



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

December 2014

2604 N. Swan Blvd. Wauwatosa WI 53226 414-258-2604 x27 Vol. 5 Issue 1

From the desk of Mary...



Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

I begin by sharing with you the joyful news of the profession of private vows of poverty, chastity and obedience by Miss Samantha Vosters on November 23, 2014 following a period of vocational discernment at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center. With her permission, a photograph of this very special occasion appears below. Congratulations, Sam! Sam currently serves the poor at the River-west Food Pantry.



*Miss Samantha Vosters at the altar
St. Casimir Church, Milwaukee*

Courtesy of Christine Plamann Photography

In early July we were honored with the gift of a first class relic of 20th century St. Maria Goretti from Creighton University. Mrs. Deb Schiel, one of our dedicated volunteers, was instrumental in securing this gift. We are so grateful to Deb for her efforts. This brings the total number of first class relics for veneration at the Center to three. The other two are Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta and St. Louise de Marillac. If you wish to see the relics, please call the Center at (414)258-2604, x27 to let us know you'd like to visit. You are most welcome!

In August we had our 3rd annual **Holy Hour and Ice Cream Social** in honor of the Queenship of Mary, and in gratitude for favors received at the Center through her intercession over the past year. It was a wonderful afternoon with approximately 140 people attending. Please mark your calendars now and **hold the date** for 2015. It will take

place at **3:00pm on Sunday, August 16, 2015** at Christ King Church in Wauwatosa. Musicâ Oramus, under the direction of Mrs. Julie Cucunato, will again provide exquisite sacred music. Be sure to bring along your family and friends. We hope you will come each year and make this beautiful afternoon an annual tradition.

As I write I, am keenly aware of a number of recent referrals that reflect the extent of our outreach and collaboration with the Archbishop and Chancery, Vocation Director, pastors, and, when necessary, area psychologists and social workers. We are honored and humbled by the sacred trust that these referrals represent. Some of the people we serve travel to the Center on a regular basis from as far away as Madison and Green Bay. We ask that you please continue to keep the work and mission of the Center in your prayers.

And finally, on behalf of all of us at the Center, I thank you again most sincerely for your generous support in 2014, and wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



A Saint at the Age of Eleven

On June 24, 1950, Mrs. Assunta Goretti received one of the rarest blessings of any mother in the history of Catholicism. With hundreds of thousands of people present, she was afforded the great privilege of living to see her daughter, Maria, proclaimed a saint by Pope Pius XII at St. Peter's Basilica. Even more stunning, seated next to Mrs. Goretti was Maria's repentant murderer, Alesandro Serenelli. Following Maria's example who forgave Alesandro while in excruciating pain from his multiple stabbings, Mrs. Goretti likewise forgave him on behalf of the family in the hall of the tribunal where his trial for murder and attempted rape was held. He was sentenced to thirty years in prison.

Born in Italy into extreme poverty, American biographer C.E. Maguire wrote in his book, *Saint Maria Goretti, Martyr of Purity*, "The child was pious in a mature, balanced, sensible, loving way—not in a sentimental or soft or scrupulous way. From her early childhood, she faced hardship. She had before her the example of affectionate Christian parents, devoted to each other and to their children, and faithful to their religious responsibilities. When her time of temptation came, she resisted it absolutely, and with a superhuman fortitude which only grace could sustain.

Yet she was so human and so aware of others that she could see in the terrible incident more Alessandro's danger than her own. Her cry, 'You'll go to Hell!' was a warning, not a threat, as we must see in her [deathbed] pardon of her assassin, which was free and unforced despite the atrocious suffering she was

still enduring because of him. She was, even not yet twelve, a valiant woman.”¹ Alessandro was twenty.

Just before his death in 1970 at the age of 88, Alessandro was asked what his advice to youth would be. He responded, “I sincerely ask pardon of God and of the entire world for the crime which I committed against the martyr, Maria Goretti, and against purity. With all my heart I plead with you to avoid all immoral literature and shows, and whatever else will lead you into sins of impurity.”²

Near the picture of his victim he would often say, “I killed a saint, and now after 69 years of penance and prayer, by God’s mercy I am going to join her in heaven.”³ Alessandro attributed his repentance to her heavenly intercession. Following his release from prison, he worked for twenty four years as a gardener in a Capuchin Monastery.

We are honored that, in God’s providence, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center was incorporated on July 6, 2010, the Feast of St. Maria Goretti. As our special patroness, we count on her intercession in our work. St. Maria Goretti, pray for us.

1 www.mariagoretti.org/likoudisarticle3.htm
2 ibid.
3 ibid.



Three of our guests at the Ice Cream Social

We need your support.

Your contributions help the Center provide Spiritual Direction to people who cannot afford to pay for it.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Kindly remember Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center in your 2014 end of year giving.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

If you wish, you may designate your financial contribution in honor of your friend or in memory of your godparent. Honorariums and memorials will be listed in the next newsletter.

*We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. The Center is a 501(c)(3) not for profit. All donations are tax deductible and payable to: **Our Lady of Grace.***

A Call for Prayers

Fr. Luke Strand, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, has wholeheartedly supported Our Lady of Grace since our incorporation. We are so very grateful to him. It is a joy to collaborate with him in ministry. In your charity, please keep this faithful young priest in your prayers in his battle with colon cancer. Father Luke, we love you and we pray for a complete healing through the intercession of St. John Paul II.

Board Memberships Gratitude and Welcome

We sincerely thank Mrs. Beth Ermatinger Hanan for her dedicated service on the Board of Directors as our first Secretary Treasurer. We will miss her gracious presence on the Board. We are so grateful for her rich sharing of time, talent and treasure over the past four years. We further congratulate you, Beth, on being named the Wisconsin Appellate Trial Attorney of the Year in 2014! All the best to you always.

We warmly welcome Mrs. Patti Hughes of Wauwatosa as our new Secretary Treasurer. Patti has served in a variety of leadership roles at Christ King. She comes with years of teaching experience in the nursing field and a clinical specialty in pediatric intensive care. We are delighted to have Patti with us.

Masses for Your Intentions 2015

In gratitude for your support, Holy Mass will be offered in 2015 by Jesuit Father Wally Stohrer for the intentions of our directees, friends, benefactors and volunteers on the following Marian feasts:

February 11th	Our Lady of Lourdes
May 31st	The Visitation of Mary
September 8th	The Birth of Mary
December 8th	The Immaculate Conception

Our Friends in Heaven

In addition to St. Maria Goretti, the Church holds up many teenaged and young adult saints for veneration and support on our earthly pilgrimage as we strive to grow in holiness. How many of the following young saints do you recognize?

1. Saint ___ e s (martyred in Rome in 304AD, age 13)
2. Saint ___ r ___ of ___ A ___ e (died in Chile in 1920, age 19)
3. Saint K ___ i T ___ k ___ kw ___ a (died in Canada in 1680, age 24)
4. Saint J ___ _ f ___ r (martyred in France in 1431, age 19)
5. Saint A ___ o ___ G ___ (died in Rome in 1591, age 23)

Answers:
1. St. Agnes, 2. St. Teresa of the Andes, 3. St. Aloysius Gonzaga, 4. St. Joan of Arc, 5. St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

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