



# Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

A beautiful passage in our Holy Rule exhorting the Sisters to be “Mary’s visible hands at work in the world” has provided inspiration for some thoughts to share with you during this season of the Divine Infancy. Mary’s hands were always busy about the work of God. At the Annunciation, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and the Incarnation of the Word of God took place in her womb. One might have thought she would have turned inward and claimed some quiet time to focus her contemplation on the Son of God, Who had just become her own Son. But, no! Immediately, Jesus inspired His Mother with an act of charity, as St. Paul was to teach, “the charity of Christ is poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Ghost who is given to us.” So the very next thing we hear of Mary is that she made a rather long journey to visit her older cousin who was also expecting a child.

To extend a helping hand was Mary’s first thought after the miraculous conception of the Divine Child in her own womb. Mary brings the Divine Child to her cousin, and at her greeting, the babe in Elizabeth’s womb leaps with joy at the recognition of

his Savior and at his own cleansing from original sin. During the three months before the birth of the Baptist, Mary spent the time with Elizabeth not as an honored guest, but by her own choice, as a serving girl. Mary’s hands were used to labor. They baked the bread, they carried the water, they prepared the meals, they cleaned and swept. They spun the wool and tended her cousin. And all the while within her were formed the hands that were to heal the sick, cast out devils, bless the children, and raise the dead. Caryll Houselander expresses it like this:

The CMRI Sister,  
as the Spouse of Christ,  
is the living reflection  
of Mary, her Model.

She must be as the hands of Mary  
at work in the world,  
animated and informed  
by the graces of  
her Immaculate Heart.

She is a light in the world,  
and the world cannot help  
but be enlightened  
by her shining.

Her place in society may be  
insignificant;  
she may never be known  
beyond her convent walls —  
But by her life of love and oblation,  
she radiates Something,  
Someone.

She is another Mary —  
she brings Christ to the world,  
and the world to

Christ.

“...for nine months Christ grew in His Mother’s body. By His own will she formed Him from herself, from the simplicity of her daily life... Walking the streets of Nazareth to do her shopping, to visit friends, she set His feet on the path of Jerusalem. Washing, weaving, kneading, sweeping, her hands prepared His hands for the nails. Every beat of her heart gave Him His heart to love with, His heart to be broken by love... Breaking and eating the bread, drinking the wine of the country, she gave Him His flesh and blood; she prepared the Host for the Mass...”



After the birth of the Divine Child, see Mary’s hands as she holds the Infant God, cares for Him, feeds and clothes and washes Him. She does this for Him as a child, and she continues to care for every member of His Mystical Body. And here is the lesson for us. Religious Sisters are said to be doubles for the Mother of God. We must be her hands at work in the world, bearing Christ to those who have Him not, teaching His ways to the children entrusted to us, remembering that whatever we do for even the least of His brethren we do for Him.

Every Catholic should be a Christ bearer. Each of us can be Mary’s hands. Perhaps when you go to work in the morning, Christ will not be among your co-workers unless you bring



Him there: “Be born in us, Incarnate Love. Take our flesh and blood and give us Thy humanity; take our eyes and give us Thy vision; take our minds and give us Thy pure thought; take our feet and set them in your path; take our hands and fold them in Thy prayer; take our hearts and give them Thy Will to Love” (Caryll Houselander).



Sr. Maria Kazimiera directs the choir for the Pontifical High Mass during this year's Fatima Conference in October.

"We give Thee thanks, Almighty God..." The Sisters are joined by the priests, Brothers and boarder girls for Thanksgiving dinner.



A joyous sing-along, with Fr. Casimir Puskorius as the accompanist, is often a part of our gatherings.

Every Thanksgiving the Sisters each pick a "Krist Kindl" for Advent, a Sister for whom to pray and perform special sacrifices.

Several Sisters join parishioners from Mount St. Michael in caroling at local retirement homes.



"O Come Divine Messias!" Students of the grade school at St. Michael's Academy gather in the hallway each morning for the lighting of the Advent wreath.



The grade school students of St. Michael's Academy put on "The Night of Greccio" as their annual Christmas program. Inset: Sister Mary Angela waits to signal her "little nuns" to go on stage.



Sr. Helen Marie makes room for a few more Christmas packages. Inset: Mariah sits on her perch waiting for the mailman.



In November, Sr. Maria Kazimiera and Sr. Marie Janae went down to California to teach catechism to various families that don't have the benefit of a Catholic schools.



Sr. Mary Genevieve poses with Fr. Benedict Hughes and the young ladies enrolled in the sodality at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish in Rathdrum, Idaho.



One Advent sacrifice chosen by students at the City of Mary in Rathdrum was to climb through the snow up the hill to the cemetery to pray for the Holy Souls.



Sr. Madeleine Marie assists one of her young students at St. Mary's Academy in Tacoma.



Sr. Mary Bernadette gives a doctrine class in New England. Too often we associate catechism classes with children, but we can never be too old to learn more about our Faith!

## 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.



## Thoughts on Vocations Weekend

This March 17-19 St. Michael's Convent will be hosting our annual Vocations Weekend, in which young women come to spend a few days with the Sisters to get a little taste of convent life and to ask questions:

- Have you ever wondered, "What do they do all day?" Well, here's your chance to follow their schedule from morning until night.
- Find out what it's like to kneel surrounded by blue veils in the Sisters' private chapel, and to join your voice to theirs in prayer.
- Of course, the Sisters don't spend all day in chapel. They teach, they publish, they run the gift shop, they assist the priests, they milk the cow and feed the chickens, they cook and clean... But something makes their work different — what is it? Come and see.
- Yes, the Sisters work hard, but we also spend time enjoying one another's company and rejuvenating ourselves in physical activity, games, crafts, etc. Not only that, but you will find that in the convent, we find joy in the simplest things in life!
- Did you know that the first "job" of a Sister is to become a saint? And every order helps its members achieve holiness through its own spirit and apostolate. The spirit of CMRI is Marian, based on St. Louis Marie de Montfort's Total Consecration and on the Fatima message. And our main mission is to defend and preserve the traditional Catholic Faith through our apostolates: teaching, publishing and mission work.

Too many Catholics see the life of a Sister simply as service rendered to the Church, to the work of education and other external works. It is, however, not primarily a state of service, but one of consecration. As the priest takes the place of Jesus in His priestly being, the Sister continues Mary in her life of total oblation of herself to the Holy Trinity. Only because of this can she be a help for many



## Calendar

Dec.	8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mary Immaculata's feastday
	9-11	Christmas Concerts at Mount St. Michael
	10	Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
	12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
	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
	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
	17-19	Vocations Weekend at St. Michael's Convent
	19	Feast of St. Joseph; Sr. Mary Josephine's feastday

Christians, a consoler for afflicted souls and a refuge, perhaps for many sinners. First of all, she must be a soul for whom God is all, and who is all to Him through His members. Religious profession, after martyrdom, is the most glorious testimony of love, and, like martyrdom, it is also a new baptism which remits all past sins.

Let us consider these words of a Sister concerning her motive for entering the convent:

"From the moment it struck me what God is, how He alone is, that everything created is in Him alone and that outside there is only a shadow of reality, I realized that it is only God Who counts, that we are made for Him only and that outside of Him there is no reason for living.

"After this, I devoted myself for several years to what I thought was noble and beautiful in the world. Yet I was still deceived, until finally I was led to *the only One*. Pursued by that thought of God, I entered the convent because I saw that there alone is the only direct end — God. I came to dedicate myself to Him, to know Him better, to love Him unceasingly and to allow myself to be led through Him exteriorly by obedience and interiorly by fidelity to the Holy Spirit."

## Vocations Weekend

March 17-19, 2017

St. Michael's Convent in Spokane, Washington

Open to young women who are at least juniors in high school and single women 35 and under.

Call (509) 467-0986x103 or email [SMAgatha@cmri.org](mailto:SMAgatha@cmri.org)

*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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