

Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen



Dear Friends,
Praised be Jesus and Mary!

The Fatima Conference is a yearly highlight at St. Michael's. The Sisters who staff Mary Immaculate Queen Center are the primary hostesses — organizing lodging, meals and transportation — for guests who visit from all over the country. This year we also had Catholics who joined us from Germany, Portugal, France and Mexico. The theme of this year's conference was in memory of Pope Pius XII, the Pope of Fatima, as the 60th anniversary of his death was on October 9.

The conference usually runs from Wednesday evening to Sunday and includes lectures revolving around the theme, a Pontifical High Mass, a day of retreat, and a Rosary procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. This year we also revived the old tradition of a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The mild fall weather provided the perfect atmosphere for a couple of hours enjoying God's beautiful creation!

November was soon upon us with its annual opportunities to assist the souls in Purgatory. During the last few days of October, the Sisters at the novitiate issued a challenge to the Sisters living at Mount St.

Michael which would result in the Sisters of both houses making more visits than we have ever made in past years for the Poor Souls during the time of the *toties quoties* indulgence.

If you are not familiar with this Catholic practice, it consists in making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament during which the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be are prayed six times for the intentions of the Church. Each time one makes such a visit a full remission of punishment can be gained for the Holy Souls. This special indulgence may be gained from noon on the feast of All Saints, November 1, and throughout the entire day on November 2nd until midnight.

In answer to this challenge, the professed Sisters drew up a formal proclamation of acceptance, which the younger Sisters received with great enthusiasm. And so, spurred on by the zeal of the neophytes, we all set out to make as many visits for the Holy Souls as possible. A day or two before beginning, we discussed amongst ourselves the importance of having the proper dispositions for gaining a plenary indulgence, and the need to be not only free from mortal and deliberate venial sin, but even from all attachment to sin. We also reminded one another of how, in a spirit of Total Consecration to Mary, we should remember to unite with the dispositions of Mary's Immaculate Heart as we make our visits that they might be as productive of grace as possible.

The Mount chapel saw a steady stream of Sisters,



Sisters plate the Fatima Conference banquet while servers wait to carry the plates out to our 230+ guests.

parishioners and students on November 1 and 2. Making these short visits seems like such an easy thing, but it is surprising how exhausting it becomes. Some of the Sisters used chaplets to keep track of the six Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory be's, while others kept track by meditating on mysteries of the Rosary, Our Lady's Sorrows or the Stations of the Cross.

Looking back, we are confident that this year the number of souls released from Purgatory as a result of the Sisters' visits far surpassed any of past years, and we hope to continue to be inspired to such efforts by the zeal of our young religious.



Sisters and parishioners praying for the faithful departed on All Souls' Day, November 2.



Sister lines up the Sodality members for the Candlelight procession during the Fatima Conference.



"May he always with heart like Thine..." The Sisters joined the priests in singing A Priestly Heart the Sacred Heart to honor Fr. Gregory Drahman's Silver Jubilee during the Fatima Conference.



One of the highlights of this year's Fatima Conference was the boat cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene. Sr. Mary Andrea enjoys the sunshine with some of the guests.



Students from Olathe, Colorado, and Tacoma, Washington, came with their teachers to the Fatima Conference. They enjoyed some woodworking classes with Mr. Tim Murry during their stay in Spokane.



Members of the sodalities from St. Michael's parish and Mary Immaculate Queen Parish take part in a five-mile walk-a-thon fundraiser in October.



A gift for her Golden Jubilee from a very dear friend enabled Rev. Mother Mary Agnes to travel with Sr. Mary Bridget to France on a St. Louis Marie de Montfort pilgrimage. Here they visit the shrine of St. Mary Magdalene.



Sr. Mary Bridget kneels at the tombs of St. Louise Marie de Montfort and Sr. Marie Louise Trichet. In the spirit of St. Louis de Montfort, their pilgrimage was blessed with many trying crosses.



While visiting New England, Rev. Mother Mary Agnes and Sr. Mary Bernadette visited with Bro. John, whose famous nun doll collection can be seen at St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston.



Sr. Mary Bernadette and Sr. Maria Ines set up for a Requiem Mass at a funeral home in Pittsfield, MA. They were also blessed to be the choir at this funeral Mass for one of their parishioners.



Sr. Maria Regina and the sodalists of St. Mary's parish on one of their visits to the sick, a much neglected corporal work of mercy.



Sr. Mary Petra directs the students during a Mass on All Saints Day, while Sr. Mary Veronica accompanied them on the organ.



Sister Mary Josephine and two kindergartners visit the grave of Sister Mary Gertrude at Mount Calvary Cemetery. (December 4 was the 35th anniversary of her death.)



On the 50th anniversary of her first vows, Rev. Mother Mary Agnes took the Novitiate Sisters to Coeur D'Alene to learn the early history of our Congregation.

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.



Upcoming novenas:

Our Lady of Prompt Succor (January 15)

Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)

The Marks of a Religious Vocation

What are the marks of a religious vocation?

There is no set of marks that applies to absolutely everyone because God calls souls in various ways. However, a firm will to enter religion is one safe mark of a religious vocation, provided that the motives are good and no serious obstacle exists. This firm will is itself a special grace, "for it is God Who worketh in you both to will and to accomplish, according to His good will." In the invitation to the counsels, the will is the only condition mentioned by Our Lord: "If thou wilt be perfect, go sell what thou hast and give to the poor... and come, follow Me."

Is a firm will the only sign of a religious vocation?

No, for the grace of a vocation may be offered to persons of weak will, as was the case of the young man of the Gospel whom Our Lord invited to follow Him, but who "went away sad, for he had great possessions." Some are called, but are too weak to accept.

By what other sign may a person recognize a religious vocation?

The voice of conscience suggesting that one enter the religious state is a sign of a vocation. With some, this interior voice, which is nothing but the grace of God speaking to the heart, is heard and recognized even from childhood. For others, it comes later and more suddenly. It may result from reading, a sermon, a conversation, the example of others, the death of a loved one, or even from the crosses of life. In a word, it results from our thoughts and reflections, no matter what caused these reflections.

Why should a vocation to the religious life be followed promptly?

Like other graces, the grace of a religious vocation may be offered today, and if not accepted, may be withdrawn tomorrow: "Today if you shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

Religious vocations too often share the fate of the seed that fell by the wayside or among thorns:

"And the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts after other things entering in, choke the word, and it is made fruitless."

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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Calendar

Dec.	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mary Immaculata's feastday
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	15-16	Christmas Concerts at Mount St. Michael
	22	Sr. Mary Cabrini's feastday
	25	Christmas Day Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday
	27	Sr. Mary Evangeline's feastday
Jan.	1	Feast of the Circumcision
	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
	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



Vocations Weekend

March 22-24, 2019 at St. Michael's Convent

Is God calling you?

How can you know for sure?

Do you sometimes wonder if you might have a vocation?

You'll never know if you don't really look into what it's all about. Come and see how the Sisters live, pray, work and play. Find out what motivates them, and learn about the special mission of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.

Young women who are at least juniors in high school and single women 35 or under are welcome. There is no admission fee.

* Register by calling the Sisters at (509) 467-0986x103
or online at www.CMRI.org