



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

The feast of the Purification, February 2, is the official close of the Christmas season. The Candlemas procession which takes place on that day is always a special event. The significant chant, *Lumen ad revelationem gentium*, echoes and re-echoes as we advance to receive our blessed candles.

This year, the day was made even more exciting for students in many of our schools as we joined together for the first time ever in a Zoom meeting to greet each other and pray together at the culmination of Catholic Schools week. On the feast of St. John Bosco a few days earlier, the students at Mount St. Michael sang a high Mass in his honor. The 7th graders at St. Mary's in Tacoma visited a local meditation garden and shrine of St. John Bosco, their class patron.

As mentioned in our last issue, the



The Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen honors St. Louis Marie de Montfort as our spiritual Founder.

CMRI schools have as their theme for the year, "First the Cross, then the Crown!" This could be daily source of meditation for every Catholic to be sure, and it seems to lend itself well to our Lenten meditations. It also brings to mind that great lover of the Cross, whose feast day we celebrate at the end of April: St. Louis Marie de Montfort.

Most Catholics are aware of the treatise on *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* written by St. Louis. The Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary as taught by him in this book is the hallmark devotion of our Congregation. Perhaps less known, regrettably, is a remarkable little booklet entitled *A Circular Letter to the Friends of the*

*Cross*. This letter was written by the Saint as the fruit of a retreat which he made during a time when he was forbidden to preach. It lays out his own thoughts, based in Sacred Scripture, about the necessity of suffering and self-denial in order to truly follow Christ. St. Louis was no stranger to sufferings of all kinds. He lived in poverty, was often misunderstood and misrepresented, attacked verbally and even poisoned.

On one occasion, after a successful parish mission, a great number of people assisted the saint in erecting a beautiful Calvary scene to commemorate the event. On the day it was to be blessed, a message from the Bishop not only forbade the blessing but ordered it to be torn down. St. Louis addressed those assembled for the event with the news, and told them that Our Lord wanted them to plan the cross in their hearts instead.

A few lines from his little booklet will elucidate this doctrine of the Cross which the saint lived so well:



Mother Mary Dominica and her 7th graders visit a local shrine of St. John Bosco, their class patron, on his feastday.

"Let him carry it, not drag it, not shoulder it off, not lighten it, nor hide it. Let him hold it high in hand without impatience or peevishness, without voluntary complaint or grumbling... Let him place it on his forehead and say with St. Paul: "God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Let him carry it on his shoulders after the example of Jesus Christ and make it his weapon to victory..."

The booklet ends with a thirty-one stanza poem which the saint composed called "The Triumph of the Cross." Here are but a few stanzas:

The Cross in mystery  
Is veiled for us below.  
Without great light to see  
Who shall its splendor know?  
Alone the lofty mind  
Shall this high secret trace,  
And none shall heaven find  
Who grasps it not by grace.

(cont'd on back page)





Our novitiate Sisters are a big help with decorating the Motherhouse for Christmas.



Sr. Marie's artistic skills are put to good use in many ways, such as in decorating cookies for Christmas and for Rev. Mother's feastday!



Sister gets Mary, Joseph and the angels ready to carry the Infant Jesus up the aisle before Christmas Midnight Mass in Middleville, Michigan.



Sr. Philomena Marie and Sr. Mary Petra enjoy practicing the violin during the Twelve Days of Christmas.



Our Sisters at St. Mary's Academy in Tacoma Washington, with the cast of their Christmas play, The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey.



While visiting her family in Korea after Christmas, Sr. Mary Andrea met other traditional Catholics who attend the chapel serviced by CMRI priests on mission circuit. This time Fr. Alexander Kryssov was visiting from Moscow, Russia.



Sisters and parishioners of St. Michael's in Spokane combine to sing at the closing high Mass of the Forty Hours on the 2nd Sunday of Lent.





Sr. Catherine tries to tiptoe past the playful lambs as she brings out the hay. Six lambs were born on our little farm the day before Ash Wednesday.



Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Maria Kazimiera and their students of St. Theresa Academy in Oakland, Maine, enjoy a visit to the ice skating rink.



Sisters from both of our missions in Michigan had an opportunity to get together to visit Tahquamenon Falls in the state's Upper Peninsula.



While visiting parishioners of Most Holy Church in Middleville, Michigan, Sr. Maria Dolorosa takes time to read a story to the children.



Sr. Mary Imelda oversees her students as they make edible campfires out of pretzels.



A screen-shot of the first-ever Zoom meeting of all of our CMRI schools during Catholic Schools Week. It was an exciting few moments when Sr. Marie Vianney and her 5th-6th grade class were able to greet and pray with students and faculty of our schools across the country.



Sisters rushed to help when sub-zero temperatures caused a pipe to freeze above the ceiling of Mount St. Michael's chapel, resulting in a waterfall.



Essential is the Tree  
 And we who know its cost  
 Must mount to Calvary  
 Or languish and be lost.  
 As St. Augustine states  
 With outcry ominous  
 We are all reprobates  
 Unless God chastens us.

Without a Cross the soul  
 Is cowardly and tame;  
 Like fire to a coal  
 The Cross sets it aflame.  
 One who has suffered not,  
 In ignorance is bound;  
 Only in pain's hard lot  
 Is holy Wisdom found.

Eternal Wisdom still  
 Sifts our poor human dross  
 For one whose heart and will  
 Is worthy of the Cross,  
 Still seeks one spirit rare  
 Whose every pulse and breath  
 Is fortitude to bear  
 The Christ-Cross until death.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort is a wonderful patron saint for us all during the season of Lent due to his love for penance and his tenderness for the Mother of Sorrows. Let us ask him to help us spend Passiontide standing close to her at the foot of the Cross.



*Sr. Maria Regina directs her students as they learn to play the recorder.*



*"Dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return..." A Sister begins the holy Lenten observance by receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday.*

## Calendar

- March 4 Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday  
 8-10 Vocations' Weekend at St. Michael's Convent  
 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  
 Renewal of Total Consecration to Mary  
 Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
- June 1 Sr. Mary Angela's feastday  
 13 Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday  
 16 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
 Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday  
 22-26 Sisters' Annual Retreat  
 27 Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help;  
 Sisters' vows ceremonies  
 29 Sr. Mary Petra's feastday  
 30 Sr. Mary Paula'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.



*During our recent Vocations Weekend, Sr. Michael Marie gives a presentation on our teaching apostolate to the nineteen young ladies who attended.*

*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  
 St. Michael's Convent • 8504 N. Saint Michael's Road • Spokane, WA 99217-9333  
 CMRI.org/cmri-sisters/ • Sisters@CMRI.org