

From the desk of Mary ...

Warm Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center where we celebrate daily the Universal Call to Holiness!

It is with joy that I share with you that the work of the Center continues to grow as more and more people learn about and seek spiritual direction in the Catholic tradition as a way of growing in their relationship with Christ and deepening their love for the Church. No matter where we are on our faith journey, each moment holds the graces we need to pursue sanctity.

We are all called to be saints! His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, conveyed this message to the youth of Madrid earlier this year by stating, "Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given you for your own joy and sanctity. When a person is conquered by the fire of His gaze, no sacrifice seems too great to follow Him and give Him the best of ourselves. This is what the saints have always done, spreading the light of the Lord...and transforming the world into a welcoming home for everyone." (Vatican City, 2 April 2012)

This Christmas, let us call upon our Savior and Lord to help us to become saints, to spread the light of the Lord, and to transform the world with Him into a welcoming home for everyone. And let us trust that He will!

A Joyous Christmas to you and those you love from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

A Tribute to a Great Theologian and Friend

Sadly, on July 29, 2012, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center lost one of its greatest supporters and friends. Ralph Gerald Del Colle, Associate Professor of Theology at Marquette University, passed into eternal life at the age of 57. Dr. Del Colle was a brilliant Catholic layman whose scholarship in the area of Trinitarian Theology and the Theology of the Holy Spirit made significant contributions to the field. Without a doubt, he had one of the most cultivated minds in the Church of his generation, and he lived his faith with exemplary piety. In the preface of his dissertation he wrote, "The Christian experience of God is one with contours that are shaped by what [St.] Irenaeus imagined as the 'two hands of God.' Christ and the [Holy] Spirit are God's way into the depths of the human condition, the divine grip, so to speak, upon our fragile and tenuous reality. To know this, to realize that one is in the grasp of divine knowing, is the beginning of all Christian theology." Dr. Del Colle, a great theologian and devoted son of the Church, actively lived "in the grasp of divine knowing." May he now rest in our Lord's peace.

We are honored that Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center was designated to receive memorials in his name. We sincerely thank those donors listed below:

> Mary E. Henke Mr. and Mrs. James and Mary Connelly Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Debra Reit Mrs. Rachel Monfardini Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Eleanor Schroeder Mary Ann Fiorenza Anonymous

Board Memberships - Gratitude and Welcome

We are profoundly grateful to Father Alan Veik, OFM, Cap., for his dedicated years of service as Vice President of the Center's Board of Directors. Father Al's humility and kindness, along with the wisdom he brought to the Board from decades of leadership roles in the Church, endeared him to all of us. We wish him God's choicest blessings as he answers the call from his Capuchin community to dedicate himself fully to their corporate works.

We joyfully welcome our new Vice President, Mr. Michael Canfield of Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. Mike is married and has four daughters. Along with previous board experiences, Mike brings a deep love of the Eucharist and a strong devotion to Our Lady. Mike is concurrently giving generously of his time to the Men of Christ Conference, and to evangelization efforts at the parish level during this Year of Faith. We look forward to working with him in further promoting the vision and mission of the Center.

A Fond Farewell

Thanks to the exquisite hospitality of the Very Reverend Monsignor Thomas George Gajdos, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center has been housed at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin since its incorporation. For the past ten years Father George has served with a generous spirit as Pastor of Christ King, one of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's largest and most active parishes. On December 1, 2012, after more than forty years of active and dedicated priestly ministry, Father George retired. He will continue to serve as an advisor to Archbishop Listecki as a member of the Archdiocesan College of Consultors. With deep gratitude for kindnesses too numerous to count, we wish Father George joy and good health in his retirement.



Farewell luncheon for Fr. George (second from left) with the Center's board.

Appreciative of your support.

SERRA CLUB GIFT

We are delighted to report that in August the Center received a \$5,000 donation from the Serra Club of Milwaukee in support of our work with young adults discerning a call to the priesthood or consecrated life. We are happy for the referrals made to Our Lady of Grace by Fr. Luke Strand, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. We ask for your prayers for these generous young adults who seek God's will in earnest in their lives.

HOLY HOUR AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Nearly one hundred people joined us for our Holy Hour in honor of Mary, Queen of Heaven in gratitude for the graces that have flowed into the Center through her intercession over the past year. It was a special joy to welcome the small children who came with their parents to pray and then enjoy a big bowl of ice cream at the social that followed. We hope you'll join us in 2013. We have set the date for **Sunday**, **August 18, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at Christ King Church in Wauwatosa**.

O Virgin Mother, Daughter of Thy Son

A selection from *Paradiso*, Canto XXXIII by Dante Alighieri, trans. from the Italian by John Ciardi.

O virgin mother; daughter of thy Son, Humble beyond all creatures and more exalted; Predestined turning point of God's intention;

Thy merit so ennobled human nature That its Divine Creator did not scorn To make Himself the creature of His own creature.

The Love that was rekindled in Thy womb Sends forth the warmth of the eternal peace Within whose ray this flower has come to bloom.

me Works of Mercy

Most Catholics are more familiar with the corporal works of mercy than the spiritual. And that is because our Lord articulated them so clearly in Matthew's Gospel 25:31-46. They consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Yet the Cathechism of the Catholic Church doesn't stop there. We read in §2447, "The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities." How many of the spiritual works of mercy can you name? Hints (and answers in blue) below.

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4. com	
5. for	
5 bea	

Answers: 1. Instructing; 2. Advising; 3. Consoling; 4. Comforting ; 5. Forgiving; 6. Bearing wrongs patiently.

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We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. Your gifts are used for people who need spiritual direction and cannot afford the fee. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace**.