



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

March. The light is lengthening and Spring subtly sends forth the little snowdrops, the crocuses, the tiny buds waiting just a bit longer to burst forth. Blessed signs of joy and the renewal of life after the dark, chill months behind us! Paradoxically, it is with the mark of death on our foreheads that we turn from the more endearing mysteries related to the Infancy and Childhood of Jesus, which have comforted and warmed us during the dreary winter, to follow the God-Man through His public ministry and onto the road that leads to His Death. March. Yes, marching on to Good Friday, carrying our crosses after Jesus. We find, however, that the life of Christ is a landscape of sunshine and

shade, like all human life. The deep shadows only bring out the richness and beauty of the picture. The joy of His Resurrection will be the more glorious against the background of His Passion.

In the eyes of St. Joseph, the Infancy and Childhood of Christ were certainly not unmitigated joy! What pain he must have experienced in the rejection of Bethlehem, where God's plan involved Joseph's inability to find shelter there for his wife and the birth of her child! What anxiety in the flight from Herod's cruel edict, marching into a pagan land with the slaughter of children in their wake! Had he lived to see Jesus betrayed and condemned, Joseph's courageous and loving heart would, no doubt, have leapt to the defense of his foster Son, and with what consequences? No, Joseph's Passion was of a different shade. Nevertheless, it is not unfitting that the month dedicated to him is during this time of Lent.

March is also the month in which we pray for an increase of priestly and religious vocations. Or perhaps it would be more correct to say for an increase of generous souls willing to follow the call to religious life. The Litany of St. Joseph invokes him as the guardian of virgins and he has always been looked up to in special way as a protector of religious Sisters. His fatherly influence and guidance should be sought by young people as they try to determine God's plan for their lives. Marching here, too. Marching to the beat of God's drum. March on into His service!



*In gratitude for his goodness to the parish and the Congregation, the outdoor St. Joseph shrine at Mount St. Michael's was enlarged a few years ago. It is still awaiting some landscaping and a formal altar.*



*Because of her message of penance and the daily recitation of the Rosary, the Sisters have always been devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes. A special shrine is set up each year in the Motherhouse chapel.*



*In the convent, washing pots and pans are not a punishment, but a labor of love. We are often reminded that this duty is as important as any other.*



*Their majesties' attendant, Sr. Rosalyn Marie, makes adjustments on the wisemen's costumes before the grade school Christmas program at Mount St. Michael, Spokane.*



*During the Christmas break, the Novitiate Sisters enjoy the freshly fallen snow sledding down the hill. The sled chain didn't work out so well!*



*Sr. Mariana brings in another load. Heating the Novitiate with wood requires a bit of labor on the Sisters' part.*



*Sr. Madeleine Marie looks on as students in Middleville, MI, decorate cookies for the Christmas program.*



*Sr. Mary Veronica reads Bible stories to parishioners in Tacoma, WA. Everyone wants to see the pictures!*



*Sr. Sophia Marie patiently listens to what her little charge has to say. Recess monitors have to be teacher, mother, and sometimes nurse.*



*The students went marching two by two, hurrah, hurrah! Sr. Sophia Marie leads the primary children back to class, while Sr. Mary Andrea observes the discipline from behind.*



*Don't release too early! Sr. Maria Kazimiera ensures that the students pull back fully during their archery practice. Practice makes permanent, after all!*



*What a gift for Baby Jesus! Sr. Rachel Mengden (formerly from Texas) is received as a postulant after the Christmas midnight Mass at Mount St. Michael.*



*Washington state in January? Sr. Mary Angela and Sr. Rachel enjoy an outing to the rain forest on the state's west side.*



*Sr. Maria Dolorosa (Maine) hopes to see many good strategies in the future! A parishioner surprised students with the donation of a giant chess set.*



*So many ways to educate! Students in Maine watch a home-made beeswax candle making project hosted by a parishioner on the feast of the Purification; they were blessed that same day!*



*The Sister sacristan's duties include preparing the altar for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, keeping the house of God clean, and ensuring the perpetuity of the sanctuary light.*



*An unexpected January snowfall can't keep our New England Sisters from Holy Mass, even if it means "all hands on deck" to clear the driveway!*



### 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.

## Parents and Religious Vocations

“The grace of a religious vocation is not only a signal favor for him who receives it, but it is also a great blessing for the whole family. Christian parents should wish it for their children as the most precious good, by giving thanks to God if He deigns to grant it, and should hasten to offer Him with their whole heart, the happy sacrifice that He requires of them. What may they not expect from Him Who rewards so liberally the least action that we perform out of love for Him? On the other hand, to oppose a vocation is to oppose God. What would be the consequence of such an attempt?”



*Our daily duties, whether teaching, filling orders, or doing household chores, are all meritorious in the sight of God, and contribute to the salvation of souls.*

Happily there are parents who with perfect submission to the will of God, have the wisdom not to oppose the happiness of their children, but give them every liberty in reference to their vocation. Such parents acquire great merit in the sight of God.

St. Alphonsus does not wish that young people should act thoughtlessly in a matter as important as it is delicate. He counsels them to consult a prudent director who will take care to weigh maturely before God all the circumstances, and to examine, among other things, whether the parents would not have some serious reason to allege: for instance, the grave necessity in which they find themselves, etc. Thus all danger of taking a rash step is averted.”



*With blessed candles in hand, students and teachers at St. Michael’s Academy await the Candlemas procession.*

— Editor’s note from *Vocation to the Religious Life Taken from the Writings of St. Alphonsus Liguori*, Rev. Cornelius J. Warren, C.S.S.R.

## 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
- 31 Feast of the Queenship BVM - Titular Feast of CMRI  
Sr. Maria Regina’s feastday
- June 1 Sr. Mary Angela’s feastday
- 13 Sr. Mary Antoinette’s feastday
- 24 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Sr. Corinne Marie’s feastday
- 22-25 Sisters’ Annual Retreat
- 27 Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help;  
Sisters’ vows ceremonies:  
Sr. Therese Marie’s 25th Anniversary of Vows  
Entrance into the Novitiate:  
Elvira Macias, Rachel Mengden  
Triennial 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 2022-2023

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 confirmation deadline:**  
July 31, 2022



**\* Boarding for the 2021-2022 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

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*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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