

Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen



Dear Friends,

We have some very significant and exciting news to share in this issue of *Anima Mariae*! On February 5, 2025, a long-awaited guest arrived at St. Michael's Convent. Reverend Mother and a few of the Sisters made a trip to the airport that evening, and returned through the new-fallen snow, with a visitor who had never seen snow before in her life.

Sister Immaculata, a native of Nigeria, has been in contact with Sister Mary Jacinta, CMD, and Sister Marie Janae, CMRI, for about two years. During that time, we have been going through the lengthy process and mounds of paperwork that are required to obtain a religious worker's visa. At long last Sister finally received approval to come to the United States.

Catholicism has long been strong in Nigeria thanks to the work of Irish Missionaries of

the Holy Ghost who began working in Nigeria in the 1920's. Sister Immaculata, a cradle Catholic, spent eight years in a Novus Ordo convent (Paracleta) but left after becoming aware of the differences between mainstream "Catholicism", and the Traditional movement. Encouraged by a friend to keep her vocation alive, she followed a regular religious schedule while living with her family and explored opportunities of beginning a traditional religious congregation. During this period,

she also took up the study of Latin. For a time, Sister worked with the recently consecrated traditional Bishop Akamuke Bede, but since his time was mainly taken up with the formation of a seminary, she resolved to look elsewhere for guidance in forming a Sisterhood.

Since her arrival, Sister Immaculata has joined in the common life of the Sisters at St. Michael's Convent. Although she is fluent in English, Sister has found the American accent, as well as the speed at which we tend to speak, challenging, but so far there has been no difficulty which has daunted her. Getting used to such a vastly different climate — she left Nigeria in 97 degree weather to arrive in our coldest week of the year at single digit temperatures — has definitely been an adjustment. Our culture and foods are different as well, but Sister has been cheerfully taking it all in stride. She has

had an opportunity to help in many areas both at St. Michael's parish and convent as well as at Mary Immaculate Queen Center.

On Saturday, March 1, to her great joy, Sister was received as a postulant of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen. As is obvious by her taking the step of (*cont'd on back page*)



Sister Immaculata is received as a postulant of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.



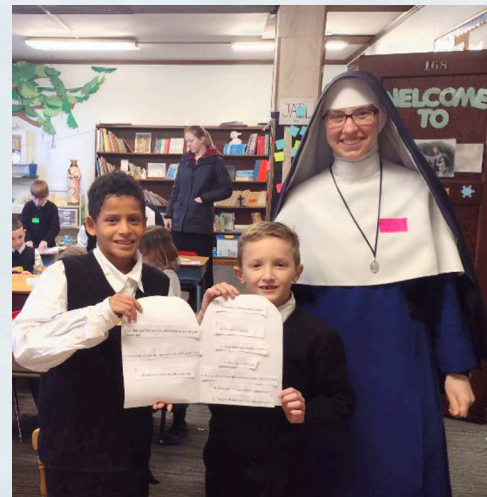
Sister Immaculata poses with our four other postulants after the reception ceremony.



Sister visits one of the classrooms and tells the students about her journey to traditional Catholicism from being a Novus Ordo Sister in Nigeria.



"Let us pray to Holy Mary for our Mother on her feast..." we sang as Reverend Mother prepared to blow out her feastday cake.



Activities for Catholic Schools Week provided opportunities for students of all ages to work on projects together.



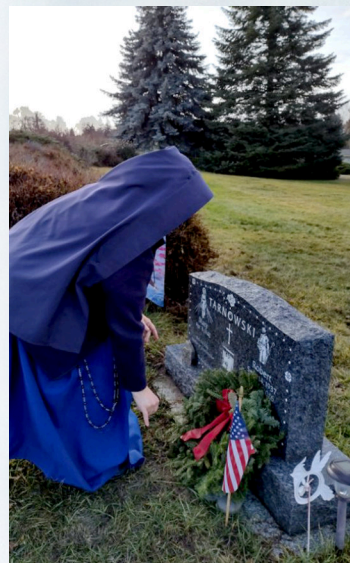
Sisters and students sing during Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Middleville, Michigan.



Black and blue nuns, Sr. Marie Bernadette, CMD, and Sr. Maria Magdalena, CMRI, enjoy themselves while supervising their students at a joint ice-skating event.



You never know what to expect at St. Joseph's! Students and Sisters pose with electrical crew (Wayne, Michigan).



During November we took part in an event honoring veterans in our cemetery. Sr. Marie Vianney places a wreath on her father's grave.



Mr. Murry's apprentice, William, helped to build these cabinets. Since they were for the Sisters' cloister, he gets a sneak peek of the convent during installation.



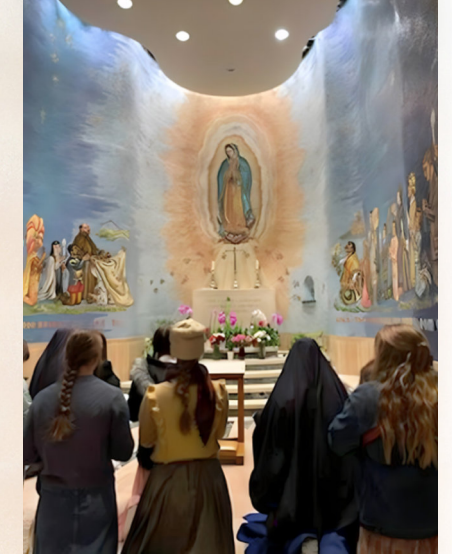
"How many hundreds of these Lithuanian dumplings did you say we needed to make for Fr. Casimir's surprise feastday celebration?"



Our four New England missionaries in front of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Salem, New Hampshire.



Sr. Mary Teresita and students of St. Theresa School (Oakland, Maine) look at artifacts displayed in the Redington Museum in Waterville, Maine, a two-story house dating back to 1814.



Sr. Maria Regina and students from St. Mary's (Tacoma, Washington) visit the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception while in Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.



Christmas caroling with Fr. Casimir at the piano is a tradition at the convent. This year we were joined by our brethren from the major seminary in Idaho.



Sisters and Sodality members congregate in the back of St. Michael's Chapel in preparation for the Candlemas procession that ends the Christmas season.



Sr. Mary Lucy and students of Holy Guardian Angels School (Olathe, CO) enjoy the spectacular view at the Black Canyon in Colorado.



St. Lucy wearing the traditional wreath with candles visits Sr. Mary Josephine's kindergarten class at Mary Immaculate Queen school on her feast day.



Fr. Benedict Hughes, Sr. Mary Imelda and Sr. Mary Genevieve pose with Sodality members at Mary Immaculate Queen (Rathdrum, Idaho) after their reception ceremony.



At the convent in New Hampshire. Not pictured, all the boxes that are stacked around as the Sisters prepare to move in the coming month.

of coming here to America, Sister Immaculata is willing to go wherever and do whatever it is God asks of her in her vocation. She does have hopes that eventually the traditional Sisterhood will be established back in her native Nigeria, and we ask your prayers that, God willing, this intention may be successfully brought to fruition.



The closing Mass of Catholic Schools week was a high Mass on the Feast of St. John Bosco, sung by the entire student body.



Youngsters of all ages need to play in the snow. The novitiate dog, however, rebels once again over having to be included in the picture.



Sisters and parishioners bring roses to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the Rosary on her feast.

Calendar

- March 4 Sr. Maria Kazimiera's feastday
- 7-9 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
- 15 Sr. Dymphna Marie'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
- 22-26 Sisters' Annual Retreat
- 27 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and also the Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Sisters' vows ceremonies
Sr. Corinne Marie's feastday
- 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.

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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