



The Marian Messenger

Newsletter of the Sodality of Our Lady of the Annunciation
St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church
Greenbelt, Maryland

“Come Holy Spirit! Help us to give ourselves entirely
to Jesus through Mary.”

Prefect's Perspective

Dear All,

Spring is in the air! I'm so happy after the snowy and dark winter to see the temperatures warming and plants growing and blooming. The Sodality hosted the monthly meeting of the Sodality Union this past month; many thanks to all who made this possible, especially to Cindy Perry for organizing the liturgy and the volunteers, and Susan Mathis for making a wonderful lunch. Our organization has many events this spring, including the Taste of Home at the University of Maryland on Wednesday, April 13, where we provide a home cooked dinner to the students at the Catholic Student Center. This is always a fun event, and the students love the ham dinner with all the trimmings. Our Parish Tea will be held on Sunday, May 22. Come (wearing your best hat!) for a delightful afternoon of tea and goodies both sweet and savory. The Sodality end of year Mass and banquet is on Thursday, June 2. In addition, we are planning a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Mary our Queen in Baltimore on Sunday, June 12. We have so many opportunities this spring to show our devotion to the Lord and our willingness to serve others.

Sunday, April 3, our April meeting date, falls on Divine Mercy Sunday. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was proclaimed and extended to the Church by Pope Saint John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized St. Faustina. I encourage everyone to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, especially in this year of Mercy. As we recite in the prayer, “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

Suzanne

Easter Vigil Prayer 2002

John Paul II

O Mary,
this is truly *your night!*
As the last lights of the Sabbath are
extinguished,
and the fruit of your womb rests in the
earth,
your heart too keeps watch!
Your faith and your hope look ahead.
Behind the heavy stone,
they already detect the empty tomb;
behind the thick veil of darkness,
they glimpse the dawn of the
Resurrection.
Grant, O Mother, that we too may keep
watch in the silence of the night,
believing and hoping in the Lord's word.
Thus shall we meet, in the fullness of light
and life,
Christ, the first-fruits of the risen,
who reigns with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, for ever and ever.
Queen of Heaven, rejoice,
Alleluia!



Introducing Three of Our 2016 Nominees for the Executive Council

Born of Christian and Hindu parents, **Rohanie Bacchus**, *our nominee for Prefect*, is a recent Catholic convert. She credits her Anglican schooling during childhood for an easy transition to Catholicism.

As a child of God, she described her faith as prayerful and non-denominational. It took a difficult marriage to push her to place all of her trust in Jesus and after a period of seeking, she found St. Hugh of Grenoble where she immediately felt at home.

She has a great respect and admiration for the work of our current Executive Council of the Sodality of Our Lady. Her love and devotion to Jesus and Mary is what drives her to seek God's will for her life. She has found that it is in love that all things can be effortlessly accomplished.

Rohanie currently serves the parish as a lector, catechist, leader of the Little Flowers, and board member of the newly re-formed CFM (Catholic Family Ministry). As she prepares for her new responsibilities as Prefect, she offers this prayer:

St. Ignatius, pray for us that we may be always open to the guidance of the Spirit in our service to the Sodality of Our Lady. Amen.

Candy Culhane, *candidate for Treasurer*, grew up in Connecticut and went to college in Michigan before moving to the DC area to take a job with the Department of Defense. Candy was raised as a Protestant by ecumenical parents who taught her to respect many faiths. When she married a Catholic man and had children, she started attending Mass with her family at St. Hugh's. Candy has two sons, John and Mike, who attended St. Hugh's Catholic School during the years 1996 to 2012. She became active in parish life at this time, serving in several positions with the CYO. She subsequently was called to learn more about the Catholic faith through the RCIA program, and converted to Catholicism. Candy came to the Sodality of Our Lady through her friendship with Suzanne Lomax, whom Candy had served together with as Cub Scout Den leaders with Greenbelt Troop 202. There are many joyful aspects of the Sodality, including the opportunity to perform spiritual works, growing in faith, learning more about aspects of Catholic culture, and being with sisters and brothers in Christ who are seeking Jesus through Mary. Candy is looking forward to serving as Treasurer for the Sodality again, having previously served in this position from 2010-2014.

Judith B. Davino, *our nominee for Recording Secretary*, graduated from High Point High school in 1985. After high school, she studied at Montgomery Beauty Academy in Silver Spring, Maryland and graduated in 1986. She met her husband, Carmen, in 1998 and Matthew was born in 2002. She also has a twenty-seven year old daughter, Kelly, a granddaughter, Lihana and a grandson, Phillip. She is a homemaker and a self-employed hairstylist working from her home. The people who had a significant influence in her religious formation were her two grandmothers and her mother. All three women were involved in the church in some way and influenced her decision to join the Sodality. During our March general meeting it was announced that there were two remaining positions to be filled for the next executive council. Prefect Suzanne Lomax asked the membership to pray to Our Lady. After the prayer Judith felt the urge to raise her hand to offer her service as Recording Secretary.

—Our Vice-Prefect and Corresponding Secretary will be introduced in our July issue.

Archdiocesan Women's Conference

Last September one of our parish bulletins featured a full-page "Save the Date!" flyer for the Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference, "Divine Mercy—in Prayer and Action," February 27, 2016. I saved the bulletin to remind me of something I might want to attend--I had gone last year and found the day very uplifting. Then I discovered I was in one of the photos on the flyer, holding a cup of coffee and listening intently to a friend of mine who was one of the vendors. I recalled how much I enjoyed the fellowship of Catholic women in service to the Church; I recalled too that the Conference was much like a retreat day, with Mass, opportunities for prayer and Confession, along with inspirational keynote presentations and workshops. I was very motivated to attend again this year as it flowed nicely with my desire for more faith formation experiences during this Year of Mercy.

The 2016 Women's Conference, held at Elizabeth Seton High School, opened with a continental breakfast, fellowship, vendors and exhibits, followed by a beautiful opening Mass at 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville, principal celebrant and homilist, "encouraged attendees to live their faith through forgiveness and love" (Catholic Standard, March 10, 2016). Two inspiring keynote presentations framed the rest of the day: 1) Morning – "Perfect Mercy" by Msgr. Charles Pope; 2) Afternoon – "St. Faustina: Model of Merciful Love" by Sr. M. Caterina Esselen. In between, participants could choose one of six workshops: 1) "God loves as a mother: God's mercy in daily life as a gift and task," Rev. Juan Puigbo; 2) "A Sinner's Guide to Mercy," Rose Folsom; 3) "Living the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in Your Parish," Cheryl Holley; 4) "What Pope Francis Can Teach Us about the Healing of Memories," Dawn Eden; 5) "Charity Begins at Home: Caring for the Caregiver," Dr. Rita Robinson; 6) "25 Years of Project Rachel: A Gospel of Life and Mercy," Msgr. Joseph Ranieri and Julia Shelava. The Conference ended with the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The following are excerpts from a welcome letter by Dr. Susan Timoney, whose Office for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns coordinated the event: "It is wonderful to gather together to reflect on the special gifts which we as women bring to our Church and to join together in prayer during this season of Lent in celebration of God's compassion and love. Pope Francis encourages us in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, to spend time encountering God's mercy through prayer, service, and compassion...What a great opportunity to begin this year of Mercy in fellowship and reflection. Please be assured of my prayers as you spend your day in reflection and fellowship."

I was pleased to share this experience with other Sodality members, including Cindy Perry and Martha Loutsch from St. Hugh's. I hope more of you are able to attend next year—"Save the Date!" when the Fifth Archdiocesan Women's Conference is announced!

Gratefully submitted by Monica Huber

**Prefect Lomax Offers Wisdom and Advice
for Our 2016 EC Nominees**

I think it's important to remember that the Sodality is an organization which increases our devotion to Jesus through imitation of His Blessed Mother. I try to keep my eyes fixed on her as a role model, knowing that we are only poor imitators of her holiness and her devotion to her Son. Therefore, I think that all of our spiritual, social and service activities should be tempered by our devotion to Mary. I like to think of it as instead of WWJD (What Would Jesus Do), WWOBMD (What Would Our Blessed Mother Do). The answer I often find is to ponder all these things in my heart.

Some practical advice for the incoming Prefect: Be sure to ask for help! There are so many wonderful, faith-filled Sodalists you can count on for help and guidance.

Spring Birthdays

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|----------|-----------------|---------|---------------|
| April 7 | Mary Tretler | June 6 | Kathy Labukas |
| April 14 | Cindy Perry | June 10 | Rita Radich |
| April 20 | Blanche Rumbold | June 11 | Mame Ellis |
| May 28 | Monica Huber | June 12 | Susan Mathis |
| | | June 24 | Suzanne Lomax |
| | | June 30 | Peggy Hool |



Sodality Union President Reflects on Visit to St. Hugh's

In her March letter to Prefects, Sodality Union President Olga Baeza wrote: "We are blessed to have had a productive (and brief!) meeting at St. Hugh of Grenoble earlier this month. Fr. Walter Tappe, in his gentle manner, fortified our hearts by telling us to look to the progress each Lenten season has to offer and to experience mercy this year as an opportunity to bear more fruit for building the Kingdom of God. Together with the lovely music, Father's homily carried us through the day—beautifully hosted by our fellow Sodalists at St. Hugh of Grenoble."

From the Vatican 2015

The following is the content of the letter from Pope Francis in response to the Spiritual Bouquet offered by the Sodality Union of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. The complete article with photos can be found on the Sodality Union Webpage.

His Holiness Pope Francis is pleased to acknowledge the thoughtful message and spiritual bouquet sent to him for Christmas and the New Year. He very much appreciates the sentiments expressed.

Upon all who have greeted him during this holy season His Holiness invokes an abundance of joy in Christ the Prince of Peace, and he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

Monsignor Pete B. Wells
Assessor



Save the Date: Sunday, June 12, 2016

Sodality Pilgrimage for the Year of Mercy
Cathedral of Mary, Our Queen
5200 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210
Mass @ 11am; Tour @ 12:15 (\$2.00)

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 CRESCENT ROAD
GREENBELT, MD 20770
MARY WADE, EDITOR
CINDY PERRY, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Executive Council
2014-2016

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Prefect

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Vice-Prefect

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Special Services

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Junior Sodality

Mary Wade

Historian

JoEllen Sarff

Keep current on our news by
visiting our webpage:
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

PRAYER CORNER

Let us remember to pray...

- for all our deceased Sodalists and their families, especially Franca Onunkwo's sister, Miriam Onunkwo.
- for those who are ill or are recovering from surgery, especially Cindy Perry, Tom Lonsbury, Bridget McDermott, Dalisay Lopez, and Franca Onunkwo.



Important Dates

- Apr 1 Marian Messenger Published
- Apr 2 Sodality Union Meeting
- Apr 3 Mass & GB Meeting @ 8am
- Apr 7 Confirmation @ 4pm
- Apr 13 UMD: A Taste of Home
- Apr 14 Feast of St.Hugh: International Dinner
- Apr 28 Executive Council Meeting @ 7pm
- May 1 Mass & GB Meeting (GH before 1st Communion Reception)
- May 7 Growing Community Plant Sale & Exchange @ 10am in the School
- May 8 Mothers' Day
May Procession after the 11am Mass
- May 21 Set up for Parish Tea in Grenoble Hall
- May 22 Parish Tea
- May 26 Executive Council Meeting @ 7pm
- June 2 End of Year Mass & Banquet
Installation of New Officers
- June 5 Marian Messenger Published
- June 11-12 Parish Rummage Sale
- June 26 Parish Picnic
- June 27 Calendar Meeting for the Fall
- July 3 Marian Messenger Published

Reminder: Our lector for...

- Apr.3 Monica Huber
- May1 Cindy Perry
- June 5 Rita Radich
- July 3 Mary Wade
- Aug 7 JoEllen Sarff

