

Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

“He giveth snow like wool, scattereth hoar frosts like ashes; He sendeth his crystals like morsels; who shall stand before the face of His cold?”

If any of us had been dreaming of a white Christmas, that dream did not come true. But after an unusually mild December and January, February took us a bit off guard when the temperatures dropped and the snow began, not here in Spokane, but in the Tacoma/Seattle area. It wasn't though, long before the whole state turned cold and white. Children and young nuns look at snow as an opportunity for frolic. Teachers think first about whether it will snow enough to have a day off of school. Our first late start day was on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and even though the students made it to school, sadly, we were forced to cancel our procession to the grotto due to the extreme cold. That night the snow continued to fall and blow so that school was cancelled the following day. Oh ye ice and snow, bless the Lord!



Alaska? No, it's Tacoma! Sr. Maria Regina marvels at the snowfall at St. Mary's. It's not common for the Sisters on this mission to pack their snowboots.

Only a few weeks previous, the icy cold of Washington, D.C., had greeted some of our Sisters and the students of St. Michael's senior class as they joined hundreds of thousands at the annual March for Life. What enthusiasm was generated among our students by this tremendous gathering, in which so many other young people were also participating. How we must all continue working, praying and sacrificing in the face of the godless — or rather, anti-God and anti-life — laws that continue to proliferate!

So with the season of Lent upon us, let us renew our fervor in living our holy Catholic faith and consoling the hearts of Jesus and Mary for all the wounds inflicted on them by the sins of the world. At His Agony in the Garden, Jesus foresaw all the wickedness of this generation, but He also envisioned the faithful and loving hearts who would reach out to Him in loving reparation. Let us be sure that we are part of that number!



A record number participated in the annual March for Life in our nation's capital, including several of our Sisters and students.



Mary Immaculate Queen Academy from Rathdrum, Idaho, joined St. Michael's Academy for a day during National Catholic Schools Week. The chapel was nearly full when staff and students of both schools gathered there to pray the Rosary.



Even the Sisters who are not part of the choir pitch in to make our Christmas concert a success. The novitiate made "Asian Christmas Jello."



Christmastime is family time at the motherhouse, with our family centered around Him whose birthday we celebrate. We kiss His feet to show Him homage.



We had an opportunity to take a tour of the renovations at Mary Immaculate Queen Church, Rathdrum, Idaho, the first official church of our Congregation.



On the way up to visit Mount Calvary Cemetery at the City of Mary, several Sisters pray the Stations of the Cross along the path.



There were almost as many priests as there were Sisters when the priests came to the convent for dinner during the annual priests' meeting in January.



The Sisters at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish took the young lady sodalists caroling during the Christmas season.



After the Senior Class of St. Michael's Academy took their senior trip to participate in the March for Life in Washington, DC, they visited the enthused 5th-6th grade class to share the story of their experience.



Before the great snowfall, the Sisters at St. Mary's Parish in Tacoma took advantage of the mild winter weather for a Rosary walk at nearby Marymount.



On their way to the March for Life in Salt Lake City, the students from Holy Guardian Angels Academy in Olathe, CO, stopped to explore the ice castles in Midway, UT.



During their trip to Salt Lake City for the March for Life, the Olathe students also explored the Utah State Capitol building.



Our annual Christmas concert, "Christmas Around the Globe," featured a wide variety of international carols. Among the languages were Japanese, German, Italian, French, Lithuanian, Spanish, Windet, and Yoruba.



The very last of the Christmas decorations are taken down after February 2, Candlemas Day, the close of the Christmas season.

The Fourfold Joy of Religious Life

Too few people understand that the religious life is one of deep joy. The following reflection from Archbishop Goodier's *The Life That is Light* outlines the *fourfold* joy of this vocation. We have added emphasis and prefaced each of the four "joys" with our own comments in italics.



*I. The first joy Goodier presents is that which he sees especially in **postulants**, those who are in their first months in the convent. We might add that it is also the joy of souls when they first accept a religious vocation — for instance, a young woman who, perhaps after an initial struggle, has finally embraced her vocation and said "Yes!" to God.*

There is the joy of *knowing* that the call has been given, by Christ, to me:

- 1) *He has chosen whom He would Himself, and I am that one;*
- 2) *He has chosen me* "out of the world" that I may be "with Him;"
- 3) He has "regarded my lowliness, and has "done great things to me."

*II. Goodier sees the second joy as typical of a **novice**. At this step the young Sister, rejoicing at having received the habit and her new name, is eager to learn how to surrender herself wholly to her Beloved.*

There is the joy of the *response*, that I have been given the *grace* to accept the call:

- 1) The joy of those who [like the apostles] have "left all and followed" — *faith*.
- 2) The joy of those who cried, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" — *trust*.
- 3) The joy of those who heard Him say, "You are they who have stood with me" — *love*.

*III. This third joy, according to Goodier, may be seen in a **Sister at her first vows**, which bind to her Divine Spouse. She delights at being a "bride of Jesus" and yearns to prove her love and fidelity to Him by becoming a saint.*

There is the joy of the return [His response], the joy of His joy, that for what I have done He has *thanked* me.

- 1) He has shown His *reliance* on me: "Will you also go away?" "Watch with Me."
- 2) He has shown His love: "He has looked on me and *loved* me."
- 3) He has prayed that "*where He is I also may be*."

*IV. This fourth joy is that of a **Sister at her final vows**, which bind her forever to her Divine Spouse. She has experienced the sacrifice of religious life, has learned to unite her suffering to that of Christ's, and has complete trust in Him no matter what happens.*

IV. There is the joy of the whole sacrifice, of the whole surrender, that sense of *completeness* which is a *foretaste* of Heaven.

- 1) "Come to me, and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is sweet and My burden is light."
- 2) "Your sorrow shall be turned into joy."
- 3) "They went away rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for the Name of Jesus."

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.



Put First Things First...

St. Michael's Academy — Girls' Boarding 2019-2020

It is not easy today for young traditional Catholics to persevere in the Faith after high school and college.

And girls who attend a traditional Catholic high school staffed by priests and nuns are certainly more equipped to face the dangers to their souls they will face out in the world.

With eternity in the balance, a solid Catholic education is worth almost any sacrifice.

So isn't it time to put first things first?



Boarding confirmation deadline:
July 31, 2019

*** Boarding for the 2019-2020 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

For more information, please contact:

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Calendar

- March 4 Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday
9 Mother Mary Dominica's feastday
19 Feast of St. Joseph; Sr. Mary Josephine's feastday
22-24 Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent
- April 6 Sr. Mary Julianna's feastday
28 Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort
Sr. Louise Marie's feastday; begin preparation for renewal of Total Consecration to Mary
- May 12 Sr. Mary Imelda'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
Renewal of Total Consecration to Mary
Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
- June 1 Sr. Mary Angela's feastday
13 Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday
28 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
21-24 Sisters' Annual Retreat
27 Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help;
Sisters' vows ceremonies: Final profession - Sr. Mary Evangeline, Sr. Mary Teresita, Sr. Mary Angela;
Triennial vows - Sr. Mary Philomena; First Vows - Sr. Sophia Marie, Sr. Mary Cecelia; Entrance into the Novitiate - Regina Fisher, Mary Julia Sitzenstock
29 Sr. Mary Petra's feastday
30 Sr. Mary Paula'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:

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