



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,

Shortly after the last issue of *Anima Mariae* found its way to you, we all found our way to the manger and the humble birth of Our Divine Lord. Christmas time is a special family time in the convent as well as any place else. Beginning on Christmas Day, the Sisters from our missions throughout the country begin to arrive at St. Michael's, and by the feast of St. John usually everyone is back at the motherhouse for several days of Sisterly camaraderie.

A particularly delightful event during the Twelve Days of Christmas was when the mother of one of our Sisters treated all forty of us to tea and dessert at a local cafe called *Heavenly Special Teas*. The tea room was decorated with a decidedly feminine flair, and as we sat with anywhere from two to six or eight at a table, china teapots of tasty teas were passed around, as well as a variety of delicious desserts — all made right there at the shop. It was quite the culinary and cultural experience.

Just before tea, a group of us had been at a retirement home, singing carols for a very appreciative audience who told us they hadn't really had much Christmas music at all. It is such a joy for us to be able to share the music and message of Christmas through our concerts and caroling during this season.

But now to tell about the most memorable aspect of our



During Christmas break we enjoyed a delightful tea party hosted by Mrs. Tarnowski in the lovely tea room of a local cafe.



Vitamin C? Elderberry? Hot chicken soup? Juice? Tea? Sr. Mary Cabrini and Sr. Mary Angela make their rounds to each floor during the Christmas time flu epidemic at St. Michael's Convent.

family Christmas this year: the flu epidemic. The winter colds had been with us to varying degrees throughout November and December, although I think everybody was present at the tea party. Then, by ones and twos, Sisters started to disappear. By New Year's Eve several were down with fevers, and soon fully half the convent was in bed and the other half did all they could do to feed and care for the sick. Slowly an efficient method of "meals on wheels" evolved. Smiling Sisters checked in on the sick and kept up the Christmas cheer as much as possible in the circumstances. This was not the sort of family time we had envisioned, but Baby Jesus knew what Christmas gift He wanted from us, and well, it was different, that's for sure!

In spite of some changes of flights back to their missions, delays in the date when school would resume, and dragging a bit even once school started up, by the second week of January everything was back on track, and before we knew it, St. Valentine had ushered in the Lenten fast.

The season of Spring is a season of renewal in nature, and how fitting it is that each year we find ourselves during this time renewing our spiritual commitment during the holy season of Lent and rising to a new life with our Divine Lord as the Paschal mysteries unfold. May you accompany and console our sweet sorrowful Mother as we accompany her through the mysteries of the Passion of her Son to the joy of His glorious Resurrection.



Our newest member, Sarah Peck, was received as a postulant on December 18, the feast of Our Lady's Expectation.



What's for dinner, Novitiate Sisters? A giant potato? A leg of lamb? No, it's a jackfruit, the world's largest fruit. Oh, by the way, the Bishop is coming to dinner tonight.



It is always a joy to have the priests over for dinner during the annual priests' meeting in January and to hear about what they are doing.



On Rev. Mother's feastday, we were treated to a little light show in our dining room. Who knew such a little machine could do such splendid things?



Sr. Mary Genevieve and Sr. Mary Julianna took their sodality to visit an old and dear friend, Catherine Franzluebbers.



On Candlemas Day, we helped sing the processional chants and the Mass. This feast and the procession of candles commemorates the Presentation of Jesus in the temple, when the aged Simeon took the Child in his arms, prophesying that He was to be "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles."



Between the two morning Masses on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Sisters took part in the parish Rosary procession to the grotto.



Sr. Mary Teresita stops to give some pointers to one of her first graders.



“Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.” The reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday reminds us of our mortality and our need to do penance for our sins.



Sr. Marie Ines helps a little one get ready to hit the pinata during the annual Epiphany party at St. Theresa’s Church in Maine.



“Adoro te devote...” We had the wonderful grace of singing High Mass on all three days of the annual observance of the 40 Hours Devotion at Mount St. Michael.



Sr. Bernadine Marie took several young adults in the parish on a hike to Hanging Lake, Colorado. This photo was taken in the cave under Spouting Rock, a waterfall coming out of the face of a cliff.



The staff and students at Holy Guardian Angels Academy in Colorado celebrate “National Schools Choice Week” in thanksgiving for being provided with a Catholic education.

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.



Even the Saints Struggled with Vocation...

Even the great St. Teresa of Avila struggled with her vocation as a teenager. Yes, it's true. From the age of 12 when her mother died, Teresa was raised by her father and older sister. When her sister got married, her father sent Teresa to a convent school to be taught by the nuns. She was not happy about living with the nuns, but they quickly made her feel at home, and her unhappiness gave way to peace.



Teresa soon resumed the good habits she had formed as a young child, and she came to see "the great favor God accords to anyone placed among good companions." One of the nuns became her mentor and friend, speaking to her often of holy things and even about her own vocation. Under this nun's kind influence, Teresa shed the strong repulsion she felt toward the idea of a vocation. Still, she wrote, "I had no desire to be a nun." In fact, she adds, "I asked God not to give me this vocation!"

Teresa spent a year and a half living at the convent school, but continued to resist becoming a nun, saying, "I could not be persuaded to be one." She was clearly attracted to the life, but wouldn't admit it. Like many girls today, she needed time to adjust to the possibility that God was calling her. Then, too, Teresa loved beautiful clothes and things, and was much given to talking with people. She must have had her own ideas for her future life, and for a while, anyway, she couldn't let go of them. St. Teresa's autobiography doesn't tell us exactly how she resolved the question of her vocation, but, obviously, she eventually answered the call of God.

Teresa's life did not become easy once she made this decision. Her father loved her so much that he couldn't imagine letting her enter until after he died, and nothing she said or did could change his mind. But Teresa wished to remain true to God's call, and she knew herself well enough to realize that if she didn't act now, she might never do it. So early one morning, she slipped out of her father's house and made her way to the convent. It was one of the most painful days of her life: "I felt that separation so keenly that the feeling will not be greater, I think, when I die. For it seemed that every bone in my body was being sundered."

But Teresa's initial struggle gave way to a lasting joy: "[God] gave me such great happiness at being in the religious state of life that it has never left me up to this day, and God changed the dryness my soul felt into the greatest tenderness. All the things of religious life delighted me, and it is true that sometimes while sweeping, during

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
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
20 Sr. Bernardine Marie's feastday
25 Sr. Madeleine Marie's feastday
30 Sr. Marie Janae's feastday
- June 1 Feast of the Queenship BVM
Renewal of Total Consecration to Mary
Sr. Maria Regina's feastday
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: 50th Anniversary of Vows - Rev. Mother Mary Agnes; Final profession - Sr. Mary Cabrini; Triennial vows - Sr. Mary Philomena; entrance into the Novitiate - Sarah Peck, Teresa Doll
29 Sr. Mary Petra's feastday
30 Sr. Mary Paula's feastday

the hours I used to spend in self-indulgence and self-adornment, I realized that I was free of all that and experienced a new joy that amazed me."

Courage, then, young ladies! It's normal to feel resistance to a religious vocation, even when the vocation is very real indeed. And be assured that, if you are generous with God, He will carry you in His arms.

Put First Things First...

St. Michael's Academy — Girls' Boarding 2018-2019

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 certainly more equipped to face the dangers to their souls they will face out 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, 2018



*** Boarding for the 2018-2019 school year is contingent upon sufficient interest.**

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