



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Our last newsletter found us at the beginning of Advent, and now here we are in the early part of the other penitential season of the liturgical year, Lent. Yet so much has filled the intervening months! In mid-December our annual Christmas concert was part of our Advent preparation for the Birth of Jesus. And then during Christmas-tide our Sisters from around the country came home so we could all be together for a few days. We also rejoiced in the arrival of a new postulant on the day after Christmas — a most delightful Christmas present!

This year some of our traditional activities were overshadowed by the family project we undertook during our Christmas break: a benefit dinner to help with the ongoing structural repairs to our 100+ year old building. Between cooking, decorating, setting tables and practicing songs, it was a very active family holiday.



The Sisters always go “all-out” to celebrate our Rev. Mother’s feastday.

A few weeks later came the feast of St. Agnes, Reverend Mother’s patron saint. To celebrate the occasion, we prepared a talent show of sorts, including a variety of music, both vocal and instrumental, a few accompanied by video, as well as several poetry readings and short skits. Presentations ranged from humorous to inspirational.

February was ushered in with an indoors Candlemas procession, although the following week the weather was mild enough for a Rosary procession to the Lourdes grotto on Our Lady’s feast. St. Valentine’s Day has become a lovely tradition at the Mount for married couples who wish to participate. The high school seniors (helped by their teachers, of course) sponsor a Valentine’s dinner, preceded by the Rosary in chapel, a short sermon by Fr. Casimir and the renewal of marriage vows.

And now, Ash Wednesday has already come. Dom Guerranger in his book on the liturgical year, shares some very provoking thoughts about the spirit of penance and expiation for our sins which is the theme of this season. Jesus does not leave us to ourselves during this time, but accompanies us,



The Novitiate surprised the Sisters by singing “Sleep, Little Baby, Sleep,” a tender Christmas carol we haven’t heard for years.



The reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a stark reminder of our obligation and need to do penance for our sins.

leading us into the desert where He Himself fasted and prayed for forty days. He mourns over our sins as if He had committed them Himself, and though innocent, suffers to atone for them. How remiss (*cont’d on back*)



Procession to Lourdes grotto on February 11



The theme for this year's concert was pro-life, "Only a Baby Came." Our singing apostolate is a secondary one, so practice for the annual concerts is squeezed in from various bits of "free time."



Sisters prepare goodies for the concerts: Gingerbread, figgy pudding, buckeyes, toffee, eclairs, and more!



One of the highlights during the twelve days of Christmas is the gift exchange between the Advent Angels and their Krist Kindls. Gifts are usually spiritual bouquets, handmade cards, or a small hand-crafted item.



A Sister spends a quiet moment before the Nativity scene in the convent chapel.



Sr. Mary Bernadette shows a recent addition to the bookstore to two avid readers.



Sibling rivalry... for holiness. Sr. Mary Veronica traveled to Omaha for the occasion of Bro. Thomas Marie's perpetual vows.



Philomena Current (Johannesburg, Michigan) was received as a postulant on December 27th, receiving the temporary name, Sr. Maria, as we already have a Sr. Philomena Marie.



Painting and stippling... The Sisters stationed in Olathe, Colorado, assist in preparing the stained glass windows for the new church.



A day of snowshoeing at the Black Canyon, Colorado, is a great way to enjoy the beauty of God's creation amidst the winter weather. An early pioneer necessity is now a delightful sport!



What is this stuff? The Sisters in Tacoma enjoy a western Washington rarity: a beautiful fall of large, heavy snowflakes. The cat, not so much.



The Center Sisters got an order for 1,000 St. Joseph cords! Over several weeks, all the Sisters — teachers, house Sisters, novitiate Sisters — helped to make the cords, and to package them along with a leaflet.



Sr. Mary Evangeline joins her family in providing some musical entertainment for the benefit dinner as the guests arrived for appetizers in Warriors Hall.



Meanwhile in Idaho... When Sr. Mary Julianna stepped out of the classroom, one fearless first grader took it upon herself to give the third grade spelling test. Sr. Mary Josephine conducts an experiment with the kindergarteners (inset).



Students from Mary Immaculate Queen Academy (Rathdrum, Idaho), joined students at St. Michael's Academy (Spokane, Washington) for a day during Catholic Schools Week in January.

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.



(cont'd from front page) would we be, we sinners, if we do not make use of the penances imposed on us during this time, as well as offering some sacrifices of our own: turning away from sin with true sorrow in our hearts, avoiding frivolous and worldly entertainments, making some silent time in our day for extra prayer, reflection and spiritual reading.

The good abbot also points out the difference there would be between nations who observe this season of repentance and those that do not, and how the Lenten observance would strengthen morality, each year calling people back to a higher standard. Alas for our poor secularized world! We can only hope that the relatively few who are mindful of the story of Redemption, can by our own small efforts at repentance, be little stones that cast out ripples of goodness to those around us, so that everywhere there will be felt a lift of Easter joy in His Holy Resurrection.

Some Thoughts on Religious Life from Younger Sisters

The novices and postulants were asked to answer the question, "What is one of the most beautiful or special things you have discovered about religious life since you have entered?" And these are their answers:

- As a religious Sister, one is truly doubling for the Mother of God. And as Mary's double we have adopted millions of souls as our very own children, to care for, pray for, and love May God bless them all!
- A religious Sister feels very close to God because she lives with her Divine Spouse and unites all of her actions with Him. Her Sisters are a great help to her because they are all striving for the same goal and will help her to reach that goal by their prayers and example.
- The thing that most amazed me about religious life is the closeness of feeling near to God and His Mother, and the joy of being around others who are trying to please God above all things.
- One beautiful thing about religious life is that, in living physically with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we can more easily go to Him in all our needs and difficulties, and He is always ready to give us the graces we need when we ask for them.
- One thing I found that was really special is that we live in the same house as our loving King! He is right there to comfort us whenever we are feeling down, and we can go see Him any time, no matter what hour it is.
- The religious state is a glorious life brimming with the love of God because those consecrated to God are called to be doubles of Mary. Just think how much glory she gives to God because she loves Him with her entire heart. And because she loves Him, she helps SOULS to do the same. Religious are called to be other Marys to God and to the world.

Calendar

- March 4 Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday
9 Mother Mary Dominica's feastday
19 Feast of St. Joseph; Sr. Mary Josephine's feastday
- 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
- June 1 Sr. Mary Angela's feastday
8 Feast of the Queenship BVM
Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
13 Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday
19 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
23-26 Sisters' Annual Retreat
27 Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help;
Sisters' vows ceremonies: 50th Anniversary of Vows - Sr. Mary Bridget; Final profession - Sr. Mary Andrea; Triennial vows - Sr. Sophia Marie, Sr. Mary Cecilia; First Vows - Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Maria Dolorosa; Entrance into the Novitiate - Philomena Current, Christina Doll, Emily Doll, Alena Miller
29 Sr. Mary Petra's feastday
30 Sr. Mary Paula's feastday

Put First Things First...

St. Michael's Academy — Girls' Boarding 2020-2021

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 for the 2020-2021 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

For more information, please contact:

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**Boarding confirmation
deadline:
July 31, 2020**

- What struck me is that religious life is animated by a family spirit different from a natural family, as we all have the same goal (and means) — that is, doing God's work for His honor and glory. We "bear one another's burdens" and support each other, so that no Sister is ever alone.

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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