

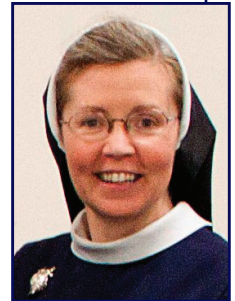


Rejoice!

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Newsletter

Summer 2020

Dear Family and Friends,
Is Jesus teaching us a lesson?



Some of us may be tempted to ask that question in light of the recent crisis which has caused an upheaval in so much of our lives. Can anything good come out of such chaos? The answer is Yes! The good that comes from chaos is order, and no one can deny that our lives need reordering. God, "in the beginning" put order into the chaos of creation, a formless wasteland where the mighty winds swept over the waters. This is what God does ... from the beginning. God's plan for the whole created cosmos is an ordering of every created being to its proper end or goal. We are all made for God, ordered to God, and by living according to God's plan we flourish and are happy precisely because we are living according to God's masterful design. Living in chaos or disorder takes its toll on us. Perhaps we even got used to living disorderly lives, **until now.**

Is Jesus teaching us a lesson on human nature and his plan for man's happiness by showing us the essential components of man's life ordered to God? In other words, is Jesus reminding us that our purpose in life is to know, love and serve God, to live according to our nature, to live our vocation with purpose and trust in God, to deny ourselves, take up our Cross and follow Him, to do everything for God's greater honor and glory, and to know the joy and peace that comes from living our life according to God's plan for man? The last few months have been difficult, even harrowing but who better to teach us the lesson of essential and nonessential, than Our Lord, who knows man better than we know ourselves.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Mother Mary Magdalene, IHM
Mother Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM
General Superior

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

4,412,086 *Memorares for Our Lady to Date*

Prayer, Work, ... and Study!

What do the summer months hold for the IHM Sisters?

More time for prayer, more time for work and more opportunities for study!

Each summer the Sisters are blessed to be able to make at least a five-day silent preached or directed retreat. We try to arrange two different times of retreat so that the Sisters making the retreat can spend their time in prayer and recollection, not cooking meals, answering the phone and weeding the gardens. Half of the Sisters make the retreat, the other half keeps things running around the house. The arrangement works nicely.

There are also more opportunities for manual labor, which is really appreciated after the arduous mental work of closing a school year and making remote preparations for the next year. Gardening, beekeeping, and, since everyone is home, meal preparation -- to name just a few -- are all intensified in the summer

On-going study, higher education and the opportunity to receive, rather than impart, knowledge is also a highly regarded engagement during the summer. Our Constitutions direct us, "It is thus the Sisters' mission to teach: to be a voice for the Church in spreading the true message of Christ ... To be faithful to this duty, the Sisters devote their lives to study of the Church's teaching, always pondering the mysteries of Faith in the light of prayer," and again, "By prayer and study each Sister seeks to deepen and enrich her power to bear witness to the truths of the Catholic Faith ..." It is a great privilege to be able to devote part of our summer months to this important task of study.

For several years now we have been sending a group of Sisters to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary for MA in Theology. This summer, unable to have their classes in person, Sister Mary Monica, Sister Mary Guadalupe, Sister Mary Lucia, Sister Mary Grace and Sister Mary Faustina will be attending these classes on-line. Sister Mary Monica is just beginning the program and says, "I have been very excited to dive into theology at a deeper level, not only to enhance my classroom teaching skills but also to deepen my love for Our Lord and Holy Mother Church."

Continuing the program Sister Mary Guadalupe will be in her second summer of classes. She said that last summer the class "Theology of Christ" would often cause her to walk out of the classroom in awe and gratitude (and an occasional headache from trying to grasp it all!) for what the Lord has done for her and for everyone else who has every existed. Sister Mary



This summer's Sister students: Sister Mary Teresa (back left) and Sister Maria Kolbe (kneeling front) are continuing their undergraduate studies this summer. Sister Mary Teresa will be taking three courses to finish her course work in Elementary Education as she prepares for student teaching next school year. Sister Maria Kolbe will be taking Trigonometry to prepare for a physics class. Sister Mary Grace, Sister Mary Guadalupe, Sister Mary Monica (St. Charles Borromeo Seminary), Sister Rose Marie (Augustine Institute), Sister Mary Faustina and Sister Mary Lucia (St. Charles Borromeo Seminary), and Sister Mary Agnes (Dominican House of Studies)

Grace, nearing the completion of her course work, not surprisingly said that her favorite course thus far has been the Theology of Grace. Sister Mary Faustina will be finishing up her Theology degree this summer after interrupting it to get an MA in Philosophical Studies.

This summer will be the first for us with the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. Sister Mary Agnes, having completed her MA from St. Charles Borromeo last summer, will begin one in Thomistic Studies this summer.

Having begun her studies with the Augustine Institute last year, Sister Rose Marie will be continuing her studies this summer with Modern Church History. Most of her classes are online with the opportunity to attend some in person. Sister Mary Elizabeth recently completed her online MS program with Divine Mercy University in Psychology. She remarked, "My time with Divine Mercy University has helped me to have a better understanding of the human person. The strong emphasis in the Catholic faith was refreshing; I was able to see how to incorporate the faith into sound psychology."

St. Thomas Aquinas once commented that all knowledge that does not lead to love is vain. The goal is never to just increase our knowledge, the goal is to grow in love of God and to be able to help others do the same.

The Effect of COVID on the IHM Teaching Apostolate

The onslaught of COVID-19 has disrupted human life around the globe on every conceivable level. From stay-at-home orders to job furloughs to the suspension of public Masses, life has been very different for everyone since mid-March. Perhaps one of the biggest changes by COVID-19 was the shutdown of school buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This sent parents scrambling for babysitters, schools scrambling for internet access for their students, and teachers scrambling to put their classes online.

Like all teachers, the Sisters also had to reconsider how they were going to carry out their apostolates for the remainder of the school year. Many speaking engagements and school retreats had to be cancelled, but students still needed to be taught. Taking what is set before them, the IHM teaching Sisters saw many opportunities for spreading the faith within this obviously difficult situation.

Catechesis, the teaching of religion, is unlike any other style of teaching. The religion teacher does not so much impart knowledge as introduce two people. Our Lord is wanting to be known by each human soul, and it is the catechist who serves as his instrument to make Him known to these particular people in front of her in the classroom. And then classrooms were taken away. It leaves one scratching her head, "How do I introduce Christ to someone if that someone is not here?" The most effective vehicle for catechesis is relationship and rapport, not the internet. The teacher wins the students' trust which lays an avenue to the soul that Christ, through the Church's teaching, can pass over. How difficult it is to maintain this rapport through the internet! Catechesis, as outlined by the Church, is nearly impossible over the internet alone.

However, the Lord is not limited to classroom catechesis when it comes to the formation of the human person. In fact, the classroom has never been the best place for catechesis. The first and primary place where Christ meets the soul is in the family. The family is irreplaceable when it comes to meeting Christ and subsequently learning religion. And now where is the classroom? Precisely in the home. Over and over again, the Sisters hear stories about how the students are enjoying this time of being with their families. There is boredom, too, of course, but more than that, the children and teenagers are happy to be with parents and siblings. There are more fun times, more work to be done which naturally bonds people, and also more opportunities to speak of the higher things.

As it often does during such uncertain times, faith is once again becoming a mainstream topic. It is in the headlines as people yearn for their religious traditions and services and need help making sense of this crisis. Catholics are growing in their desire for Mass and the Eucharist. This phenomenon is not lost on the children. They want to know why they cannot attend Mass and consequently there is a discussion about it at home, which has the potential to turn to why Catholics attend Mass in the first place. Better attention is paid to the online Masses that are watched as a family on Sunday mornings, again eliciting more discussion at home. And one of the paradoxically great things is that Sister is not there to answer the students' important questions in the classroom. We get some good and difficult questions in class, and now it's mom and dad who are fielding those questions (My personal favorite was once being asked if angels have consciences.). Great conversations at home ensue, perhaps as the adult scrambles to the nearest catechism. Speaking with the students' parents, Sisters hear that they are realizing, perhaps for the first time, just how well educated and catechized our Catholic School children are in the Wichita diocese.

Overall, many people, students included, are hoping schools open their doors once again in August. The IHM Sisters are as well, so they can catechize after the model set by the Church. The IHM Charism is not simply to teach for teaching's sake, but for the reevangelization of society. Society has been divorced from religion for some time, and much of this is due to the many, very subtle and dangerous attacks on the family. COVID-19 is wreaking havoc on human lives around the globe, but Our God, who will not be outdone in generosity and who is ever in control, seems to be using this virus to reunite the family. Let's pray that this be so and that God's grace will not be wasted.



The Sisters are missing their students!

Increasing Devotion to Saint Joseph

Many wonder about the rebirth of devotion and the promotion of consecration to St. Joseph. Some believe that this is something new; though this is not new, it is growing. During the life of Christ, Jesus was known as the son of Joseph and the son of the carpenter. This is reflected in all four Gospels. However, early on, St. Joseph faded into the background. It was not that he lacked importance, but to aid in helping people grow in the belief in the Incarnation and the Hypostatic Union. In order to address heresies of the age, the Church stressed the teaching on the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of God and lessened the stress on Joseph's importance. Yet even in the age of heresies and Great Councils, our early Church Fathers, Doctors and saints, such as Saints Jerome, Augustine, Gregory of Nazianzen, Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas continued to reflect and write upon Joseph's call and place in the life of Jesus and the Church.

The 16th century St. Lawrence of Brindisi and St. Teresa of Avila, two Doctors of the Church, led the charge to spread devotion to St. Joseph. St. Lawrence wrote:

Though not His [Jesus'] father by generation, he [St. Joseph] was His father in His upbringing, His care, and the affection of His heart. It seems to me, therefore, that Joseph is clearly the holiest of all the saints, holier than the patriarchs, than the prophets, than the apostles, than all the other saints. The objection cannot be raised that the Lord said of John the Baptist: Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist [Lk. 7:28; see also Mt. 11:11]. Just as this cannot be understood to mean that John is even holier than Christ or the Blessed Virgin, so it can't be understood in reference to blessed Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the father of Christ, for just as husband and wife are one flesh, so too Joseph and Mary were one heart, one soul, one spirit. And as in the first marriage God created Eve to be like Adam, so in this second marriage he made Joseph to be like the Blessed Virgin in holiness and justice.

From that point on, the Church has been filled with both great and little-known saints calling for growth in devotion and love of St. Joseph. Beginning with Blessed Pope Pius IX (in the 19th century) pope after pope, right up to Pope Francis has praised the greatness of St. Joseph and encouraged devotion to him in the Church.

- Blessed Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) declared St. Joseph the "Patron of the Universal Church."
- Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) wrote the encyclical St. Joseph and the Rosary
- Saint Pope Pius X (1903-1914) approved the Litany of St. Joseph
- Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922) inserted "Blessed be St. Joseph" in the Divine Praises
- Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) wrote: "The intercession of St. Joseph is that of the husband, the [presumed] father, the head of the family of Nazareth which was composed of himself, Mary and Jesus. And as St. Joseph was truly the head or the master of that house, his intercession cannot be but all-powerful. For what could Jesus and Mary refuse to St. Joseph, he who was entirely consecrated to them all his life, and to whom they truly owed the means of their earthly existence?" (Pope Pius XI, "Allocation to Married Couples," March 19, 1938)
- Venerable Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) established the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
- St. Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) inserted St. Joseph in the Canon of the Mass, which is now referred to as the First Eucharistic Prayer
- St. John Paul II (1978-2005) wrote the Apostolic Exhortation Guardian of the Redeemer
- Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013) teaches, "Joseph fulfilled every aspect of his paternal role. He must certainly have taught Jesus to prayer, together with Mary. In particular Joseph himself must have taken Jesus to the Synagogue for the rite of Sabbath, as well as to Jerusalem for the great feasts. ... In the rhythm of the days he spent in Nazareth, in the simple home and in Joseph's workshop, Jesus learned to alternate prayer and work, as well as to offer God his labor in earning the bread the family needed." (Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, December 28, 2011)
- Pope Francis (2013 to present) added St. Joseph to all of the Eucharistic Prayers used in the Mass

Increasing Devotion to Saint Joseph

As in the Gospels, Jesus and Mary continue to reveal the importance of St. Joseph. Mary's Most Chaste Spouse, the Foster-Father of Jesus, appeared with them and St. John the Evangelist in Knock, Ireland in 1879. Though nothing was said during the apparition, St. Joseph's presence was duly noted. Forty years later he made an appearance in Fatima! In October of 1917, St. Joseph appeared holding Jesus, with Mary standing at his side, blessing the world. It seems to be increasingly more apparent that, "When the Church recognizes the blessing of St. Joseph's fatherhood, Jesus will reign in hearts and Mary's Immaculate Heart will triumph." (Rev. Donald Calloway, Consecration to St. Joseph, 195)

Closer in time and location, in the 1950's, in Ohio, there were the alleged apparitions known as "Our Lady of America."

At the heart of the messages is a call to prayer, conversion, purity, consecration to Our Lady as the Immaculate Conception and devotion to St. Joseph...[where he supposedly] spoke to her of his virginity, purity, obedience, and love for his spouse...[informing her]God desires that the world have a greater appreciation for the sufferings the heart of St. Joseph underwent in union with the Hearts of Jesus, and Mary... the importance of devotion to his heart and spiritual fatherhood... God wants St. Joseph to be honored on the First Wednesday of every month, especially by the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary and the reception of Holy Communion. (Calloway, 196-199)



Finally, recent apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Most Pure Heart of Joseph [approved by Bishop Carillor Gritti in a January 2010] took place in Brazil and Argentina between 1994-1998. Mary, as Queen of the Rosary and Peace, stressed again the need for on-going conversion from sin, the Rosary, devout attendance at Mass, Confession, reception of Holy Communion and the practice of penance, all to save the world from unbelief and sin. Devotion to the Most Pure Heart of Joseph was cited as a powerful aid.

Against the vicious attacks of the devil, St. Joseph's virtues will always conquer. In that same apparition in Ohio, St. Joseph promised:

Just as I am fair and righteous in the sight of God, all who have devotion to my Heart will also be chaste, righteous, and holy in His sight...I promise to all that honor this Most Chaste Heart of mine and who do here on earth good deeds in favor of the most needy, especially of the sick and dying for whom I am a consoler and protector, to receive in their last moment of their lives the grace of a good death. I myself will be to these souls their petitioner to my Son Jesus and, together with my Spouse, Most Holy Mary, we will console them in their last hours here on earth, with our holy presence and they will rest in peace. (National Catholic Register, August 5, 2016)

St. Joseph calls the most grievous of sinners to trust in the Merciful Heart of Jesus, knowing that Jesus will bestow His forgiveness, mercy, blessings and conversion through the works of St. Joseph.

In this unprecedented time of broken homes, the Holy Family provides a model and guidance, showing every family how to be a holy family in imitation of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The First Wednesday devotions -- in honor of St. Joseph -- are an excellent complement to the First Friday Devotions and the First Saturday Devotions.

Having been warned by Ven. Lucia (of Fatima) that the final attack will be on the family, we are now called, more than ever, to gain strength and protection for the family through the three Hearts of the Holy Family. Why would we choose to miss out on this opportunity to guide and protect families through devotion to the Most Pure Heart of St. Joseph?

Ite ad Maria



*In a prayer
addressed to Mary,
St. John Paul II
prayed, "...Incline
me to constant
adoration, pray in me
and through me..."*

*Let us ask Mary for
the grace to have a
deeper love for Jesus
in the Eucharist.*

Ite ad Ioseph (in English, "Go to Joseph,") is a well-known phrase. This phrase is originally used in speaking of the patriarch Joseph, one of Israel's twelve sons, when there was a famine in Egypt and Pharaoh instructed the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you." (Genesis 41:55)

But could not a similar phrase also apply to Our Lady? *Ite ad Maria*: go to Mary and do whatever she tells you. Mary always and only leads us to Jesus. She is constantly telling her spiritual children to follow her Divine Son. By doing whatever Mary tells us, we will be led to Jesus.

Before each Angelus and at the start of every Holy Hour, we pray the aspiration, "May the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus be everywhere praised and glorified, and may the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary obtain for us an increase of love for the Blessed Sacrament."

Reflecting on Our Lady's sorrows, we see Mary standing at the foot of the Cross, participating in Jesus' Passion through compassion, suffering with Jesus. She is there with her Son and she witnesses the offering of His Body and Blood. Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary continues to be present at every Mass as His Body and Blood are offered.

Mary's Immaculate Heart is tied to the Eucharist. Mary's heart is pure; Catholics must have a pure soul, a soul in a state of grace, in order to receive Holy Communion. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." To see God is to be with Him and to know Him. Through faith, we see Him present in the Eucharist, by receiving Holy Communion and by adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

But Mary does not have two separate hearts...she has one Heart which is both Sorrowful and Immaculate, a mother's Heart which is on fire with love for her Divine Son, Jesus, and for all of her spiritual children: us!

Mary was present on Calvary: she knows the price of the Eucharist. And through carrying Jesus in her womb, then later receiving Holy Communion after Jesus' Resurrection, Mary knows the effects of the Eucharist. Mary wants her spiritual children to be able to receive Holy Communion so that we can be ever more deeply united to her Divine Son. Mary always leads us to Jesus. She points toward Him and leads us to Him. From the moment He was conceived in her womb, Mary has never stopped adoring Jesus.

Remember the Church

JMJ

BY MRS. BRONWEN LEWIS

“When we are building our character, we need some model on the outside, someone with justice and mercy and goodness in the spirit of sacrifice...”

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Is not everything we have a gift from God? Does not the beauty of the Catholic Church, and all of its marvelous good works, flow from the grace of God as well? The beauty of the Acts of the Apostles reminds us to be mindful of our acts. We may not be apostles, but we are disciples, and have we all not tried to emulate the Apostles in their acts of love, service, and charity? The act of love itself is to will the good of another.

From the beginning, the Apostles lived out their acts of love, service, and charity ... inspiring the saints and the laity to take care of and feed the poor, to found hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities. Isn't it wonderful to think of the possibilities each of us have! The Catholic Church is a beautiful example of God's abiding love, especially in God's gift of His only begotten Son, and in the 'yes' of our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph ... the beautiful Holy Family. In the teachings of the Catholic Church we have been shown that model through the life of Christ ... shown that strong foundation. In the lives of the saints we have been given examples of heroic virtue. But the gem we can hold on to, and apply to our lives in a real sense, is the Holy Family ... Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Holy Family reminds me of Venerable Fulton Sheen and his television show, *Life is Worth Living*. What a brilliant teacher. I recall so vividly Bishop Sheen writing the initials "JMJ" and deliberately underlining these letters for emphasis on his chalkboard ... I believe he was consecrating his teaching, his work, his message ... to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Not only would Bishop Sheen do this in his classroom, but he also did this in his correspondence (often above his bishop crest).

When I think about Bishop Sheen's chalkboard and the letters JMJ, I think of the Sisters who were founded to teach the Catholic faith to the young, teaching these young children to pass the faith along to their young ... passing the faith from generation to generation through the family. The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita are the among the staunchest defenders of the faith and the family that I know. In everything they do, they fight against all the evil attempts to destroy the family. They pray a daily Holy Rosary, they pray for the conversion of sinners, each Sister daily has an hour of Eucharistic Adoration, they pray the Liturgy of the Hours ... they pray for all of us, they pray for our families, and, of course, they teach our children

and grandchildren the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith...Catechesis rooted in prayer! Often, children teach their parents what they have learned from "Sister" ... and that is beautiful!

When you are asked to support an institution, or a cause, with a financial gift, do you ask yourself if the request fits into your values ... in other words

do you pray about where to place your gifts, your service, your acts of charity? Maybe we should try the method of Fulton Sheen, consecrating with JMJ all our works, our acts, our gifts of service and our gifts of charity... maybe even writing JMJ on our checks? I think this might be "radical", but I like it! It seems as if it might be something the Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen might have done himself.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita pour their talents and resources into becoming teachers ... they are servants of the Catholic Church... they live a life of sacrifice in humble service to God through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Sisters, together with the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, build good character in the formation and teaching of the faith ... with the Sisters as role models, the world is a better place.

Few of us can give financial gifts to all the good causes out there in the world, so once again let me say, "Let the Holy Family be your guide". If you do so, I know you will find the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita to be worthy of your acts of charity, to be named in your Will or Trust ... to honor your gift with a lifetime of good works that flows forth from its love and hope.

And, as Fulton Sheen would say, "May all the American characters begin to emerge now under the grace of God as we continue to be a great nation loving one another in a spirit of charity, loving God who made us and blessed us."

"God love you."



SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY OF WICHITA

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