

Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen



Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

For some time, a renovation of the convent kitchen at St. Michael's has been in the offing. We were told that demolition would start the Monday after school got out. That meant that we had from dismissal of school at noon on Friday to Saturday evening — a day and a half, which also included high school graduation — to move everything out of our kitchen into storage or into the main kitchen at the Mount. Well, we did it, and sure enough, demolition started on Monday morning...

Living in the hyper-active United States, I am not sure how many people actually slow down during the summer. As religious Sisters we do actually slow down . . . for a few days. Our annual retreat before vows usually falls within a month of the close of school. The time of silence and withdrawal from many of our duties is a welcome relief, though it is accompanied by some intense spiritual work. The retreat closes with renewal of vows by all the professed Sisters, and advancement in religious steps for the newer members of the Congregation. The June 27 ceremony began with the Sisters processing into the church with lighted candles and chanting the *Salve Regina*, as this year also included the Silver Jubilee of Sister Marie Emmanuel. Three Sisters made their final profession: Sister



Shortly after our retreat, the Sisters sang for the solemn votive Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost, the opening Mass for the Brothers' General Chapter, and the Sisters' Diet (a shorter Chapter held between our General Chapters).

Mary Evangeline, Sister Mary Teresita and Sister Mary Angela; Sister Sophia Marie and Sister Mary Cecilia took first vows and our two postulants became novices, receiving the names Sister Margaret Mary and Sister Maria Dolorosa.

As you may recall, around the 4th of July every year we Sisters sponsor a luncheon concert, primarily for retirees. On the 4th itself we have a dessert concert open to the public. This year the 4th of July blossomed into a more elaborate event in response to a plea from our pastor, Fr. Casimir Puskorius. Having targeted the Mount's deteriorating porticos as the next restoration project about a year ago, Father wanted to give the fundraising an extra push. So we decided a small 4th of July carnival before the evening concert would fill the bill. (This is how annual events gets started. Once you've done it, you realize all the ways you can improve it for next time...)

Next came our annual outing. Every ten years or so we take ALL the Sisters together for a week away from home. This time we spent these days in Montana near the Clark Fork River. Hiking, reading, playing games and rafting were some of the activities that we enjoyed. The novitiate left early to spend a day teaching catechism further east in Montana.

Within a few days, the first of our catechism mission groups were on their way to California; other groups of Sisters departed several days later for Maine and Ohio. But before then, a swarm of excited girls descended upon Mount St. Michael for our annual Camp St. Philomena. The first day featured an outing to Farragut State Park in Idaho for swimming, boating and



After the General Chapter concluded, the Sisters were addressed by our re-elected Father General, Bishop Mark Pivarunas, before enjoying a meal with the CMRI priests and Brothers. It is not uncommon that the priests share stories of the miracles of grace they have witnessed.



Fr. Michael Anaya directs an informal choir practice in the dining room the evening before vows. It is very seldom that the Sisters have the opportunity of being joined in choir by their religious brethren.

picnicking. They must have had a grand time, because when they arrived back at the Mount they were absolutely exhausted. The rest of the week was filled with choir practice, catechism, crafts, games and skits — and a 23-foot-tall water slide! Each day opened with the 60-70 campers attending Holy Mass and a short sermon. The theme for the week was Women of the Bible and on the last night of camp, the girls presented puppet shows of the various Bible stories.

A week later, the Sisters hosted the annual Ladies' Retreat — "Camp for Moms," as one mother described it to her daughter. Three

(cont'd on back page)



As a symbol of complete donation of oneself to Christ, the young lady entering the Novitiate has her hair cut at the altar.



Having been accepted into the novitiate, the Sisters leave the church to change into the full habit for the first time.



Sr. Marie Emmanuel receives a cross after renewing her vows on her silver jubilee.



Having made first profession of vows, the novices white veils are exchanged for the blue.



Sr. Mary Cecilia and Sr. Sophia Marie wear the crown of red and white roses, symbolic of a life of virginity and martyrdom.



The two new novices return to the church to receive their religious names, Sr. Maria Dolorosa and Sr. Margaret Mary.



Up in the choir loft, the Sisters join the priests, clerics and Brothers in singing a high Mass on vow day, the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.



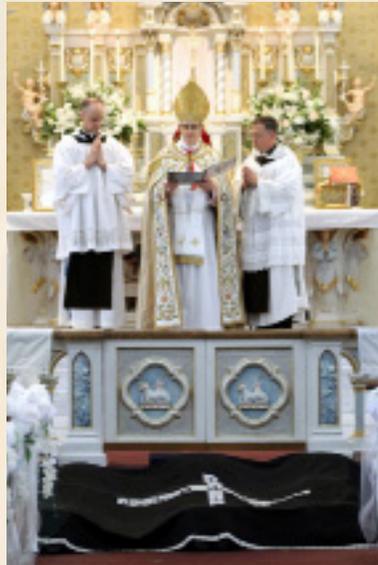
With lighted candles in their hands, the three Sisters taking perpetual profession present themselves before the altar during Mass.



Sr. Mary Angela, Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Mary Evangeline present their bridal bouquets to Our Lady at the Offertory of the Mass.



A Sister is privileged to pronounce her perpetual vows to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



The pall covers the perpetually professed, symbolic of their life hidden in Christ.



Receiving the ring, the Sisters says, "I am the bride of Him Whom the angels serve . . . He has sealed me with the character of His spouse."



The final professed receives a crown of thorns, a reminder of the life of penance in union with her thorn-crowned Spouse.



A vocation is reason to celebrate! With their hearts filled with joy and gratitude, the Sisters process out of the church to enjoy a reception prepared by their families and friends.



Visiting from Mexico, Mother Maria Andrea, AMRI, shows a piece of pure linen handiwork to the Sisters, explaining how lace is made from strands of linen cloth.



A farewell between superiors. Rev. Mother Mary Agnes bids farewell to Mother Maria Andrea after her two week stay with us.



Sr. Madeleine Marie (left) enjoys a laugh with her aunt, Sr. Maria Josefina, visiting from Mexico. The Mexican Sisters shared many fascinating & almost incredible stories.



The Sisters enjoyed a banquet dinner in honor of biblical women with the young ladies attending Camp St. Philomena.



Camp without music? Never! After several choir practices with the campers, Sr. Mary Petra directs them in singing hymns at Mass.



Camp St. Philomena 2019 has seen the largest number of Sisters on staff. In addition to 10 full-time counsellors, several other Sisters helped with catechism and crafts.



At St. Mechtilde's Music Festival in Denver, CO, Dr. Bradley Thompson takes time to work with the directors.



When celebrating the feast days of the five Sisters with June patrons, the Sisters also tagged on the added festivities of this year's three septagenarian birthdays.



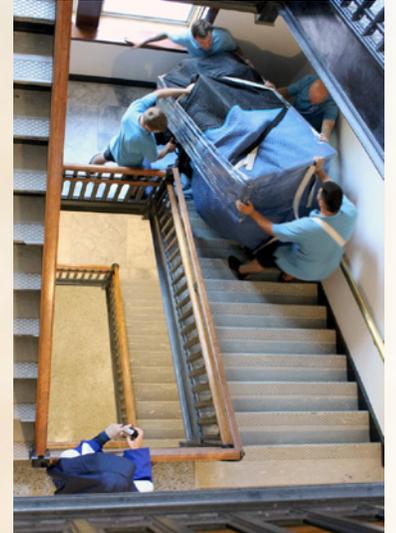
What's on the menu? Every July, the Sisters host a luncheon concert at which they cater the meal and then sing.



The dunk tank at the July 4th concert brought smiles to many faces, including those of Sr. Helen Marie and Sr. Mary Bridget. All proceeds from the event went to our Portico Restoration Project.



Events like the summer carnival bring out talents that are hidden the rest of the year, including face-painting, balloon animals, and baking!



Sr. Maria Kazimiera stops to photograph the men moving the "new" organ up six flights of stairs.



New projects at the Novitiate mean new adventures for the novices!



Thessalonica (Thessie), a young Jersey cross, is the newest addition to the novitiate farm!



Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Mary Genevieve traveled to New England to teach catechism at St. Theresa's in Oakland, Maine.



During the outing, seventeen Sisters enjoyed a whitewater rafting adventure!



Though nearby, the Junior Sisters had their outing elsewhere in Montana, and had water adventures of their own.



Sr. Mary Agatha ensures that a rubber-boa didn't miss this photo opportunity.



The Novitiate Sisters pose for a group photo in scenic big sky Montana.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Doc, AKA "Hairy Larry" couldn't get enough of these blue-clad Sisters.



Without the hats, the novices could have passed as Sisters from days gone by.



Some of us are family in more ways than one! This year our annual outing was spent as one big group (center) rather than in two or three, thanks to the kindness of one of our benefactors. We took the opportunity of the scenic Montana landscape to take "family" photographs of sisters and aunts and nieces that are in the convent. Clockwise from top right: Sr. Sophia Marie and Sr. Mary Cabrini; Sr. Mary Josephine, Sr. Mary Loretta, Sr. Mary Cecilia and Sr. Mary Genevieve; Sr. Maria Dolorosa and Sr. Marie Vianney; Sr. Mary Petra and Sr. Mary Evangeline; Sr. Philomena Marie and Sr. Marie Emmanuel; Sr. Mary Paula, Sr. Mary Antoinette and Sr. Mary Angela; Sr. Maria Kazimiera and Sr. Mary Jacinta.





During Labor Day weekend, the Sisters at Mount St. Michael visited the various classrooms, including the newly renovated "Room 226." Inset: The Sisters look around the fourth floor literature/history classroom.



Sr. Bernadine Marie shows the Sisters the little steam engine pulley system that her father had assembled. In addition to the fish tank, it's one of the many treasures in the fourth grade classroom.



At the close of the day on the first day of school, Sr. Marie Vianney gives directions to the students about safe parking lot procedures at dismissal time.



During the annual Ladies' Retreat, on the feast of the Assumption, eleven women consecrated themselves entirely to Jesus through Mary.



A short day trip up to Fort Spokane provided the Sisters with a change of scenery, and several lessons in local history at the interpretive center.



The Sisters stand in front of the Fort Spokane Quartermaster stable, one of only four buildings remaining since its closure in 1898.



With the exception of our walk-in refrigerator, the entire convent kitchen was gutted, repainted, and rebuilt this summer.



Mother Mary Dominica gives the Sisters a tour of where things will go in our new kitchen. We moved back in by the second week of school even though the countertops were not yet installed and the ovens were not functioning.



The new cupboards don't have doors yet, but that didn't stop us from loading them up.

days of silent retreat with spiritual talks ended on the feast of the Assumption with 11 of the 30 ladies making their Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin. That evening and the next day were times to relax and enjoy each other's company and included an excursion on the Spokane River.

Meanwhile, classroom renovations took place on three different floors, as well as the ongoing convent kitchen project. Although the kitchen was not quite ready for us to move back in before the school year began, the classrooms had been cleaned and decorated and lessons had been prepared.

In the second week of school now, we are still getting settled in the new kitchen, but with the biggest part of this project behind us, we can focus on the new school year, dedicated to being Warriors of the Queen, our Life, our Sweetness and our Hope.



A triple blessing on Our Lady's birthday! Our community continues to grow with the arrival of three new candidates.

Calendar

- Sept. 15 Sr. Maria Dolorosa's feastday
 16 Sr. Mary Andrea's feastday
 17 Sr. Sophia Marie's feastday
 29 Feast of St. Michael: Titular feast of St. Michael's Convent
 Sr. Michael Marie's feastday
- Oct. 3 Sr. Therese Marie's and Sr. Mary Teresita's feastday
 7 Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
 9-13 Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael
 13 Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima
 18 Sr. Margaret Mary's Feastday
- Nov. 17 Sr. Maria Providencia's feastday
 19 Sr. Mary Isabella's feastday
 22 Sr. Mary Cecilia's feastday
- Dec. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 Mary Immaculata's feastday
 10 Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
 22 Sr. Mary Cabrini's feastday
 25 Christmas Day
 Sr. Marie Emmanuel's feastday
 27 Sr. Mary Evangeline's feastday



Welcome! The novices look on as the twin candidates greet the third member of their group.

A Young Missionary's Farewell

One of our novices with first vows, Sr. Mary Cecilia, was assigned to our Olathe, Colorado, mission along with Sr. Maria Regina and Sr. Mary Imelda. She left behind the following poem for her novice mistress and companions in the novitiate:

Good-bye to each and every one of you,
 Thank you for all you have done and do.

Words my feelings cannot express,
 Be it a failure or success.

Though it seems that we must part,
 You are all together in my heart.

Just remember Who we share:
 It's Jesus Christ Who's always there.

Any tears you may shed for me,
 Save for those souls who put HIM on the tree.

Together those souls we can save,
 Despite those tempests 'round us rave.

Though we may be separated by miles,
 That is no reason to stop those smiles.

God gives to the cheerful giver
 His graces flowing in a ceaseless river.

May we give God honor and glory,
 In whatever we may do, teaching
 or telling His story.

"Lord, Thou didst suffer more than we,
 Than all the hosts of land or sea.
 So let us render back again
 A millionth of Thy gift. Amen."

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

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