



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

The holy season of Lent is here again! Blessed time of extra prayer, penance, fasting and self-denial, right? Frankly, we must admit that for most people, Lent is probably not the most eagerly anticipated time of year. Yet how beneficial it is for our souls! Consider this Lenten hymn from Vespers of the Divine Office:

Thou loving Maker of mankind,
Before thy throne we pray and weep;
Oh, strengthen us with grace divine,
Duly this sacred Lent to keep.

Searcher of hearts! Thou dost discern
Our ills, and all our weakness know:
Again to Thee with tears we turn;
Again to us thy mercy show.

Much have we sinn'd; but we confess
Our guilt, and all our faults deplore:
Oh, for the praise of Thy great Name,
Our fainting souls to health restore!

And grant us, while by fasts we strive
This mortal body to control,
To fast from all the food of sin,
And so to purify the soul.



There is no one way to pray the Stations, but the end in view is to study and copy the Master.

Hear us, O Trinity thrice
blest!

Sole Unity! to Thee we cry:
Vouchsafe us from these
fasts below

To reap immortal fruit on
high. Amen.

Has the thought crossed anyone's mind that, perhaps, something has been wrong with how we have observed Lent the past few years? Is that why God thought we needed an opportunity for an extraordinary amount of extra prayer and penance and cross-bearing over the last 12 months? And it doesn't seem to be over yet. If you have not read the book of Jonas from the Bible lately, now might be a good time! The people of Ninive may have a thing or two to teach us about appeasing the wrath of God. Although it is not likely that we could interest the whole country in doing penance in sackcloth and ashes, perhaps if enough of us do our part, who knows but that we may draw down God's mercy on our poor nation!

That being said, we should look at Lent from a different perspective for a moment. The focus of Lent should be less on what we do (or give up), and more on what we become. Through the penance of Lent, our goal is to become more like Our Lord, more like the refined silver in which God can see His reflection. After all, penance is not an end in itself, but a means to this end: transformation in Christ. And if we do our best to spend our Lent in union with Our Lady, it is she who knows best how to draw us close to her Son, for to stand at the foot of the Cross, one must be close to Mary.

Speaking of Our Lady, our Sisters have always had a special affection for her under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, whose feast is coming up on April 26. What a blessing to have a mother to whom we can always turn for good advice, as well as the light and strength to carry out our good de-



Like the Ninevites of old, we are invited to don sackcloth and ashes and to do penance for our sins.

signs. Our Lady certainly obtains this gift for us from the Holy Ghost. With her guidance we can be sure to know and do the Will of God in our regard, especially concerning our vocation in life.

The story of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Good Counsel is marvelous. In



Several of our Sisters have had the privilege of seeing the miraculous image of Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Advancement ceremonies for the Salve Regina Sodality and Children of Mary took place on December 8 at the City of Mary, Rathdrum, Idaho.



May he rest in peace. Mr. Leo Berchtold, who passed away in December, had three daughters and three granddaughters who are CMRI Sisters.



A special treat. Sr. Mary Cabrini and Sr. Sophia Marie display the orange yams they prepared for Christmas dinner.



Fr. Casimir Puskorius blesses the Sisters' Christmas tree. On February 2nd, one of the Sisters experimentally replanted it, hoping for its reuse next Christmas.



In addition to formation classes and farm work at the Novitiate, the novices help at Mary Immaculate Queen Center in the bindery and order filling rooms.



Winter gardening under grow lights. Sr. Therese Marie harvests home-grown romaine lettuce for the Sisters' dinner.



As a fundraiser to support the St. Francis Xavier Missionary Guild, Sr. Marie Vianney, Sr. Madeleine Marie and Sr. Bernardine Marie helped the sodality bake over 700 lye pretzels.



Sr. Maria Ines conducts a home catechism class for one of the families of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Salem, New Hampshire.



The Sisters from Maine join the Sisters in New Hampshire as the choir for a High Mass on the Second Sunday of Lent.



Sr. Maria Dolorosa primes the doors to the entrance hallway of St. Theresa's Church in Maine.



Among her many duties, Rev. Mother Mary Agnes travels to all the missions each year. Her trip to Middleville, Michigan, coincided with Catholic Schools Week.



The students of St. Philomena's in Middleville, Michigan, enjoy a game led by Sr. Mary Teresita during their celebration of the feast of St. John Bosco.

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.



In addition to their private Holy Hours during the Forty Hours' Devotion at Mount St. Michael, the Sisters made a common Holy Hour every afternoon.

Genazzano, Italy, a church dedicated to Our Lady under this title has existed since the 4th century. But it was not until nearly 1,000 years later, however, that a wondrous happening would bring the little church to greater notice.

In Scutari, Albania, the Church of the Annunciation housed an ancient image of Mary with her Child. When the area was threatened with invasion by the Turks, this picture, a small fresco painted on a thin layer of plaster, was seen to detach itself from the wall and to float away in a white cloud. Two soldiers who had been praying in the church followed it, miraculously walking across the sea, until at length the image came to rest in the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Genazzano.

Those present heard beautiful heavenly music as the cloud descended, and the bells of the church rang out on their own in welcome. The cloud cleared away, revealing the image of Our Lady hovering stationary and unsupported over the wall of a chapel that was being rebuilt. There it remains to this day, for the construction of the chapel was completed around the image, and veneration of the image spread far and wide.

Although now enshrined in a golden frame encrusted with jewels, this fragile painting has stood upright and without support for over 500 years. Pope Leo XIII, who had a great devotion to Our Lady under this title, had it added to the Litany of Loreto. "Children," he said, "follow her counsels!" She is the best of all counselors and is always ready to help us. Let us turn to her in all our difficulties, in all our important decisions, trustfully confiding in her guidance, for with Our Lady of Good Counsel as our guide, we will never be forsaken or led astray.

Calendar

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| March | 4 | Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday |
| | 9 | Mother Mary Dominica's feastday |
| | 19 | Feast of St. Joseph; Sr. Mary Josephine's feastday |
| | 19-21 | 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 - Titular Feast of CMRI
Sr. Maria Regina's feastday |
| June | 1 | Sr. Mary Angela's feastday |
| | 11 | Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday |
| | 13 | Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday |
| | 22-25 | Sisters' Annual Retreat |
| | 27 | Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help;
Sisters' vows ceremonies:
Silver Jubilee - Sr. Marie Janae
Perpetual Vows - Sr. Philomena Marie
Triennial Vows - Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Maria Dolorosa
First Vows - Sr. Mariana, Sr. Maria Goretti, Sr. Mary
Lucy, Sr. Rosalyn Marie |
| | 29 | Sr. Mary Petra's feastday |
| | 30 | Sr. Mary Paula's feastday |

Put First Things First...

St. Michael's Academy — Girls' Boarding 2021-2022

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 2021-2022 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

For more information, please contact:

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**Boarding confirmation
deadline:
July 31, 2021**

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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