



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,
Praised be Jesus and Mary!

“In all things give thanks for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all.” (1 Thess 5:18)

As we come to the end of another year, first in the liturgy and soon thereafter in the secular calendar, we appropriately celebrate a day of Thanksgiving. We receive so many gifts and benefits from the Providence of the Almighty that it seems a shame there is only one day out of the year dedicated to showing our gratitude. From Cicero, who said, “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others,” through St. Ambrose: “No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks,” to G.K. Chesterton, who maintained “thanks are the highest form of thought,” men have borne witness to

the fittingness and necessity of offering thanks to God.

As Catholics, we offer thanks to God every time we assist at Holy Mass, for that is one of the four purposes of offering Mass. Moreover, at the Holy Sacrifice, we unite with the infinite act of thanksgiving offered by Christ Himself. What a privilege! How else could we ever feel that we had thanked God sufficiently?

There are so many things that we Sisters have to be grateful for, it would be impossible to list them all, but here are a few things that are representative of the longer list.

- The privilege of living in the same building with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, so that we can easily bring our needs to Him and receive His blessings and strength in our day.
- The special devotion of our Congregation to Our Blessed Mother;
- Our good priests who bring us daily Mass and the Sacraments;
- The beautiful building that provides us with shelter (even if it is 100 years old and badly in need of repairs);
- The peaceful grounds at St. Michael’s;
- Our younger religious, with their generous and lively natures;
- Our farm animals;
- Our students and the opportunity of sharing God’s knowledge and love;
- Our dear parishioners and friends everywhere who support and encourage us;
- The various talents we share in our religious family;
- And yes, our crosses, by which we follow Jesus on the path to Heaven.

Wishing you all in advance the peace and joy of the Christ Child, and His blessing on you and your loved ones during the New Year.



Outside of formal prayer time, the Sisters slip into chapel to make a visit to their Divine Spouse.



The Novitiate Sisters take care of the cows, from which we get milk, enough to make yogurt and cheese, as well as meat.



When the teaching Sisters count their blessings, their students have a primary place on the list. Below: Thanksgiving dinner with the CMRI family.



Whether it’s spring blossoms, summer verdure, autumnal leaves or snowy winter, the scenery at the Mount is beautiful year round!



Knowing they are helping to save lives, the Sisters are all smiles as they willingly donate blood when the mobile clinic visits Mount St. Michael.



The Sisters play an intense game of Nertz with students from St. Mary's Academy in Tacoma, Washington, when they came for the Fatima Conference.



The Sisters from St. Michael's Novitiate take a break from their usual round of classes on the spiritual life and religious life to attend lectures on the Faith at the Fatima Conference.



The three young ladies who entered the convent in early September were received as postulants after the Pontifical High Mass on October 11. The postulancy marks the acceptance of the candidates into the Congregation.



Every month from May to October, the Sisters join in a Rosary procession to honor Our Lady of Fatima. Undoubtedly, the candlelight procession in October is the most solemn and beautiful.



Two Sisters work in the sound booth, recording the Conference lectures and burning them to CD.



The Sisters take turns in lighting the Advent wreath each evening, after which they recite a special Advent prayer and sing an Advent hymn.



A highlight for the Sisters is to attend the dress rehearsal for the various plays at St. Michael's Academy. The Sisters peruse the program for the musical, Oliver.



Winner of St. Michael's Academy auction item "Principal for a Day" enjoyed lunch at Tomato Street with principal Rev. Mother Mary Agnes and a friend.



Shortly before Thanksgiving, the Sisters were invited to sing at a local assisted living community, where over one hundred residents came to listen to them sing a collection of songs and hymns that tell the story of our redemption.



Skate for Life, hosted by Students for Life, enabled several Sisters to spend time at the rink for a very good cause.



Students of our newest school, St. Philomena's Academy in Middleville, Michigan, presented a recitation of the poem The Sugar-Plum Tree for Rev. Mother Mary Agnes during her visit.

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)

Convent Trivia

Our white-veiled novices, in their cloistered year of novitiate training, spend at least two hours a day in class time and study as they learn about the obligations of the religious life and the spiritual life. Sisters in formation, including postulants, also have classes in Scripture, Catholic doctrine and Gregorian chant.

Thoughts on the Vows and Love

You aspire to become a religious to love. Nothing less!

You do not enter the convent to escape from something, not to compensate for a disappointment in love, to withdraw into some sort of negative oblivion. You seek to become a Sister in order to live in the fullest sense of the word, in order to love in the loftiest and purest manner possible to you. You seek a consecrated life in order to achieve the fullness of your womanly personality.

Just as there is an extremely close connection between consecrated virginity and love of God, so is there an intimate relationship between this gift and prayer. And such is not at all surprising for the simple reason that prayer and love are themselves closely bound together. This is why St. Paul indicates facility in prayer as *the* reason for a life of perfect purity: the virgin thinks of the things of the Lord; she can pray without impediment, she is an inner soul in love with her God.

The consecrated virgin thinks about the things of the Lord, she meditates upon His goodness, she surrenders herself to His service — and all this through love. So true is this that consecrated virginity without love is inconceivable. A girl aspires to this dedication not because she has been disappointed in love, but rather because she is seeking a perfect love. Consecrated virginity may not be separated from the love of God.

— Excerpts from *Dawn of a Consecration*
by Rev. Thomas Dubay, S.M.

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
	14-15	Christmas Concerts at Mount St. Michael
	23	Sr. Mary Cabrini's feastday
	25	Christmas Day Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday
	27	Sr. Mary Evangeline's feastday
	30	Benefit Dinner and Concert
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
	20-22	Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent

Is God calling you? Come and find out during the Marian Sisters'



Vocations Weekend

March 20-22, 2020

This may be the most important decision of your entire life.

Jesus calls many to follow Him, but few will even consider it. The world and its pleasures drown out His voice. What more can He do to show His love?

Meet young women who, like you, were once full of doubt — but are no longer...

* Young women who are at least juniors in high school and single women 35 or under, please contact the Vocations Directress using the information at the bottom of this page.

Attendance is free, but register at CMRI.org or call (509) 467-0986 x103.

