



THE RAY

The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

Volume 1, Issue 2

*With this newsletter,
we extend to our
readers a blessed and
fruitful Pentecost!*

Our Lady of Grace – On the Road

In the past few months, word about Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center has spread in a number of ways.

In April, Miss Mary DeSantis spoke to the St. Thomas More Lawyers Society (STMLS) about the Center and its work, and about the vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World. STMLS is a group of Milwaukee-area Catholic lawyers who meet monthly at the Marquette campus for First Friday Mass followed by breakfast with a guest speaker. Lawyers are known for being able to talk about anything – but when Mary spoke to them, they were quiet with rapt attention and reflection about their own vocations.

In March, Mary spoke to a group of middle school girls at St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Elm Grove. The Girls' Night Out program began with Mary's talk on the variety of vocations that flow from the waters of Baptism. It was followed by a sing-a-long and presentation by Fr. Phil Hurley, S.J., on the Ignatian theme of uniting ourselves more and more to Jesus in daily life.

In January, the Center was represented at the Women of Christ Conference in West Bend. More than 100 women stopped by our booth to pick up literature about Our Lady of Grace and the opportunities for spiritual direction and vocational discernment. The Conference was a huge success in its entirety, with over 2,000 women attending to hear talks from Archbishop ListECKI, Immaculee Ilibagiza (survivor of the Rwandan Holocaust), Fr. Larry Richards (founder, The

On the Road continued on the back...

Vocation Guild

With deep gratitude for Our Lady's guidance, we joyfully announce a newly developed program called Our Lady of Grace Vocation Guild. The Guild serves as a powerhouse of prayer for the work of the Center by praying Our Lady's Rosary with the specific intention that all God's people answer the Universal Call to Holiness, thus sanctifying the world. Guild members commit to a couple hours of prayer and fellowship once a month in small group settings. Meeting format and prayer booklets are available. An initial vocation presentation further explains the mission of the prayer group. Be a part of this inspired and important work. Call the Center at 414-258-2604, ext. 27.

SAVE THE DATE!



Back by popular demand, the Center will again host a Wine and Cheese Reception on **Sunday evening, October 23, 2011**. A talk by Fr. Cliff Ermatinger on *The Women Doctors of the Church* will be followed by a social. (Who could forget last year's great food and conversation!) This year's guest speaker, Fr. Cliff, serves as pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Parish on Milwaukee's south side, and has authored several books on spirituality and theology. **Mark your calendars now.**

...On the Road continued

Reason for Our Hope) and Helen M. Alvare (Associate Professor of Law, George Mason Law School). The Center was very gratified to be a part of this important event, which included all-day Eucharistic Adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation, and Holy Mass. We look forward to meeting with even more women at the 2012 Conference.

In December, Mary met with a group of Girl Scouts at Christ King Parish, who are working on their Marian Award, a program designed to help young girls learn about Mary, the Mother of God and the First Female Disciple of Christ. It also teaches the girls how to be young women of faith in their family and friend relationships.

Meet the Volunteers!

In each issue of *The Ray*, the Center would like to introduce to you people who donate their time, in large and small ways, to help support and further the work of Our Lady of Grace.

For the past several months, **Mr. Mike Harris**, an accountant, has helped maintain the monthly bookkeeping records for the Center, and has also assisted with the Center's tax reporting as a 501(c)(3) organization. Mike cheerfully shares his expertise and time, and is an important part of keeping the Center organized. Everyone on the Board of Our Lady of Grace appreciates Mike's generous donation of time and detailed attention.

Mrs. Rachel Monfardini has lent her computer skills to the Center, helping with the *The Ray* newsletter. She has also undertaken the task of designing and formatting the Vocation Guild materials developed by the Center. For more information about the Vocation Guild, see the article by Miss Mary DeSantis in this issue of *The Ray*. Rachel has an unceasing willingness to share her skills with us.

Deep Gratitude

We are so grateful to **Mrs. Ellen Mary Raster** for her many hours of dedicated service to the Center as Vice-President of the Board of Directors during 2010. Ellen Mary's generous spirit and graciousness contributed greatly to the elegance and success of our Inaugural Wine and Cheese Reception last October. We wish Ellen Mary and her family the very best always.

Welcome

Early in 2011 we joyfully welcomed **Fr. Alan Veik, OFM, Cap.** as the new Vice-President. Fr. Al brings a wealth of pastoral experience including leadership posts in the St. Joseph Province of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars and many years in direct service to the Archbishops of Milwaukee as Vicar for Religious and Director of the Office of Consecrated Life.

Pentecost Reflection

From the pen of Jules J. Toner, S.J. . .

In order to do God's will, we must find out what He wills. Our vocation to love God and express that love in doing His will includes a vocation to seek and find what He wills, to give Him the service of our intelligence as well as of our will. Sincerity, honesty, and generosity in seeking to find God's will and to do it in every situation where we think He may have a will for our free choice of action is the fundamental and most certain test of Christian love. So it is that Holy Scripture is constantly urging us to think before doing; (1 Thes. 5:21) to look carefully and try to discover what is pleasing to the Lord, what he wants us to do; (Eph. 5:10, 15-17) to abound more and more in knowledge and discernment; (Phil. 1:9-10) to come to the fullest knowledge of God's will and be able to live the life he wants of us "in all its aspects." (Col. 1:9-12)

...In the history of teaching on Christian discernment of God's will, St. Ignatius of Loyola is the central figure. It was to help others in their efforts to find and do God's will that Ignatius wrote his little book entitled *Spiritual Exercises*. In it we find a presentation of a "formal, systematical method" for seeking God's will for the individual's choice among alternatives when all of them appear to be for God's service and glory.

*Excerpt from Chapter 1, Introduction
Discerning God's Will: Ignatius of Loyola's
Teaching on Christian Decision Making, pp. 2-3.*