



# 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 Sodalists,

October has truly been a busy month, especially with those of us who serve in many parish ministries. A huge word of gratitude to all of you who participated in the Rosary Marathon on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, especially Marlene Vikor and Cindy Perry who stayed and prayed throughout the entire Marathon. A huge thank you to our Spiritual Life Committee Chair, Suzanne Lomax, for organizing the Rosary Marathon as well as the Day of Reflection on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Our presenter for the Day of Reflection was Fr. Kramer who provided an insightful presentation on the Blessed John Henry Newman. My favorite part of the presentation was Blessed Newman’s Mission of Life statement. I instantly connected with its spiritual foundation and was motivated to further research the topic. If you missed the presentation, you may read his Mission of Life statement on page 2 of this newsletter.

As the wonderful colors of the autumn leaves continue changing and break away from the branch onto the ground, I am reminded of the end and the beginning of all things, signifying letting go and rebirth. This is like surrendering and trusting in God’s mission for our earthly life that leaves us with a sense of spiritual peace.

Please pray daily for the souls in purgatory and for the Priests and Deacon in our Parish.

God bless.  
 Rohanie

## Autumn Birthdays



Oct.6 Vicki Focht      Oct. 13 Martha Galvin      Oct. 28 Mary Wade

Nov.14 Cleopatra White      Nov.15 Franca Onunkwo

Nov.21 Vickie Claflin      Nov.25 Eunice Barber

Dec.15 Joanne Kellaher      Dec.27 Mary Moien

### The Mission of My Life

*by the Blessed John Henry Newman*

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

#### Calendar of Events

- Oct.2 Mass & Meeting  
Rosary Marathon
- Oct.25 EC Meeting
- Oct. 8 Day of Reflection
- Oct. 25 EC Meeting
- Oct. 30 Saints Display; Spiritual Bouquets Due
- Nov. 5 SU Meeting
- Nov.6 Mass & Christmas Bazaar
- Nov.13 Mass & Meeting
- Nov.15 EC Meeting
- Nov.20 Bake Sale & Coffee Social
- Dec.4 Mass & Christmas Party
- Dec.20 EC Meeting
- Jan.8 Mass & Meeting  
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#### News from Our Prefect

The Angel Tree Project with the Knights of Columbus will take place in December. The Knights will meet in early November to choose a date. More details will be available soon.

-Rohanie Bacchus



The Angel Tree

## OUR LADY OF SILUVA CHAPEL



## BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In 1457, in the village of Siluva in western Lithuania, a wealthy landowner built a Roman Catholic church in honor of the Nativity of Mary on his property. This became a regional pilgrimage site, especially during annual festivals on the feast of the Nativity of our Lady, September 8. In the late 16th century, however, during the unsettled time of the Protestant Reformation, the church property was confiscated and the church was either razed or burned.

Contemporary written reports state that in about 1608, children tending livestock on what was then fallow fields reported seeing a beautiful woman with long loose hair, holding a baby and weeping, while standing near a large rock in the field. Villagers, including the local Calvinist minister, went to the site to see what the children reported. When the minister asked the young woman why she wept so bitterly, she responded that her Son had once been worshipped on this sacred land, now given over to ploughing and sowing, and then she vanished.

Subsequent revelations led to the discovery of a trunk buried by the last Catholic Pastor near the rock, which contained documents pertaining to the original church's establishment, as well as church ornaments. Legal proceedings ensued and the property seizure by Protestants was declared illegal. In 1627 a Catholic Church was rebuilt on the site, and once again became a popular European pilgrimage destination until Russian occupation of Lithuania beginning in the 18th century limited access.

It is a source of pride for Lithuanians that the apparition of Our Lady of Siluva was among the earliest reported in Europe and appropriately scrutinized by the Vatican, much earlier than either Lourdes or Fatima. This greatly strengthened a tradition of devotion to Mary throughout Lithuania.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva was built in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1966 by American and Canadian Lithuanians. In 1991 the Silver jubilee of this chapel coincided with the international recognition of the restoration of the independent Country of Lithuania and the return of religious freedom after five decades of totalitarian rule.

On October 9, 2016 the Golden Jubilee 50th Celebration of this chapel of Our Lady of Siluva was held at the Basilica. The mass in the Basilica was in Lithuanian and English and was celebrated with the Archbishop of Kaunas, Lithuania among the attending priests. The huge choir was composed of 170 singers from 4 choirs which originated from Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Toronto. They sang hymns beautifully in Lithuanian. After the mass, a procession of the concelebrants marched to the Chapel of Our Lady of Siluva where they gave a special blessing. Visiting this beautiful chapel at the Basilica is well worth the visit.

—story and photo by Kathy Labukas

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*Let us remember to pray...*

- for all our deceased Sodalists, parishioners and their family members who have died, especially for Gloria Wilson, Catherine Holcombe, and Margaret Kivlin
- for those who are ill, especially for Tom Lonsbury, Bridget McDermott, and Dalisay Lopez

**The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone  
who fled to your protection, implored your help,  
or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions,  
but in your clemency hear and answer me. Amen.

I'm sure many of you watched the Mass on September 4, 2016 in which Mother Teresa of Calcutta was canonized a saint by Pope Francis. I thought it would be appropriate to mention her and share with everyone how Mother Teresa's would pray her "Flying Novena" (10 Memorare's in rapid succession). She added a tenth Memorare immediately after her novena in thanksgiving for the favor received, so certain was she of the power of Mary's intercession as the mediatrix of all graces.

I hope this inspires a renewed confidence in asking for Mary's intercession.

Many Blessings,  
Mary Bitter

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

Oct.2: Rita Radich

Nov.6: Mary Wade

Dec.4: Cindy Perry



Keep current on our news by  
visiting our webpage:  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)