



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

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Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center
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From the desk of Mary...



Warm Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

I begin by sharing with you the joyful news of the Consecration of Dr. Linda Ann Andrejek to a life of virginity lived in the world on September 8, 2019 at the hands of the Most Reverend Robert D. Conlon, Bishop of Joliet, IL. This is the second religious vocation in Linda's family. Her brother, Father Peter Adrejek, is a priest in the Diocese of Peoria, IL.

In 2014 when Linda was living and working as a Catholic grade school principal in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI referred her to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center where she spent time discerning her vocation. She subsequently moved back to her home state of Illinois and there received her formation for the vocation in the Diocese of Joliet where she currently resides. Linda serves as the Director of Religious Education at Sacred Heart Church in Lombard, IL.

This beautiful vocation to live as a bride of Christ in the world dates back to apostolic times. It was highly esteemed in the early Church as evidenced by the witnesses to the faith of the early virgin martyr Saints Agnes, Agatha and Lucy. They are remembered by name to this day in the First Eucharistic Prayer in the celebration of Masses throughout the world. The revised Rite of the Order of Virgins was approved by Pope Saint Paul VI and promulgated in 1970 following the Second Vatican Council. There are approximately 250 consecrated virgins in the United States including four in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

With her permission, a photograph of this very special occasion appears in this issue. Congratulations, Linda!



Dr. Linda Ann Andrejek receives the Consecration of a Virgin Living in the World at Sacred Heart Church, Lombard, IL
(Photo courtesy of Tom Killoran Photography)

At Our Lady of Grace we were blessed in 2019 with referrals from bishops, priests and friends of those who themselves have benefitted from the work of the Center. People travel from Illinois, and from as far as Green Bay, Wausau and Fond du Lac, WI and to receive our services. We are humbled and honored by the sacred trust these referrals represent.

We thank you most sincerely for your many prayers and generous financial gifts throughout the year which are necessary to sustain the Center. Together in mission with you, we are doing wonderful work for Christ. May He reward you, as only He can do, for your sacrifices in support of this sacred mission, and He will!

With Christmas fast approaching, we are dedicating this issue to the Holy Angels, those created spirits who announced our Savior's birth in Bethlehem, who kneel in humble Adoration before the throne of God, and who stand ready to help us in our every need. You won't want to miss Monsignor Charles Mangan's compelling article entitled, "Angels, Help Us to Adore Him". Thank you, Monsignor, for yet another wonderful contribution to our newsletter.

And finally, from all of us at the Center, from our hearts to yours, I wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Serra Club of Milwaukee, Thank You!

On Sept. 10, 2019 we had the opportunity to personally thank the Serra Club of Milwaukee for their years of support of our sacred mission at their monthly meeting at the Catholic Home on the Milwaukee lakefront. Board President Mary DeSantis was invited to speak to the Club on how our respective missions interface. Serra Clubs worldwide are known for their prayers, activities and fundraising efforts to foster and support vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. In Milwaukee this includes the Padre Serra Catholic Schools' Basketball Tournament for eighth graders. In support of our work in providing one on one spiritual direction and vocational discernment for young adults, we are honored to report that the Serra Club of Milwaukee will be covering the rent for our office space over the next year. We remember all Serra Club members living and deceased in our grateful prayers.



This newsletter is made possible through the generosity and skills of Miss Nicolette Bardele.



Angels, Help Us to Adore Him

Monsignor Charles M. Mangan



Years ago, my Grandmother, who was my Mother's mother, told me that she learned as a young child that the Holy Angels are "created spirits." Her assertion reminded me that she, who was born in 1897 and had been taught well by her parents, the Priests and the Sisters, knew the distinction between God as "The Uncreated Spirit" and the Angels who had been created in time.

Such truths today are probably not widely known by Catholics of *any* age, never mind children. How we need to pray and fast for a fresh start!

The existence of those created spirits, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." (328)

In a passage that has become famous, the great Saint Augustine wrote: "'Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel.'" (329)

The Angels possess an intellect and a will as we do. Yet, their intellects have not been darkened and their wills have not been weakened by Original Sin as have ours.

The same *Catechism* reminds us:

Christ is the center of the angelic world. They are *His* angels: 'When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him...' They belong to Him because they were created *through* and *for* Him: 'for in Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities— all things were created through Him and for Him.' They belong to Him still more because He has made them messengers of His saving plan: 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?' (331)

And the Holy Angels have adored and served God with fidelity. They continue in this vein.

From the Incarnation to the Ascension, the life of the Word Incarnate is surrounded by the adoration and service of angels. When God 'brings the firstborn into the world, he says: 'Let all God's angels worship Him.'" Their song of praise at the birth of Christ has not ceased resounding in the Church's praise: 'Glory to God in the highest!' They protect Jesus in His infancy, serve Him in the desert, strengthen Him in His agony in the garden, when He could have been saved by them from the hands of His enemies as Israel had been. Again, it is the angels who 'evangelize' by proclaiming the Good News of Christ's Incarnation and

Resurrection. They will be present at Christ's return, which they will announce, to serve at His judgment. (333)

Each of us benefits from the presence and assistance of our Guardian Angel, whose mission is, according to the "Prayer to the Guardian Angel," "to light, to guard, to rule and guide." Again, the *Catechism*:

From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. 'Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.' Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God. (336)

We are obliged to recognize that there are other angels, who are not holy, who do all they can to tempt us and lead us to Hell. These are the demons who are under the exacting, ungentle and hateful tyranny of Satan. We rebuff their constant and maniacal efforts by sincere recourse to Our Lord, Our Lady, Saint Joseph and all the Angels and Saints as well as by the worthy and frequent reception of the Holy Sacraments of the Church.

As we read and hear Sacred Scripture during these Seasons of Advent and Christmas and note the continuous intervention of the Holy Angels, we can only marvel at who the Angels are and what they do. These "created spirits" proclaimed the Lordship of Our Lord Jesus Christ while they protected Him, Our Lady and Saint Joseph. And we know from faith and experience that their benevolent and timely help remains with us and overshadows us twenty centuries later.

Masses for Your Intentions in 2020

In gratitude for your support, Holy Mass will be offered in 2020 at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary for all of our benefactors, directees and volunteers on the following Marian feasts:

- February 11, 2020 Our Lady of Lourdes
- May 31, 2020 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- September 8, 2020 The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 8, 2020 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Faithful Lifelong Companion

Let us remember to call upon and thank our Guardian Angel daily with the Catholic Guardian Angel Prayer of our childhood, and invite our loved ones to do the same. From the moment of conception until death, our Guardian Angel is constantly protecting us from harm and lighting our way to God.

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love entrusts me here;
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.



We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to ***Our Lady of Grace.***