

The Superior-General writes



ONLY RARELY does the Annunciation naturally fall outside the penitential season of Lent. Occasionally, the 25th March falls in Holy Week and even on Good Friday. When this happens the Feast is Transferred to the first day after the Easter Octave.

But what an interesting coming together of dates and commemorations to contemplate! The juxtaposition of the concepts of the Life of a new creation within the womb of our Blessed Lady – Death on a Cross to win Everlasting Life.

Something of this same paradox is there whenever we see the Crowned image of Our Lady with the Christ Child on Her knee. Especially so when the Blessed Virgin is shown feeding Him at Her breast. In the times of the Early Church and in the medieval period that influences many depictions of the Madonna and Child, it was not the social practice to show a woman of status caring for or nursing her own children. Mary shown, crowned as Queen of Heaven and at the same time shown nurturing and nursing Her Child was unique and particular.

Seen in this way, the juxtaposition of Queen and Mother takes on such wonderful significance. A source of inspiration and cause of prayer and thanks. The Glory of Mary and Her nurturing, tender love and compassion of Mary.

The earliest extant manuscript of Prayer to Our Blessed Lady dates from the 3rd century. It is written in Greek on papyrus and originates from Egypt.

In translation it prays:

*Beneath thy compassion we take refuge,
 Mother of God,
 In our necessity
 Do not reject our supplications,
 But from danger deliver us.
 For you alone are pure,
 Alone holy.*

This year the Feast of the Annunciation falls in the Fifth Week of Lent. We could do no better than taking this most ancient of Marian Prayers with us through to Holy Week and Easter.

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✠ Robert Ladds,
Superior-General – Lent 2015

A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

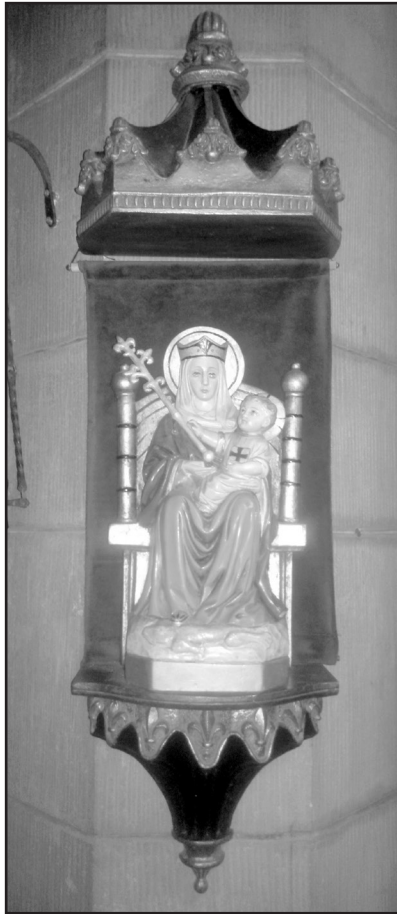
LAST OCTOBER I was privileged to go again to Seville for a week for my summer holiday where, needless to say, a number of Parishes and Guilds were having processions of Our Lady of the Rosary. My command of Spanish is not brilliant and I find the information on the posters deeply confusing so in most cases I found them more by luck than judgement! I followed the crowds; I looked out for huge groups of young people cleaning the silver earlier in the day; I listened for the bells and the fireworks. But I am swept off my feet (sometimes literally) by the enthusiasm and the noise, I am captivated by the beauty of the statues of Our Lady and all that surrounds them, and I am amazed at the commitment of the crowds of young people (many at that 'difficult age') who work so hard to make it happen. These processions are an entirely 'Lay led' event: usually there are no clergy at all taking part and when the statue has left the Church the doors are immediately locked! Our Lady is treated as an intimate part of the family, an honoured member for whom nothing is too good, but as one of us. I am sure that this enables a level of understanding of her role in the plan of salvation which speaks far more eloquently than many a theological treatise! I hope that we might manage, in our own small and simple way, to do much the same during our Procession at the May Devotion. There is in England much less understanding and acceptance of the role of the Church: by and large, it has been marginalised: the Saints have become works of art rather than a focus of devotion. But that makes it even more important that we continue



Ave

and expand our activities at the beginning of May. Pray that it will become an inspiration to those who take part and that it may move the hearts of at least some in the crowd towards her Son. For Mary always leads us to Jesus.

On a personal note, our prayers are with Bishop Philip North as he begins his Episcopal ministry. I think it is the first time ever that an existing member of the General Council has been consecrated a Bishop and he needs our practical support and encouragement as the dust begins to settle after the latest synodical votes! We shall miss him zooming around quite so freely at the May Devotion.



Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont, where the American Region Council meetings are held



Homily given by the Superior-General at the Bournemouth & Portsmouth Wards Assumption Festival

Auguste Rodin was very good at hands. Look at the hands of each of the figures depicted in his sculpture near the House of Lords, in London: "The Burghers of Calais". The hands alone express most powerfully and evocatively the emotions of each of the figures depicted.

In 1908 Rodin produced a sculpture entitled "Cathedral". This does not depict a building at all but two hands, gently but firmly held together in something like an attitude of prayer, with the

palms and fingers so held apart that they resemble a great building; the space formed within the palms surmounted by the fingers representing a high, vaulted roof of a Nave with its beams pointing heavenwards.

S. Paul tells the Corinthians (1Cor 6:19) "Your bodies are temples of the living God". Rodin, as in so many of his works, has caught the essence of this powerful image of S. Paul in those sculptured hands he names "Cathedral".

Greatly influenced by Rodin, Henry Moore in 1980 also made a bronze of hands. Equally sensitive in style and concept, these two hands are each of a different dimension, from age to age; one of the hand of a Mother, the other of a Child.

The Mother's hand forms a kind of protecting womb, enfolding a cherishing. The hand of the Child, correspondingly, takes up something of the image of that protection; yet has its own life and existence within its surrounding care. This child's hand also extends and finds its own place and identity.

Together, these two great masterpieces in bronze can be seen to be an interpretation of the essence of this great Feast Day we keep of the Assumption of Mary.

In a real and earthly sense, as well as in a deeply spiritual sense, Mary gave Her body to be the Shrine of Christ Jesus, Her Son, who was the only begotten Son of God. At the Annunciation we celebrated the beginning of that mystery; at the Nativity we marvelled at the revelation of God made Man. From within the "Cathedral" and Shrine of Mary's body is brought forth the Salvation of the World.

John Percy, in his great Marian Hymn expresses this truth in these words:

*The angel Gabriel brought the word
She should Christ's Mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
Made answer willingly.*

He then goes on to say, that in doing so:

She gave her body for God's Shrine.

And what a wonderful truth that is! And what a profound meaning and mystery! A human being found worthy, found able, to contain and hold Very God within Her body. Such a miracle might only happen

because, from the moment of Her conception, Mary had been predestined for this moment. By God's particular grace given Her, Mary was Immaculate in that She receives all the benefits of redemption and salvation that Her Divine Son would go on to win for Her and for all who will receive it from Him by Faith.

And that Child, that Child is represented as the Hand being held and protected by the Mother's Hand, yet having a purpose of His own. That Child, the Child of Mary, though true God who laid aside His glory, is willingly subject to the protecting, nurturing and sustaining Hand of His Holy Mother. Scripture tells that the Child Jesus "went down and was subject to" the caring of his parents.

Our Lady's work, along with that of Holy Saint Joseph, was to go on nurturing and sustaining and protecting the Holy Child until He was prepared in body and spirit to begin His work of teaching and to complete that work and win our salvation on the Cross of Calvary. Even there, Our Lady was to go with Him. To share His pain and know the piercing of Her Immaculate Heart that Simeon had foretold.

Now, at the Assumption, at the end of Mary's earthly course, we see the corresponding truth. She who gave Her Body to be God's Shrine is taken up Her Son within the Shrine "not made with hand", taken up not within a prefigurement of the Holy Place but in the everlasting reality of Cathedral and Place which is Heaven itself.

Now it is Christ Her Lord and God, as well as Son, who reaches out His protecting Hand to preserve Her from taint of corruption. For how could the very flesh that once enfleshed Him as God Incarnate be allowed to see corruption. The Hand of the Son now surrounds and expresses love and gratitude to the Mother.

The Annunciation and Nativity of Our Lord and the Assumption into Heaven of Our Lady relate together and give us a mystical and wonderful image of God's purposes for us, as Christians.

Mary at the Annunciation gives Herself completely and unreservedly, soul and spirit, to be the Temple of the Living God. More so, she also gives Her physical body to be His Shrine. At the Nativity that Temple is, as it were, open to reveal the Christ of God to the world. As the first Christian, Mary is the signal example for all Christians. With those Corinthians, to whom S. Paul writes, we, with Mary, are to ever recall that our bodies are to be Temples of the Living God. We are to reveal Him, in our lives, to the world.

Mary's gentle hand was there to mother, protect and care for the Christ Child; to guide and nurture Him. Given us by Jesus from the Cross as Mother, Mary too offers us that same care and nurturing protection. Let us always ask that love in our prayers!

At Her Assumption, as the First Christian, Mary is the first to receive all the blessings and benefits of Her Son's saving passion, death and resurrection. She is in this the guarantee of our own salvation. The Hand of Christ reaches out to raise and protect His Holy Mother; as that Hand will, one day, reach out to save us too.

Meanwhile, Mary, given us as Mother by Jesus from the Cross, protects us, the Church, as She protected Her Son. Reaches out Her loving Hand to be over us and surrounds us.

Well may we, the Church, rejoice and ever proclaim. With John Peacey:

*Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
Above all women blest;
Blest in your Son, who your embrace
In birth and death confessed.*

Well may we utter those words of Divine Praise:

“Blessed be Her Glorious Assumption”

Amen.



THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Pilgrimage to

Loreto, Lanciano, Subiaco, Rome

Tuesday 15th September –
Tuesday 22nd September 2015



- Full Pilgrimage Programme, including Daily Masses
- Loreto: Guided tour of the Basilica
- Visit to the town of Lanciano and the Church of San Francesco in which the high altar houses the relics of the Eucharistic miracle, which took place in the 8th century
- Subiaco visiting the monastery of S. Benedict, around the Sacro Speco (Holy Cave) where he lived for three years and S. Scholastica's monastery
- ROME for 4 nights. Whilst in Rome the itinerary includes visits to: S. Mary Major, S. Pressede, the Cathedral of Rome (S. John Lateran), Scala Santa, the steps brought to Rome in the fourth century by Empress Helena, the Catacombs of S. Domitilla, Basilica of S. Paul outside the Walls, and the Church of San Clemente built over the remains of a Temple of Mithras and Ancient Catacombs

COST £889 AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS WHICH INCLUDES

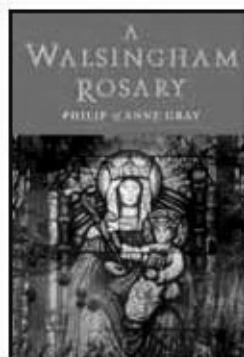
Travel from LONDON (Stansted), 7-nights accommodation in shared twin-bedded rooms with private facilities 7-continental breakfasts and 7-dinners, all coach transfers in Italy, and entrance fees as per itineraries

The cost does *not* include:

- Single rooms – supplementary charge of £180 – limited availability
- Travel insurance at £32.00 per person
- Lunches, drinks, or souvenirs
- Any fuel surcharges imposed by the airline

For a detailed programme and a booking form please write, urgently, to:
**Fr Graeme Rowlands, or Pax Travel 152-156 Kentish Town Road,
LONDON NW1 9QB.**

This Pilgrimage is organised jointly with Pax Travel



A WALSINGHAM ROSARY

A Walsingham Rosary, by Philip & Anne Gray, is a book of Bible readings, meditations and prayers based on each of the mysteries of the Rosary – 20 in all – with each being set specifically at a different place in the vicinity of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. It comes complete with an illustrated guide to praying the Rosary and all the Bible readings and prayers are printed out in full. Line drawings, photographs, maps, directions, and a short description of each site will guide pilgrims round all the places of significance in and around Walsingham. It includes visits to the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox shrines and the Methodist chapel and so is wholly ecumenical. However, this is first and foremost a book of rosary prayers that can be said anywhere. First published locally in 2000, the Luminous Mysteries have since been added to the Rosary, so the text is expanded and includes visits to further five sites and updated photographs.

A Walsingham Rosary is published by Canterbury Press.
ISBN-13: 9781848256309

Fr Philip Gray is a member of the council of the Society of Mary, who is a parish priest in Suffolk and an honorary chaplain of the Norfolk Churches Trust. Anne Gray practised as a barrister and is currently the Elections Officer for Forward in Faith and the Catholic Group in General Synod. She has recently been appointed a Trustee of The Guild of All Souls, whose Chantry Chapel is at Walsingham.

THE OCTOBER DEVOTION, 2015

The Regional October Devotion will be held at S. James, Haydock on *Saturday 10th October* commencing at *12 noon*, by the Courtesy of Canon Rodney Middleton. Please refer to The Society's website for further details nearer to the time.
www.societyofmary.net/ and www.som-northwest.org.uk

SOLEMN MASS OF REQUIEM – Celebrated by Bishop Peter Wheatley on Wednesday 4th February







SOLEMN FUNERAL MASS – Celebrated by Fr Graeme Rowlands on Thursday 5th February.



THE AMERICAN REGION NEWSLETTER NEW SERIES, No. 83

Annunciationtide 2015

From the Superior

Dear Friends of the Society of Mary,

We have just learned with great sadness of the departure from this life in the early morning hours of 27 June of the Rev. Dr. Richard Cornish Martin, SSC, who served as Superior of the American Region of the Society of Mary from 1967 to 2013. This issue of AVE includes a short biography of Fr. Martin, detailing something of his remarkable life and ministry. We shall miss him intensely. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

I recently returned from a visit to England, where I had the great pleasure of participating in the 2015 Society of Mary May Devotion at the Church of St. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town, in north London. St. Silas is one of the Anglo-Catholic “shrine churches” – well known for its association with the novelist Charles Williams (1886-1945). Its vicar is Fr. Graeme Rowlands, Chaplain-General of the Society. For many years, it has been the location of the annual May Devotion, held under Fr. Rowlands’ capable direction usually on the first Saturday of the month.

The day had the flavor of a pilgrimage. I arrived on foot, having taken the Underground from my accommodations in central London. Groups of Society of Mary members, lay and clerical, were converging on the church from, as I later learned, all over the South of England. The day’s activities began with Solemn Concelebrated Mass at which the Superior-General, Bishop Robert Ladds, presided. I was one of about twenty concelebrating priests. The Mass setting was Mozart’s Spatzenmesse (Sparrow Mass), ably rendered by a small orchestra and choir. The interior of the church is lovely: adorned with numerous baroque shrines and statues of the sort rarely seen in Anglican churches in the United States – with several exceptions, including one to be noted below.

As soon as Mass ended, everyone in the church filed out into the street for a liturgical procession of Our Lady comprising about two hundred people to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, half a mile away. The route took us along some major thoroughfares, past shops, restau-

rants, and pubs from which numerous onlookers watched us with varying degrees of puzzlement. The stewards of the procession handed out leaflets explaining what it was all about and inviting people to attend services at one of the two churches. (Before the procession, Fr. Rowlands exhorted us to try to look as though we were enjoying ourselves.)

Arriving at Holy Trinity, we had lunch in the church hall. It was a convivial affair at which I made the acquaintances of a number of the UK Society of Mary officers and Council members. The Annual General Meeting followed in the church; it was the model of an efficiently run and informative meeting. Then came Sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The preacher was Fr. George Westhaver, the Canadian Principal of Pusey House at Oxford University, who gave an excellent sermon. At the end of Benediction, I thought that the day's activities were over; but, no, this being England, and it being about 4:30 pm, we retired once again to the church hall for tea, cakes, and biscuits before departing!

Two days later, along with Fr. Rowlands, I was a guest at the home of Bishop and Mrs. Ladds for lunch. It was a splendid time, with excellent food and conversation. We discussed the current activities of the Society of Mary in England and America, as well as possibilities for transatlantic cooperation. I gained some valuable insights into the thinking and philosophy of the English Society's leadership, and a number of useful ideas for the future.

Barely had I returned to the United States when it was time to travel to the Church of St. Uriel the Archangel in Sea Girt, New Jersey, for the American Region's Annual Mass and Meeting. At the kind invitation of Fr. Russell Griffin, SSC, Rector of St. Uriel's and Chaplain of the American Region, I celebrated the Mass and Fr. Connor Haynes, SSC, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Burlington, New Jersey, gave the sermon. St. Uriel's is a beautiful church - well appointed with Tiffany windows and lovely devotional shrines, statues, and paintings - all a block away from the beach! It is well worth a visit if one is in the vicinity of the northern Jersey Shore.

The Mass, luncheon, and Annual Meeting were well attended. The parishioners of St. Uriel's were gracious and generous hosts. In addition to reviewing the current finances and membership figures of the Society, we elected a number of new members to the American Region Council. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Russell Kliegel, Secretary of the Mary, Queen of the Angels Ward at the Church of Saint Michael and All Angels in Denver, Colorado, rose to invite us to hold the next Annual Mass and Meeting there on Saturday, April 30, 2016. I gratefully accepted on behalf of the American Region. (Details to follow on the website and in the next issue of AVE.)

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The following week, I was once again traveling: this time to Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin. For its Commencement exercises this year, the seminary had instituted a new award, named for Arthur Michael Ramsey (the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1964 to 1971), to be given annually to a priest whose life and ministry exemplify Ramsey's scholarly, theological, pastoral, and ecumenical ideals. The recipient of the first award was the Rev'd Dr. Richard Cornish Martin, SSC, Superior Emeritus of the Society of Mary American Region. No more fitting choice could have been made. Since Fr. Martin was unable to travel to Nashotah, the seminary administration asked me to receive the award in his place, and then deliver the first annual Archbishop Arthur Michael Ramsey lecture. I was humbled to do so on behalf of my old friend and mentor. I know you will join me in praying for the repose of his soul and invoking the prayers of our Blessed Lady and all the Saints on his behalf.

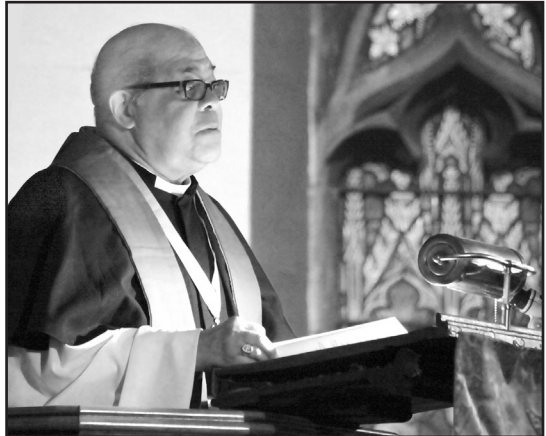
This letter comes with all best wishes and prayers,
In Christ and Our Lady,

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

The Rev. Dr. Richard Cornish Martin, SSC

October 15, 1936 – June 27, 2015

Richard Cornish Martin was born and grew up in Philadelphia. He attended St. Barnabas' Church in Germantown, where he served as an acolyte and thurifer; he also played the organ both at St. Barnabas' and at a local Baptist church. He was confirmed in 1954 by the Bishop of Pennsylvania.



At Pennsylvania State University he majored in pre-Veterinary Medicine. During his college years, he was the organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College, Pennsylvania, and participated in the Canterbury Club and the University Christian Association.

In response to a developing sense of call to the priesthood, he was

sponsored for ordination by Saint Andrew's Church and was made a postulant in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. After graduating from Penn State in 1958, he went to Virginia Theological Seminary on a Bishop Payne Scholarship for African-American seminarians. His seminary fieldwork assignment was at St. Paul's Parish, K Street, in Washington DC, under the supervision of the Rector, Fr. James Richards. During the summer between his middler and senior years he attended the International Student Christian Association Conference in Strasbourg, France, the first of many such trips abroad for summer schools and conferences in such locations as Oxford University and the Anglican Centre in Rome.

After graduating from Virginia Seminary with his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in 1961, he was appointed to the combined position of Episcopal Chaplain at Penn State and Assistant at St. Andrew's. He was ordained Deacon on June 15, 1961, and Priest on January 13, 1962, by Bishop John Heistand of Central Pennsylvania.

In 1966, Fr. Martin accepted an appointment to a similar combined position of Episcopal Chaplain at George Washington University and Assistant at Saint Paul's Parish, K Street, in Washington DC. He was eventually appointed Senior Curate at Saint Paul's, a full-time position.

During this period, the Rector of St. Paul's nominated Fr. Martin as a candidate for Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Washington (when the diocese had determined to elect an African-American Suffragan). Canon John T. Walker won the election, becoming Suffragan Bishop in 1971, and subsequently Bishop of Washington from 1977 to 1989.

In 1973, Fr. Martin was called to become Rector of St. George's Church, a predominantly African-American parish, adjacent to Howard University in northeast Washington DC. He undertook doctoral studies at Howard University Divinity School, earning his Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree in 1988, with a thesis on the history of the Catholic Devotional Societies in the Episcopal Church. During the 1980s, Fr. Martin was nominated as a candidate for Bishop of the Dioceses of Milwaukee and Northern Indiana. In both cases, he allowed his name to go forward, but later remarked that he "learned not to take things too seriously."

After sixteen years at St. George's, Fr. Martin received in 1989 a surprise call to become Rector of Saint Paul's Parish, K Street, which had become embroiled in conflicts among the rector, vestry, bishop, and diocese. After a year at K Street, he turned down an opportunity to stand for election as Suffragan Bishop of Chicago after being named as one of five candidates. Many observers believed he was assured to win if he ran,

but he felt that St. Paul's needed him more.

After seven "tumultuous years" at St. Paul's, Fr. Martin took a sabbatical to consider his future; he received a call in 1996 to serve as Interim Priest at the Church of the Advent, Boston, whose Rector, Fr. Andrew Mead, had just been called to St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue, in New York City.

After three years, in 1999, Fr. Martin officially retired and moved from Boston to South Carolina to share a home with his nephew. Here Bishop Edward Salmon – with whom he had been friends since they were seminarians together at Virginia – called him out of retirement to serve as Interim Rector of St. Mark's, Charleston: the first of several such assignments. He subsequently moved from South Carolina for a time to Baltimore, Maryland, and finally to Durham, North Carolina, where his nephew was appointed Provost at North Carolina Central University. During his retirement he served in various capacities at Grace Church, Pittsburgh, and St. Thomas, Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City. In his final years, he helped out at St. Timothy's Church in Raleigh, and St. Titus' Church in Durham, North Carolina.

Throughout his years of priestly ministry, Fr. Martin was a well-known figure in the Episcopal Church at large, and in the Anglo-Catholic world in particular. He served for many years on the Board of Trustees of Nashotah House. He was a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, and served on the Council of the Guild of All Souls. He joined the Society of the Holy Cross (SSC) in 1971.

Last but not least, Fr. Martin joined the Society of Mary in 1964 and served as the first Superior of its American Region for 46 years, from 1967 until 2013. A resolution honoring Fr. Martin presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting noted his many achievements in this position. Under his leadership, the Society of Mary's American Region grew and became a significant presence among the Catholic Devotional Societies in the United States.

Reflecting on his journey in November, 2014, Fr. Martin wrote: "From beginning to end, it has been one call after another, applying for nothing, searching for nothing, expecting nothing. It was always a surprise and a blessing, as well as an opportunity to serve in places I would not have thought would call me. I look back in utter amazement, and a sense of tremendous joy and thanksgiving."

The Society of Mary's American Region likewise remembers Fr. Martin's tenure as Superior with tremendous joy and thanksgiving. "Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master."

From the Editor

This edition of AVE covers Annunciationtide and May 2015, including the Annual Mass and General Meeting of the American Region. The English May Devotion and General Meeting of the Society will be covered in the next edition in the Autumn.

News from the Wards and Cells

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth, TX

In May, Our Lady of Guadalupe Ward met at St Laurence Church in Southlake, where Father John Jordan, SSC spoke on the Regina Caeli. The ward meets monthly at a different church each month, beginning with confessions, followed by Mass, Rosary, and lunch with a program or address. This ward's monthly newsletter informs members of its activities and includes a reflection by the Ward Superior. In May, Father Terry Jordan, Ward Superior, wrote on Our Lady of Fatima and her message of peace and prayer, saying, "Our Lady calls us to prayer, particularly the prayers of the Rosary. It is a strong weapon against evil."

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

Holy Week at Church of the Holy Faith was glorious and deeply moving. Our ward members joined others at all of the services, often praying the Rosary silently during quiet times. We give thanks for the blessings we enjoy in our parish. All of our members are involved in different ministries of the parish: one is a faithful choir member, others serve on the Altar Guild and Daughters of the King, or as Lay Readers.

We continue to pray the Rosary each Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. In late June we will celebrate our 19th year at Church of the Holy Faith. We find there are ever more reasons to "pray without ceasing," and we try to do just that. So many parishioners ask us to pray for loved ones or conditions needing prayer. It is our honor to do so for all those in the body of Christ. The gift of Our Lady to us of her Son, Jesus Christ, continues to bless our lives every day.

Mary Dare Ellis, Ward Secretary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Ward, Northeastern Illinois

The Society of Mary Immaculate Heart Ward continues to meet the first Saturday of the month. Each meeting begins by praying the most Holy Rosary followed by Morning Prayer or a Mass. Our May crowning, which is always a highlight of our monthly meetings, took place on May 2. The mass was celebrated by Father Eric Raskopf, of Holy Cross Anglican Church. A delightful and blessed day was had by all who attended. In December the ward was invited to share a Quiet Day of reflection on Advent with the congregation of Holy Cross Anglican Church. The day was well spent with great meditations on the birth of Christ. In March a Lenten Quiet day was offered by Holy Cross and shared with our ward. Reflection and activities followed the Way of the Cross. Several members of our ward attended both quiet days.

A new outreach has been started by the ward. We have sent letters to a number of parishes in the area, inviting them to come to our meeting to learn to pray the Rosary. One of our members has been giving Rosaries to people in need of intercessions and to pray the Rosary with them. Please keep this mission in your prayers. If you have extra rosaries, please send them to the Immaculate Heart Ward of the Society of Mary, PO Box 6088, Lindenhurst, IL 60046.

In the months to come we will have our annual picnic in July, a visit to the Church of the Precious Blood in August for the Assumption of Our Lady and a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Sheboygan, in October.

Linda Chase Brissey, Ward Secretary

Our Lady of the Mountain, St Columba's Church, Big Bear Lake, CA

Our Society of Mary (SOM) ward in the beautiful mountains of Southern California continues to meet once a month after Mass to pray the Rosary followed by a business meeting.

On Mothers' Day, May 10th 2015 we celebrated the crowning of Our Lady of the Mountain at our outdoor shrine followed praying the Angelus. During Mass, our service included our chanting the Magnificat. In August, we will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which will include a procession of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As our ministry is growing, we continue to provide regular food to the many needy in our community. This past Thanksgiving and Christmas 2014, as part of Big Bear Valley's "Gifts for Kids and Holiday Giving"

Collaborative, our ward helped provide over 600 families with complete holiday meals and gifts for needy families. During Eastertide 2015, our ward and church members provided complete dinner meals to many needy families.

Finally, we have begun the process of spreading the word of SOM America by visiting other local Episcopal churches in Southern California. Our website is www.stcolumbasbigbear.com.

Lawrence Roberts, Ward Secretary

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

Our ward continues to meet the first Saturday of each month for Morning Prayer, Mass, and Guided Meditations of the Rosary, followed by breakfast and programs. We also sponsor local pilgrimages from time to time, and have taken on outreach in the parish to help make the Society of Mary better known. For instance, we hosted the Easter morning coffee hour after the principle service, which attracts many visitors, and decorated the table with icons of Our Lady. We answered many inquiries about the Society and passed out prayer cards with the web site.

Members of our ward have also had the pleasure of attending the Annual Requiem of the Guild of All Souls at the Church of the Advent; the Annual Mass and Meeting of the Society of King Charles the Martyr in January at the Church of the Resurrection in New York; and the Annual Mass and Meeting of the Society of Mary at St Uriel the Archangel in Sea Girt, New Jersey. Finally, we welcome Father Martin Yost, SSC, former Superior of Our Lady of Guadalupe Ward, to our ward. He has just accepted a call to become Assistant at St Stephen's and Episcopal Campus Minister at Brown and RISD.

Phoebe Pettingell, Ward Secretary

[See photos of the May Festival at St Stephen's later in this edition of AVE. - Ed.]

Report on the Annual Mass and General Meeting

Church of St Uriel the Archangel, Sea Girt, New Jersey
Saturday, May 16, 2015

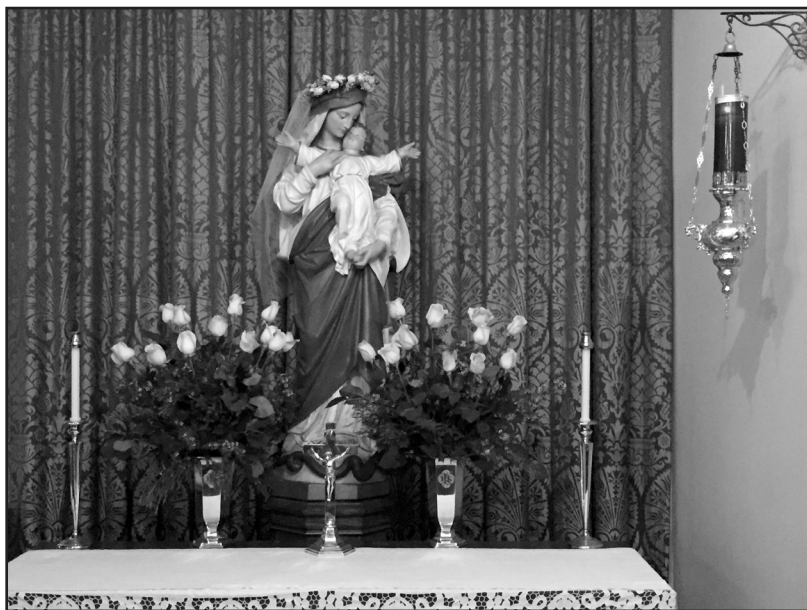
The theme of this year's Annual Mass was "The Blessed Virgin Mary: Image and Mother of the Church." Our host and chaplain of the Society, Father Russell Griffin, warmly welcomed a packed church, and led us in the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries. A Sung Mass followed, celebrated by our Superior, Father John D. Alexander, assisted by Father Griffin, Father John-Michael Crothers and Deacon Fred May. Father Connor Haynes, Rector of St Mary's Church, Burlington, New Jersey, preached the homily. Members of St Uriel's choir and acolyte team participated enthusiastically, giving visitors a taste of the parish's lively worship.

St Uriel's was established in 1902. Its Tiffany windows and reredos depicting angels are a joyful reminder of Our

Right: Luncheon at St Uriel's

Below: Annual General Meeting





Our Lady, crowned with roses, at St Uriel's



Father Alexander celebrated a Sung Mass



Fr J. Connor Haynes, SSC, preacher; Fr John Alexander, SSC, Superior; Fr Russell Griffin, SSC, Rector of St Uriel's; Deacon Fred May of St Uriel's; Fr John-Michael Crothers, SSC of St Uriel's

Lady Queen of Angels, as well as the healing ministry of Uriel the Archangel. This gem of a church is beautifully decorated with baroque shrines and statues of a sort not often seen even in Anglo-Catholic churches in this country – well worth seeing on any visit to the north Jersey Shore.

The parishioners put on a delicious luncheon in the parish hall following Mass. The tables were decorated with lighthouses and saltwater taffy as a reminder of our proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, just a block away.

In the Annual Meeting that followed lunch, Father Alexander described his recent visit to England and participation in the UK Society of Mary's May Devotion in London. Dr Chase reported on the Society's finances, and in Dr Cooper's absence, Father Alexander also gave his report. We currently have 623 "member units" (a total of 658 members including spouses), 86 wards, and 35 cells. Mr Adam Barner was thanked for his excellent work with AVE. Mr Russell Kliegel, the Secretary of the Ward from St Michael and All Angels, Denver, described their activities and issued their invitation to hold the Annual Mass and Meeting there next year, on Saturday 30 April 2016; Father Alexander gratefully accepted the invitation on behalf of the American Region.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mary, American Region

May 16, 2015 at the Church of St. Uriel the Archangel, Sea Girt, New Jersey

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden welcomed everyone on behalf of the Church of St. Uriel and

thanked those who had assisted with the Mass and the luncheon.

At 1:05 pm the Superior of the American Region, Fr. John D. Alexander, called the meeting to order and the Chaplain, Fr. Russell A. Griffin, led the opening formula.

Fr. Alexander reported on his meeting with his UK counterparts at the annual May Devotion in Kentish Town, where he had lunch with Bp. Ladds and Fr. Rowlands. He then explained that the work of the Society of Mary takes place on two tiers—monthly meetings at the local parish for devotion, fellowship, and study, and the annual Mass and meeting at the regional level. The council tries to alternate between the east coast and the rest of the country in scheduling the annual meeting. There has recently been discussion of other possible activities at the regional level, similar to the English Region’s annual pilgrimage. Bp. Ladds and Fr. Rowlands asked Fr. Alexander to publicize next year’s pilgrimage to Lourdes. Fr. Alexander concluded his report by thanking St. Uriel’s for its hospitality.

On behalf of the Secretary, Dr. Paul Cooper, Fr. Alexander reported on the society’s membership. We currently have 623 member units, including 35 couples and 4 religious orders. However, 115 member units are not active. Most are one year behind on dues payments, but some are two years behind. Any members present who had not yet paid their 2015 dues were asked to send payment to the Membership Administrator, Lynne Walker.

The American Region currently lists 86 wards and 35 cells, but we do not know which of these are currently active. The most recently established ward is Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, at St. Barnabas’, Dunwoody, GA. Potential new wards are in formation at Christ Church, Somers Point, NJ; Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls, SD; Epiphany, Columbia, SC; and in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. The Ward of Mary, Mother of Our King at Christ the King, Tullytown, PA, was recently re-established, and the Ward of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in northeastern Illinois, is in a process of reorganization.

The Treasurer, Dr. David B.J. Chase delivered the financial report. As of March, the society had approximately \$191,000 in the investment account and \$8,000 in the operating fund. The full financial report will be published in a future issue of AVE. Renewals via PayPal are gradually gaining in popularity. To remain current, membership renewals should be received by the end of May. Dr. Chase encouraged guests at the annual meeting to consider membership. The society recently received a bequest of \$10,000. Members are encouraged to remember the society in their estate planning.

On behalf of editor Adam Barner, Fr. Alexander reported on AVE. The American Region edition of the society’s magazine is published twice

yearly. The most recent issue, dated Presentation of Our Lady 2014, included material from the English edition and news from the American wards and cells. Representatives of the wards and cells were invited to submit news for publication. From the floor, a 40-year member of the society pled that he cannot understand some of the news from the English Region—it seems to be in a different language. Fr. Alexander responded that there is ongoing discussion regarding the format and content of AVE, and the member's remarks will be considered in the context of that discussion.

With the officers' reports concluded, the next order of business was the election of council members. The council's at-large membership consists of four classes of four members each. Each class serves a four-year term. Four nominations were submitted for the class of 2019:

Ms. Phoebe Pettingell, Providence, RI

Mr. Paul McKee, Washington, DC

The Rev'd Jay C. James, Rector of St. Timothy's, Raleigh, NC

The Rev'd John Heschle, Rector of St. Paul's by the Lake, Chicago, IL

In addition, two nominations were submitted to fill vacancies in the classes of 2018 and 2016:

The Rev'd Canon Barry E.B. Swain, SSC, Rector of Resurrection, New York, NY (2018)

The Rev'd Martin C. Yost, SSC, recently Rector of St. Stephen's, Sherman, TX (2016)

Fr. Alexander nominated the slate of candidates, and Richard Hagger seconded their nomination. The slate was elected on a voice vote with none opposed.

Fr. Alexander then invited Russell Kliegel, Secretary of the Ward of Mary, Queen of the Angels, in Denver, CO, to address the meeting. Mr. Kliegel announced that his ward would host the next annual meeting at St. Michael and All Angels' Church in Denver on April 30, 2016. He then described the activities of his ward—daily intercessory prayer, quarterly service at the Broadway Assistance Center and Ronald McDonald House, and sponsorship of parish celebrations on Marian holy days. The parish's Mary Chapel was recently rededicated. Information about the meeting will be published on the parish website, www.saintmichaelsdenver.org. Fr. Alexander accepted the invitation from St. Michael and All Angels' on behalf of the society.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 pm, followed by the closing formula.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce A. Lawrence

Arthur Michael Ramsey Lecture and Medal

Nashotah House has inaugurated the Arthur Michael Ramsey Lecture and Medal to be given to a priest who exemplifies the legacy and teachings of Archbishop Ramsey (100th Archbishop of Canterbury, 1961-1974) in the areas of theology, spirituality, pastoral care, priestly formation, and ecumenism. The first of these honors has been awarded to our Superior Emeritus, Father Richard Cornish Martin, SSC. Father Alexander received the medal on Father Martin's behalf in May.

Walsingham Pilgrimage at Sheboygan 2015

While not affiliated with any individual Marian shrine or institution, the Society of Mary warmly encourages attendance at the annual Walsingham Pilgrimage at Grace Episcopal Church, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The American Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was erected at Grace Church in 1930 by the Rev'd A. Parker Curtiss, at the same time that Fr Alfred Hope Patten was restoring the Holy House at Walsingham in England. Annual pilgrimages began in 1951, when the Rev'd William Elwell was Rector, and have continued ever since. Grace Church has an active Society of Mary Ward associated with the American Walsingham Proto-Shrine.

Details of the October 2015 Pilgrimage are as follows:

Friday, October 16, 2015 – Quiet Day

12 pm Meditation

3 pm Meditation

6 pm Solemn Evensong – with the combined choirs of Nashotah House Theological Seminary and Grace Church

Meditations: the Rev'd Will Brown, SSC, Rector,
Church of the Holy Cross, Dallas, Texas

Saturday, October 17, 2015 - Pilgrimage

10:30 am Solemn Mass with Procession of Our Lady
Preacher: Father Brown

12 pm Lunch

2 pm Sprinkling with Holy Water from Walsingham and Healing Prayer, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

The cost of lunch is \$15. Reserve places by October 14 by calling 920-452-9659, or by emailing office@gracesheboygan.com. Please give the names

of all attendees for whom reservations are being made.

Grace Church is located at 1011 North 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081, and is approximately one-hour and fifteen-minutes by car from General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee. The address of the parish website is: www.gracesheboygan.com.

The Grandstay Residential Suites Hotel, 708 Niagara Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081, is across the street from the church. Phone reservations: 855-455-7829. Website: <http://www.grandstayhospitality.com>. (Use the “Location” drop-down button to select “Sheboygan.”)

May Festivals in the American Region

St Stephen’s Church, Providence, RI (Our Lady of Providence Ward)

On Rogation Sunday, which coincided with Mothers’ Day, Our Lady of Providence ward co-sponsored a Marian Procession along the edge of the Brown University campus before the principle service. Behind the sanctuary party, two little girls scattered rose petals before the statue of Our Lady, the congregation and choir following, accompanied by a brass band, and singing “Ye who own the faith of Jesus” The Lourdes Hymn, and “Hail, holy Queen.” Many visitors participated in this service, and we were pleased to witness that, in the words of our preacher, Father Blake Sawicky, Mary is the Mother of the Church and of us all.

Phoebe Pettingel, Ward Secretary









Church of the Resurrection, New York, NY

The annual May Festival at the Church of the Resurrection in New York was held on Sunday, May 17. The day began with a Solemn Votive Mass of Our Lady. The music was Haydn's Little Organ Mass.



Many favorite May hymns to Our Lady were sung. In the afternoon Solemn Vespers of Our Lady was sung by Resurrection's choir, joined by the children of the Washington Heights Choir School, followed by





Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then followed the traditional outdoor procession of Our Lady of Walsingham. The faithful sang the Walsingham Pilgrim Hymn as the procession moved down busy Park and Lexington Avenues before returning to the church for the Regina Caeli and a festive reception. The Rev'd Canon Barry Swain, SSC, Rector of Resurrection, is a member of the Society of Mary American Region Council.

News of the Other Catholic Devotional Societies

The Annual Requiem of the Guild of All Souls, American Branch will take place at the Church of the Resurrection, New York City, on Saturday, November 14, at 11:00 a.m. The preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Norman Banks, Bishop of Richborough in the Church of England and President of the English Guild. The Mass setting will be Mozart's Requiem. For more information, visit the GAS website at www.guildofallsouls.net, or the Church of the Resurrection's website at www.resurrectionnyc.org.

The Annual Mass of the Society of King Charles the Martyr, USA, is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2016, the Church of the Holy Communion, Charleston, SC. For more details as the time approaches, check the SKCM website at www.skcm-usa.org, and the Church of the Holy Communion's website at www.holycomm.org.

Send Us Your News

We depend on our membership to keep the American edition of AVE interesting and informative by sending us news of Marian devotions and events in our region. We would like to receive more reports from Ward Secretaries on their Wards' activities. In most cases, also, we are glad to help publicize Marian pilgrimages, devotions, and liturgical observances in our members' parishes even if they are not organized under the auspices of the Society of Mary. So, please, send us your news!

Survey of Members, Wards, and Cells

Included with this issue of AVE is a survey sheet. If you are a member of the Society of Mary in good standing, we urge you to complete this brief survey – which can also be done online at the web address provided on the sheet – and return it to us by September 1. In the American Region Council we know who and where the individual members of the Society are, but we need a better overall picture of where the active wards and cells are. This survey is designed to give us that information, so we can begin planning where to work on getting new wards and cells planted, or indeed where we need to reactivate dormant ones. Please help us by taking the time to fill out and return the survey.

Opportunity of Giving Help a Teenager get to Lourdes

The English Society of Mary sponsors regular pilgrimages to Marian shrines in Europe. The next pilgrimage is to Lourdes (in south-west

France) in August of 2016, over a year from now. The English Society raises funds to subsidize the participation of teenagers – aged twelve to eighteen – in these pilgrimages. These young people often come from deprived backgrounds, and would not otherwise be able to afford the cost of the pilgrimage. For the Lourdes pilgrimage, they are asked to pay £80 for travel and accommodation; the remaining cost per young person is £379. So, the Society of Mary in England is asking its membership for contributions of £100 (at the time of writing, around \$155) or more from donors to “help a teenager get to Lourdes.”

Unfortunately, such donations to an overseas charity are not tax-deductible in the United States. In the future, we shall be exploring possibilities for the American region to receive tax-deductible donations made for the purpose of being forwarded to the UK Society to help with such fund-raising. In the meantime, however, if you would like to contribute, the English Society website (www.societyofmary.net) has a page entitled “Lourdes 2016” where you can make a secure donation by credit card. I have already made a personal donation, and I warmly commend this cause to all Society of Mary members.

We are also exploring ways of allowing members of the American Region to participate in the UK Society of Mary pilgrimages – I hope to go on the 2016 pilgrimage to Lourdes myself – and, God willing, we shall have more to say about the opportunity to do so in the next issue of AVE, if not before.

Fr John D. Alexander
American Region Superior

THE SOCIETY OF MARY, AMERICAN REGION

Treasurer's Report

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT:	\$194,904.70 as of 3/31/15 (Franklin Templeton Investments)
OPERATING ACCOUNT:	Balance as of 4/3/14.....\$6,079.68
	+ Deposits/Credits/Transfers....\$6,349.53
	GRAND TOTAL.....\$12,429.21
	- Less expenditures below*\$6,294.63
	Balance as of 4/2/15.....\$6,134.58

EXPENDITURES:	<u>'14-'15</u> Budget	<u>'14-'15</u> Actual	<u>'15-'16</u> Budget
AVE (Printing & Postage)	3,250.	3,006.77	3,250.
Website hosting	180.	180.00	180.
Living Church (1)	1,000.	1500.00	1000.
England (HQ Offering)	100.	100.00	100.
Stipend (2)	1,000.	1,000.00	1,000.
Miscellaneous (3)	1,000.	507.07	1,500.
TOTALS	6,530.	*6,294.63	7,030.

- (1) Half year's sponsorship ('14) + prepayment of '15-'16 full year's sponsorship made in '14.
- (2) Paid to Membership Administrator for maintaining and updating membership database thrice per annum.
- (3) Examples: medals from England, printing and postage other than AVE, P.O. Box rental, travel/hosting expenses associated with ANM & AGM, Superior's travel expenses, administrative expenses and office supplies.

Respectfully submitted,
 David B.J.Chase, Ph.D., Treasurer, American Region
 A.D. 31 May 2015

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1982, 1984, 1987, and 1993

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