



# Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Winter 2019/2020

*Dear Family and Friends,*



Throughout the Christmas Season images abound of Mother and Child, that fill our minds and hearts with wonder and joy, comfort and gratitude. The Church has taught for centuries the role of our Blessed Mother as Model of Christian discipleship and Model of the Church. For many of us, however, we see Her more simply as Mother and Teacher of Jesus and all of humanity. Multiple artists depict Mary teaching the Child Jesus taking His first steps, memorizing the Psalms, teaching Him His first words, even as He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52). Repeatedly, we see the Child Jesus in Mary's lap, often crowned, sitting as though on a throne giving meaning to the Marian title, Seat of Wisdom. As Mother and Teacher, Mary cooperates in the birth and development of divine life in the souls of the redeemed. Like the Church she mirrors, she is "the Mother and Teacher of all nations. Her light illumines, enkindles and enflames. No age but hears her warning voice, vibrant with heavenly wisdom" (Mater et Magistra, Pope John XXIII).



Our Blessed Mother holds out for us the Christ Child, to love, cherish and adore, teaching us to "Do whatever He tells us." Called the living "mold of God" by St. Augustine, in her alone was God made true man, without losing any of his divinity. In God's plan, it is also true that in her alone, man is formed into God, insofar as that is possible for human nature by the grace of Jesus Christ (Secret of Mary, St. Louis De Montfort). She is the perfect mold if we only cast ourselves in Mary and be molded into Christ by the Holy Spirit. By entrusting ourselves to Mary, she always leads us to Jesus. "Would you like to hold Him?", she asks the Wise Men who came to see Him. Only the Mother's loving assurance could give one the courage to hold the Only-Begotten Son of God. The Wise Men and shepherds know, as do we, that all who go to Mary hear the words: "Would you like to hold Him, too? He came just for you."

May your Christmas blessing be found in the joy of receiving the Baby Jesus from the hands of Our Blessed Mother, full of confidence that in drawing closer to Mary, we are drawn ever closer to her Son. Would you like to hold him, too?

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Merry Christmas!

*Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM*

Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM  
General Superior

# *To Our Lady*



*Lovely Lady dressed in blue --  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy  
Tell me what to say!*

*Did you lift Him up, sometimes,  
Gently, on your knee?  
Did you sing to Him the way  
Mother does to me?*

*Did you hold His hand at night?  
Did you ever try  
Telling stories of the world?  
O! And did He cry?*

*Do you really think He cares  
If I tell Him things --  
Little things that happen?  
And Do the Angels' wings*

*Make a noise? And can He hear  
Me if I speak low?  
Does He understand me now?  
Tell me -- for you know?*

*Lovely Lady dressed in blue,  
Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little Boy.  
And you know the way.*

# Jubilee Year of St. Margaret Mary and Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Apostolic Penitentiary of the Vatican has proclaimed a Jubilee Year recognizing the one hundredth anniversary of the canonization of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. With this proclamation we are given an extraordinary reminder of the importance of Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary in the 17th century and revealed His Sacred Heart and the unrequited love He has for mankind. In His third apparition to her He said,

*"Behold this Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to testify its love. In return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrileges, and by the coldness and contempt they have for me in this sacrament of love.... I come into the heart I have given you in order that through your fervor you may atone for the offenses which I have received from lukewarm and slothful hearts that dishonor me in the Blessed Sacrament."*

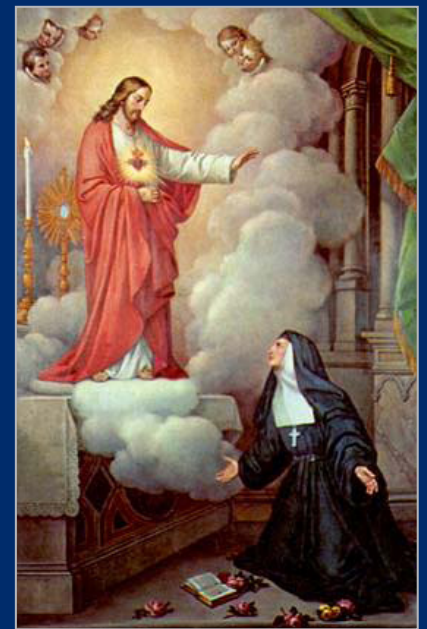
To make reparation for this ingratitude and indifference, Jesus asked His faithful friends to make reparation of the First Fridays of the month.

*"I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that its all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on nine first Fridays of consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they will not die under my displeasure or without receiving their sacraments, my divine Heart making itself their assured refuge at the last moment."*

This powerful devotion is simple: go to Mass and receive Holy Communion on the first Fridays of nine consecutive months in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He doesn't ask much but promises so much!

The promises from Our Lord for those who practice of the Nine First Fridays are very motivating. He asks little and offers so much! He promises:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will comfort them in their trials.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and, above all, in death.
5. I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings
6. Sinners will find in My Heart an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls will become fervent.
8. Fervent souls will rapidly grow in holiness and perfection.
9. I will bless every place where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. The names of those who promote this devotion will be written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



*In the Sacred  
Heart every  
treasure of wisdom  
and knowledge is  
hidden. In that  
Divine Heart  
beats God's infinite  
love for everyone,  
for each one of us  
individually.*

*— St. John Paul II*

*(Pope St. John Paul II,  
Redemptoris Custos, 20)*

# The Immaculate Conception: Teacher and Model



We should rejoice  
in this solemnity  
[of the Immaculate  
Conception]  
realizing that all the  
blessings that the  
Church and the world  
have received  
have ultimately come  
from Our Lady's  
Immaculate  
Conception.

(Pope St. John Paul II,  
Redemptoris Custos, 20)

In the ecclesial inquiry regarding the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette, she was asked why the Holy Virgin chose to appear to and communicate with her. Bernadette simply responded: "I don't know. Perhaps if she could have found another poorer and more ignorant, the Lady would have come to her."

In 19th century France, born from the surge of Rationalism which spurred the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror, reason reigned supreme. The Church was looked upon with suspicion and references to the supernatural were ridiculed, very much like today.

Mary came to the poorest, most ignorant, sickly, 14-year-old girl in 1858 to remind us that we cannot find the answer to the questions of this life and the next in reason or science. The ultimate answer to life's questions, that which gives meaning to this life and its difficulties, inadequacies and sorrows, and even to its joys, satisfactions and accomplishments is the One who gave us life, who gives us the means, that it, the Way, to life everlasting.

In the fullness of time, God sent His Son born of a woman (Gal 4:4) to bring salvation, to bring light into darkness, to re-create fallen mankind with the life of grace. The New Adam was formed from the pure, virginal soil of the Paradise in which there was no serpent (St. John Damascene, 675 - 749 ad), the womb of the Immaculate Virgin, the heart and soul which from the first moment of its existence was preserved from all sin. Together the New Adam and the New Eve from which He came would crush definitively the head of satan.

Mary always has and always will lead us to the Truth. Regardless of worldly philosophies, rampant errors and unimaginable evils, we will be able to find the truth if we follow the way of Our Lady. This message was given crystal clarity when the Lady finally gave her name in answer to the repeated question of St. Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Only four years previously, the Church had formally defined this long held, though thoroughly debated, truth of Our Lady, that she was full of grace, the holiest of all creatures. By the future merits of her Son, she was, from the moment of her existence in the womb of her mother, sinless, bearing not even the shadow of darkness in her soul.

God the Father's preparation for the coming of His Son as man reached its climax and perfection in the Immaculate Conception. The door of our salvation, the long-awaited light announcing the rising of the sun, the thorn-less rose, Mary directs only and always to Jesus, our Hope, our Love, our Salvation.

Repetition is a good teacher: Jesus' first message echoed John the Baptist's cry preparing His way is centuries later caught up by Mary in Lourdes and repeated with increased intensity and urgency at Fatima: repent, do penance, pray for sinners. The Immaculate Conception, intellect unclouded and will unweakened by sin, shows us the fruit of this message, a message for all the world to hear. Her heart is pierced again and again as her Son's message and the salvation He won for us is ignored and rebuffed. Good and evil cannot co-exist peacefully. She is still teaching; will we continue to let her message -- the saving message of her Son -- go unheeded and rejected? What the world needs now more than ever is saints; evil is overcome by goodness. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, shows us the power and the impact that sanctity, holiness, and goodness can have.



Top: The First Professed stop for the view and a photo on the way to the top of Pike's Peak.



Bottom: The Community gathered for a photo on their Motherhouse property.



# Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



**Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM**  
Church of the Blessed Sacrament  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Marie Bernadette Mertens, IHM**  
St. Joseph  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Cecilia Marie Hammersley, IHM**  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Mary Ann Kirkland, IHM**  
Church of the Magdalen  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Joseph Mary O'Brien, IHM**  
St. Francis Cabrini  
Hoxie, Kansas



**Sister Veronica Marie Miller, IHM**  
St. Peter the Apostle  
Ninotchik, Alaska



**Sister Mary Elizabeth Boede, IHM**  
St. Margaret Mary  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Marie Terese Calleá, IHM**  
St. Bernadette  
Rockford, Illinois



**Sister Mary Faustina Bean, IHM**  
St. Patrick  
Kingman, Kansas



**Sister Mary Guadalupe Bergkamp, IHM**  
St. Joseph, Ost  
Mount Hope, Kansas



**Sister Rose Marie Weber, IHM**  
St. Francis Cabrini  
Hoxie, Kansas



**Sister Mary Lucia Stuhlsatz, IHM**  
St. Mary Aleppo  
Garden Plain, Kansas



**Sister Maria Kolbe Schaeffer, IHM**  
Old St. Joseph  
De Pere, Wisconsin



**Sister Mary Francesca Winters, IHM**  
Sacred Heart  
Plainville, Kansas



**Sister Jullian Marie Swantek, IHM**  
St. Rose of Lima Parish  
Genoa, Nebraska

# Immaculate Heart of Mary



**Sister Mary Clare Johnson, IHM**  
St. Louis de Montfort Parish  
Santa Maria, California



**Sister Mary Margaret Miller, IHM**  
St. Anne  
Somerset, Wisconsin



**Sister Mary Agnes Wasinger, IHM**  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Mary Catherine Blanding, IHM**  
St. Bruno  
Whittier, California



**Sister Maria Jacinta Weide, IHM**  
Sacred Heart  
Arkansas City, Kansas



**Sister Mary Grace Lorg, IHM**  
St. Joseph Parish, Ost  
Mount Hope, Kansas



**Sister Mary Dolores Brown, IHM**  
St. Thomas More Newman Center  
Columbus, Ohio



**Sister John Marie Zwenger, IHM**  
Various Air Force Bases  
International



**Sister Mary Monica Augustine, IHM**  
Sacred Heart  
Colby, Kansas



**Sister Mary Jane Frances Jackle, IHM**  
Church of the Magdalen  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Cora Marie Goenner, IHM**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Wichita, Kansas



**Sister Mary Teresa Laville, IHM**  
Church of the Ascension  
Overland Park, Kansas



**Sister Maria Cabrini Sponsel, IHM**  
St. Peter the Apostle  
Schulte, Kansas



**Katie Maas**  
Annunciation  
Frankfort, Kansas



TOP: Our novices and postulant send their cheerful, prayerful greetings.

BOTTOM: The Perpetually Professed Sisters: 21 and counting!

# Pass it On

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

By using a few devotions to Our Lady, and balancing childhood experiences, Pat and Dick Dwyer happened upon a concrete way to pass along the Catholic Faith and the joy of being devout Catholics to their children. Perhaps you will be inspired during this holiday season to emulate their creative approach to devotion and Catholic parenthood.

Dick Dwyer, a faithful friend of Our Lady, prays the rosary every day. When each of his six children reached the age to make their First Holy Communion, he asked them to pick out the beads and he would then handcraft a one-of-a-kind rosary for each child. This Dwyer rite of passage represents an original way to pass along a parent's devotion, lovingly entrusting one's child to Our Lady on the special day of their First Communion.



This is not to say Dick is a “one rosary bead dad” by any means. He’s a devoted husband, father, teacher, a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club ... an accountant who, understandably, views life a little like a balance sheet. So, when he shared the tradition of making a rosary for each of his children, his face lit up as he described how he knew his children would always keep the rosary their dad made for them ... would always have that “credit” on their balance sheet.

Pat, Dick’s wife and another faithful friend of Our Lady, offers a daily Marian Consecration for each of her children using a prayer card that she received as a young girl. As they grew up, her children would have also witnessed Pat organizing a gathering of women to pray the rosary on each Marian feast day, enjoying coffee, a light brunch and the gift of friendship in the process.

You don’t really have to be a theologian to discover the joy of passing on the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church and devotion to Our Lady to your children ... just ask the Dwyers. You simply need to act on your faith, act on your instincts, lead by example. Don’t wait for your children and grandchildren to come to you. Be proactive, not reactive. Develop your own prayers and traditions and pass them on.

If you feel like it’s too late, it’s never, ever too late with God, particularly when it comes to Marian devotions like praying the Rosary each day, and most especially when it comes to the importance of family. As impactful as it is for parents to influence their children when they are young, imagine the impact of an older father reaching out to his own daughter when she has her own young children ... reaching out with prayers and devotions just for her. It can be a most beautiful thing!

Fathers, whether you realize it or not, when you outwardly display your Catholic faith, as Dick Dwyer has done with his 6 children, it has a strong, powerful influence on your children. All fathers, irrespective of your age, can make rosaries as gifts to your children anytime. You can weave your own traditions and share your own devotional stories with your children, and as hard as it may be to find the time for everyone to be together, to pray the rosary with your children at every opportunity. Or, it can be as simple as taking the lead to say grace before every meal, particularly in public restaurant settings. But do something. You will never regret it. It will make you feel the love of God ever more strongly.

Take a page out of Dick and Pat Dwyer’s playbook, and pass it on to all members of your family. Whatever you do, pray the Rosary each and every day.

# Remember the Church



## JESUS, THE GREATEST GIFT

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

For many of us, it is only when we are far away from home that we reflect on what we miss in our life. That reflection grows even stronger in the days when you are preparing to return home, reflecting on the people in your life who have buoyed you, or lifted your heart, or helped you carry a burden... those who have been a part of your life, your story.

You, dear reader, have been an exciting part of a very important story, that of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita. You are their students, former students, priests, fellow religious, friends and, of course, family.

In my reflections, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are one of the greatest treasures we have in the Catholic church. They have modeled their lives after Mary, the Mother of God. They instruct our children in the faith, engaging and bringing the Truth of the Catholic Church, so that our young can know the Truth and encounter Jesus. It is through their beautiful teaching apostolate and in their witness of Jesus through Mary that they are inspired to do this. Our Lady gave her life to God, and in the giving of her most pure heart, she became the Mother of God. She gave us the perfect gift ... her son, Jesus. In a

very real way, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are just like Mary ... they bring us Jesus in their witness and in their teaching as they live religious life, labors of love and hope and beautiful promise.

I am so proud to be a Catholic. What an incredible privilege! The greatest gift ever given to anyone was the Incarnation of Jesus. We belong to the Church Christ Himself founded. We are the heartbeat, the stewards, the members of the body, and we are the very tangible way the world sees the Catholic Church. As stewards, we have a great opportunity to be witnesses to the Church in our giving, whether it be time, talent or treasure. There are two sides to giving: one belongs to the mind and one belongs to the heart. The mind cares about affirming one's own beliefs, or fulfilling one's needs, while the heart bestows gifts according to its own affections. We primarily give in the spirit of giving from the heart, from our joy, from our love. When you ask yourself where you can give a gift that will reverberate with joy in your heart, please think of our Sisters, and support their witness to the Truth ... to their continued growth in vocations ... to support their needs.

Throughout the centuries, Catholics have been known by their works ... many times for their "radical" works. The world is a better place because of the Catholic Church. The lives of the saints throughout these centuries are always with us ... to inspire us. Saint Francis de Sales was radical in the way he evangelized; Saint Teresa of Avila was radical and beautiful in teaching us about the "interior castles"; Saint Therese of Lisieux was radical in her "little way"; in the modern age, known for her charity, Saint Teresa of Calcutta was totally radical...but most beautiful. Saint John Bosco educated the poor the children of the streets...at the time...radical! These saints and their "radical ways" were their expression of love---willing the good of another.

My point? BE RADICAL in your giving! Consider:

Give to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita to help them teach and "ground" our children,

# Remember the Church

and us, as parents and grandparents, in the true and faithful teachings of the Catholic Faith. To support their growth, which has been unprecedented since the building of their Novitiate House of Formation ... give to help them keep up with the financial costs of this growth, to help them to receive more and more vocations in the years to come ... to help them have a teaching Sister in every Catholic school in the state of Kansas.

What are their needs, what are some of the ways you can help them?

- By providing scholarships for the Sisters' educational expenses. Education is the single largest expense of the Sisters. There are two components to this expense – one is the cost for each Sister to become certified by the state of Kansas; the other is the cost of getting each Sister a master's degree in Theology. Both components require tuition, travel, lodging, and living expenses, just as it would for any college student, just as it does for our seminarians studying to become priests.
- By giving monthly through ACH
- By giving a gift of real estate
- By giving through your estate and/or financial planning ... naming the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita as a beneficiary of your

Will, IRA, pension or other retirement account

- If you have a donor advised fund, consider writing the custodian of those funds to request a provision for distributions to the Sisters
- By giving the Sisters a gift of appreciated stock or property

A community of religious Sisters was founded by a holy and beautiful priest, Father Joaquin Masmitja, over 170 years ago in response to his concern about family values, a priest who wanted to do something to pass the Catholic faith to the young, who wanted to help families live, share and witness the faith ... a community of faithful religious women devoted to Mary teaching and living those values. Those Sisters were then, and are now, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This story of Father Masmitja and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and their work has no less of an advocate than Saint John Paul II. When visiting the United States in 1999, he said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation".

Please consider a gift to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Reflect on your life story, reflect on the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, follow your heart in the spirit of giving and please know that every single gift, no matter the size or type, plays an important part in providing for the Sisters. BE RADICAL!



*Thank you so very much!  
Please keep praying!*



SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

**3550 N 167TH STREET W  
COLWICH, KS 67030**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please contact us with your  
address changes: (316) 722-9316 or  
rejoice@sistersihmofwichita.org

See our website:  
[www.sistersihmofwichita.org](http://www.sistersihmofwichita.org)

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 544  
WICHITA, KS

*May the angels lead them into paradise.*

*Memorials have been established for*

*Ryan Finn  
Jeff Gilmore  
RJ Peck  
Sam Peck*

*Gifts have been given in memory of*

<i>Jim Benham</i>	<i>Ryan Finn</i>
<i>Mary Burton</i>	<i>Maxine Heimerman</i>
<i>Erma Coffey</i>	<i>James Laville</i>
<i>Marilyn Eck</i>	<i>Joseph Martin</i>
<i>Vernon Eck</i>	<i>Evelyn Sienko</i>
<i>Marian D. Fine</i>	

