



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,
Praised be Jesus and Mary!

Fall, winter, Advent, Christmas. Dark, cold and barren outside. Warm and cozy inside, if you are fortunate. Author Caryll Houselander calls Advent the season of the seed. Buried in the earth, the seed is developing during the winter, dying as it were, in order to bring forth the new life within it.

In the dark winter of this life, the seed of grace grows within us; it develops until it pushes into view, like the tiny green sprout piercing the earth in the spring. Through the vicissitudes of life, the life of Christ increases in us, swells and grows strong in the exercise of virtue, like the young sapling growing into a tree. Perhaps we will see flower and fruit in this life, perhaps only in heaven.

In Mary, the life of Christ grew both figuratively and actually. His body was physically formed from hers, while He continued to nurture in her soul the supernatural life of His grace. Our Blessed

Mother will also, as St. Louis de Montfort teaches, bring forth Christ in souls who are consecrated to her. Let us then stay close to her during this advent season, as we prepare for the yearly rebirth of Christ in us.

No matter how beautiful and quiet the thoughts of Advent are, the season is always exteriorly filled with bustle. Preparations for Christmas programs, Midnight Mass, corporal works of mercy so needed at this time of year, leaf-raking, gift-making, cookie-baking fill the days both inside the convent and outside. Let's remember to unite our actions with Our Lady in preparing for the coming of Jesus.

Now, let us turn our thoughts to a well-known saint whose feast we celebrate in January and who is a model of those who have dedicated their lives and love to Jesus Christ. I mean, of course, St. Agnes. In our final vows ceremony, after we receive the little gold



Faces aglow, Sisters line up for the candlelight Rosary procession during the annual Fatima Conference. Keeping the candles lit as the evening breeze picks up is always a challenge.

ring we repeat her words: "I am the Bride of Him whom the angels serve, whose beauty the sun and moon gaze upon with admiring wonder. The Lord Jesus has put His ring on my finger; He has crowned me in the character of His Spouse."

In his treatise concerning virgins, St. Ambrose writes: "...It is the birthday of St. Agnes, let men admire, let children take cour-

age, let the married be astounded, let the unmarried take an example. But what can I say worthy of her whose very name was not devoid of bright praise? In devotion beyond her age, in virtue above nature, she seems to me to have borne not so much a human name, as a token of martyrdom, whereby she showed what she was to be.

"...The name of virgin is a title of modesty. I will call upon the martyr, I will proclaim the virgin...She is said to have suffered martyrdom when twelve years old. The more hateful was the cruelty, which spared not so tender an age, the greater in truth was the power of faith which found evidence even in that age. Was there room for a wound in that small body? And she who had no room for the blow of the steel had that wherewith to conquer the steel. But maidens of that age are unable to bear even the angry looks of parents, and are wont to cry at the pricks of a needle as though they were wounds. She was fearless under the cruel hands of the executioners,

(cont'd on back page)



Taking part in a ceremony during the golden jubilee of Our Lady's sodality, Sisters light their candles at Our Lady's shrine while they pray the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

An afternoon tea in early October for the sodality's 50-year anniversary was a reunion of local sodalities (Rathdrum, Tacoma, Spokane) at Mount St. Michael.



All of the Sisters share devotion for the souls in purgatory with their students, and during November, the month dedicated to them, they often go to the cemetery to pray for the faithful departed.

Early in the school year, the Sisters running the Villa Maria, the girls' boarding house at Mount St. Michael, took the boarders to a local tea house for a special luncheon. Occasional outings help to build a family spirit.



Sr. Mary Petra listens intently to Mr. Don Harding. On Veterans' Day, he spoke to the assembly at Mount St. Michael about St. Michael's powerful protection.

Sr. Marie Vianney gives directions for playing a game during the All Saints' Day celebrations at St. Michael's Academy.



The Sisters at the Novitiate have been busy mending fences around the farm.



Two new additions this fall include Bruno the Bunny and Soxi the kitten. The fall leaves provided a beautiful place for their first encounter (inset).



Rev. Mother's visitation to our Sisters in Maine included a trip to a local historical lighthouse.



Sr. Philomena Marie's rapid progress in violin lessons enabled her to play at the celebration of their school's feastday.



Sr. Maria Regina guides students in a play practice at Holy Guardian Angels Academy, Olathe, Colorado.



How does one choose a winner? Fantastic costumes always makes judging All Saints' Day costumes one of the biggest challenges for teachers. The students at St. Theresa's in Maine prove this.



Remembering Holy Souls during November. While Rev. Mother Mary Agnes visited the mission in Middleville, Michigan, the Sisters made special trip up to pray at Bishop Robert McKenna's grave near Grand Rapids.



Sodality moderators Sr. Mary Julianna, Sr. Marie Vianney and Sr. Margaret Mary pose with the Children of Mary, Messengers of Mary and Regina Immaculata Sodalties at their advancement ceremonies at Mount St. Michael, Spokane, Washington.

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)

she was unmoved by the heavy weight of the creaking chains, offering her whole body to the sword of the raging soldier, as yet ignorant of death, but ready for it... She would not as a bride so hasten to the couch, as being a virgin she joyfully went to the place of punishment with hurrying step, her head not adorned with plaited hair, but with Christ. All wept, she alone was without a tear. All wondered that she was so readily prodigal of her life, which she had not yet enjoyed, and now gave up as though she had gone through it...



But she answered: It would be an injury to my spouse to look on any one as likely to please me. He who chose me first for Himself shall receive me. Why are you delaying, executioner? Let this body perish which can be loved by eyes which I would not. She stood, she prayed, she bent down her neck. You could see the executioner tremble, as though he himself had been condemned, and his right hand shake, his face grow pale, as he feared the peril of another, while the maiden feared not for her own. You have then in one victim a twofold martyrdom, of modesty and of religion. She both remained a virgin and she obtained martyrdom."

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:

The Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen

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www.CMRI.org/sisters-news.shtml • Sisters@CMRI.org

Calendar

Dec.	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mary Immaculata's feastday
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
	13	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (transferred) 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
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
	11-13	Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent
	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

Vocations Weekend



February 11-13, 2022

St. Michael's Convent

How can you *know* whether or not
you have a religious vocation?

Come and see...

Register online
at CMRI.org

St. Michael's Convent
8502 North St. Michael's Road
Spokane, WA 99217-9333

Let us ask this dear saint who so closely mirrored the purity of Our Blessed Lady, to intercede for us that in the time of need we may have her constancy in fidelity to the Divine Bridegroom, even to the ultimate sacrifice.