



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

Dear Friends,
Praised be Jesus and Mary!

When a young woman is received as a postulant in the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen, the bishop or priest performing the simple ceremony places a Miraculous Medal around her neck with these words: "May this medal of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary be an outward symbol of a pure and undefiled heart aflame with love for the Immaculate Queen whom you have pledged yourself to serve, and strengthen you against the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil." At this investiture the postulant receives the first item of the Holy Habit that she will wear throughout her life of consecration. As she takes each step in her religious life, she will receive one or perhaps two more pieces of the habit until at last, at final profession, she receives the ring which completes the uniform of her dedication. As she places her Miraculous Medal around her neck every morning, each Marian Sister from the youngest postulant to the oldest professed kisses the medal and says the prayer in-



scribed on it, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Let us take a few moments to review the history of this medal and the saint through whom Our Lady gave it to us.

After the death of her mother, nine-year-old Catherine Laboure went before the statue of Our Lady in her home and said, "Now, dear blessed Mother, you will be my mother." From that time, she managed the household for her father, and eventually the farm as well. She still managed to find time to spend in prayer in the village church.

At the age of 24, Catherine was finally free to enter the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. In July of that same year (1830), while she was still a postulant, Catherine was awakened in the night by a child who bade her come to the chapel where the Blessed Virgin awaited her. During that first visit, while Our Lady sat in the director's chair, Catherine knelt beside her and placed her hands in Mary's lap while they conversed for about two hours. During the following November, Our Lady appeared to Sister Catherine during the evening prayers of the community. Around her was an oval frame



St. Catherine Laboure spent two hours talking to Our Lady while resting her hands in her lap.



Bishop Pivarunas received the new postulants on the feast of the Divine Maternity.

Top: Four new postulants add their smiles to the Novitiate collection. Rex looks embarrassed to be included in a photo opposite a cow...

(cont'd on back page)



Spread the light! Two Sisters prepare for the candlelight procession in honor of Our Lady during the Fatima Conference.



Exploring the wonders of God's creation during biology class with Sr. Mary Cabrini at St. Michael's Academy.



City of Mary convent construction. Inset: The men putting up the trusses in snow and cold rain! They had to do it **that** day because the crane was rented for that day at several hundred dollars an hour. (!!)



Sr. Mary Genevieve and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders visit the cow and the new calf on the seminary farm. Brother Simon and Felix, the seminary dog, came along.



Andale, Nino!! Sr. Maria Dolorosa gets a young pinata enthusiast pointed in the right direction during the All Saints' Day party (Middleville, Michigan).



The Sisters from our two convents in Michigan are able to get together for a visit now and then. Here they are out for a walk near the convent in Middleville.



The Sisters from our two Michigan missions went to see one of their seniors taking part in a Civil War re-enactment.

WHAT!?! The students from St. Joseph's actually went to heaven for their All Saint's Day party?! Fr. Francisco must have really pulled some strings this time!



Fr. Letourneau, Sr. Mary Teresita and Sr. Maria Goretti with the owner of Cedar Works, who donated the new playground set for St. Theresa's Church in Oakland, Maine.



Sisters and parishioners of St. Theresa's Catholic Church visit a cemetery during the month of November to pray for the Holy Souls.



Pumpkin carving at the All Saints party at Holy Guardian Angel's school in Olathe, Colorado. Sr. Mary Lucy...good question. What IS Sr. Mary Lucy doing?



With only two Sisters on a mission, every talent you have is called into action, and perhaps some you did not know you had. Sr. Mary Cecilia helps arrange flowers for the altar for a special feast.



Vocations Weekend

March 7 - 9, 2025
St. Michael's Convent

Could you have a religious vocation?
 What is the hundredfold promised by
 Our Lord to those who leave all to follow Him?
 Experience life in the convent
 for a weekend as you join the Sisters
 at work, prayers, meals and recreation.

Register online at CMRI.org/vocations-weekend
 No fee for attending

with the words now so familiar to us, "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." Then the apparition turned to reveal the back side of the medal: the letter M surmounted by a cross, with the hearts of Jesus and Mary pictured below it, and surrounded by 12 stars. Our Lady instructed Catherine to have a medal made in this likeness, and that many graces would be received by those who wore it about their neck. The only person Sister Catherine ever told about these visions was her confessor. He did not believe her at first, but eventually passed the message on to the Bishop, who had 2,000 medals made. The miracles and conversions resulting from the use of the medal were so

numerous that people began calling it "the Miraculous Medal."

Throughout the years of her religious life, Catherine never told a single soul about the apparitions. She worked hard taking care of the elderly, and managing the convent farm. Her life of union with God and the Blessed Virgin grew deeper every day. She became a saint, not because she saw Mary, but because she lived a heroically virtuous life doing her ordinary actions for the love of God. One last thing that Our Lady had requested remained to be done: to have a statue made. In order to accomplish this, Catherine finally had to break her long silence, and tell her superior about the visions. It's a good

thing for us, or we might never have known the story of this admirable saint! Catherine died at the age of 70. Her incorrupt body is encased in glass in the chapel of the Sisters of Charity in Paris.

So, back to postulants. In our last issue we were looking forward to the arrival of postulants. During the last weeks of Septem-

ber and the first weeks of October, four young ladies joined us, and received their Miraculous Medals from the Bishop during the Fatima Conference. As far as we know, none of them has received a visit from Our Lady, but if they are like St. Catherine Laboure, we wouldn't know anyway! But they are a joy to have around, besides being a help in more ways than we can say. Please pray for our new little sisters, and for all of us, that we may persevere, and become the saints that God intends us to be.



Sisters and students sing during the pontifical high Mass during the Fatima Conference at Mount St. Michael.

Calendar

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| Dec. | 9 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mary Immaculata's feastday |
| | 10 | Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday |
| | 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| | 13 | Sr. Mary Lucy's feastday |
| | 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 |
| 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 |
| | 27 | Sr. Marie Gabrielle's feastday |
| 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 |

Our Apostolate of Prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of special prayers? Send your intentions to the Sisters to be commended in our daily prayers, Masses and good works, as well as our upcoming novenas:



- Our Lady of Prompt Succor (January 15)
- Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)

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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