



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

St. Joseph, Helper in Every Need

Dear Friends,

Since we have recently been trying to come up with a special way to show our gratitude to St. Joseph for all that he has done for us, we couldn't help but think that our newsletter was a perfect opportunity to promote devotion to this great Saint, and to share with you our plans to thank and honor him.

In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. Just as all of the favors bestowed on the Blessed Virgin were in preparation for or in relation to her dignity as Mother of God, so St. Joseph's holiness springs from his place in the Holy Family, as foster father of Christ and spouse of the Blessed Virgin. Being nearest to the source of all grace and the channel through which it flows to us, it stands to reason that he would have the most benefit from that proximity.

St. Teresa of Avila maintains that as certain saints are patrons to help us in special needs, St. Joseph helps in *all* our needs.

The annals of the Little Sisters of the Poor contain numerous accounts of the Sisters' trust in St. Joseph in all their necessities, and the wonderful and sometimes humorous means by which he repaid their trust and provided for their necessities. On one occasion the Sisters were out walking in very inclement weather when they met a man who asked them why they were out in the storm. They replied that they had no more bread in the house for the elderly in their care and were trying to find some. The man told them, "You can go home now. I own a bakery and my staff made too much bread this morning. On account of the storm we haven't been able to sell it; I will send it over."

As I read over the numerous stories to choose this incident, it made me remember how many similar stories of our own we could tell of the care St. Joseph has taken of our Sisters though the years.

Our Congregation has always relied heavily on St. Joseph as our insurance broker and financier, and he has done a marvelous job. The gargantuan task of restoring and maintaining our century-old building continues to move along under his constant vigilance. For

this reason, the Sisters and staff at St. Michael's have undertaken to renovate the outdoor shrine to St. Joseph as a thank offering for his paternal protection and unceasing favors.

We have a beautiful design — a composite of ideas from several parishioners and Sisters. The plan is to break ground and finish between his feastdays of March 19 and May 1. Already we have received donations of money and materials, as well as volunteers signing up to assist with the labor. We are sure that there are many who have been beneficiaries of this great saint, and who would love to be able to help us honor and thank our good father, St. Joseph, fittingly, whether by joining in our prayers, or by contributing towards this project. And just in case you didn't know, in our monthly Mass offered in his honor and asking his continued aid and protection, we also ask him to intercede for you, our dear benefactors.



Our outdoor statue of St. Joseph in early spring several years ago, before the weather took its toll and its paint began peeling badly. The new design for the shrine includes a roofed structure to protect the statue from the elements.



Sister Louise Marie receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, the first day of the penitential season of Lent.



On the feast of St. Joseph last year, we went on procession to visit each of the several shrines dedicated to him around the Mount.



For Rev. Mother Mary Agnes' feastday, the Sisters re-created several Holy Land shrines within our convent, and then accompanied her on a prayerful pilgrimage to each. Left: Sr. Mary Cabrini unrolls "stone walls" in the refectory, which became the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the site of Calvary and the tomb of Our Lord. Right: Sisters kneel at the Grotto of the Annunciation in Nazareth, where, as the inscription states, "the Word was made flesh." (It was all put up and taken down the same day — well, mostly anyway!)

"And may God grant you perseverance." His Excellency congratulates Sr. Mary Clare after she and Sr. Mary Francis are received into the community on January 25, having transferred from their Franciscan community.



While the students of St. Michael's Academy continue the chants, the Sisters go up to receive their blessed candles on Candlemas day.

The blessed candles, a symbol of Christ "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel" are carried in procession.



"St. Sebastian, pray for us!" Three more Sisters became certified archery teachers this year. Having completed the course, the Sisters demonstrate their skills.

On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Sisters joined the Rosary procession at Mount St. Michael.



"Make everything you do a sacrifice." Sr. Mary Jacinta, the convent laundress, goes about her duties with a smile!



The Sisters at the Novitiate took the opportunity of a snow day to build a snow man. Unfortunately the rain the next day cut his life short.



"And then you line it up right here." Sr. Mary Cabrini shows Sr. Mary Francis the intricacies of using our book binding machine at the printshop.



"They're all yours, Sister!" Sr. Mary Evangeline and Sr. Mary Angela pose with the 4th graders of St. Michael's Academy at recess time.



Sr. Maria Ines opens her Epiphany gifts (NH). Sr. Mary Bernadette poses with "Lil Josie," the earliest member of their Block Rosary group at Victory Gardens.



"St. Cecilia, pray for us!" At St. Mary's in Tacoma, WA, Sr. Mary Petra leads her students in prayer before the beginning of music class.



Passing on the gratitude, the students of Holy Guardian Angels Academy in Olathe, CO, observed National School Choice Week by thanking local community services.

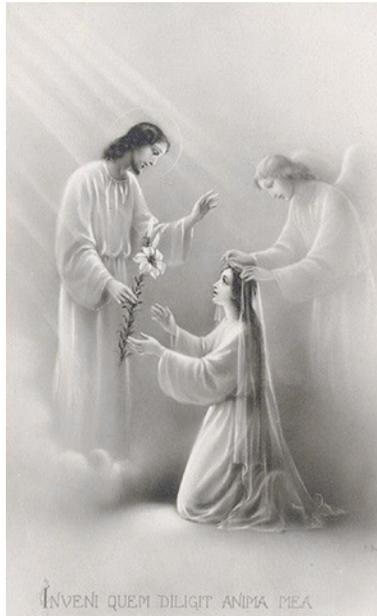
Our Apostolate of Prayer

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.



The Privilege of a Religious Vocation

Vocation, or the call to consecrate oneself to God, is a *privilege*: a privilege which does not depend on personal merit, but on God's good pleasure alone. God chooses whom He wills, when He wills, and as He wills. "All men take not this word," said Jesus, speaking of perfect chastity, "but only they to whom it is given" (Matt. 19:11). This prerogative has been given only because it pleased God and He so willed. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16).



"I found Him whom my soul loves" (Canticles 3:4)

God's choice is the basis of every vocation; it is wholly gratuitous, inspired solely by His love. Each one so chosen should justly consider himself as a privileged one of God, privileged without any merit on his own part, privileged only because the Most High has so decreed in the unfathomable designs of His will. Each one so chosen can and should feel that God might have selected others far more deserving, more virtuous, more gifted; and confronted with the mystery of God's choice and his own insufficiency, he should be unable to do otherwise than prostrate himself in gratitude and humility. Together with Mary, the most privileged of all creatures, every consecrated soul can sing its *Magnificat*: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid" (Luke 1:46-48).

The story of every vocation can be summarized by saying that God's glance has rested with special love on one of His creatures. That this creature is poor, weak and wretched does not matter. God knows what it is made of. He sees its poverty and draws it to Himself: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore have I drawn thee, taking pity on thee" (Jeremias 31:3). God's choice is absolutely free and cannot be determined either by the merits or by the characteristics of His creatures, nor does He seek them; rather

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
	16	Easter Sunday
	26	Feast of Our Mother of Good Counsel
	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
	13	100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima
	20	Sr. Bernardine Marie's feastday
	25	Sr. Madeleine Marie's feastday
	30	Sr. Marie Janae's feastday
	31	Feast of the Queenship BVM Renewal of Total Consecration to Mary Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
June	1	Sr. Mary Angela's feastday
	13	Sr. Mary Antoinette's feastday
	23	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
	23-26	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

His choice often falls on the weakest, on those whom the world despised. God only seeks hearts capable of corresponding to His love of predeliction, hearts capable of giving themselves to Him without reserve and with complete generosity. —*Divine Intimacy*, Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD, p. 219

Put First Things First...

St. Michael's Academy — Girls' Boarding 2017-2018

It's not easy nowadays 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 more equipped to face the dangers to their souls they will encounter 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, 2017



*** Boarding for the 2017-2018 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

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Anima Mariae is the free quarterly newsletter of the CMRI Sisters.

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