



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

The cycle of the Church year has come around again — already!!!

The Church's sanctoral cycle during these fall months seems to reflect the autumn theme of harvest. The feast of Mary's Assumption into heaven in August is at the vanguard. Then Christ as head of the Mystical Body which is His Church, is honored on the feast of His Kingship on the last Sunday of October. It is only by being His members, by being branches of the Mystical Vine, that we have His supernatural life in us. To Him be the glory of the victory won by each of His members: the Saints in Heaven, whom we celebrate and honor on November first, as well as the Souls in Purgatory, who though still in need of purification, have also passed the test by His grace. There is a beautiful hymn for All Saint's Day that encapsulates this in its opening line: "From all Thy saints in warfare for all the saints at rest, to Thee, O Blessed Jesus all praises be addressed."



At Lourdes Our Lady asked for processions, and at Fatima she asked that we pray the Rosary everyday. What a privilege it is for the Sisters to walk before her litter in the annual Fatima Conference Rosary procession.

Complementing this idea, we have during the month of November two feasts of the dedication of a basilica; that of Our Savior on the 9th and that of Ss. Peter and Paul on the 18th. The Mass and Office for those feasts compares the members of the Church to living stones from which the walls of the New Heavenly Jerusalem are built. After we are hewn to shape by the trials of life, polished and bejeweled we are fitted into our place for the glory of God in His heavenly Kingdom.

After this glorious fall festival of the harvest of the Church, once more we plummet into the cold winter days which remind us of the earth plunged in the bitter darkness and cold of its fall from God. But the fullness of time was come and grace had

begun to dawn on earth with the conception of Mary which we celebrate in this frozen December. The glistening snow is a dim reflection of the luster of her spotless soul, and soon the cold will be melted by the furnace of her loving heart. God, so enamored of her beauty will for her sake send His Son on earth at last to redeem



The incorrupt body of St. Bernadette may be seen in the chapel of the Convent of St. Gildard in Nevers, France.

the fallen race from Adam's sin. And so the whole glorious story once more unfolds before our eyes. In the last winter issue of the *Anima Mariae* we considered one of January's saints who has a special relation to the religious Sister, St. Agnes.

This year we will span the centuries and consider a much more recent saint, closely appealing to us by her love for the Blessed Virgin as well as her living of the religious life, St. Bernadette, whose feast we celebrate on February 18.

Familiar as most Catholics are with the story of the apparitions at Lourdes, the humble child who was the privileged confidant of the Immaculate Conception is lost to many once she passes the mysterious portals of the convent. Bernadette became a saint, not because she saw the Mother of God, but because she loved that Holy Mother and imitated her virtues. She shunned the limelight and hid herself from the adulation of the world. When asked if she were not tempted to pride because of the apparitions she replied, "The Blessed Virgin chose me because I was the most ignorant."

(cont'd on back page)



Sodality moderator Sr. Marie Vianney looks on as four members of the high school sodality make their perpetual profession as Our Lady's handmaids.



Sr. Mary Andrea, a Korean native, helped Seungmin Jeong in the final steps of his journey to Catholicism. It was a great blessing for him to find a CMRI Sister who knew his language.



The Novitiate Sisters take a break from a busy work day to enjoy the freshly fallen snow, go sledding and build a snowman.



Every evening before dinner, the Sisters gather around the Advent wreath, light the candles, recite an Advent prayer and sing a hymn.



At Mary Immaculate Queen, Rathdrum, Idaho, Sr. Mary Genevieve reviews the day's lessons with her students.



The Sisters at Mary Immaculate Queen Convent, Rathdrum, Idaho, visit a sick parishioner and pray the Rosary with her.



On All Souls Day at St. Theresa's Parish in Oakland, Maine, Sr. Mary Kazimiera and Sr. Mary Teresita take part in a prayerful procession at a nearby cemetery.



Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Maria Kazimiera of St. Theresa School (Oakland, Maine) pose with their students after consecrating their school to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Sr. Maria Regina and Sr. Mary Veronica bake and decorate cookies for their sodality bake sale at St. Mary's in Tacoma, Washington.



Mother Mary Dominica and her students picked the grapes growing in the back yard of St. Mary's Convent, Tacoma, Washington. Afterwards they took the time to de-stem them.



Visiting the Grand Mesa in the beautiful area surrounding Olathe, Colorado, Sr. Mary Evangeline and Sr. Philomena Marie take an afternoon to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



At Guardian Angels Academy, Olathe, Colorado, Sr. Mary Evangeline takes some one-on-one time to review a math lesson with a student.

The Sisters invite you to step inside the convent doors for a

A GLIMPSE OF LIFE LIVED ALL for God

March 10-12, 2023

St. Michael's Convent
Spokane, Washington

Find out from the Sisters:
What is it like to find God?
Is it worth the sacrifice?

For single young women
who are at least juniors in
high school up to age 35

Why are the Sisters so happy?
What is the hundredfold
Our Lord promised?

* There is no fee for attending. For more information or to register,
go to CMRI.org/convent-weekend or call (509) 467-0986 x103.

Her sense of humor favored her humility as well. Once on being asked by some visitors who did not recognize her if they could see the Sister who saw the visions, Sister Marie Bernard replied that if they continued to watch the door, they would see her go through it shortly; then, passing through it, she never returned.

In the convent Bernadette was not understood by her superiors. Yet she humbly accepted the rebuffs of her novice mistress, bent herself to whatever task she was assigned, and diligently and tenderly cared for the sick Sisters in the infirmary while hiding her own illness and suffering. It is clear that she never forgot her beautiful Lady and the mission entrusted to her: to do penance, and to pray and suffer for sinners. Our Lady had told her, "I do not promise you happiness in this life, but in the next."

Still, Bernadette was quite human, as she herself admitted: "When my emotions are too strong, I remember the words of Our Lord: 'It is I, fear not.' I immediately thank Our Lord for this grace of rejections and humiliations... It is the love of this Good Master Who would remove the roots from this tree of pride. The more little I become, the more I grow in the Heart of Jesus."

Eventually, Bernadette was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the lungs and a tubercular tumor of the knee. As her physical sufferings increased, so did her interior sufferings, and her soul was

Calendar

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| Dec. | 8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mary Immaculata's feastday |
| | 10 | Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday |
| | 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
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 |
| 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 |
| | 10-12 | Weekend at St. Michael's Convent |
| | 19 | Feast of St. Joseph
Sr. Mary Josephine's feastday |

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)

plunged into darkness, which proved to her most bitter chalice. Yet her sweetness and patience remained. To a Sister who said she would pray that Our Lady to console her, she responded, "No, no, no consolation, only strength and patience." She died on April 16, 1879. Her last words, which she pronounced with great fervor, were, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me, a poor sinner, a poor sinner."

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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