



Anima Mariae

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Queen

*Light in my heart this conflagration!
Sweet Heart of Mary be my salvation!.*

Dear Friends,

These words from the closing hymn at Mass on Sunday, August 2, drew smiles from many who heard them. Here's why.

On Friday, July 31, feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the alarms on every cell phone squealed their obnoxious warning tone. High winds were expected on the following day; with the extremely dry conditions, any fires that might start would spread very quickly. Great caution was advised!

Was that an invitation for arsonists, or what?

Apparently, yes, it was.

On Saturday afternoon, thick clouds of brown smoke billowed up across town in the direction of the airport. Phones continued to announce warnings throughout the day, and each time we listened anxiously to hear the locations of the evacuation zones. By late afternoon, black smoke was billowing just to the north of us. The evacuation zones still did not include Mount St. Michael, but at about 3:30 we lined up our go-bags in the first



This view of the Mount during the recent wildfires gives the impression that our buildings were on fire. Fortunately, this was not the case, although nearby homes were lost, including one belonging to a parishioner.

floor hall — just in case. Vehicles were assigned for a possible evacuation, and our Sisters in Idaho were notified that they might get visitors. We then went to recreation and dinner while awaiting developments. As we began dinner a message came from a neighbor who said the fire was close and she needed help. A few Sisters left immediately. We continued to go through the buffet line for dinner until the sheriff drove up and told us to get out NOW. Struggling to juggle our dinner plates and bags, we made our way out to the cars and vans, loaded up and took off for the City of Mary, passing close to the fire as we left the gates of the Mount. Calls were made to inform Fr. Casimir, to alert the novitiate and to warn the Sisters in Idaho that we were coming.

At the City of Mary, a young priest and two clerics in their white habits watched from the top of the hill next to the seminary as a stream of vans and cars pulled up to the new convent. No way were all those hordes going to fit in that house, no matter how spacious it seemed! The next thing we knew, truckloads of mattresses arrived, as well as permission to use the minor

seminary wing to house what Sisters could fill it.

Then began a procession of cars bringing food items that lasted through the next morning. Calls came offering rooms at family homes if needed. We were overwhelmed by the generous kindness of the clergy, Sisters and laity responding to our needs. Although our exile was short, long will be cherished the grateful memories of all those who helped us during our displacement! Our convents were untouched, including our farm and animals. Our property remained in the evacuation zone for some days, but things seemed calm. Meanwhile, many around us have lost so much! Please keep them in your prayers.

The Holy Name of Mary

(The following is a Sister's reflections for the feast of the Holy Name of Mary:)

"Hello!" "Hi" "Good morning!" Have you ever wondered what it would be like if there were no such thing as greetings? No "Praised be Jesus and Mary!" No "Hello, I'm Sister Mary, nice to meet you!" (cont'd on back page)



Now what? Sister sits amid the backpacks, waiting for us to organize ourselves into the limited space of our temporary "shelter" after evacuating Mount St. Michael.

Vows Ceremonies on June 27, Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, at Mount St. Michael



The new novices' hair is cut to show their renouncement of the vanities of the world.



On her Silver Jubilee, Sr. Corinne Marie receives a plain wooden cross, symbolizing the one to which she is nailed by her vows.



After donning their habits, six new novices return to the church to receive their copies of the Holy Rule, along with their new religious names, possibly the most exciting moment in any of the steps they will take.



The blue veil of the professed Sister is received at the time of first vows.



The bishop places a crown of roses on the head of each Sister after she pronounces her first vows.



After renewing her vows for three years, Sr. Dymphna Marie receives her brown scapular. This is the last step before perpetual profession.



The installation of the picture of Mary Immaculate Queen in the entrance way of the new convent at the City of Mary in Rathdrum, Idaho.



Shelves, shelves, piles of shelves being delivered to the new convent. What will make their homes on all those shelves?



St. Mary's Parish in Tacoma celebrates the Assumption as its patronal feast. The Sisters go all out to decorate for the great day!



While cleaning the school fish tank at St. Mary's, Sr. Mary Cecilia noticed that the angel fish had a small fish tail sticking out of its mouth. Doesn't sound so angelic to me!



Now that everything is moved into her classroom at Holy Guardian Angels School (Olathe, CO), Sr. Mary Fatima just needs to get it all organized!



When a student from St. Joseph's School in Wayne, Michigan, took part in a civil war reenactment, Sisters from both of our Michigan schools attended.



Sr. Michael Marie touches up the paint on an Infant of Prague statue the Sisters had been given.



The Sisters in Michigan just can't get enough of painting. This time it's the walls of Holy Rosary Convent in Middleville.



The Sisters provide the choir at the burial of Julia Guilderson, a faithful parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in New Hampshire.



The now annual procession for Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Name Day celebration again includes the marching band playing hymns in her honor.



Cleaning the windows at St. Theresa's in Maine after being gone for the summer.



Above: The junior professed Sisters seem to be attempting some dare-devil feats during their summer outing. Below: And then there were the quiet moments at St. Anne's Chapel at the Sorrowful Mother Grotto in Portland.

Like Our Lady going to the hill country to visit Elizabeth, the feast of the Visitation on July 2 found us walking down to LeStage's from the City of Mary for a barbecue, after closing a history bus tour of our Idaho beginnings at Mary Immaculate Queen Church.

As it is, we do greet each other, but not every greeting is spoken. We might greet someone with a smile. Or we could use an expression such as "the sun greeted us in the morning."

On a higher level, there is a greeting that is a part of every religious Sister. Down the silent marble floored halls of our convent the Sisters proceed to and fro on their works of love. Then sounds the bell, and all the Sisters pause to offer a greeting to their heavenly Mother.

A hundred years ago, the sight of a religious Sister was not an uncommon thing. When the bells tolled out, the Sisters were not the only ones to become still at the sound of the bell. Everyone stopped to murmur the greeting, "Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae..."

Let's take a journey even further back to a time when nuns did not leave their cloistered homes. Even the laity stopped three times a day at the

ringing of the bells to salute her: "Et concepit de Spiritu Sancto."

Now let us gather close to witness a particular greeting, the very one we repeat daily. A Virgin kneels in prayer as an angel from heaven brings a greeting from God the Father. "Ecce ancilla Domini," she responds, knowing that she was not alone in answering, for how many of her daughters in the time to come would follow her on the path of love, "Fiat mihi secundum Verbum Tuum."

Then that Divine riposte. It came without noise or great pomp; it came when the world rejected it out of its cities and homes. Night had fallen and darkness reigned. "Et Verbum caro factum est."

We live in troubled times, but we do not live without hope, and Holy Mother Church puts before our eyes the answer. We can and must live to the fullest that greeting, "Et habitavit in nobis."



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a bean bag!!!



Our Apostolate of Prayer

Are you or someone you love in need of special prayers? Send us your special intentions and we will commend them in our daily prayers and Masses.



Calendar

- Sept. 12 Sr. Mariana's feastday
- 15 Sr. Maria Dolorosa's feastday
- 16 Sr. Mary Andrea's feastday
- 17 Sr. Sophia Marie's feastday
- 26 Sr. Noel 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
- 4 Sr. Francis Marie's feastday
- 7 Feast of the Most Holy Rosary
- 7-11 Fatima Conference
- 13 Sr. Mary Fatima's feastday
- 15 Sr. Maria Avila's feastday
- 17 Sr. Margaret Mary's feastday
- Nov. 16 Sr. Mary Gertrude's feastday
- 19 Sr. Mary Isabella's feastday
- 22 Sr. Mary Cecilia's feastday
- Dec. 8 Mary Immaculata's feastday
- 10 Sr. Mary Loretta's feastday
- 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

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

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