



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

December 2020

Vol. 11 Issue 1

Tenth Anniversary Advent Edition

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center
2281 North Swan Boulevard
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 302-0240
www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org

From the Desk of Mary...



Warm Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center.

I am very happy to report that the work of the Center has continued uninterrupted throughout 2020.

We have been blessed with multiple referrals over these past few months from priests and others familiar with our sacred mission. Thanks to your generous support, we continue to provide ongoing spiritual direction and vocational discernment to men and women from as far away as Green Bay and the greater Chicago area by phone appointment until we can safely resume face to face sessions.

Following the CDC guidelines, we were able to conduct our Annual Board of Directors' Meeting on September 10, 2020 in person at the Center. This gave us the opportunity to express our profound gratitude to Mrs. Patricia (Patti) Hughes for her six years of outstanding service as Secretary and Treasurer of the Board. Drawing from her professional background, she also carried out many other administrative tasks over the years as a dedicated volunteer. Patti has a natural gift for hospitality, and graciously shared that as well on several occasions. May God bless her richly for untold kindnesses and tremendous generosity in support of the Center.

That same evening we warmly welcomed Ms. D'Ann Fisher as our new Secretary and Treasurer. D'Ann is employed full-time as the Parish Secretary at Sacred Heart (Croatian) Catholic Church in Milwaukee, and has a deep devotion to Our Lady. We are very blessed to have her with us and look forward to working with her for many years to come.

In this Holy Advent Season, I am very happy to offer for your consideration an article by Monsignor Charles M. Mangan on Confession which is a great way to prepare ourselves to welcome the Prince of Peace this Christmas. I hope you will have the time to carefully read it.

Finally, thank you most sincerely for all the many ways you have supported the Center in 2020, and indeed, throughout our first ten years of Incorporation. We could not do this wonderful work without you. We are so grateful for your generosity. May God reward you as only He can do, and He will! Together in mission with you, we joyfully anticipate the next ten years of graces.

From all of us at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center, from our hearts to yours, I wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Grand Re-opening Day, May 18, 2020



Tenth Anniversary Bouquet Gifts from Two Friends of the Center



Outgoing Board Member Mrs. Patricia (Patti) Hughes at September 10, 2020 Annual Meeting



The Gift of Peace

Monsignor Charles M. Mangan

A “good” Confession means a worthy Confession, that is, the penitent tells the unconfessed mortal sins that he has committed. He is to do so in both kind (what they are) and number. The Church infallibly teaches that the penitent need confess within the context of the Sacrament only previously unconfessed mortal sins (that is, gravely wrong desires, thoughts, words and actions performed with sufficient reflection and full consent of the will); however, she earnestly recommends that venial sins, also, be confessed because such acknowledgment leads to self-knowledge of one’s own weakness, humility in “owning-up” to what one has done wrong and an increase in sanctifying grace. A “Devotional Confession” is the confession of venial sins.

The Scriptural basis for this Sacrament is clear. On the evening of Easter Sunday, the Risen Lord Jesus Christ appeared to His fearful Apostles. The Master exclaimed: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (Saint John 20: 22b-23)

The Sacrament of Penance has three “parts” regarding the penitent (the one confessing) and one “part” concerning the confessor (the priest who possesses the faculty to hear Confessions and grant Absolution). For the penitent, there are: contrition (sorrow), which includes a firm purpose of amendment; confession (telling of sins); and satisfaction (atonement), which occurs by way of the performance of the penance given by the confessor. For the confessor, there is the imparting of Absolution (the actual Prayer of Absolution).

How does one actually confess? It is vital that the penitent prepare well before approaching the Sacrament. Such preparation consists in begging the Most Blessed Trinity for wisdom and insight. A thorough examination of conscience cannot be overestimated. Often, the Ten Commandments¹, the Precepts of the Church², the Beatitudes³ or the Theological⁴ and the Cardinal Virtues⁵ prove to be a helpful foundation by which to reflect on how one is following Christ and obeying His life-giving mandates.

Under usual conditions, the penitent enters the confessional and kneels behind a curtain or screen so to conceal his identity. (Some confessionals today also offer the opportunity for “face-to-face” Confession.) After beginning with the Sign of the Cross, the confessor may share a passage from Sacred Scripture. Then, the penitent uses the familiar formula, “Bless/Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been ___ weeks/months/years since my last Confession.”

Next, the penitent honestly names the sins of which he is guilty. He may conclude the recital of his sins by asserting, “I am sorry for these and for all the sins of my past life.” The confessor gives some valuable counsel to the penitent, encouraging him to put his trust in God and to seek true Christian holiness. The confessor also assigns a penance that is to help repair the injustice that the penitent has caused by his sins.

The penitent then recites the Act of Contrition⁶, expressing his sorrow for his sins, his genuine desire to perform the penance he was just given and his intent to avoid all the unnecessary and near occasions of sin (those persons, places, things and events) that lead to disobeying God’s unchanging law. The priest prays the formula of Absolution:

“God, the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins, in the Name of the Father (+), and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

The confessor may also add, among other prayers, the *Passio Domini nostri Iesu Christi*:

“May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the Saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins, help you to grow in holiness, and reward you with Everlasting Life. Go in peace.”

The penitent leaves the confessional and performs his penance as soon as possible.

We can maintain with absolute certainty that one who is really sorry for his sins, tells them honestly, plans to avoid sin in the future, intends to do his assigned penance and receives valid sacramental absolution from a duly authorized priest is truly forgiven of his sins. Such a realization is in itself a grace from the hand of the Lord Jesus Himself.

Confession has been called, with good reason, “the maker of Saints.”

During the Great Jubilee Year of Mercy 2000, Father Frederick L. Miller, STD, wrote, “If you make good use and frequent use of this Sacrament, you will have peace of heart, purity of conscience and a deep union with Christ in His love for His Father and for all men and women. The grace of the Sacrament will cause you to become like Jesus, our Lord, in all you say and do! It will make you a stronger and more committed member of His Church!”⁷

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, full of compassion and love, have mercy on us!

¹The Ten Commandments (taken from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Part 3):

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

²The Precepts of the Church: (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, ¶¶2041-43)
1) You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; 2) You shall confess your sins at least once a year; 3) You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least once during the Easter Season; 4) You shall keep the Holy Days of Obligation; 5) You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.

The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.

³The Beatitudes (Mt. 5: 3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴The Three Theological Virtues are Faith, Hope and Charity.

⁵The Four Cardinal Virtues are Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.

⁶The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, to amend my life and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

⁷Preparation for Confession and Communion by Fr. Frederick L. Miller, S.T.D. (New Hope, KY: New Hope Publications, 2000).



Holy Hour 2012 – Young Greeters with their Mom



Ice Cream Social Volunteers 2013



Thank You, Serra Club of Milwaukee!

On September 8, 2020, the Feast of the Birth of Mary, we received a call from the President of the Milwaukee Serra Club, Mr. Jack Ewig, with the joyful news that the Serrans would be covering the Center's rent for the next year. We are very honored and profoundly grateful to the Club for their great generosity during this pandemic year that necessitated the cancellation of their big fundraiser, the Archdiocesan-wide Catholic Schools 8th Grade Padre Serra Basketball Tournament just as it was getting started in March. In 2020 Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center is the only entity whose request for funding was fully met. We remember all Milwaukee Serrans living and deceased in our grateful prayers.



Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI Wine and Cheese Reception 2010 and 2011



Wine and Cheese Reception 2011



Newsletter Mailing Volunteer Team 2017

Masses for Your Intentions in 2021

In gratitude for your support, Holy Mass will be offered in 2021 at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary for all of our benefactors, directees and volunteers on the following Marian feasts:

- February 11, 2021 Our Lady of Lourdes
- May 31, 2021 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- September 8, 2021 The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 8, 2021 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Ice Cream Social 2014



Gift to the Center 2013

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on Saint Joseph

The following reflection is taken from the conclusion of the Angelus address to pilgrims at Saint Peter’s Square by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on March 19, 2006, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From the example of Saint Joseph, we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us. I think especially of fathers and mothers of families, and I pray that they will always be able to appreciate the beauty of a simple and industrious life, cultivating the conjugal relationship with care and fulfilling with enthusiasm the great and difficult educational mission.

To priests, who exercise a paternal role over Ecclesial Communities, may Saint Joseph help them love the Church with affection and complete dedication, and may he support consecrated persons in their joyous and faithful observance of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. May he protect workers throughout the world so that they contribute with their different professions to the progress of the whole of humanity, and may he help every Christian to fulfill God's will with confidence and love, thereby cooperating in the fulfillment of the work of salvation.



Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop 2013



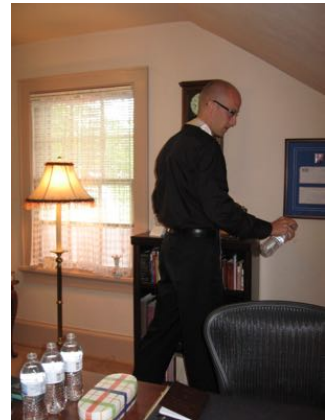
Second Grade Rosary Workshop 2015

Behind the Scenes

From the time of our Incorporation in July 2010, and for the next four years, Attorney Beth E. Hanan (now the Honorable Beth E. Hanan) served as the first Secretary and Treasurer of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center. In 2013, while still working as a lawyer in downtown Milwaukee, she graciously asked a respected colleague, Mr. Daniel Glomski, CPA, MST if he would be willing to be the Center’s accountant. It has been our great blessing ever since that he said yes.

Dan is currently a Principal with SVA Certified Public Accountants, S.C. in Brookfield, and a member of their Business Advisory Services group. He has multiple areas of expertise including: Business Valuation, Exit and Succession Planning, Mergers and Acquisitions, and Tax Planning and Analysis.

For the past seven years Dan has offered his professional services to the Center free of charge--preparing our monthly financials and completing and filing our federal and state tax forms. Dan’s dedication to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center has always been marked with humility, accessibility and kindness. We are profoundly grateful for his very generous ongoing gifts of time and talent.



Blessing of the Center 2015



Holy Hour Greeters 2014

🌿 As Always... 🌿

This newsletter is made possible through the generosity and skills of Miss Nicolette Bardele.

We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to ***Our Lady of Grace*** and mailed to:

**Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center
c/o Josh Gentine
1912 NW 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106**