



# THE RAY

*The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center*

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS  
JUNE 2012

2604 N. Swan Blvd. Wauwatosa WI 53226 414-258-2604 x27 Vol. 2 Issue 2

## *From the desk of Mary...*

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center, and happy Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Since our last newsletter we have been blessed with steady and continued growth in our sacred mission of providing spiritual direction and vocational discernment in the Catholic tradition to men and women of all ages and states of life.

Interest in spiritual direction is captivating the hearts of the laity as people learn of this beautiful ministry on Relevant Radio and through other Catholic media outlets. Further, at Our Lady of Grace we behold daily the new *Springtime of the Church* referred to by Blessed John Paul II as more and more young adults approach the Center seeking spiritual guidance on their faith journey. Some of them come through referrals from the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and are discerning vocations to the priesthood or consecrated life. Please keep all of these generous young souls in your prayers.

Finally, we are sponsoring a **Holy Hour at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, 2012** in honor of the Queenship of Mary. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details and be sure to mark your calendars for this beautiful event. An ice cream social will follow.



*Cardinal Dolan receives the Center's good wishes from board member Beth Hanan at a reception in Rome at the North American College following the Consistory.*

## Spiritual Direction as described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Holy Spirit gives to certain of the faithful the gifts of wisdom, faith and discernment for the sake of this common good which is prayer (*spiritual direction*). Men and women so endowed are true servants of the living tradition of prayer. (CCC 2690)

According to St. John of the Cross, the person wishing to advance toward perfection should "take care into whose hands he entrusts himself, for as the master is, so will the disciple be, and as the father is so will be the son." And further, "In addition to being learned and discrete a director should be experienced ... If the spiritual director has no experience of the spiritual life, he will be incapable of leading into it the souls whom God is calling to it, and he will not even understand them." (St. John of the Cross, *The Living Flame of Love*, stanza 3,30 in *The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross*, 621, eds., K. Kavanaugh, OCD and O. Rodriguez, OCD (Wash., D.C., Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1979)).

## Congratulations and Thank You!

We are delighted to congratulate Fr. Luke Strand on his recent appointment by the Archbishop as the new Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Fr. Luke replaces Fr. Peter Berger who has been named Administrator of St. Mary's Visitation Parish in Elm Grove, WI. Fr. Luke has been a great friend of the Center since its incorporation, referring many people to Our Lady of Grace for spiritual direction and vocational discernment. As a seminarian he was a Spanish and spirituality student of Mary DeSantis.

Fr. Luke's family has been exceptionally blessed with vocations to the priesthood and religious life. His younger brother, Fr. Jake Strand, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on May 19, 2012. His older brother, Vince, teaches at Creighton Prep High School in Omaha as part of his formation to become a Jesuit father. Their mother's oldest sister is Mother Miriam, Abbess of the cloistered contemplative Poor Clare nuns in Kokomo, IN.

During this transition, we thank Fr. Peter Berger for his support of Our Lady of Grace and extend to him and Fr. Luke Strand our prayerful best wishes in their new assignments.

## Our Holy Father on Exchange of Hearts

(excerpted) VATICAN CITY, Nov. 24, 2010 (www.vatican.va).

St. Catherine of Siena was born in Siena, Italy in 1347 into a very large family. She died in Rome in 1380. While living at home, she confirmed her vow of virginity made privately when she was still an adolescent and dedicated herself to prayer, penance and works of charity, especially for the benefit of the sick, said Benedict XVI in a weekly audience.

When the fame of her holiness spread, she became the protagonist of an intense activity of spiritual guidance for people from every walk of life: nobles and politicians, artists and ordinary people, consecrated men and women and religious, including Pope Gregory XI whom she energetically and effectively urged to return to Rome.

The Holy Father relayed that Catherine, like many of the saints, knew great suffering and interrogation. For her, Christ was like the spouse with whom a relationship of intimacy, communion and faithfulness exists. This profound union with the Lord is illustrated by another episode in the life of this mystic: the exchange of hearts. According to St. Raymond of Capua, the Lord Jesus appeared to her; he opened her side saying, "Dearest daughter, as I took your heart away from you the other day, now, you see, I am giving you mine, so that you can go on living with it forever." Catherine truly lived St. Paul's words, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal.2:20)

The Holy Father explained that a true and authentic spiritual family was built up around such a strong and genuine personality; many put themselves at Catherine's service and above all considered it a privilege to receive spiritual guidance from her. They called her "mother" because, as her spiritual children, they drew spiritual nourishment from her.

Another trait of Catherine's spirituality is linked to the gift of tears. They express an exquisite, profound sensitivity, a capacity for being moved and for tenderness. Many saints have had the gift of tears, renewing the emotion of Jesus himself who did not hold back or hide his tears at the tomb of his friend Lazarus and at the grief of Mary and Martha or at the sight of Jerusalem during his last days on this earth. We learn from St. Catherine the most sublime science: to know and love Jesus Christ and His Church.

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## We need your support.

### BENEFACTIONS NEEDED

Kindly remember Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center, a 501(c)(3) not for profit, in your charitable giving. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace**.

### ADOPT-A-DIRECTEE

Our Holy Father emphasized the need for spiritual direction for all, especially young people. If you would like to sponsor a directee, please contact Mary DeSantis at 414-258-2604 x27.

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

Designate your financial contribution in honor of your friend or in memory of your godparent. Recent honoraria and memorials are:

#### Memorials:

Godparents of Mrs. Catherine Campbell

#### Honoraria:

In honor of Trish Schickert (Mrs. Catherine Campbell)

In honor of Fr. Cliff Ermatinger (Mrs. Kiara Mack)

### VOLUNTEER

Whether your talent is organizing an event, writing grants, maintaining a website, stuffing envelopes, baking, singing or babysitting, let us know. Please share your talent with the Center.



Match the **saint** with their **state in life vocation**.

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. ___ <b>St. John Vianney</b>          | a. Consecrated virgin |
| 2. ___ <b>Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati</b> | b. Single man         |
| 3. ___ <b>St. Gianna Beretta Molla</b>  | c. Married woman      |
| 4. ___ <b>Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha</b>     | d. Deacon             |
| 5. ___ <b>St. Lawrence of Rome</b>      | e. Diocesan priest    |

Answers 1.e, 2.b, 3.c, 4.a, 5.d

### Upcoming Canonization!

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha will become the first Native American Saint on October 21, 2012.

