



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS
July 2013

2604 N. Swan Blvd. Wauwatosa WI 53226 414-258-2604 x27 Vol. 3 Issue 2

From the desk of Mary...

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

This month, with hearts filled with gratitude, we are celebrating our third Anniversary of Incorporation with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Marquette University Jesuit Residence on July 6th for the blessings of Our Lady of Grace, and for the intentions of all of our benefactors and directees. Three years ago, to our delight and surprise, the Center's official date of incorporation was registered by the State of Wisconsin as July 6th, 2010—the Feast of St. Maria Goretti, patroness of youth and teenagers.

Then last year, on the very day of our second anniversary, I learned that St. Maria Goretti is buried in the crypt of the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace and St. Maria Goretti in Nettuno, Italy, just south of Rome. We thank our Lord for this double blessing of affirming our dedication of the Center to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Grace, and for surprising us with St. Maria Goretti to intercede for our work with youth and young adults.

To date 2013 has been an amazingly blessed year with many referrals for spiritual direction and vocational discernment continuing to come from priests, friends of the Center and the directees themselves. As you read on you will see that we have further received special gifts from benefactors. And this fall with the help of a new volunteer, we look forward to piloting a new program, the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop for grade school children. We continue to be grateful to all of you who support and encourage us in so many ways.

As you will note in the enclosed flyer, in honor of the Queenship of Mary, we are sponsoring our second annual **Holy Hour followed by an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 3:00pm at Christ King Church in Wauwatosa.** Please plan to join us and bring your family and friends along! Once again we will have Musicâ Oramus, a wonderful young adult choir from parishes throughout Southeastern Wisconsin accompanying us with beautiful selections of sacred music. Hope to see you there!

Finally, true to the mission of the Center of celebrating the Universal call to Holiness, let us always remember that God's will for each of us in our respective state in life vocation is our sanctification (1Thess. 4:3). Let us beg the Lord daily to make us a saint and to assist us in inspiring others

to grow in virtue and holiness. May we dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly night and day to this most noble enterprise—our greatest work this side of heaven. Our Lady of Grace, pray for us, that God will make us saints.

Have a wonderful summer!



Christmas in July

With restricted gifts from three generous benefactors we recently purchased a hand carved Nativity Set from Pema, an Italian woodcarving shop in the Dolomites. This exquisite fourteen piece set will be on display yearly in the Center throughout the Christmas Season and until the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, February 2nd. Each piece is a beautiful work of religious art unto itself. We are deeply grateful to our benefactors for the joy and spiritual enrichment this Nativity Set will bring to our visitors for years to come.

Welcome Father Phillip!

Since its incorporation, Our Lady of Grace has been housed at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. On June 18, 2013 Father Phillip Bogacki assumed the leadership role of Parish Administrator at Christ King. Father Phillip has been a great supporter of the mission and ministry of Our Lady of Grace. We are delighted that Archbishop ListECKI has sent him to serve in our midst. The Board of Directors welcomes him warmly and looks forward to continued joyful collaboration with him in ministry. We offer him the full support of our prayers!

Tending to the Details

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks volunteer Mr. Mike Harris for his two and a half years of faithful and trusted service as the Center's accountant. We wish Mike all the very best in his current and future endeavors. God bless you, Mike!

We are happy to welcome Mr. Dan Glomski, CPA, who has begun taking over these responsibilities. We are so grateful, Dan, for your desire to share your gifts of time and talent with Our Lady of Grace. We look forward to working with you.

On the Mercy of God...

An excerpt from the first Angelus Address of Pope Francis
St. Peter's Square, Sunday, March 17, 2013

Let us call upon the intercession of the Madonna who has held in her arms the Mercy of God made human...May the Lord bless you and the Virgin protect you! And don't forget this: The Lord never tires of forgiving. We are the ones who tire of asking forgiveness.

A Precious Gift

In early June we received a first class relic of Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta from Mrs. Angeline DeSantis (mother of Mary DeSantis) of Sterling Heights, Michigan. Blessed Maria Assunta is the first non-martyr missionary sister to be beatified in the history of the Church. Mrs. DeSantis received the relic many years ago. We gratefully acknowledge this precious gift



Reliquary of Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta

which will be perpetually on display in the Center beginning in August. In honor of this acquisition we include below a brief biography on the life of Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta and an article on relics in the Church.

Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta *A brief biography*

Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta was born into dire poverty in August, 1878 in the small village of Force in the region of Italy known as The Marches. As a young child she demonstrated a great love for prayer that intensified during her teenage years. At the age of nineteen facing great parental resistance, she entered the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Rome. Immediately following her profession of vows, together with nine of her religious sisters, she set sail for China where she hoped to convert many souls and serve the sick and suffering. Instead, she was assigned to work in the kitchen of the convent where she carried out the ordinary tasks in deep union with our Lord.

Before long she fell victim to a serious outbreak of typhus in the community. Bearing her illness with great patience, she died at sunset on April 7, 1905 at the age of 27. Her last words were, in Chinese, "Shen-ti, Shen-ti" -- Eucharist, Eucharist. Upon her death a beautiful mysterious fragrance filled the house for three days following. Local Chinese non-Christians and Christians alike flocked to where she lay. Eight years following her death, the community moved to Tai-Yuan-Foo. The Bishop asked that Sr. Assunta's body be transferred. The disinterment revealed an incorrupt body. Even following a full month of exposure to the air in the chapel of the cemetery there was no sign of decay. The Lord revealed to all the purity of her life that had been lived for Him alone. Sister Assunta was beatified at St. Peter's Basilica by Pope Pius XII on November 7, 1954.

Respect for Relics

This past June, relics of St. Anthony of Padua were on display for veneration at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee. As described elsewhere in this issue, our Center has been very blessed to receive a relic of Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta.

There are three classes of relics, based on the relic's degree of relation to the saint. First-class relics are a part of the saint's body. Often this type of relic is placed in an altar stone. A second-class relic is a piece of the saint's clothing or something used by the saint, while a third-class relic is an object which has been touched to a first-class relic. The Council of Trent, in

addressing the issue of veneration of saints and their relics, taught "Also the holy bodies of the holy martyrs and of the others who dwell with Christ...are to be honored by the faithful."

What is veneration? The honor we give to God alone is called adoration, the highest honor we can give. The honor we give to Mary and the saints is called veneration. As explained by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "proper veneration of the saints does not interfere with the worship due to God, but rather fosters it."

As Rev. William Saunders wrote in an article for the Arlington Catholic Herald, "the relics of the saints and their veneration is just another in the long line of treasures which Jesus Christ has given to His chaste bride, the Church. These relics summon us to appreciate more profoundly not only the heroic men and women, boys and girls who have served the Master so selflessly and generously, but especially the love and mercy of the Almighty who called these His followers to the bliss of unending life in His eternal kingdom."

An Exciting New Offering

In keeping with the educational component of our mission of reaching out to Catholic school children, we are piloting a wonderful new program this fall. Beginning September 2013 will be offering the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop to classes from K-5 to third grade by invitation from Catholic school principals and teachers. Designed and presented by experienced teacher and Our Lady of Grace volunteer Mrs. Nicole Sayas, these special workshops will teach children to love Jesus and Mary more through a very beautiful prayer. For more information or to schedule a Rosary Workshop at your school, please call the Center at (414)258-2604, x27.

Come, Holy Spirit!



The Holy Spirit is God's gift of love to us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, as children of God we can bear much fruit. The Catholic Catechism (§ 736) teaches, "He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear 'the fruit of the Spirit.' (Gal.5-22-23)" How many of the nine (9) fruits of the Holy Spirit can you name?

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| 3. _ e _ _ _ | 8. _ _ n _ _ o _ _ _ _ |
| 4. _ _ t _ _ n _ _ | 9. s _ _ _ _ _ o _ _ _ _ _ |
| 5. _ i _ _ _ _ _ _ _ | |

Answers:
1. love
2. joy
3. peace
4. patience
5. kindness
6. goodness
7. faithfulness
8. generosity
9. self-control

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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.**