



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS
July 2014

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From the desk of Mary...

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

It's hard to believe that on July 6th we begin our 5th year of sacred outreach to the Church. As you read on you will see that the Center is growing beautifully in so many ways thanks to your prayers, sacrifices and financial support.

In May we launched the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop, which was enthusiastically received by the principal, staff and students at Christ King School. And looking ahead to **Sunday, August 17th**, we are excited to host our third annual Holy Hour and Ice Cream Social in gratitude for graces received at the Center through Our Lady's intercession over the past year. We've enclosed an invitation with this newsletter. We will again be joined by the gifted young members of the choral and instrumental ensemble, *Musica Oramus*. Please plan to join us for this wonderful event, and be sure to bring your family and friends along. All are welcome!

We offer a special thank you to Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI who in January gifted the Center with a first class relic of the seventeenth century saint, Louise de Marillac, a contemporary (and spiritual directee) of St. Vincent de Paul. We hope you'll stop by to see it.

As always, we thank you most sincerely for your generous contributions to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center. Know that we remember you in prayer daily. We couldn't do it without you!

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, August 17th. Until then, have a wonderful summer!



Children busy at work in Mrs. Kleier's K-5 class

In Her Own Words

Our Lady of Grace volunteer, Mrs. Nicole Sayas, did an outstanding job designing and launching the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop that she presented in May to the K-5 students at Christ King School. Printed below is the complete text of an e-mail from one of the kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Lynn Lesko.



Mrs. Sayas with her two sons who were eager to help out

"I'm the one to be thanking you. You went above and beyond with the workshop. I was very impressed!

After you left we reflected as a class on the experience. The biggest take-away the boys and girls had was that the rosary is used to pray about Jesus' journey and that Mary goes along with them on the journey. The glow in the dark/Our Father beads also made a big impression. They felt that the bead should remind them to make their guardian angel's light shine by performing good deeds and saying "yes" to God....like Mary did. They also made a point of saying the rosary IS NOT a necklace and should be treated with great respect.

I communicate via email with my parents and I already sent them a message regarding the children's rosary and the respectful handling of each rosary. I got several positive responses from the parents telling me how excited their child was to share their rosary with the family. They also appreciated the coloring book (I did too) as it helped them continue the discussion at home.

While I loved having you come to my class I couldn't help but think that our 2nd graders would be the perfect age/audience for your workshop. Their base knowledge is so much more than my little ones and they would be able to understand a more comprehensive lesson about the rosary.



Mrs. Lesko assisting children

Once again, thank you and God bless!"



St. Louise de Marillac: Spiritual Directee of St. Vincent de Paul

With deep gratitude that the Center has received a first class relic of St. Louise de Marillac as a gift from Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, we share a bit of her story.

Louise was born in France in 1591. She experienced many losses in her family life including the death of her husband, but ultimately, as a widow, was to found the Daughters of Charity. This service to the poor was inspired in part by her confessor, Fr. Vincent, later known as St. Vincent de Paul. One author describes St. Louise as “a highly intelligent, decisive woman, an intellectual with a practical sense and remarkable organizational ability, capable of conceiving and actualizing vast enterprises in their most minute detail.”¹

St. Vincent worked to discern what type of spiritual guidance had benefitted Louise prior to meeting him, and what had reinforced weaknesses in her character. As the letters of St. Vincent note, “peaceful abandonment was not in her character.”² In one letter to Louise, St. Vincent cautioned against trying to do too much: “The spirit of God urges one gently to do the good that can be done reasonably, so that it may be done perseveringly and for a long time.”³ St. Vincent also tried to help Louise become more spontaneous, and more open to the infused gifts of the Holy Spirit.⁴

In time, her emphasis on the interior life became the driving force for her decades of action in service of the poor.⁵ Louise, with the support of St. Vincent, worked with the poor of France in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions for thirty-six years, aware that by serving the poor she served Christ.

As Sean Cardinal O’Malley said recently, “The Saints model for us the struggle to overcome human weakness and sinfulness and embrace God’s will in our lives.”⁶ Louise was canonized in 1934, and in 1960 she was declared patroness of social workers. Please pray to St. Louise to intercede for the souls of all those whom the Center endeavors to help.

¹The Spirituality of Louise de Marillac: Formed by the Spirit for Charity, Louise Sullivan, D.C., 12 Vincentian Heritage Jnl. 2, 140-41 (1991).

²Id., at 144.

³Id., at 146, citing Vincent de Paul to Louise de Marillac, 7 December 1630, letter 58, SVP, 1:92.

⁴Id., at 153.

⁵Id., at 145.

⁶ <http://ncronline.org/print/blogs/distinctly-catholic/omalley-natl-cath-prayerbreakfast>

Thank You, Fr. John Burns!

Words can not adequately express all of the blessings that have flowed into the Center through Fr. John Burns’ priestly ministry over the past three years while Associate Pastor of Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. He was extraordinarily generous in sharing his time, talent and treasure with Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center.

Father John supported us in every way possible including multiple referrals for spiritual direction and vocational discernment. Over and over again he made himself available for Confessions, for the Anointing of the Sick, and for prayers for interior healing whenever called upon by our directees from far and near. He was also an invaluable resource in the area of Moral Theology.

May Our Lord shower him with His choicest blessings as he assumes his new responsibilities as Parish Administrator at St. Mary’s Parish in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

Our prayers, our love and our profound gratitude go with you to your new assignment. We will never forget you, Fr. John.



The Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Part II

“The fruits of the Holy Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory.” (CCC §1832) In a previous issue we covered the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 (CCC §736). The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) further teaches (§1832) that in the tradition of the Church there are a total of twelve.

Can you name all twelve (12) Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. __ a _ i __ | 7. g _ _ _ _ _ y |
| 2. _ o _ | 8. g _ t _ _ _ s |
| 3. __ a __ | 9. f _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4. p _ i _ _ e | 10. m _ _ _ y |
| 5. _ i _ _ _ _ | 11. s _ _ - c _ _ _ l |
| 6. _ o o _ _ _ | 12. c h _ s _ _ |

10. modesty	11. self-control	3. peace
7. generosity	8. gentleness	2. joy
4. patience	5. kindness	6. goodness
1. charity	9. faithfulness	12. chastity

Answers:

Cheer, Cheer for Old Notre Dame



A huge thank you to University of Notre Dame junior, Nicolette Bardele, for doing the layout of this newsletter. This is the second summer Nicolette has shared her time and talent with the Center. We so appreciate your kind and generous spirit, and great work. Have a safe and happy month in New York!

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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.**