

Sodality of Our Lady
Celebrating 65 Years
1947 - 2012

The Marian Messenger

Bi-monthly newsletter of the Sodality of Our Lady

“O Jesus living in Mary, Come and live in thy Servants”



Prefect's Perspective

Hello everyone,

Welcome back. I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. I'm excited to serve as St. Hugh Sodality Prefect for the next two years. I look forward to working with each of you as we make our faith journey together. We are going to have a busy and exciting year celebrating the 65th Anniversary of St. Hugh Sodality. I hope that you'll be able to join us at each of the special events we have planned.

As we make the seasonal transition from summer to fall, our lives full of activities and commitments, I'm reminded of something that St. John of the Cross once wrote in a poem. He wrote, "If you meet the Virgin coming down the road, invite her into your house. She bears the word of God." How can each of us bring Mary into our lives and homes? How can we carve out some time from our busy schedules to listen and reflect on her devotion to God? How can we say, "Yes"?

Perhaps you have a prayer corner – a special place in your home where you have religious art or statues – a quiet place for prayer and meditation. Do you spend time there often? Do you take time to just rest and listen? Let us each try to find ways to invite Mary into our lives and homes every day.

I pray that the upcoming year will bring abundant blessings to each of you.

JoEllen

Calendar of Events

- Sept 2 Sodality Mass & mtg @ 8am
Newsletter
- Sept 27 Executive Council mtg@7pm
Rectory Meeting Room
- Oct 6 Sodality Union Commitment Day
- Oct 7 Sodality Mass & Mtg @8am
Rosary Marathon @ Noon-9pm
- Oct 13 Day of Reflection 9:30am-2:30pm
Grenoble Hall
- Oct 18 Executive Council mtg@7pm
Rectory Meeting Room
Newsletter Articles Due
- Oct 28 Sodality Mass & Mtg @8am
- Nov 1 Newsletter Published

September and October Birthdays

- Sept 4 Candy Culhane
- Sept 5 Liz Labukas
- Sept 5 Meg Kaplan
- Sept 9 Cathy Holcombe
- Sept 11 Rohanie Bacghus
- Oct 1 Kelly Pollins
- Oct 13 Marti Galvin
- Oct 28 Mary Wade

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

--homily by Deacon Desi Vikor

The inclusion of a feast in honor of the Queenship of Mary in the liturgical calendar dates to 1954, during the pontificate of Pius XII. The use of the term "queen" for Mary is much older than the feast. Many Catholics are well familiar with the Marian prayer "Hail, Holy Queen" which originated in the 11th century. Changes in our culture and society make some of the titles traditionally ascribed to Mary seem strange and antiquated to people today. As monarchies disappear and where they still exist become more symbols of a bygone era, the term "queen" means less than it formerly did to many.

If we examine the story of Mary in Sacred Scripture, "queenship" is not exactly the word that comes to mind. After all, there seems to have been nothing regal about her life. Nowhere in the four gospels is Mary portrayed as wearing a crown, carrying a scepter, or even going about her life with the status or privilege associated with royalty.

Some would urge also that poetic and romantic terms for Mary like "House of Gold" and "Star of the Sea" could well be replaced with terms that identify her more with human misery and ordinary existence such as "mother of the homeless, widowed mother, unwed mother, mother of a political prisoner, oppressed woman, liberator of the oppressed, seeker of sanctuary, first disciple."

So why do we today—and every day—call her queen?

Mary's entire life was centered on the Lord and grace-filled submission to his will. She said "Yes" to Him repeatedly. And she complied even if she probably didn't understand what she was getting into each time and just like the disciples, she couldn't figure out the Lord.

First, we recall her simple but resolute "Yes" to the message of the Lord expressed in the Annunciation verses we just heard from Luke's Gospel. Recall "The Finding at the Temple" when Jesus scolded her and Joseph for not appreciating what he was about.

Recall "The Wedding at Cana" when he told her that it was not yet "his time." Recall especially "The Crucifixion at Calvary" when she stood at the foot of his cross, gazing up at him with a mixture of grief and bewilderment until the moment she cradled his cold and broken body in her arms.

Each time, even if she knew God would move or disrupt the circumstances of her life, Mary said "Yes." Each time, even if she didn't completely understand what she was getting into, she accepted. What enabled her to say "Yes" each time? Certainly grace had something to do with it. One theologian writes about the events after the crucifixion in this manner: "When the beloved disciple takes her home, and when the other disciples come crawling out from under their rocks, they will find themselves in the presence of someone whose contact with the Holy Spirit has been far more intimate than theirs. She has seen things they only heard about. She has felt things inside her body they cannot even imagine. Perhaps that is why she has stayed put while they fled. Perhaps that is what let her look into the ruined face that no one but her... could bear to see."

That's royalty – queenship – redefined. We see it not in any power or prestige that she enjoyed, but ironically, in her surrender to a greater power. Royalty doesn't mean insisting on how we want the circumstances of our lives arranged; rather, it means letting God decide even if it turns things upside down. That's a different brand of royalty. And in this, in recognizing the Spirit and following the Spirit, Mary was truly queen.

Today Mary our Queen shows us that we too can be royalty. But the road to royalty is surrender, not power or control. It means doing something not just because I want to, but because God may want me to even if I don't want it.

Blessed are you, Virgin Mary, because you believed that the Lord's words to you would be fulfilled; now you reign with Christ forever.

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Heartfelt thanks ...are extended to Deacon Desi Viktor and parish Director of Music, Jennifer Goltz for their service at the Holy Hour celebration of the Queenship of Mary on August 22nd. For their roles as lector and leader of the rosary, we also thank our fellow Sodalists, Mary Wade and Ellen Hanyok. Their loving efforts allowed for a wonderful observance of Our Lady's feast, the first event of our 65th Anniversary Year.

This prayer based on a St. Therese prayer --

*May today there be peace within.
May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others.
May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content with yourself just the way you are.
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.*

-- shared by JoEllen Sarff

Reminder..

Our lector for September 2: Suzanne Lomax.

Gift bearers: Beth Osborne and Barbara Ford.

Flowers for the BVM: Candy Culhane.

Our lector for October 7: Mary Wade

Gift bearers:TBD

Flowers for the BVM:TBD

PRAYER CORNER

Let us remember our fellow Sodalists and parishioners and their family members in our prayers...

- Ed Osborne (Barbara's son, Beth's brother)
- Irene Janosko (Ellen Hanyok's aunt)
- Gloria Wilson
- Peggy Compton and her son, Bobby
- All those intentions written in the Sodality Prayer Book

For back issues of the Marian Messenger and other Sodality documents go to:

www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Click on "Our Church" and then "Sodality of Our Lady".