



# 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 Brothers and Sisters of Sodality,

May our Blessed Mother and her son, our Lord Jesus, shower you with abundant love. The spiritual motherhood of our Mother began when Jesus dying on the cross said to John “There is your Mother”. Jesus gave us His Mother. Thank you, Jesus!

Mary, our Mother leads us to Her son Jesus so that we may be spared and enter the kingdom of heaven. Mary leads us to Jesus, Jesus leads us to His divine Father. Our Mother brings immense peace, guidance and love when called upon.

As Sodalists, how do we emulate Mary? How do we live our everyday life modeling the way of life with Mary in grace, virtue and obedience? How do we carry our crosses and live the faith? Are we true to others and ourselves? Do we stay the course when God elevate our testing?

When in doubt, I say love is everything. Do everything with love. Treat everyone with love. Love all no matter what. The heart is the central place of our existence. God speaks to us through our hearts.

Blessings,  
 Rohanie

# LENT



## Calendar of Events

- Feb. 5 Mass & Meeting @ 8am
- Feb. 12 Bake Sale & Coffee Social
- Feb. 18 Tea Committee Meeting
- Feb. 25 Executive Council Meeting @ 10am
- Mar. 5 Mass & Meeting @ 8am
- Mar.10-12 Sodality Union Retreat @ WRH
- Mar. 18 Executive Council Meeting @ 10am
- Apr. 1 St.Hugh Day Mass & Brunch
- Apr. 2 Mass & Meeting @ 8am
- Apr.7-9 St.Hugh Sodality Retreat @ WRH
- Apr.19 Taste of Home - UMD
- Apr. 22 Executive Council Meeting  
 Parish Spring Cleaning Day  
 Newsletter Articles Due
- Apr. 29 Growing in Community @ 9am-  
 Noon
- May 1 Marian Messenger Published

## Birthdays

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Feb. 7 JoEllen Sarff    | Feb. 9 Kathleen McFarland |
| Feb. 13 Peggy Compton   | Feb. 15 Bridget McDermott |
| Mar. 2 Barbara Ford     | Mar. 13 Sally Bersbach    |
| Mar. 18 Therese Enwerem | Mar. 22 Martha Loutsch    |
| Apr. 7 Mary Ann Tretler | Apr. 14 Cindy Perry       |



## Christian Hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger

—by Mary Bitter

My daughter will be completing her master's degree in education with (TESOL) certification Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages grades K-12. Needless to say, she has many concerns about today's political climate with respect to immigration and how it may affect her students and their families. We discuss the issues and possible solutions all the time, but she remains anxious.

I found the following prayer online in a book created by agencies of the Archdiocese of Louisville titled "Christian Hospitality: A Handbook For Parishes", while researching the biblical definition for hospitality. Hospitality happens to be the theme for this year's Sodality Sunday Afternoon Tea. I truly feel that the Holy Spirit gave me the word hospitality, gently nudged me to question its true meaning, and gave me this prayer for my daughter to pray when she feels overwhelmed.

### A Prayer for Hospitality



Loving God, Your Son Jesus said  
Your kingdom is like a banquet  
a festive gathering for all people of every race and color –  
a table at which the lonely  
find company,  
the hungry savor rich foods  
and fine wine,  
and strangers enjoy warm family ties.  
Jesus calls us to build this kingdom here on earth.  
Teach us, Lord, the ways of hospitality.  
Give us the spirit of joyful welcome and the sensitivity  
to help people on the move  
feel they belong.  
Grant that our tables at home may draw our new neighbors  
from other lands  
into a loving community  
and that the eucharistic tables in our parishes  
may prefigure that banquet in heaven  
where all are one with You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Angel Tree Project

For more than ten years our St. Hugh of Grenoble Council of the Knights of Columbus have organized the Angel Tree Project toy drive /Angel Tree toy shop specifically for families who live in Greenbelt. This program has over the years provided hundreds of toys to families in our community who are struggling financially to make ends meet during Christmas season.

About five years ago, the St. Hugh Sodality of Our Lady was asked to help out by providing cookies and punch as well as some games and crafts in Grenoble Hall for the children. This allowed the parents to go to the school to pick out their child's gift in the toy shop and wrap it so it could be a surprise on Christmas morning.

This year was my turn to come up with an activity. I wasn't worried until they told me to expect at least seventy children ages 3-12. I quickly gathered up glue sticks, colored paper, yarn, sequins, glitter, etc. We created Christmas trees on 4x6 pieces of white paper and the kids had a great time with the glue sticks and Elmer's glue. We also decorated a large cut-out tree shape of paper that I hung on the wall.

The cookies and punch were a special treat.

I tried to speak with each of the parents to tell them how sweet and polite their children had been when they returned to pick them up. I was most impressed by how they looked out for their siblings and were proud to introduce me to them.

I think the party for the children and the privacy and respect provided to the parents made everyone feel welcome and not judged by their circumstances. I look forward to helping out again next year.

Through this year's Angel Tree Toy Drive, the Knights were able to provide gifts for about 115 children in the Greenbelt. Gifts that did not find a home in Greenbelt were donated to the Frances Fuchs Early Childhood Center in Beltsville, Maryland.

Many thanks to John Winfrey, Paul Javier, and Jerome Smallwood for their tireless effort to reach out to those in need in our community. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta:



Spread love  
everywhere you go.  
Let no one ever come to you  
without leaving happier.

## Coffee Social/Bake Sale

The February bake sale was a phenomenal success. A special thanks to our parish family who generously purchased items. I hope you and your valentine enjoyed them.

I would like to thank everyone who went above and beyond to make a beautiful bountiful display of cakes, pie, cookies, brownies, breads, lemon bars, scones, fudge and cupcakes. I also want to thank those who helped with set-up, decorations, selling and clean-up. A special shout out to my husband Ken who is always there to help out and run for things I've inevitably forgotten.

Many blessings

Mary Bitter

Vice Prefect/Ways and Means Co-Chair

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2016-2018

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**Historian**

JoEllen Sarff

PRAYER CORNER



*Let us remember to pray...*

- for all our deceased Sodality members, parishioners and their family members who have died, especially for JoEllen Sarff's mother, Geri Mathieson, Mary Wade's brother-in-law, Michael Wade
- for the sick of our parish, especially for Tom Lonsbury, Bridget McDermott, Dalisay Lopez, and Kathleen McFarland

**Praying With the Women Doctors**

The topic for our Day of Reflection for 2015 was the Women Doctors of the Church. Our presenter, Dr. Susan Timoney, gave us a prayer of each of these women so that we may pray along with them.

Praying with Hildegard of Bingen...

God's Word is in all creation

No creature has meaning

Without the Word of God.

Go'd Word is in all creation,

Visible and invisible.

The Word is living, being, spirit,

All verdant, all creativity.

The Word flashes out in every

creature.

The is how the spirit is in the

flesh—the Word is indivisible.

and with Therese of Lisieux...

O my God! I offer Thee all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to His infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of His merciful love. O my God, I ask of Thee for myself and for those dear to me the grace to fulfill perfectly Thy holy will, to accept, for love of Thee, the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in Heaven for all eternitv. Amen.



**Reminder: Our lector for...**

Feb.05: JoEllen Sarff

Mar.5: Monica Huber

Apr.2: Rita Radich

Keep current on our news by  
visiting our webpage:

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)