



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,

As we continue our journey together through the remainder of Lent, let us walk with Mary through the mourning, fasting, repenting, almsgiving and meditating on the great mystery of the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection. Mary pondered in her heart all the sufferings of her Son. Jesus was condemned by His own people enduring great sufferings. He was spat on, kicked, whipped and scourged for proclaiming the truth for our redemption. The greatest love of all is God’s love and mercy. God loved us so immensely that He gave us His only begotten Son.

We guard our thoughts, words, and actions as we keep Mary in our hearts in the midst of our daily routines, meditating on her sorrows and pains. Sit with Mary at the foot of the cross and share the silent sufferings she has endured in her heart. Love Mary and she will lead you to her Son.

Thank you all for being good representatives of Mary and stewards of the Sodality.

Blessings,

Rohanie Bacchus

The Children’s Rosary

Blythe Kaufman, founder and director of the Children’s Rosary Group along with her son Asher Kaufman were guest speakers at the March 3, 2018 Sodality Union meeting hosted by St. Hugh of Grenoble. Blythe shared her story of how a genetic disease ended her career as an Endodontics specialist. The sudden onset of osteogenesis progressed rapidly and within two years it left her with limited physical function from her shoulder joints down to her fingers. Blythe explained the difficulty she had doing even simple tasks such as squeezing the toothpaste and then introduced her twelve year old son, Asher.

Asher, whom I referred to as Peter, the rock, delivered a well spoken presentation, like one you would expect from a distinguished professor. Asher is not only his mother’s personal assistant, carrying her luggage, tying her sneakers, putting on her socks and combing her hair., but he also prompts her for dialogue and queues her speech.

Blythe, a very humble and soft-spoken woman, explained that she began praying the Rosary with her children at home. After hearing that her church would be closing due to a lack of members, Blythe approached her parish priest and presented him with the idea of starting a children’s rosary to be prayed in the church for the intention of saving the parish from closing down. Soon afterward, parents began attending the rosaries and as a result St. Thomas the Apostle church in Hartford, Connecticut was saved and remains open today, thanks to Blythe’s efforts. (continued on p.4)

2017
 Angel Tree Project
 Children's Christmas Party

Once again, with the generosity of The St. Hugh of Grenoble parishioners donating new toys for the Angel Tree Project and the Sodality members baking cookies and providing crafts to entertain the children, The Knights of Columbus were able to bring joy to many less fortunate families in our community this Christmas season.

One of highlights for me at the children's party was seeing the smiles on the children's faces as they tried on the new winter jackets provided by the Knights of Columbus. Many of the children arrived at the party on a very cold winter morning, wearing only a sweater or sweatshirt.

Next year, we plan to incorporate some interactive games that will allow the children to play together and win prizes. We will continue to include doing a small craft project since they enjoyed it so much.

I would like to thank everyone who provided the cookies and treats and to all who helped the children make their popsicle Christmas ornaments (see photo). A special thank you to my husband Ken and daughter Melissa for always being there whenever I needed them.



Many thanks to our Knights for their tireless efforts to reach out to those in need in our community

"Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full."
 (Proverbs 19: 17)

Mary Bitter

Calendar of Events

- Mar 3 Sodality Union @ St. Hugh
- Mar 4 Mass & Meeting
- Mar 9-11 Lenten Retreat
- Mar 17 Executive Council Meeting @ 2pm
- Mar 29 Holy Thursday @ 7:30pm
- Mar 30 Good Friday; Living Stations @ Noon
 Lord's Passion @ 7:30pm
- Mar 31 Easter Vigil @ 8pm
- Apr 1 Easter Sunday - Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
 Feast of St.Hugh
- Apr 8 Sodality General Business Meeting
- Apr 11 Taste of Home - UMD
- Apr 14 Executive Council Meeting @ 2pm
- Apr 17 Confirmation @ 4pm
- May 6 Mass & Meeting; 1st Holy Communion
- May 13 Mother's Day; May Procession @ Noon
- May 19 Executive Council Meeting @ 2pm
- May 20 Sodality Tea Party
- June 7 Year End Mass & Banquet

Spring Birthdays

- March 2 Barbara Ford
- March 13 Sally Bersbach
- March 18 Therese Enwerem
- March 22 Martha Loutsch
- April 7 Mary Ann Tretler
- April 14 Cindy Perry
- May 28 Monica Huber



Lent: Following in the Footsteps of Christ from Sacrifice to Salvation



Have you ever heard the story about the monkey and the cookie? The short of it is that the monkey saw a jar of cookies and grabbed one but was not able to eat it because his fist was now too large to fit through the jar's opening. While he was thinking of a way to get the cookie and his fist out of the jar, along came a lion. What would he do? Let go and be free or hold on and be eaten? Like the monkey, we want our freedom, yet we are not altogether ready to let go of our habits that enslave us, whatever they may be. Lent serves as a reminder that we need to let go of what we want so we can open our hearts to what God wants for us.

During Lent, we are called to walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary and then to continue on the way that leads to the joy of our salvation. We follow in Jesus' footsteps when we pray, fast, and give alms/service.

Prayer

Make prayer a priority. What can you let go of that you may have more time in prayer? Is there a type of prayer that you have never tried? Lent is a great time to become more aware of God's presence in your life with reflective prayer. You could read stories by or about the saints, pray with scripture (Lectio Davino), or go for a walk while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary. Start a new prayer habit during Lent and it will continue to bless you throughout your life.

Fast

Father Swink reminded those who attended the Sodality Union meeting on February 3rd that the purpose of fasting is to become more like Christ. He said that concupiscence, a result of Original Sin, makes us all inclined to do the wrong thing. Lent is a good time to fast from a bad habit. A friend of mine has a "Swear Jar." Every time she swears, she puts a designated amount of money in the jar. At the end of Lent she gives it to the CRS Rice Bowl Project. In this way she feeds two birds with one crumb. When we pray we can ask God for the grace to fast from the things that separate us from his love and to become more aware of the needs of others; free to love God, self and all of creation.

Service

We can prayerfully discern which purchases we make that are unnecessary and then give the money we would have spent on these items to those in need.. Fr. Swink shared a similar idea as the "Swear Jar" when he suggested that we put a JUNK JAR in a prominent place. Each time we mess up on our Lenten goals, put \$5 into the jar. At the end of Lent, give the money to a charity. Service is not all about money, though. Often, what a person needs is someone to listen to them or to visit them at home, in a hospital, or a jail.

Generously Reflect

When Lent is over review your Lenten goals and then celebrate and reflect. Consider what Fr. Swink asked, "*Why would you stop doing these sacrifices when they help make you a better person?*" Think about what God meant when He said, "Come back to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12, NAB). It is a call to conversion, to turn away from what you want and continue to open your heart to what God wants for you. When Lent ends continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus toward the joy of your Salvation.

Are you going to be the same person after Lent as before Lent began?

—Mary Wade

**ACCW Monthly
Rosary Call-In**

8:00 p.m. on the 4th of the month

Call: 605-468-8016

Access code: 357090#

Important: Do not announce yourself if the Rosary has already started

Press *6 to mute and unmute your phone



Kitchen Crew: Donna Peterson, Mary Bitter, Marti Galvin, Suzanne Lomax, Ellen Hanyok and Cindy Perry are all smiles as they prepare the food for the Sodality Union meeting on Saturday, March 3rd.

**St. Hugh’s Sodality Joins
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women**

The St. Hugh’s Sodality is now connected to an ever-widening network of Catholic women in the Archdiocese of Washington. They’ve joined the Washington Archdiocesan Council of Catholic (ACCW) women. While remaining principally Sodality, we are now affiliated with the ACCW whose mission is to act through its members to support, empower and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. This gives us access to programs of the ACCW, which respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world. Membership allows us the opportunity to unite our efforts with other Catholic groups to achieve wider effect and it widens circles of friendship. It allows us to join with other affiliates and individual members for programs, educational events, service projects, pilgrimages, and other activities aimed at growing closer to God. If we take advantage of all it has to offer it also will help us bring others into closer relationship with Jesus and the Church. Through various publications such as the quarterly e-newsletter known as the LINK and via the ACCW Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WashACCW/>), Sodality members can stay abreast of a wider variety of issues, events and opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership, education and service.

—Cindy Perry

(Children’s Rosary, continued from p.1)

The “Children’s Rosary” is a widespread movement throughout the United States and over 27 countries and continents around the world. The children pray for families and for all the petitions that are placed in the intentions box.

The Rosary website demonstrates an interactive map around the world with illuminating lights indicating children are praying the rosary at that present moment in that part of the world.

Blythe concluded “God does not call the equipped, He equips the called.”

We were very pleased to have such inspiring guests and hope to have our own Children’s Rosary at St. Hugh.

-story by Rohanie Bacchus

-Pictured from left to right: Rohanie Bacchus and her daughter, Natasha, with Asher and his mother, Blythe Kaufmann.



The Devil Whispered In My Ear... by Cindy Perry

A meme recently posted by the Sisters in Christ Worldwide on Facebook went this way. “The devil whispered in my ear, ‘you’re not strong enough to withstand the storm.’ Today I whispered in the devil’s ear, ‘I am a child of God, a woman of faith, a warrior of Christ. I am the storm.’”

I was reminded of this meme, during the storm that blew through our area on Friday, March 2nd, 2018. Dangerous wind conditions caused county schools and the Federal Government to close. Trees and branches were crashing to the ground, roofs and cars were damaged, homes and businesses lost power. Mayhem seemed to rule the day.

The lights at St. Hugh’s Catholic Church flickered off and on throughout that Friday. All the while, in the basement of the church, a crew of Sodality members, augmented by those who unexpectedly got the day off, arranged tables and chairs, decorated the hall and chopped vegetables, bread and fruit. Despite the storm, preparations went on for hosting the Sodality Union’s monthly Mass and meeting, with 100-plus Sodalists expected to attend. Excited chatter and even a few bars of the Beatles’ tune “Hey, Jude,” sung in honor of one of our helpers, could be heard. Each time the lights flickered, we prayed. “Oh Lord, don’t let the lights go out.” Throughout the day, our prayers were heard.

Later Friday night, however, after our preparations were complete, the power went out at the church. Well, half of it went out, anyway. Praise God, the power that kept the food from spoiling stayed on. But, the power that fed the furnace, the sound system, and the electrical outlets nearest the 100-cup coffee urn was off. Poor Fr. Tappe and his birds had only space heaters to keep them warm in the rectory that long night.

After hearing about the outage late Friday evening, doubts crept into mind. Should we cancel the event? Would our invited guests be able to get here safely? What would we do with all the food we had prepared if they didn’t come or we cancelled? That night, we were praying for a miracle, determined not to give up hope. By 7:30 Saturday morning, just an hour before our guests were to arrive, the situation was unchanged. We would just have to go on without heat, borrow a battery-operated sound system, and move the coffee urn to an outlet that worked.

Trusting in God’s providence, we weren’t going to be defeated by this storm. Soon our visitors began to arrive. By 8:30 a.m., the church was full of Sodalists. As we started to pray the Rosary together, miracle of miracles...up came the rest of the power! We had more light, we had heat, we had two working sound systems, and we didn’t have to move the coffee urn. The moral of this story: Even through small inconveniences such as these, we must put our faith in God. To be warriors of Christ we must tell the devil, “I am the storm.”

“What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31)

For all those who lost power, incurred damage to their cars or homes, were injured or endured suffering of any kind because of the storm, let us pray to the Lord.

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 MARY WADE, EDITOR
 CINDY PERRY, ASSISTANT EDITOR

PRAYER CORNER



Let us remember to pray...

- for all our deceased Sodalists, parishioners and their family members who have died, especially for Carmen Davino, Sr.
 - for those who are ill, especially for Tom Lonsbury, Dalisay Lopez, and JoAnn Kellaher
- ...and for all those intentions written in the Sodality Prayer Book.

Executive Council

2016-2018

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Donna Peterson

Ways & Means

Barbara Ford

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Totus Tuus

I belong entirely to you, Mary
 and all that I have is yours.
 I take you for my all.
 O Mary, give me your heart.

—prayed daily by Pope St. John Paul II

Sodality Prayer: To Jesus through Mary

O Mother Mary, may you continue to bless our lives as we journey in faith, hope, and love. Be our model and guide as we live in the grace won by your Son, Jesus, by his suffering and resurrection. May your motherly intercession for us bring healing, strength, and renewal.

O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners. Help us to bring all people to your Son, especially those in most need of his mercy. May our Sodality help us grow in your image as disciples of Jesus. We pray this in his name. Amen.

CELEBRATE!

October 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington Sodality Union. In celebration of this event the SU is asking members to pray the Sodality Prayer every day through October 2018.

Reminder: Our lector for...

March 4: JoEllen Sarff

April 1: Cindy Perry

May 6: Rita Radich



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