with a plain wooden cross on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee.



Dressed in a simple bridal gown, Miss Theresa Peck enters the Novitiate, sacrificing a portion of her hair as a sign of Consecration.



Sr. Helen Marie is crowned with red and white roses after she pronounces her First Vows.



*Having renewed her vows for three years and received the Brown Scapular, Sr. Augustine Marie signs the formula of Profession.*



*Returning to the altar after being clothed in her habit, Miss Theresa Peck holds her breath as she receives her new name: Sr. Mary Cabrini.*



*The reception of Holy Communion solidifies the union between the soul of each Sister and her Beloved, a union strengthened daily.*



*At the closing of the ceremonies, the Sisters chant the Te Deum, the Church's hymn of thanksgiving.*



*Beaming faces reveal the joy in the hearts of the Sisters who took steps on June 27th.*



*Sr. Augustine Marie assists Sr. Marie Vianney as she prepares to share a little of her sweetness!*



*With snouts in the air, the pigs at the Novitiate accept a blessing from Fr. Michael Oswald on the feast of St. Anthony.*



*With all the Sisters home from mission, the community enjoys an afternoon of family time at the Novitiate.*



*Mariah, the cat at Mary Immaculate Queen Center, finds her place in the work as Sisters help with a project.*



*Lift ye up your voices... The Sisters recorded their latest album, a collection of Advent hymns, earlier this summer.*



*OH NO! The Sisters react as the tower of giant Jenga blocks tumbles down upon the poor Sister who added the last block.*



*The Sisters acted as hostesses at the Singing Nuns' annual Luncheon Concert, sharing our joy with the Spokane community.*



*The Sisters demonstrate their patriotism through the Singing Nuns' 4th of July concert, followed by a hilltop view of Spokane's fireworks.*

*One is never too young to learn about Mary! Sister speaks to a little one about the Rosary.*



*The participants of this year's Camp St. Philomena were invited to have dinner with the Sisters in the Convent courtyard.*

*The beautiful grotto at Mt. St. Michael provided a peaceful atmosphere for daily Mass during Camp St. Philomena.*



*One of the lighter moments during the annual Ladies' Retreat was a knitting class.*

*Heart to God, Hands (and Mind) to work! The presence of students is a reminder that another school year is underway!*



Music is one of many mediums that can be used to share the Faith. In Sulphur Springs, Ohio, Sr. Mary Petra teaches the children hymns, which they sang at Mass the following day! (The Sisters have been told that one little 4-year-old who took part has been singing "Immaculate Mary" ever since!)



Also in Ohio, Sr. Marie Janae holds the attention of her students as she teaches them about the Faith.



Teaching catechism in the Berkshires. A colorful hands-on project gave each child a wealth of information to take home.



Vestments, and colors and prayers, oh my! Rev. Mother Mary Agnes teaches all about the Mass to a group of attentive young ones in Massachusetts.



The Sisters on mission in New York had the privilege of visiting the shrine of Mother Cabrini in Manhattan.



"I don't think we're in Spokane anymore!" Rev. Mother Mary Agnes and Sr. Marie Vianney pose with the Statue of Liberty in the background.



Fr. Dominic Radecki preached a sermon daily during the summer catechism mission in California. May God bless those families for the great sacrifices they made to be able to attend.



Hot weather didn't stop this tough crowd from gathering for a group photo. Four Sisters went down to California in July to teach catechism in the Santa Clarita area.



Bright-eyed eager faces listen to Sr. Madeleine Marie, as she teaches the Faith. Using visual aids makes learning the catechism easier and enjoyable, longer lasting, and a truly positive experience.



Wheels turning, pensive faces, quick decisions — Fr. Johannes Heyne assists Sr. Maria Kazimiera and Sr. Augustine Marie in hosting a Catholic Jeopardy game at the summer camp in southern Germany.



It wasn't ALL downhill! The Sisters join a group on a hike through wooded hills from Oberbach to St. Blasien in the southern Black Forest (Germany).



An international flavor! Youth from Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, and Sisters from America, join together for a "Catholic" camp!

## Our Mission Apostolate

From the very early days of our Congregation, apostolic mission centers formed an integral part of our quest to spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima. Zeal for souls and a desire to bring souls to a greater knowledge and love of God were the underlying motives that filled the hearts of the Sisters as they left the motherhouse to undertake their duties at our mission houses.

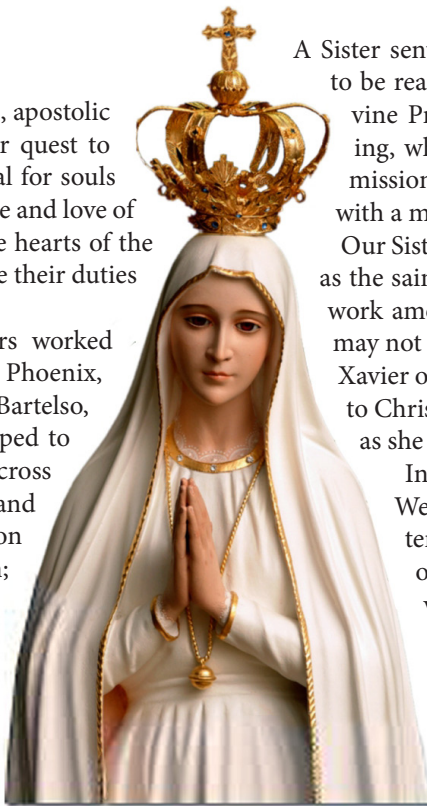
The two earliest missions where our Sisters worked were Our Lady of Mount Carmel Center in Phoenix, Arizona and the Marylike Crusade Center in Bartelso, Illinois. Since then the Marian Sisters have helped to staff missions and small schools in many areas across the United States and as far away as New Zealand and Mexico. Currently the Sisters' Congregation staffs four small missions: Tacoma, Washington; Olathe, Colorado; Wayne, Michigan and Boston, Massachusetts. The nuns who live at the first three locations operate small schools. At all four missions, the Sisters teach catechism to the young and to adults, and pray the rosary with the sick and shut-ins of the parish, often helping to assist the dying in their last moments. For some of the Sisters, this means traveling long distances each weekend.

Besides our mission houses, several groups of our Sisters travel during the summer in order to teach catechism and work with children and adults in areas throughout the country where there is not a convent or school. Although these catechism missions are short, they provide much-needed opportunities to instruct the young in the faith and Christian virtue.

The Sisters consider it a privilege and honor to be called by Our Lord through the voice of their superior to be an active laborer in His harvest. Through the faithful living of their religious life, they strive to be a shining light to others and a worthy representative of traditional Sisterhood in a world where this is so sadly lacking. They truly consider the souls with whom they work as their spiritual children and earnestly strive to lead them by word and example to personal sanctification and a love for the Holy Catholic Faith.

### 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.



A Sister sent on mission needs to be quite versatile and to be ready to practice plenty of abandonment to Divine Providence. In addition to her duty of teaching, whether in the classroom or catechism on the mission circuit, she may be asked to assist the pastor with a myriad of other apostolic duties in the parish.

Our Sisters may not be missionaries in the same sense as the saints we read of who traveled long distances to work among the pagans in a foreign land. Their lives may not be filled with the heroic deeds of a St. Francis Xavier or Mother Cabrini winning thousands of souls to Christ. Yet each truly has the heart of a missionary as she labors among the souls entrusted to her care.

In the future we hope to open more missions. We have received several requests to send our Sisters, either to open schools or to teach catechism on a more regular basis. Please join us in fervent prayer for more vocations to the religious life so that we may fulfill this very important need in our world today. *"The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest"* (Matt. 9:37-38).

## Calendar

Sept.	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 Novitiate, and St. Michael's Academy Sr. Michael Marie's feastday
Oct.	3	Sr. Therese Marie's feastday
	7	Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
	9-13	Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael: "The Hearts of Jesus and Mary Are Attentive to Your Supplications"
	13	Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima (Miracle of the Sun)
Nov.	16	Sr. Maria Providencia's feastday
	19	Sr. Mary Isabella'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
	12-13	Christmas Concerts at the Bing Crosby Theater
	22	Sr. Mary Cabrini's feastday
	25	Christmas Day; Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday

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

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