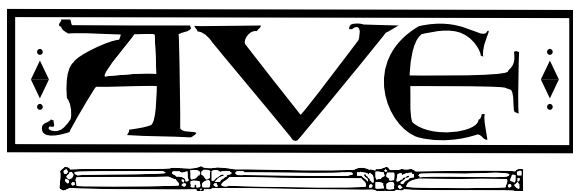


THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
**Society of Mary**



AMERICAN REGION EDITION  
Annuciationtide 2014

[www.somamerica.org](http://www.somamerica.org)



## The Superior-General writes



YEAR BY YEAR I find that each of the great Festivals and Seasons of the Church takes on its own particular character and quality. A differing experience, bringing a fresh spiritual insight and a God given grace. During each Lent and Advent, I try to find a particular aspect of the Season to use as a focus for reflection and prayer. For Lent this year I have chosen the painting *The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb* by Hans Holbein the Younger, painted in 1521.

It is not known for what place or purpose the painting was made. Its dimensions are odd, 30.5 x 200 cm, hence the figure is life-size. It may have formed the predella for an altarpiece or been made to fill a sepulchral niche. It is a unique object in iconographic terms. Being with the picture is like entering a coffin to see what is happening inside, which, on first examination is nothing apart from a dead body, a corpse, motionless for all eternity.



But this is no less than the Body of our Blessed Lord. We are encouraged by this fact to look deeper and contemplate further.



Looking at His face, we see that, though dead, it is not lifeless. The mouth is open; the eyes also. There is a sense that a moment before we might have just heard, at least, the virtual sound of a last breath. There is a sense that we see Christ seeing beyond the grave – to what this Death has in store. A sense of the

Holy Spirit hovering over what was to be a New Creation as He hovered over that which was to be the Old Creation. Holbein seems to tell us that, even in Death, Christ still looks, sees and speaks. That here

is the moment of transition between mortal death and Resurrection Life; the death of Death and Life Eternal.



There are the Three Signs that indicate that this Body is the Crucified Son of God who died for the sins of the world. Three Wounds. Three signs. The wounds are to His Right Hand, His Right Foot and His Right Side. There are no wounds to the Head; no

marks of the Thorns. Holbein shows only the Right side of Christ's Body; the left, the *sinistra*, remains for this moment the shadow of the Tomb. Thus a Holy Trinity of Wounds, for this is God made Man who has died and shall Rise again from the dead.

Holbein paints the Body of Jesus with a prominent and protruding navel. A certain indication that this is, indeed, the Body of One who is fully human; who though God of God; born of a Pure and Immaculate Virgin Mother, is one with our human flesh and blood. Like us in all things though without sin. Son of God and Son of Man. At His Resurrection, Christ does not leave our mortality behind in the Grave. We "*believe in the Resurrection of the Body*" for He lifts our humanity to Heaven.



The Shroud which would have wrapped the dead Body no longer envelops Him in this moment that will give way before the power of the Resurrection. Will this Shroud be folded away for twenty centuries for future Christians to see and marvel? Be Fabric that still speaks? In the Tomb, as told us in Scripture, the Shroud was a true icon – *vera icona* – of the Resurrection. A sure sign to those Apostles at the Tomb that He was Risen from the Dead.

Any painting, any work of great art, presents an enigma. More or less hidden messages that are there for our discovery and engagement. In great Religious Art we are given the possibility of Spiritual discovery, journey, prayer and holy insight.

(Reference: "Tateetc"  
Autumn 2006 – Michel Onfray).

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✧ Robert Ladds,  
*Superior-General – Lent 2014*

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## A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

IT WAS JUST a year ago that the Holy Father announced that he would be resigning at the end of February. Since then a great deal of water has flowed under the bridge, both metaphorically and literally! Pope Francis has created an entirely new public image of his office and broken so many of the conventions. He has proved how close he is to the people, particularly to the poor and disadvantaged; he embraces those who are disfigured or disabled during the general audiences; he is not frightened of being open to the world, initiating far reaching reform into the financial and structural institutions in the Vatican. These are not mere signs: they communicate the reality of what the Church needs to be doing, in a world where there is less and less personal contact. As he writes in *'Evangelii Gaudium'*, 'I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in



life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37).' But he also points to Mary as the model and pattern for this renewed work of evangelisation. 'Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong who need not treat others poorly in order to feel important themselves.'

I hope that this pastoral concern will be at the heart of what we try to do in the Society of Mary. Some years ago, when we revised the aims and objects of the Society, we added 'Members will engage in apostolic and pastoral work, according to opportunity...' It is still there as an ideal: I am not quite sure how often it happens in reality. It was therefore really encouraging for me to inaugurate the Oxford Ward of the Society at S. Thomas' at the beginning of February. There were over a dozen seminarians there from S. Stephen's House, all soon to be ordained, with an energy and enthusiasm for pastoral work and commitment. I hope and pray that they and others like them will renew the life of our parishes and of our Society. Please pray for them.

Now to more practical matters. At the time of writing, there are still places available for our Nettuno and Rome Pilgrimage this year, from 8th–15th May. If you would like to book, please contact Pax Travel direct. I am very happy to say that the Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 4th–8th August is now full, and we much look forward to it, particularly to the new aspect of taking a sizable group of young pilgrims with us.

We look forward to the May Devotion and AGM in London on Saturday 3rd. Rather than include many details in this letter, please refer to the display advertisement elsewhere in this issue. By popular request, as last year, our Procession will go from one church to the other. I need six stewards for the Procession to help to keep things moving and would welcome offers of help from seminarians or servers. Any offers to me, please, by 26th April. We are very grateful to Fr Simon Morris, who is on the Executive Committee, for agreeing to come and preach to us.

Finally, I should like to offer two particular expressions of thanks on behalf of us all. Richard North has been working for the Society for

many years, first as the General Secretary and then as our Sales Officer. In all that he does, he is highly organised and efficient and I am very grateful to him for creating so many of the systems by which we now work. As he is moving, he has decided that he will not have space for the books and medals etc. and that he ought to resign. We thank him for all that he has done: I am grateful also to Tom Middleton for agreeing to take this work on. A year ago, Craig Aburn also gave us notice that he would like to retire as the Webmaster. Our thanks go to him for keeping the website up to date over so many years and for developing its content and design: as some of you may know, this is not exactly my area of expertise! I am grateful to Richard Doney for agreeing to replace him and apologise to Craig that it has taken so long to find a successor.

I shall hope to see you in May if not before.

With my love and blessing,



Fr Graeme Rowlands, *Chaplain-General*

## The May Devotion

The May Devotion will take place on Saturday 3rd May, beginning with a Solemn Mass at 12 noon. We need the following help on the day:

- Servers for the Mass and Procession and for Vespers etc at Holy Trinity: please let Fr Rowlands know **by Saturday 26th April** that you are willing to help and bring your own cassock with you on the day.
- Stewards/sidesmen for the Mass and for Vespers.
- Serving wine and drinks at Lunch.

Please remember that the Procession will take 20 minutes: if you cannot walk that far, there is a bus which will take you almost door to door: more details on the day.

## Lincoln – Society of Mary Festival

On the 11th May 2013 a splendid Marian event occurred in Lincoln Cathedral which is dedicated to Our Lady, Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln. The day was sponsored by the two Society of Mary Lincoln wards – Our Lady of Lincoln and Our Lady of the Marsh – led by the ward superiors Fr Stephen Jones and Fr Paul Noble respectively. The occasion highlighted the new statue of Our Lady of Lincoln to be introduced into the Cathedral on **Saturday 31st May 2014** in the afternoon and to which members of the Society are warmly invited. In Bishop Robert's article in the recent edition of *AVE* he mentioned the Society had been very generous in its donation towards the cost of the statue and if members wish to make a personal contribution the details of how to do it can be found in that article. We are greatly indebted to the Council for their generosity.



The new statue will be the focus of ecumenical devotion.

The day itself was a joyful one. Over 100 people attended the Mass at which celebrant and preacher was Bishop Robert Ladds. In the afternoon The Precentor sang Vespers of Our Lady. The Cathedral Consort sang beautifully music by Palestrina and Greig. After a sermon preached by the Bishop of Lincoln we enjoyed a Marian procession around the Cathedral ending with a station at half size depiction of the new statue. The service concluded with Benediction. The organ crashed out with music by Flor Peeters on the hymn *Ave Maris Stella*. It was indeed a memorable day! The restoration of the Shrine is a major undertaking and unique in an English Cathedral at this time; restoring Pilgrimage and Marian Devotion which has a 1000 year history. Generous financial support has come from many sources, including from the Roman Catholic and Orthodox communities.

**In support of this important restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lincoln, the Society of Mary has contributed £2,500 from central resources. We invite Society Members to make personal contributions in the hope that we can, at very least, match the sum already contributed.**



The Executive and General Councils of our Society ask for and encourage your support.

Cheques should be made payable to "The Society of Mary". On the reverse of the cheque please write "Donation Our Lady of Lincoln" together with your name and contact address.

***If you wish us to claim GIFT AID on your donation, please include a slip of paper giving your name and address, together with a note expressing your wish that Gift Aid is claimed and sign the note.***

Please send your donation to:  
Tom Middleton, Esq.,  
Treasurer: The Society of Mary,  
Flat 1, Cedar House,  
1 Woodland Crescent,  
London SE16 6YL



## **Future Council Meetings of the Society**

**Friday 10th October, 2014 at 2.30 pm**

*Preceded by Rosary at 2.00 pm  
and Benediction at 2.15 pm*

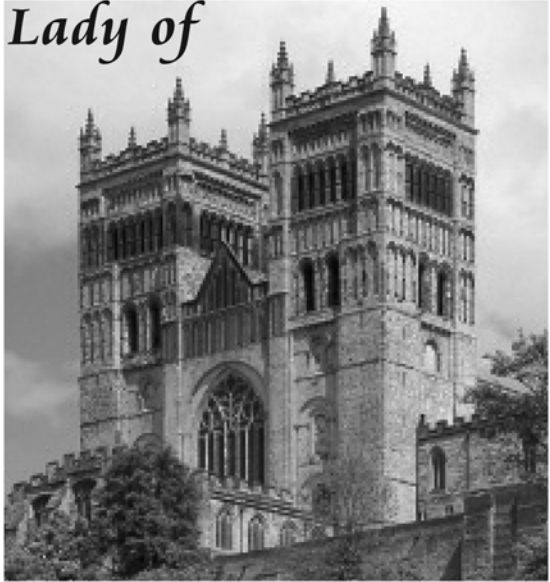
**Friday 6th February, 2015 at 2.30 pm**

*Preceded by Benediction at 2.15 pm*

The Executive meets at 11.00 am on the above dates  
and also on Wednesday 2nd July 2014.

# Ward of Our Lady of Durham

THE WARD is only two years old as a Ward in its own right. For many years Newcastle and Durham Dioceses have shared the joy of a Society of Mary Ward. Now the Ward for Durham has branched out on its own and it has been a very exciting time. Growth in numbers



occurs at every meeting of the Ward. When travelling round the parishes of the Diocese new members are recruited. It may only be one and it can be more, but in bringing together Catholic Christians who sometimes feel they are going it alone in their parishes.

On February 15th 2014 it was just such an occasion when the annual visit to Durham Cathedral – dedicated to Christ the Blessed Virgin Mary and S. Cuthbert – was made. A Mass was held with twenty to thirty members in attendance in the Lady Chapel of this great Cathedral, called the Galilee Chapel. One or two “visitors” to the Ward Meeting and to the Cathedral felt they had made a pilgrimage of grace and were overjoyed to be sharing in a Mass, celebrated by Canon Peter Brown C.M.P., which was safe from fresh expression or messy church or any other of the distractions that the modern Church of England feels compelled to inflict on its people. Fr Skelton gave a brief history of the Galilee Chapel, reminding the congregation that its original position was supposed to have been at the East end of the Cathedral but Bishop Hugh Le Puiset found it necessary to move to the West end and so the work was completed in 1175.

Since 1370 it has housed the tomb of The Venerable Bede and so is a place of secondary pilgrimage to S. Cuthbert.

The Galilee Chapel is a reminder to the Church that the ministry of Jesus was predominately in Galilee and it was from Galilee that Jesus made his

## Ave

way to Jerusalem to die and take away our sins. The monks used this Chapel as a starting point for their processions to celebrate that salvation of the world in their liturgy.

A Mass of the Annunciation was celebrated – the event that took place in Nazareth in Galilee and showed the humanity of Jesus born of Mary by offering the Mass celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus his divinity is seen. The first disciples saw his divinity at Cana in Galilee when he changed water into wine, at Mary His Mother's instigation, and increased the faith as well as giving the wedding party a real boost!

Thanks must be given that Our Lady's motherly care for bringing us closer to her Son whose love brings us closer to the Father and bids us work for the kingdom to come among us and pray that we may be blessed with another year of work and witness in The Faith.

Fr Beresford Skelton



■ Ward members who attended the Mass on 15th February in Durham Cathedral. Ward Superior – Fr Beresford Skelton, CMP, is vested in the centre of the photograph; Fr Mervyn Thompson Secretary and Fr David Raine SSC Treasurer are also pictured.

## **MASS OF REQUIEM – HELD AT S. SILAS CHURCH ON 14TH NOVEMBER**

In November a Tridentine-rite High Mass of Requiem was offered for the Founders and Benefactors of S. Silas Church, Kentish Town and For Departed Members of The Society of Mary. It was particularly appropriate to hold the Requiem last year as it was just after Fr John Milburn's 25th anniversary of his death on 12th October (1988). It is proposed to observe a similar Requiem this year at S. Silas on 20th November.





*Photographs © John Salmon, 2013*

# **THE AMERICAN REGION NEWSLETTER NEW SERIES, No. 81**

**Annunciationtide 2014**

## **From the Superior**

Dear Members of the Society of Mary,

On Saturday in the Memorial Day weekend, members of the Council returned home from the Society of Mary American Region Annual Mass and Meeting on Friday, May 23, at Nashotah House, our Anglo-Catholic seminary in Wisconsin. I preached at the Mass in the Chapel of Saint Mary the Virgin, before a congregation consisting of faculty, seminarians, and members of the Board of Trustees. Our thanks go to Bishop Edward Salmon, Dean of Nashotah House, and the Rev'd Dr Steven Peay, Academic Dean and Superior of the House's Our Lady of Glastonbury Ward, for their warm welcome. Later in the day, members of the Council enjoyed the hospitality of the Society's Ward at Grace Church, Sheboygan, home of the American National Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. More about the Annual Mass, Meeting, and Pilgrimage is included in this issue of AVE, as is the text of my sermon, which I will let stand in place of an extended Superior's Letter.

With all blessings and prayers in Christ and Our Lady,

The Rev'd John D. Alexander, SSC, Ph.D.  
Superior, Society of Mary, American Region

## **Reports from the Wards and Cells**

**Our Lady Queen of the Angels Ward, St Michael & All Angels,  
Denver, CO**

Ward Superior Fr Trent Fraser, SSC, submitted the following report:

We are celebrating Our Lady's month of May with a procession

following the Solemn Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 11). It is just a part of our continued efforts to spread the proper Catholic teaching regarding Our Lady. We will continue to meet monthly with a brief break during the summer months. The Ward continues to help out at the Broadway Assistance Center here in Denver every fifth Thursday of the month. Unfortunately, this month we will not be able to attend due to the occurrence of the Feast of Our Lord's Ascension. Finally, we are meeting briefly on May 10 to determine further opportunities for outreach and service to the church and the community. We will also elect a new Ward Secretary. We thank Mr Paul Houston, first Ward Secretary, for his zeal and determination in working with our former Interim Rector, Father Warren Shoberg, to bring the Ward into existence and setting the path we now follow.

**Our Lady of Glastonbury Ward, Nashotah House, Nashotah, WI**  
Ward Superior Fr Steven Peay reports:

The Our Lady of Glastonbury Ward at Nashotah House Theological Seminary is quite excited to be hosting the national meeting of the Society. Events included the celebration of the Eucharist in the Chapel of St Mary the Virgin with the national superior, Fr John Alexander, SSC preaching. Those attending had the opportunity to make pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham at Grace Church in Sheboygan following the meeting and lunch. The Ward at Nashotah has made contact with members of the Society in Dioceses of Eau Claire and Milwaukee. There is great hope for a renewal of the Society and its work in Wisconsin.

**Our Lady of Holy Faith and Consolation, Holy Faith Church, Santa Fe, NM**

Ward Secretary Mary Dare Ellis submitted the following report:

Our Ward meets each Monday in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd of the Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe. We will celebrate eighteen years in July, and are blessed to pray the Rosary contemplatively each week. We find starting the week in this manner to be most meaningful. This year, Holy Faith celebrates its 150th Anniversary. The parish

began in the 19th Century primarily meeting the needs of US Army troops stationed at Fort Marcy. New Mexico was a Territory, not a state at that time. We entered the Union in 1912, the 47th State. For the forthcoming gala celebration the church commissioned a beautiful statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Santa Fe. The statue will be dedicated in early October in celebration of our parish and our city. The statue will be erected in front of the church for all to see. Brother Robert Hugh, a Franciscan friar who has visited Holy Faith several times, will be a special guest. Brother Robert is an Englishman, Cambridge graduate, and inspirational retreat and quiet day leader. He resides at the Priory in San Francisco presently. On the Sunday after Easter our Ward held a High Tea in one of our member's homes. Truly divine food was prepared and served, along with a lovely selection of tea and sherry and we enjoyed an informal and lovely afternoon. All who visit Santa Fe are welcome to join us at 9:30 a.m. in Holy Faith's chapel for the contemplative praying of the Rosary.

### **Our Lady of Providence Ward, St Stephen's Church, Providence, RI**

Ward Secretary Phoebe Pettingell reports:

Our Ward continues to meet monthly on the First Saturday for Morning Prayer, Mass, and recitation of the Rosary, followed by breakfast in the Guild Hall or at a local restaurant, and a short program, often related to the season. So, for the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a member presented a historical talk on its history and significance. We also continue to make pilgrimages to local shrines, both Anglican and Roman Catholic, and are discussing a pilgrimage for next October to the Walsingham Festival at the American Proto-Shrine at Grace Church in the Diocese of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Two of our members attended the recent Annual Mass and Meeting of SoM at Nashotah House.



## **THE CATHOLIC DEVOTIONAL SOCIETIES: WHY THE CHURCH NEEDS THEM NOW MORE THAN EVER**

*The following sermon was preached by Fr John D. Alexander, SSC, Superior of the American Region of the Society of Mary, on May 23, 2014 in the Chapel of Saint Mary the Virgin at Nashotah House at the Society's Annual Mass.*

The Society of Mary is one of the historic Catholic devotional societies of the Anglican Communion. Like Nashotah House itself, these devotional societies developed out of the Anglo-Catholic movement of the nineteenth century. With some exceptions, they generally aimed to revive aspects of Catholic spirituality that had fallen into neglect and disuse within Anglicanism after the sixteenth-century English Reformation.

Unlike the Anglican religious orders also established during this period, however, the devotional societies centered their activities in the parish and emphasized the leadership role of the laity. Local groups of the faithful – known as cells, wards, or branches – met to practice the devotions associated with each respective society. Such groups also formed diocesan, national, and regional networks, periodically coming together for joint celebrations on a grand scale.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, dozens of such devotional societies were formed. But eventually four principal ones emerged: the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild of All Souls, the Society of King Charles the Martyr and, last but not least, the Society of Mary. All four began in the Church of England and then made their way into the Episcopal Church, where they formed largely autonomous regional organizations.

Those of us engaged in promoting the devotional societies sometimes encounter the objection that while they may have once served a necessary purpose, they've now become largely obsolete. In particular: that the 1979 Prayer Book achieved many of the goals that the historic devotional societies were advocating, so that we no longer need such

organizations.

Thus, it is argued, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament promoted weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist as the principal form of the worship on the Lord's Day; and the 1979 Prayer Book gave us that. The Guild of All Souls advocated the restoration of prayers for the dead in the Church's liturgy; and the 1979 Prayer Book gave us that. On the basis of such examples, some draw the conclusion that the Catholic devotional societies have had their day.

With the greatest possible respect to those who might believe this, I could not disagree more. Far from having become obsolete, the witness of the Catholic devotional societies is needed now more than ever before. Some of their historic goals have indeed been realized, but by no means all.

Take the Guild of All Souls. Almost any priest in the Church today can testify that funeral planning has become one of the most conflicted and potentially stressful aspects of parish ministry. Even when the departed was a faithful Church member, un-churched next-of-kin make all sorts of demands for practices drawn from the wider culture that are often not only non-Christian but actually counter to the Gospel. Here, then, is an opportunity for local branches of the Guild of all Souls to raise awareness of specifically Christian funeral practices as well as Catholic teachings concerning death, resurrection, and the life of the world to come.

With respect to the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, it's true that the 1979 Prayer Book has restored the Holy Eucharist to its rightful place as the Church's principal offering of worship on the Lord's Day and major Holy Days. But today the pendulum has swung in far too casual and lax a direction. The disciplines of careful preparation and fasting before receiving Holy Communion have largely fallen into neglect and disuse. Here again, local wards of the Confraternity have a teaching opportunity: to encourage greater reverence for our Lord's Real Presence in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, not least through such devotions such as Holy Hours, Adoration, and Benediction.

As far as the Society of King Charles the Martyr is concerned: Well, he's still not in the calendar of the Episcopal Church, even though he has been restored to the Calendar of the Church of the England and added to the Calendars of a number of churches of the Anglican Communion. Clearly, SKCM has much unfinished work to do in spreading awareness

of and devotion to the Blessed Martyr.

And what of the Society of Mary? Despite some modest successes in such matters as getting August 15 added to the Episcopal Church calendar, we clearly still have a long way to go before Marian devotions such as the Holy Rosary become generally accepted dimensions of Anglican spiritual life.

The Society of Mary bears witness to the special role of the Blessed Virgin in the economy of salvation. We do not worship Mary as divine, for that would be idolatrous. But we do uphold the Church's conviction from the earliest centuries that just as Christians routinely ask one another's prayers here on earth, so it's entirely legitimate and appropriate to ask the prayers of the saints in heaven. Because they're in the nearer presence of God, their prayers are powerful – and of no one is this truer than of the Blessed Virgin herself.

The Society of Mary's mission in the Anglican world is to spread the word, by teaching and example, that it's a good and joyful thing to invoke the prayers of the Blessed Virgin in such devotions as the Angelus, the Regina Coeli, the Marian Anthems, and the Holy Rosary. These devotions do not detract from the worship, honor, and glory due to Christ and the Holy Trinity alone, for Mary always points us in the direction of her Son, and to grow closer to Mary is to grow closer to Jesus.

For Catholic Christians, Mary stands as the Mother of the Church and the model of discipleship. As we share spiritually in her maternal joys, her heart-piercing sorrows, and her heavenly glory, we learn all the more intimately what it means to follow her Son in this world, and into the next.

The Society of Mary in the American Region faces some interesting challenges. Perhaps it's providential that we meet at Nashotah House this year, because within the Society we're seeking to maintain and develop ways of living together in community that may be analogous to the *Pax Nashotah*.

The Society of Mary was founded as an Anglican Society. Not so long ago that meant that almost all its members in the American Region were members of the Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada: Not so anymore! Over the past twenty years or so, some of our members have joined various continuing Anglican jurisdictions,

the Anglican Church of North America, and the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. So, like it or not, we've become a society with significant cross-jurisdictional and indeed ecumenical dimensions.

This situation presents not only challenges, but also opportunities, and even some surprising gifts. We've discovered that one advantage of Marian devotions is that being non-sacramental they bring us together in prayer across ecumenical boundaries. When we kneel to recite the Rosary, for example, it doesn't matter who belongs to which jurisdiction; we're united in praise of our Lord's Incarnation, Life, Death, and Resurrection. While the primary focus of our mission remains that of promoting Marian doctrine and devotion within the Anglican world, we now find ourselves also seeking ways of including in our life and work all Catholic Christians who desire to walk with us.

In recent years, moreover, we've been discovering that Wards and cells of the Society of Mary can be a vehicle of spiritual renewal and revitalization within parishes. Paradoxically, this is particularly the case when the wards and cells don't confine themselves to devotional activities alone, but also undertake ministries of service. For example, for a time the Ward in my parish took on catering the receptions following our evening liturgies for some of the principal Marian feasts. Other wards and cells have involved themselves in ministries of outreach to the sick, the hungry, and the homeless.

So please consider prayerfully the benefits of forming a Society of Mary cell or ward in your parish. Far from being a spent force whose day is past, the devotional societies have enormous potential as a vital source of Catholic witness and renewal, and the Church needs them now more than ever before.

## **Annual Pilgrimage to the American National Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham**

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1011 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081

920-452-9659

[www.gracesheboygan.com](http://www.gracesheboygan.com)

Email: [office@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:office@gracesheboygan.com)

### **FRIDAY: QUIET DAY**

October 10, 2014

*12:00 p.m. - Meditation*

Quiet day meditations on Marian devotion, led by Mother Miriam, Superior of the Eastern Province of The Community of St Mary (Greenwich, NY).

*3:00 p.m. – Meditation*

Quiet day meditations on Marian devotion, led by Mother Miriam, Superior of the Eastern Province of The Community of St Mary (Greenwich, NY).

*6:00 p.m. - Solemn Evensong*

Musical offering by the combined choirs of Nashotah House Seminary and the parish

### **SATURDAY: PILGRIMAGE**

October 11, 2014

*10:30 a.m. - Solemn Mass and Procession of Our Lady*

Celebrant - The Rt. Rev'd Matthew Gunter, Bishop of Fond du Lac  
Preacher - Mother Miriam, Superior of the Eastern Province of The Community of St Mary (Greenwich, NY).

Musical Offering will include The Gaudete Brass Quintet, choral and organ music.

*Ave*

12:00 p.m. - *Lunch*

The cost of lunch is \$15.00. Please make reservations for lunch by October 8 at 920-452-9659 OR at [office@gracesheboygan.com](mailto:office@gracesheboygan.com)

2:00 p.m. - *Anointing and Musical Offering followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*

Sprinkling with Holy Water from Walsingham and Healing Prayer



Grace Church, Sheboygan

## **Annual Mass and Meeting at Nashotah House**

Our Lady of Glastonbury Ward at Nashotah House welcomed members of The Society of Mary on Friday, May 23, for the Annual Mass in the Chapel of St Mary the Virgin. The Rev'd Steven Peay, Ph.D., Academic Dean and local Ward Superior, celebrated. The Rev'd John D. Alexander, SSC, Ph.D., Superior of the American Region, preached [See the text of the sermon elsewhere in this issue] to an attentive congregation packed with students, faculty, alumni, trustees and guests – including a number of bishops. Afterwards, everyone adjourned to the refectory for breakfast.

The Annual Meeting included seminarians from the Glastonbury Ward and others, including The Rev'd Canon David M. Baumann, SSC, Chaplain of The Guild of the Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic. The Superior reported on his conversation last December with the Secretary of the Society of Mary's English Region, The Rev'd Graeme Rowlands, at St Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town, London. This was the first official contact the American Region has had with the English Society for several years, and Father Alexander expressed the hope that this will strengthen connections in the future. Secretary Paul Cooper noted that there are currently over 600 members of the Society's American Region, including 121 wards and cells. Three religious orders are members: The Community of St Mary; The Sisters of the Holy Nativity; and St Gregory's Abbey (OSB), Three Rivers, Michigan.

Father Baumann explained that the object of The Guild of the Living Rosary of Our Lady and St Dominic is to use the Rosary for intercessions which are distributed to the Guild three times a year. Each member prays a decade every day for the assigned intentions, and may submit intercessions for the next mailing. Anyone interested may email the Chaplain or Secretary at [guildlivingrosary@gmail.com](mailto:guildlivingrosary@gmail.com). Guild brochures for tract racks or personal information are available at no cost from the Secretary upon request.

After discussion, a constitutional change was passed giving the Council the discretion to admit non-Anglican priests as Ward Superiors on a case-by-case basis. This change allows the Council to accommo-

date groups in the Ordinariate, Roman Catholic, or Orthodox Churches who want to be part of the Society of Mary.

At time of elections, the Council's class of 2014 was elected as the class of 2018. Dr Cooper also presented the Treasurer's report for Dr David B.J. Chase, and a report from the Editor of AVE, Mr Adam Barner, neither of whom could be present. Some developments regarding the organization or reactivation of wards and cells were shared at the meeting. More information will be published in AVE as things progress.

Dr Cooper then proposed a resolution, commending Father Alexander on his recently received Ph.D. This was passed by acclamation with applause, and the Council then presented him with an icon of Our Lady of Smolensk.

In the afternoon, members of the Council drove to Grace Church, Sheboygan, which is the site of the American Proto-Shine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The Rector, Father Karl C. Schaffenburg conducted a Prayer Office including Marian hymns, the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, and anointing with water from the Holy Well in Walsingham. Afterwards, we were treated by the congregation to a sumptuous tea. Father Schaffenburg reminded visitors of the National Pilgrimage to the shrine each October, and expressed the hope that members of the Society of Mary from other places would avail themselves of this opportunity. Father William Elwell started the annual pilgrimage to Sheboygan in 1951. He was an Honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Fond du Lac, and an Honorary Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in England. He was a curate at Grace Church from 1929, becoming rector in 1938, and later became rector of St Clement's, Philadelphia, in 1955. Members of Grace Church's recently reactivated Ward discussed their recent activities and future plans with the Council members present.

Compiled from information submitted by American Region Council members Phoebe Pettingell, Adam Barner, and Paul Cooper.





Nashotah Chapel



Nashotah Chapel interior



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