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The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

December 2012

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From the desk of Mary...

Warm Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center where we celebrate daily the Universal Call to Holiness!

It is with joy that I share with you that the work of the Center continues to grow as more and more people learn about and seek spiritual direction in the Catholic tradition as a way of growing in their relationship with Christ and deepening their love for the Church. No matter where we are on our faith journey, each moment holds the graces we need to pursue sanctity.

We are all called to be saints! His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, conveyed this message to the youth of Madrid earlier this year by stating, "Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given you for your own joy and sanctity. When a person is conquered by the fire of His gaze, no sacrifice seems too great to follow Him and give Him the best of ourselves. This is what the saints have always done, spreading the light of the Lord...and transforming the world into a welcoming home for everyone." (Vatican City, 2 April 2012)

This Christmas, let us call upon our Savior and Lord to help us to become saints, to spread the light of the Lord, and to transform the world with Him into a welcoming home for everyone. And let us trust that He will!

A Joyous Christmas to you and those you love from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

A Tribute to a Great Theologian and Friend

Sadly, on July 29, 2012, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center lost one of its greatest supporters and friends. Ralph Gerald Del Colle, Associate Professor of Theology at Marquette University, passed into eternal life at the age of 57. Dr. Del Colle was a brilliant Catholic layman whose scholarship in the area of Trinitarian Theology and the Theology of the Holy Spirit made significant contributions to the field. Without a doubt, he had one of the most cultivated minds in the Church of his generation, and he lived his faith with exemplary piety. In the preface of his dissertation he

wrote, "The Christian experience of God is one with contours that are shaped by what [St.] Irenaeus imagined as the 'two hands of God.' Christ and the [Holy] Spirit are God's way into the depths of the human condition, the divine grip, so to speak, upon our fragile and tenuous reality. To know this, to realize that one is in the grasp of divine knowing, is the beginning of all Christian theology." Dr. Del Colle, a great theologian and devoted son of the Church, actively lived "in the grasp of divine knowing." May he now rest in our Lord's peace.

We are honored that Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center was designated to receive memorials in his name. We sincerely thank those donors listed below:

Mary E. Henke
Mr. and Mrs. James and Mary Connelly
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Debra Reit
Mrs. Rachel Monfardini
Mr. and Mrs. Harold and Eleanor Schroeder
Mary Ann Fiorenza
Anonymous

Board Members - Gratitude and Welcome

We are profoundly grateful to Father Alan Veik, OFM, Cap., for his dedicated years of service as Vice President of the Center's Board of Directors. Father Al's humility and kindness, along with the wisdom he brought to the Board from decades of leadership roles in the Church, endeared him to all of us. We wish him God's choicest blessings as he answers the call from his Capuchin community to dedicate himself fully to their corporate works.

We joyfully welcome our new Vice President, Mr. Michael Canfield of Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. Mike is married and has four daughters. Along with previous board experiences, Mike brings a deep love of the Eucharist and a strong devotion to Our Lady. Mike is concurrently giving generously of his time to the Men of Christ Conference, and to evangelization efforts at the parish level during this Year of Faith. We look forward to working with him in further promoting the vision and mission of the Center.

