



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

During the summer months, all of our Sisters return from their various assignments to the motherhouse, Mount St. Michael, for several weeks. During that time, we have our annual Religious Retreat, which can last from three to eight days. Unlike what is now referred to as a retreat in the business world, our Retreat is a time of silence and prayer, a time to refill the spiritual reservoir from which we hope to share with others during the coming year.

Our Retreat is also the final step of spiritual preparation for those Sisters who are to enter the novitiate or make profession of vows on June 27, the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This year two Sisters, Sister Mariana and Sister Maria Goretti, made their triennial profession (3-year vows), and, to our great joy, two young ladies were clothed in our habit. What we look forward to most when we have new novices is hearing their new names. And so the announcement finally came: “Rachel Mengden will be known

henceforth as Sister Maria Magdalena... Elvira Macias Balderrama will be known as Sister Clara Marie.” Sister Therese Marie also celebrated her Silver Jubilee of Vows that day — she is our 25th Sister to have celebrated her 25th anniversary!

After our Retreat our professed Sisters met together in General Chapter, as we do every six years, and re-elected Rev. Mother Mary Agnes as our Mother General.

A few days later it was “all hands on deck” for St. Michael’s Parish 4th of July carnival. It rained all day up until just before the event was to begin — then suddenly the sky cleared and the sun came out! By 4 p.m. the weather was perfect and quite a few families turned out to enjoy the fun.

As for other highlights of the summer, we welcomed a new postulant, Cecilia Manalo,



During their Marian workshop, our teaching Sisters found much fresh inspiration on ways to bring Our Blessed Mother into every aspect of teaching.

on August 22. About 60 girls attended our annual girls’ camp, and about 65 women attended our annual ladies’ retreat. Sisters went on catechism missions to Alabama, California, Maine and southern Idaho. At the motherhouse, the first floor and a staircase was painted, and renovations to a dormitory were completed in June. The novitiate bought



Corabelle, our cow, gave birth to a calf on Labor Day just as the Sisters from the motherhouse were arriving at the Novitiate for dinner. Left inset: Corabelle looks on as Sr. Augustine Marie helps Nigel find his first meal. Right inset: Nigel poses for his first portrait.



Shelling peas is anything but mundane work during the recreation hour in the cloister courtyard!

Vows Ceremonies on June 27, Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, at Mount St. Michael



The cutting of a young lady's hair at the altar is symbolic of her dying to the vanities of the world. For most, it is a little painful, but it is a sacrifice that will be richly rewarded.



Sr. Maria Magdalena (left) and Sr. Clara Marie return to their places after having received their new names and a copy of the Holy Rule.



In a moving ceremony, Sr. Therese Marie begs pardon for faults, thanks God for His goodness and mercy in having called her to religious life, and asks for perseverance.



Having completed two years in the Novitiate, Sr. Mariana and Sr. Maria Goretti take vows for a period of three years and receive their Brown Scapulars.



Returning to Tacoma to pack up her things before moving to the motherhouse, Sr. Mary Angela takes a look at the beautiful strawberries in the garden.



Sr. Maria Regina and Sr. Philomena take three young ladies from Olathe, CO, to visit the miraculous staircase in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Reverend Mother, Sr. Maria Dolorosa and Sr. Madeleine Marie visited a life-size exhibit of Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel while it was in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Sr. Mary Loretta supervises a game among the children attending St. John Bosco's Catechism Camp in southern California.



Parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Salem, New Hampshire, celebrate their patronal feastday with a procession down Main Street, complete with banners, a small marching band and a police escort, and culminating in a picnic celebration in the newly acquired and groomed property by the church.



Keeping patriotism alive, the Sisters helped with the 4th of July parish carnival at Mount St. Michael, and sang a short concert afterwards.



Reverend Mother and Sr. Michael Marie pray at the grave of Fr. Raymond, the Trappist monk who wrote "The Family That Overtook Christ" and many other inspiring books.



The Sisters visited The Ark Encounter in Kentucky, a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible.



Delta, the Novitiate's new livestock guardian, takes Sr. Maria Magdalena for a walk.



Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Maria Ines pose near Old Ironsides during a historic tour of the Boston Harbor.



Fr. Casimir Puskorius receives Cecilia Manalo as a postulant on August 22.



Sr. Maria Goretti set up a beautiful shrine to Baby Mary for the feast of Our Lady's Nativity.

The photos below show the ceremonies of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that took place on September 8, the feast of the Nativity, at four of our schools.



St. Michael's Academy in Spokane, Washington



Mary Immaculate Queen School in Rathdrum, Idaho



St. Philomena Academy in Middletown, Michigan



Holy Guardian Angels School in Olathe, Colorado

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 and Masses.



a new milk cow at the beginning of summer, and a guardian dog to help protect the farm animals.

Of course, the Sisters also had time for recreation. It is always a joy to visit with our Sisters who have been in various far-flung locations during the school year, to hear about their missions and to share ideas about the apostolate and the spiritual life.

A special highlight of this summer was a workshop for our teaching Sisters which was taken in great part from a book entitled *Our Lady in Education*. Compiled in the late 1950's from talks given by priests and religious of various teaching orders, this book was imbued with a deep love of Our Blessed Mother, and gave us many insights into her role in the lives and classrooms of Catholic educators.

Mary is the model and example of all Christians, but in a special way she is the model of teachers. It is an amazing thought that Our Blessed Mother was, in fact, the teacher of Christ, the Son of God! In fact, He willed to be educated by Mary so that He might experience life just as we do. Doesn't that make her one of the greatest educators of all time?

Certainly God prepared Our Lady for this role. Her intellect, unclouded by sin, was far superior to ours, and she had an exceptional degree of the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Thus she had a perfect understanding of Scripture and the

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
- 12-16 Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael
- 13 Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima
- 17 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

mysteries of faith, not to mention incredible insights into natural science. Even more importantly, her will was unwaveringly set on the pursuit of good.

So as we go about our tasks, we as Sisters, and you, our readers, in whatever capacity you have influence over others, let us ask Mary to form Christ in us and in our charges, to nourish and increase His life in our soul, and to form us all gently but surely to the divine likeness.

Anima Mariae is the free quarterly newsletter of the CMRI Sisters.

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