



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 prepare for the annual March for Life in the nation's capital, local states are preparing to begin their new legislative sessions. This reminds me that just one year ago legislators in New York State cheered when they heard that the bill legalizing abortion up to the moment of birth had passed. We listened as Virginia's governor, a pediatrician, calmly described on WTOP radio how a newly proposed bill would assure that a newborn infant would be made comfortable while the mother and the doctors decided whether or not to kill the baby. In Maryland, legalization for assisted suicide lost by one vote, and the Maryland legislature introduced an abortion bill similar to New York's but it was withdrawn three days before its sponsor died.

We can expect more of the same as state legislatures begin new sessions this month. What is going on? How did we get here?

The holocaust in Nazi Germany that killed 6 million Jews was awful, horrible, evil, against God's law. It lasted about ten years. But legal abortion in the United States has lasted 48 years and killed 64 million babies. Each of these unborn babies was a human being made in the image and likeness of God. Our scientific knowledge today allows for no other conclusion.

So why does abortion continue and what can we do to help stop the slaughter of our innocents?

Abortion continues...

- ...because our law calls abortion legal and many people equate what the law allows as moral.
- ...because we vote into office people who do not believe in protecting human life, or are willing to tolerate a little bit of abortion.
- ...because pregnant women often believe they must abort to avoid bringing embarrassment to themselves or their families, or that bearing the child would ruin their lives or careers.
- ...because so many in our country no longer believe in God.

Five things we can do to help stop the slaughter of the innocents are:

1. Find out each candidate's position on abortion and support only those who are pro-life.
2. Pray that all who are involved in the abortion industry and our legislatures will have a conversion of heart. Be an advocate for pro-life legislation and, when possible, financially support our pro-life public officials.
3. Be informed on the issues and teach our children and friends the Church's teaching.
4. When we learn of a pregnant woman who is struggling financially or emotionally, especially among our family or friends, we can offer congratulations, a listening ear and a loving hand/hug.
5. Pray and strive to become saints. We need all the armor and weapons possible in this war against evil.

To Jesus through Mary,

Rita Radich

**Photo on Left**

Christmas Bazaar:
Betty Triplett

Photo on Right

Oktoberfest:
Dancers and
Parishioners
enjoying the
celebration



BOOKS, APPS, AND WEB SITES FOR THE SOUL

Witness to Hope by George Wiegel

A biography of John Paul II until about 10 years before his death. The book not only tells his amazing story, but also talks about the cold war, and the Church and Vatican II. There is another book concluding his life, also by George Wiegel.

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

Lee Strobel is a Christian, but not a Catholic. His recitation of Bible passages, citations from Christian theologians, are logical, understandable and a boost to our belief as well as a help to explain our faith to others.

One way to read the Bible

I found an old book of daily meditations for a year. It is based on selections from the Old and New Testaments each day so that by the end of the year you have the read the complete Bible. I doubt my old book is still in print, but there must be something similar available.

iBreviary

From their website, you can download the app for your tablet or phone. You get the breviary for each day, the Mass and the readings for each Mass, a long list of prayers, and quite a list of rites for various situations (some even in Latin). What a treasure to have handy.

Unplanned, a movie (on DVD)

Based on the true story of Abby Johnson who was a director of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic for six years. Then she saw the baby and abruptly changed. She is now pro-life and especially works to encourage abortion clinic workers to quit and become pro-life. I was especially moved by the love of her family even while she worked at the clinic.

SODALITY ACTIVITIES, July to December, 2019

After a quiet summer the Sodality had its first meeting of the year the second Sunday of September, followed by a very successful Bake Sale while hosting the coffee social. At the coffee social we handed out brochures and tried to interest parishioners in membership in the Sodality.

On the first Sunday in October we had another business meeting followed by the Rosary Celebration for the parish in the church following the 11:00am Mass. About 45 people participated during the course of the afternoon. A leader read an intention, lead a rosary and then read a reflection. Participants were invited to write additional intentions down in a book at the rear of the church to be included.

Two weeks later the Sodality sponsored a Day of Reflection in Grenoble Hall after the 9am Mass and the parish and community were invited. Our presenter was Sister Sara Dwyer, a member of the congregation, *Adorers of the Blood of Christ*, and currently Director of the Washington Retreat House. She spoke on and directed discussion on “Mary: Memories, Mindfulness, and Meditations”.



Day of Reflection:
Prefect, Rita Radich with our
presenter,
Sister Sara Dwyer



Happy Day of Reflection Participants:
Rita Radich, Marguerite Kincius,
Joellen Sarff, Mame Ellis, Ellen
Hanyok, Barbara Ford and Mary Bitter

After a meeting the second Sunday of November, our meeting on December 1 was a Christmas party with yummy snacks, reading of the Christmas story with carols throughout, a few door prizes, and a great time socializing.

On December 21, under the chairmanship of Mary Bitter, we hosted a Christmas party for the children of parents selecting Christmas gifts that the Knights of Columbus had organized from the parish. Some snacks, games, and arts and crafts seemed to be a hit, no matter the age.

—by Rita Radich

Spiritual Adventures: Retreats & Pilgrimages

By Monica Theis Huber

I first learned about the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, when we were doing our parish-wide “33 Days to Morning Glory” retreat in preparation for consecration to Mary. It’s mentioned on the back of Fr. Michael Gaitley’s book. It was 2016—the Year of Mercy—when my desire to visit there, to make a pilgrimage, took root. This past July I began to flesh out some plans for a pilgrimage: How far from Greenbelt was Stockbridge? Could I drive there in a day? Where would I stay? How much would it cost?

As it turns out, the Shrine has a small guest house for pilgrims with full kitchen, living room, private bedrooms and shared baths. The Shrine also offers a daily schedule of Mass, Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Confession. Various related shrines and gift shops are within walking distance of the guest house. I reserved 3 nights at the end of August so I could be there for 2 special feasts: St. Monica, August 27 and St. Augustine, August 28. I thought I was set until late July when I experienced the discomfort of staying somewhere that didn’t have air conditioning! That spurred me on to check whether The Divine Mercy Shrine offered such comfort for modern pilgrims during a potential heat wave...alas, they do not, not a single building, not even the chapel! Sadly, I decided to cancel my reservation; 3 days and nights of summer heat with no “cooling center” could be intolerable, if not a health hazard!

I lamented the loss of this pilgrimage to a friend, and she quickly offered me another option for private retreat: the Convent of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor, a small Benedictine community in Catonsville, MD. My friend, an Episcopalian, is an associate of this formerly Anglican order, which was received into the Catholic Church in 2009. Their website helped me flesh out a visit for the same 3 days I had already scheduled for pilgrimage/retreat. Guests are invited to share in the rich spiritual life of the Sisters: daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Women guests stay in a separate wing of the Convent in private rooms with shared baths, living room and library. Simple meals are provided in a separate guest dining room, along with refrigerator, microwave and coffee pot. Hospitality is a charism of Benedictine spirituality and, for Sisters in full habit, air-conditioning permeates all living spaces! What a blessed experience this was, to retreat from my day-to-day routines to be nurtured and enriched by the sacred flow of monastic rhythms! “Coincidentally,” I met two other women guests who had both visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy—but not during summer! Maybe some spring or fall...?

My stay at All Saints turned out to be a more blessed experience than I could have imagined. It refreshed me, fortified me, and carried me through a most difficult September, when one of my younger brothers died suddenly. God further provided for me when He nudged me in early August to sign up for the pilgrimage to Graymoor in Garrison, NY. It was scheduled for early October, which I didn’t know at the time would be right after my brother’s funeral! What a blessing it was to be carried on a bus with fellow pilgrims to yet another place of spiritual refreshment! If you haven’t heard about this spiritual adventure from one or more of the 18 St. Hugh pilgrims or read about it in the Greenbelt News Review, I would be surprised! I will summarize my experience briefly and simply: It was awesome and uplifting and set my mind and heart to looking forward to many more spiritual adventures, even those that may be closer to home!

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Let us remember to pray...

- for all our deceased Sodalists, parishioners and their family members who have died, especially for
- for those who are ill, especially for Dalisay Lopez, JoAnn Kellaher, and Lois Gorman

...and for all those intentions written in the Sodality Prayer Book.

Winter Birthdays	Calendar of Events
Jan.2 Margaret Zanin	Jan.5 Sodality Mass & GB Meeting
Jan. 10 Veronica Penick	Jan. 16 Parish Calendar Meeting@7pm
Feb. 7 JoEllen Sarff	Jan. 24 March for Life
Feb. 9 Kathleen McFarland	Feb.2 Sodality Mass & Meeting
Feb. 13 Peggy Compton	Traveling Madonna
Feb.27 Marguerite Kincius	Mar.1 Sodality Mass & Meeting
Mar. 2 Barbara Ford	Mar.7 SU Mass & Meeting @ St.Hugh
Mar. 13 Sally Bersbach	Mar.13-15 SU Lenten Retreat
Mar. 18 Therese Enwerem	Mar.25 UMD Taste of Home
	Feast of the Annunciation

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.

Reminder: Our lector for...

- Jan.5: Monica Huber
- Feb.2: Cindy Perry
- March 1: Rita Radich



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