

Dear Friends, Praised be Jesus and Mary!

The feast of Pentecost with its red vestments and visions of fiery tongues ushers in the summer months with their longer, warmer days, and increase of leisure — at least for the young students who find themselves free of the thralldom of the classroom for a few months. As the warm weather intensifies in July, there seems to be a connection of sorts with the July apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, and the vision of hell which she showed to the little seers. The youngest of the seers, Jacinta, received many visions of her own during her last illness. She told her nurse that more souls went to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason. She also related that Our Lady said many styles and fashions would be introduced which would gravely offend God. We do not have to look far to see the fulfillment of this prophecy in our own day.

When God created the world, He proceeded, according to the Biblical account, in a hierarchical order, beginning with inanimate matter and proceeding to plants, then birds and fish, then land animals and lastly man. And then woman.

Of all material beings, woman is naturally closest to the spiritual realm. God made woman as a helpmate for man. It was His intent that she assist him in keeping a spiritual and supernatural orientation in the midst of his daily occupations in caring for and protecting his family. How much more grievous is it, then, that it was Eve who offered her husband the forbidden fruit. And daughters of Eve that they are, only too often women continue to tempt men against God's law rather than helping him to maintain his equilibrium.

Reverence and respect are attitudes that are only too rare in today's world. Things that used to be held in high esteem have now become common, or worse. Property, the elderly, women, all adults, the innocence of children, life itself, Church, God and His Name — all are objects of disrespect, irreverence, intolerance and contempt. Much of the blame for all of this can be laid at the feet of the modern woman. Women have become selfish. They have lost reverence for God and respect for themselves. They have desired to be equal to men, and have stepped — or in some cases leapt — DOWN from the pedestal on which they had been placed by God.

In the best days of Christianity both in Europe and in our own country, womankind was respected and treated with reverence.



Under Mary's mantle. The pink leaves on this tree reminded the Sisters of the cape on Mary Immaculate Queen, so they quickly gathered beneath it!

Women are the bearers of life. This merits for them a reverence not due to men. Belloc once said that he did not think women were fitted for politics, not because they lacked intelligence, but because it was below them.

The matter of dress is certainly an area that bespeaks women's loss of self-respect and reverence. It is common in our world that items considered to be of great value are often kept covered, or at least protected. Protected from covetous eyes and hands as well as from dirt and dust. In the church, items which are sacred and used for divine worship are kept veiled when not in use. It is in keeping with these practices that women should keep their bodies covered, for they are sacred and not to be profaned. They are temples of life, human and often divine life. When women began to lose reverence for themselves and to uncover more and more of themselves, it led to a general loss of respect and reverence for all things good in our society.

So please, Catholic and Christian women, as the weather gets warmer this summer, rise above the temptation to follow the modern trends of scanty clothing, and be instead a luminous and beautiful model of modesty, true to the request and example of no less a Lady than the Mother of God.



The ambiance of Warrior's Hall at Mount St. Michael added a touch of authenticity to the Sisters' Last Supper meal on Holy Thursday.



Service with a smile: Sr. Mary Genevieve lovingly assists with meal preparations for Easter Sunday. (The Sisters take turns cooking during Easter Week.)



Hail, holy Joseph, hail! The Sisters participate in the annual St. Joseph's Walk up the switchbacks of Mount St. Michael on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.



Ave Crux, Spes Unica! The Sisters join students and parishioners at the solemn dedication of the crucifix marking the beginning of the new Rosary path at Mount St. Michael.



Honoring our Heavenly Mother: Each of the Sisters in turn places flowers before Our Lady's statue during the Rosary on Mother's Day.



Harder than it looks! Students at St. Michael's Academy participate in a fun day in honor of their patron on May 8.



Sr. Mary Petra, Sr. Therese Marie and Fr. Oswalt pose with the first senior graduate of Holy Guardian Angels School in Olathe, Colorado.



The Sisters of our Colorado mission stopped to see the Grand Canyon on their way to Snowflake, Arizona, for a weekend catechism trip.



The Boston mission Sisters set the final touches of the altar linens on the altar of a newly acquired chapel in Warwick, Rhode Island. Thank you, St. Joseph!



Sr. Maria Ines teaches catechism to the enthusiastic children of a traditional Catholic family in their home near Rome, New York.



Sr. Maria Regina looks over the work of a student who came in on a Saturday to finish a project for an Academic Fair (St. Mary's, Tacoma, WA).



"Veni, Jesus, Amor mi!" Sr. Corinne Marie poses with the First Communicants of St. Joseph's Church in Wayne, Michigan.

The Marylike Standards of Modesty



"A dress cannot be called decent which is cut deeper than two fingers' breadth under the pit of the throat; which does not cover the arms at least to the elbows; and scarcely reaches a bit beyond the knees. Furthermore, dresses of transparent material are improper." — The Cardinal Vicar of Pope Pius XI

- 1. Marylike dress is modesty without compromise "like Mary," Christ's Mother.
- 2. Marylike dresses have sleeves extending at least to the elbows; and skirts reaching below the knees. (NOTE: Because of market conditions, quarter-length sleeves are temporarily tolerated with ecclesiastical approval, until Christian womanhood again turns to Mary as the model of modesty in dress.)
- 3. Marylike dresses require full coverage for the bodice, chest, shoulders and back; except for a cut-out about the neck not exceeding two inches below the neckline in front and in the back, and a corresponding two inches on the shoulders.
- 4. Marylike dresses do not admit as modest coverage transparent fabrics, laces, nets, organdy, nylons, etc. unless sufficient backing is added. However, their moderate use as trimmings is acceptable.
- 5. Marylike dresses avoid the improper use of flesh-colored fabrics.
- 6. Marylike dresses conceal rather than reveal the figure of the wearer; they do not emphasize, unduly, parts of the body.
- 7. Marylike dresses provide full coverage, even after jacket, cape or stole are removed and after assuming a sitting position.

Convent Trivia

Did you know that a new novice hears her name in religious life for the first time when she kneels at the communion rail during the ceremony of reception? Rev. Mother chooses the name from among three submitted by the Sister several weeks earlier. The Sisters' names always include some form of the name of Our Lady — Mary, Maria or Marie.

Calendar

June 13 Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday

23-26 Sisters' Annual Retreat

27 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Silver Jubilee of Vows – Sr. Mary Petra Triennial Vows – Sr. Helen Marie First Vows – Sr. Mary Cabrini Entrance into Novitiate – Sr. Catherine Lewis and Sr. Hannah Welp

Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday

29 Sr. Mary Petra's feastday

0 Sr. Mary Paula's feastday

July 3-4 Singing Nuns' Luncheon and Concerts

12 Sr. Mary Veronica's feastday

16 Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

22-29 Camp St. Philomena (see CampStPhilomena.com)

August 9 Sr. Marie Vianney's feastday

12-20 Ladies' Retreat and "Get-away" at the Mount (sponsored by the Sisters)

15 Feast of the Assumption BVM

18 Sr. Helen Marie's feastday

22 Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

24 Centenary of ground-breaking of Mt. St. Michael

25 New school year begins

28 Sr. Augustine Marie's feastday

Summer Catechism

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

July 12-22 Ohio, Pennsylvania Michigan, Canada Georgia, New England California

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!

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.



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: