Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Last year at this time people were talking about clever themes revolving around 2020 — you know, the kind having to do with perfect vision. Nothing back then gave us any pre-vision of what has occurred during the past six months. They say hindsight is 20/20, so we have not really gotten to that stage yet.

In spite of everything, we are still in God’s hands, just as we have always been. Whatever is yet to come, we will be in the care of His Providence. That is what makes it a bit ironic. So many individuals trying to usurp the role of God: who should live and who should die, what we can do or not do, whether it is essential to go to church, etc. What a disaster! Yet, when have people all over the world united to pray the 54-day Rosary novena for the outcome of the elections? When has there ever been a National Convention that included the Ave Maria in its closing repertoire?

Turning aside from the big picture, or rather looking at it from another angle, we remember St. Paul’s exhortations to the Thessalonians, not to be in terror of the coming judgment, but to be up and doing the Will of God. So, in the face of all the anxiety and fear-mongering, the Sisters have faithfully kept at their daily tasks.

During the summer there are always common projects that need to be worked on in keeping up a large facility. Painting, cleaning, organizing, moving, and recycling are part of the weekly agenda. As was noted in the last issue of *Anima Mariae*, both at the novitiate and at the motherhouse, extensive gardens were planted, and have flourished through the rainy spring and long summer months, keeping us busy with the abundant harvest.

Thankfully the COVID guidelines for summer camps allowed for us to have our girls’ camp and ladies’ retreat, although with limited numbers attending. Our summer catechism travels were not as extensive as usual, although the younger Sisters were able to do some catechizing during their summer outing in Montana. And catechism has been in the forefront of much planning throughout the summer. The reality of “distance learning” in place of regular classes in our schools in the spring brought more forcibly before us the need to provide catechism lessons for those who are deprived of Catholic education on a regular basis because there is no school in their area. Even as we look to being able to resume classes in person, work continues on putting together a series of video lessons that will be helpful for distance learning of the catechism.

Sr. Therese Marie receives training from Mrs. Vianey Larios in lighting and filming for a series of catechism videos.

Above: The Sisters of St. Michael’s Convent raised chickens for meat this summer. Below: Novices show off freshly picked vegetables from the novitiate’s large garden. (It is 130 feet long by 32 feet wide!)
The postulants, arrayed in white dresses, have their hair cut to signify that they are giving themselves wholly to God.

Sr. Margaret Mary and Sr. Maria Dolorosa, having made their first profession of vows, have their white veils exchanged for the blue.

Sr. Mary Andrea makes her perpetual profession of vows.

Sisters who take their first vows also receive a crown of red and white roses, symbolizing a life of virginity and martyrdom.

During the final profession ceremony, Sr. Mary Andrea lies prostrate beneath the pall, signifying that she is now dead to the world.

With hearts overflowing with joy, the Sisters chant the Te Deum at the close of the vows ceremonies.

Sr. Sophia Marie and Sr. Mary Cecilia renew their vows for three years.

Sr. Mary Bridget renews her vows as part of the ceremony of her Golden Jubilee.

Vows Ceremonies on June 27, feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, at Mary Immaculate Queen Church in Rathdrum, Idaho.
While visiting a traditional Catholic family in Montana, the novitiate Sisters had an opportunity to go horseback riding.

This beautiful meadow full of daisies in the mountains on Montana was a perfect setting for a group photo of the junior and novitiate Sisters during their summer outing.

Sr. Mary Imelda supervises her class as a new school year begins at the City of Mary, Rathdrum, Idaho.

Sr. Mary Bernadette looks on while Fr. Letourneau gives a short explanation before beginning the baptism ceremony of Valerie M. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Salem, New Hampshire.

The novices help Sr. Mary Cabrini put away items from the annual Oregon-western Washington procurement drive. Inset: The forklift is most useful in moving the pallets from the trailer.

Sr. Mary Antoinette works in our newly-renovated convent kitchen to processes cabbage into sauerkraut for the winter.

Sr. Mary Imelda supervises her class as a new school year begins at the City of Mary, Rathdrum, Idaho.

Sr. Mary Bernadette looks on while Fr. Letourneau gives a short explanation before beginning the baptism ceremony of Valerie M. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Salem, New Hampshire.
The Sisters’ Apostolate of Prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of special prayers? Send us your special intentions and we will commend them in our daily prayers, Masses and good works.

Every day throughout this summer, the Sisters have also considered as part of our duty for the common welfare an extra Holy Hour or a second Mass, as well as the Litany of the Saints, for the intention of God’s guidance and protection in the current crisis. On Saturdays this took the form of a weekly rogation procession before the morning Mass, and fifteen decades of the Rosary on the Rosary path in the evening.

“We ought always to pray and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). Let us all with good heart continue to pray earnestly for the resolution of this crisis. Surely we know that the world is deserving of God’s chastisement for all the affronts offered daily to His divine Majesty, but let us like Moses continue to importune His merciful Heart, and strive to appease Him by our prayer and penance. Let us unite with His Mother and ours in acts of reparation and love, that sinners may be converted and souls may be saved for His greater glory. Amen.

The Holy Rule is the Sisters’ path to sanctity, for it enables us to practice great virtue when we faithfully follow it.

Calendar

Sept. 12 Sr. Mariana’s feastday
15 Sr. Maria Dolorosa’s feastday
16 Sr. Mary Andrea’s feastday
17 Sr. Sophia Marie’s feastday
29 Feast of St. Michael: Titular feast of St. Michael’s Convent
Sr. Michael Marie’s feastday
Oct.  3 Sr. Therese Marie’s and Sr. Mary Teresita’s feastday
7 Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
7-11 Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael

Oct. 13 Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima
18 Sr. Margaret Mary’s feastday
Nov. 14 Sr. Maria Providencia’s feastday
19 Sr. Mary Isabella’s feastday
22 Sr. Mary Cecilia’s feastday
Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mary Immaculata’s feastday
10 Sr. Mary Loretta’s feastday
13 Sr. Mary Lucy’s feastday
22 Sr. Mary Cabrini’s feastday
25 Christmas Day
Sr. Marie Emmanuel’s feastday
27 Sr. Mary Evangeline’s feastday

Consecration

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Take my hands, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Take my voice, and let it sing Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee,
Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee,