



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

The quietest things in life that are so often taken for granted, and this is true even in the spiritual life. Every Catholic who tries to understand and live his faith, knows and loves the Blessed Virgin, prays to her simply and honors her lovingly. Yet, how do we know Mary? Sacred Scripture tells us very little about her life, and we find that we know her soul and her spirit more than her actions. What we do know is that her unfathomable holiness is but a reflection of the infinite goodness of her Creator, and that He was the center of every moment of her life. We cannot think of Mary without thinking of God.



An even quieter presence in Scripture's account of the life of Christ is that of His foster father, St. Joseph, to whom God entrusted the two most precious treasures ever created, His Virgin Mother and His own Son made man. What manner of man was

this in whom the Almighty put such confidence? Described in the Gospels simply as a just man, Joseph proved himself to be a man of faith and integrity, pure in soul and chaste in body, equal by the grace of God to the task set before him.

Troubles crowd in upon him from the outset of his divine vocation. He finds his betrothed to be with child from an unknown father and wrestles with his obligation to the law. Reassured by an angel on that point, he must next take his wife on a toilsome journey at the very time when her delivery is imminent, and at its end no decent place is to be found in the crowded town for the birth of the Divine Babe. Before long the life of the Child is in danger and he must take the small family and flee to the safety of a foreign land. What fears, not for himself, but for the Child and his mother, must have beset the heart of Joseph! After the return of the Holy Family to Nazareth though the sweetness of life in such blessed company must have had its consolations, certainly toils and cares of the less dramatic, but just as wearing sort filled his days. Death was to him a parting from the society of just those very persons who will be our joy to meet in Paradise.

Dear St. Joseph has always had a special place in the hearts of religious Sisters. He who was the guardian of the Virgin watches over these consecrated virgins as well. It was the great St. Teresa of Avila who said that other saints have particular areas in which they assist us but St. Joseph assists us in every need. Closer to our own times and in our own country, we have many examples of Sisters' reliance on St. Joseph. One witness which still stands is the miraculous staircase in the chapel of the Loreto Sisters in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Needing a staircase to

the choir loft in a chapel that had little room for the construction, the Sisters prayed to St. Joseph. The man who came to help left behind him an amazing spiral staircase, built of no local wood and with no nails and no supports. If the carpenter was not St. Joseph himself, as most believe, he surely had miraculous assistance from the Saint to accomplish such a feat. The Little Sisters of the Poor also confidently presented their needs to St. Joseph and their trust was always rewarded, whether it was with food for their poor folks, a one-armed handyman, or a truckload of cigars for the old men in their care.

In our own Congregation there have been numerous examples of the intercession of St. Joseph for our material needs: food, building supplies, resolution of water problems, buying or selling property, establishing missions (our mission and school in Olathe, Colorado, are due all to him!) — the list goes on and on. And even more countless because invisible to the eye are the many spiritual favors he has gained for those who have invoked him. Please join us in thanking our dear St. Joseph for all he has done for us!



St. Joseph's latest favors: Sr. Maria Kazimiera asked St. Joseph to help St. Michael's fledgling archery team when she took them to the state competition on March 16. Amy Drahman won first place among the fourth graders, and freshman Sam Welp won second place in the high school category, setting a record in the process. But that wasn't all: two bows were being raffled off at the tournament, and Sister asked St. Joseph to win one for St. Michael's Academy — and he did!



The Singing Nuns perform their Christmas concerts every December at the Bing Crosby Theater in downtown Spokane.



The children in St. Michael's pre-K and kindergarten were special guests at our Christmas concerts.



The Sisters share Christmas hymns with a housebound parishioner.



Sr. Corinne Marie puts the finishing touches on an apple pie for dessert.



Everyone enjoys the opportunity to visit with our priests during their annual week of meetings at the Mount in January.



Rev. Mother helps with inventory at our little church counter store during her visit to Boston.



St. Mary's students hold candles to present to Our Lady to celebrate the 100th day of the school year.



Mother Mary Dominica looks on as students of St. Mary's Academy (Tacoma) play outdoor games on the 100th day of school.



Colorado: Sr. Mary Petra and Sr. Therese Marie are up in the clouds (well, almost!) that their garage is finally being built.



Rev. Mother enjoys the great outdoors with primary students from Holy Guardian Angels School during her recent visit to our mission in Olathe, Colorado.



Sr. Mary Loretta demonstrates how to use the new perfect book-binding machine.



Praying and chanting the Divine Office with the Sisters is always a favorite part of Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent.



We had a wonderful group of 18 young women who came from far and near to attend Vocations Weekend in early March.

Our Apostolate of Prayer

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



The Apostolate of Catholic Education

As we explained in our last issue of the *Anima Maria*, the primary apostolate of our fledgling Congregation was spreading the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

But with modernism taking its toll in Catholic schools, the need of providing a traditional Catholic education became a priority.



Sr. Louise Marie working with her third graders on a science group reading project.

Parents began to pressure the Sisters to teach their young ones.

The Sisters were reluctant at first to take on a duty that would interfere with their main apostolate, but when it became evident that this need was just as critical, they relented and took up the challenge of setting up the proverbial little red school house. . . A small house on the shores of Hayden Lake served as a one-room school for some 20 students in 1968.

And then the word got out: *traditional Catholic Sisters are teaching school in northern Idaho!*

The numbers exploded the following year as numerous families from all over the country began to move into the area, eager for their children to benefit from a Catholic education. The second year found the school set up in two basements to accommodate the increased enrollment. It had grown to four classrooms. But the number of students kept growing.

Plans were discussed for an actual school building on the church property. A simple Quonset hut design was adopted, and soon construction began. The new school opened its doors on the first day of the third school year. But, alas, as the students arrived the very next day, they were shocked to see flames shooting out from the brand new edifice. Everything went up in smoke — except for determination. Back to the basement classroom they went. A scram-

Calendar

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
	31	Easter Sunday
April	6	Sr. Mary Julianna's feastday
	26	Feast of Our Mother of Good Counsel
	28	Sr. Louise Marie's feastday
May	12	Sr. Mary Imelda's feastday
	14	Sr. Mary Gemma's feastday
	20	Sr. Bernardine Marie's feastday
	25	Sr. Madeleine Marie's feastday
	30	Sr. Marie Janae's feastday
	31	Feast of the Queenship BVM Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
June	7	Feast of the Sacred Heart Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
	13	Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday
	20-24	Sisters' Annual Retreat
	27	Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Sisters' vows ceremonies
	29	Sr. Mary Petra's feastday
	30	Sr. Mary Paula's feastday

ble to find new teaching material ensued. Undaunted, the teachers made every effort to make things work. And they did.

Incidentally, the burned-down school was rebuilt (with a safer design). Many changes have taken place over the years as the needs arose. In spite of many ups and downs, the Academy marches on, now with many of her alumni on the teaching staff.

Our goal today continues to be to form upright Catholic citizens for society and future saints for heaven. Teaching, then, is one of the ways the Sisters work to preserve and spread our holy Faith and teach souls to love and serve our Blessed Mother by living her Fatima message.



Sr. Marie Vianney leads a discussion with her journalism class.

Convent Trivia

Did you know that the three pins which fasten a Sister's veil represent the three nails that fastened Our Lord to the Cross? They also represent the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience which bind the Sister to her Divine Spouse.

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

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