



# 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 where we are privileged to engage in the amazing work of spiritual direction and vocational discernment in the heart of the Church.

Our outreach continues to flourish thanks to your prayers and sacrifices, and many referrals. We are so very grateful for your support.

As I pondered a theme for this Advent newsletter, the thought came to me to devote it to the powerful intercessor, Saint Joseph. This is an opportune time, as we prepare for Christmas, to get to know Saint Joseph better.

Once again, I am happy to announce that Monsignor Charles Mangan of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD has gifted us with a wonderful reflection. It is entitled "Saint Joseph, Our Protector". Included in his article is the "Prayer to Saint Joseph" composed by Pope Leo XIII. This prayer will help us draw closer to the Holy Family this Christmas.

The newsletter was lovingly prepared for your spiritual enrichment. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Again we thank you most sincerely for all the many ways you have supported the Center in 2018. We couldn't do this important work without your help. We pray for your intentions daily and have a Mass offered for you quarterly. May God reward you in time and in eternity for your faithful and generous support of our sacred mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, from our hearts to yours, we wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

## Serra Club of Milwaukee, Thank You!

Serra Clubs worldwide are known for their efforts to foster and support vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. In support of our work at Our Lady of Grace in providing 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.

## *Masses for Your Intentions in 2019*

In gratitude for your support, Holy Mass will be offered in 2019 at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary for all of our benefactors, directees and volunteers on the following Marian feasts:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| February 11, 2019 | Our Lady of Lourdes                                  |
| May 31, 2019      | The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary            |
| September 8, 2019 | The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary                 |
| December 8, 2019  | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary |

## Fr. Walter J. Stohrer, S.J. (1930-2018)

We grieve the loss of a dear friend of the Center, Jesuit Father Wally Stohrer, who died on July 14, 2018 at the age of 88 at the Saint Camillus Jesuit Retirement House in Wauwatosa. Until just months before his death, Father Wally celebrated quarterly Masses for the benefactors, directees and volunteers of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center first at the Marquette University Jesuit Residence Chapel, and later in retirement at Saint Camillus.

Father Wally entered the Jesuits at the age of 17 immediately following his graduation from Creighton Preparatory High School in Omaha, Nebraska. He was ordained a priest on July 26, 1960 in Innsbruck, Austria where he completed his theological studies. In 2017, he and his only sister had the extraordinary blessing of jointly celebrating 70 years in Religious Life, he as a Jesuit and she as a Dominican.

Although a philosopher by training (Ph.D., Georgetown University), his gentle spirit and beautiful integration of poetry, philosophy, theology, Scripture and literature made him a beloved spiritual director to many.

May this good and faithful servant rest in Our Lord's peace. Amen.



Father Reed Mungovan, SDS, blessing sacred art at the Center in time for Christmas.

## *Saint Joseph, Our Protector*

*Monsignor Charles Mangan*



The Universal Church exults daily in the memory of Saint Joseph but especially each March 19<sup>th</sup> (The Solemnity of Saint Joseph) and May 1<sup>st</sup> (The Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker).

It is often said that we know little information about Joseph and his life from Sacred Scripture. That assertion is clearly true.

But we can know something regarding this magnificent Saint. How? Not only by prayerfully meditating on the relevant passages in The Holy Bible but also by asking God Himself to teach us about this “just man” who is the Foster Father of Jesus Christ, the chaste Husband of the Ever-Virgin Mary and the Patron of the Universal Church.

The Lord has countless secrets to reveal to us about Joseph. God wants to instruct us in the ways of Joseph's faith, perseverance, purity and loyalty.

The “Litany of Saint Joseph” is an excellent place to begin. The vivid titles convey so much meaning and truth. One of my favorite appellations from the Litany is “Terror of Demons.”

Satan and his cohort of fallen angels had no success in seducing Joseph. He refrained from idle speech and he was righteous in his dealings with his neighbors. Because Joseph was close to the compassionate Almighty, he was enabled to overcome the vicious onslaught of Lucifer and his vindictive companions.

Those who turn to Saint Joseph for his powerful intercession and good example do much to keep Satan and the other wholly corrupt devils at bay. In this sense, Joseph is the Terror of Demons because when the friends of Jesus avail themselves of his salutary influence, Saint Joseph is for them a sure protection against the oppressive wiles of the Prince of Darkness.

There are numerous prayers to Saint Joseph. What follows is the "Prayer to Saint Joseph" by Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) that was published at the end of his famous Encyclical, dated August 15, 1889, on Devotion to Saint Joseph entitled, *Quamquam Pluries*.

“To thee, O blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of thy thrice holy Spouse, we now, with hearts filled with confidence, earnestly beg thee also to take us under thy protection. By that charity wherewith thou wert united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by that fatherly love with which thou didst cherish the Child Jesus, we beseech thee and we humbly pray that thou wilt look down with gracious eye upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His blood, and wilt succor us in our need by thy power and strength.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen off-spring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, following thine example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.”

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation!

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you: save souls!

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you. Amen.

With Saint Joseph as our help, we may confidently approach the Risen Lord Jesus Christ through Blessed Mary and realize that our humble efforts—poor as they are—will please our merciful God.

Saint Joseph, Terror of Demons, pray for us!



Painted with love by a friend of the Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison student, Abby Meyer.

 **As Always...** 

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

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**.