

Chaplain's Corner

Epiphany

Merry Christmas and a blessed feast of the Epiphany! The Church proclaims on Epiphany - the twelfth day of Christmas - in her Divine Liturgy, "Today the Church is espoused to the heavenly Bridegroom, for in the Jordan, Christ washes her sins: the Magi hasten with gifts to the regal nuptials, and the guests are gladdened with water becoming wine, alleluia."

The solemn feast of Christmas brings with it great peace that the world cannot give and joy that cannot be taken away from the Christian soul. She beholds the Holy Face taken by God the Son, the same Face that the patriarchs and prophets and all of the holy ones yearned to see. The angels of Heaven taught Israel to glorify God, for what words could man devise to praise the Most High for His divine condescension?

While Epiphany is not to be set against Christmas (especially since there is no Epiphany without Christmas) this Solemnity of Epiphany can be said to be the greater of the two feasts. It is the completion of Christmas. God had united Himself to us in a human body and soul; however, we still needed to be cleansed of the sin of Adam as well as of our own. The nations in darkness still needed to see a great light. The promises to Judah were being fulfilled in Christmas, but Epiphany was needed to gather in the lost tribes of Israel who had been scattered into the Gentile nations. These same tribes had lost their identity and their memory. They could no longer identify with the tribes of Benjamin, Gad, Asher or any of the others.

What could God possibly do to restore the twelve tribes of Israel? His answer was to gather the nations to Himself, the very nations that in some sense swallowed up the lost tribes of Israel. In this sense, Epiphany is the feast of hoping against hope (Rom 4:18).

Epiphany is the feast of shining His refulgent light to even the darkest corners of the world. What would be brought to fulfillment throughout the centuries began with the three Magi coming from their various kingdoms in the East to worship the true God. It is a feast that overthrows the powers of darkness that held man in the dungeon of error and sin. It beckons you and me to step into His light, the radiant splendor of His Eucharistic Face. Thus, Christmas is completed in the Epiphany, and Eucharistic Adoration is revealed as an inexpressible gift of God. We can rejoice as at the wedding feast of Cana where Christ has saved the best for this last age. We are freed from our spiritual captors, cleansed of our sins, and called friends of God. May we not be friends in name only. Come, let us adore Him.

Father Kent Matthew Pollman

FIRST MASS IN OUR CHAPEL

Father Christopher Smith, a newly ordained priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, celebrated the Holy Eucharist with us on July 13. It was an honor to receive his priestly blessing after the Holy Mass.



OUR 2020 RETREAT



The Most Reverend Bishop Edward Rice was the community's spiritual guide for the year's annual retreat, held from July 19 to 28. He led the Sisters to a more intense relationship with God through his daily spiritually enriching conferences. The meetings were encouraging because Bishop Rice delivered each topic very clearly, comprehensively and sustained with his unique sense of humor; it made each conference something to look forward to. His exhortation, "Being 'good' is not good enough: you have to be better" will forever guide the Sisters throughout their religious life.

After the final Mass on July 28, the Bishop was served his breakfast in the parlor. The Sisters took the opportunity to thank him for the successful retreat. We also greeted him, because it happened to be his 60th birthday.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Our dear Sister Margaret Mary went home peacefully to our merciful and loving Lord on September 24.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Edward Rice, Sister Margaret Mary's spiritual director.

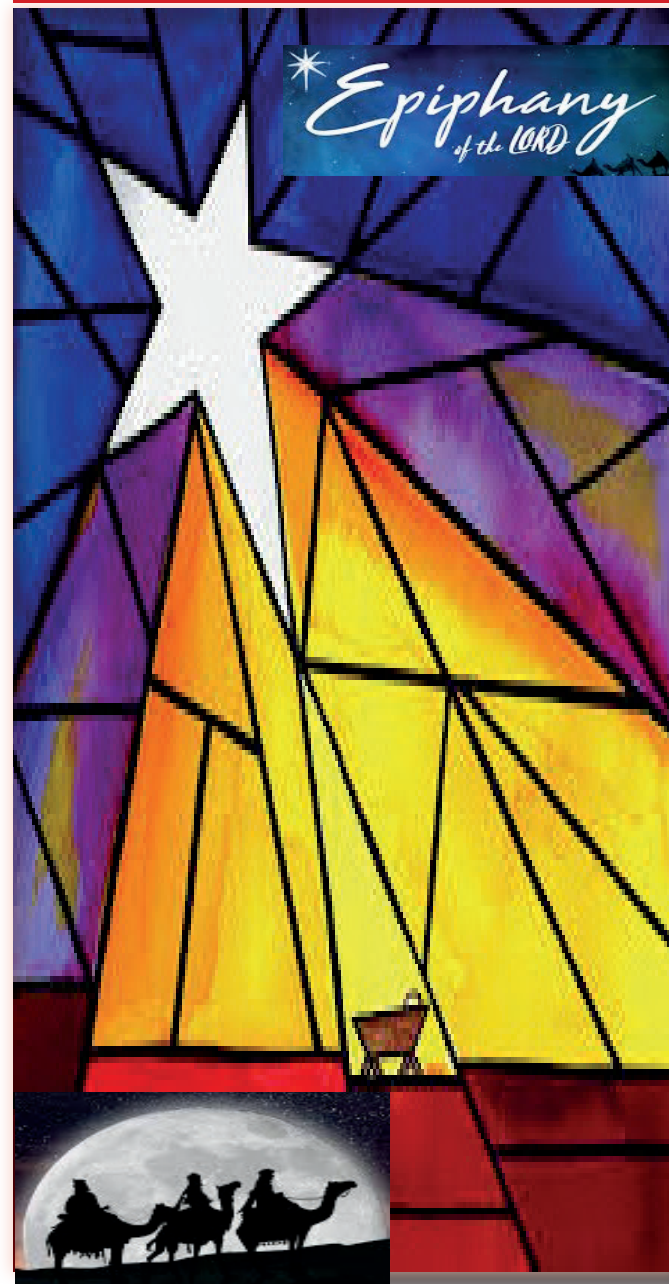


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MOUNT GRACE NEWSLETTER

December 2020
Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters
(Pink Sisters)

Epiphany
of the LORD



MOUNT GRACE HAPPENINGS

From our convent to your homes, we greet you a Blessed Christmas and Grace-filled New Year!



Mount Grace Community with the house officials: Sister Louise Mary (Superior), Sister Ancilla Maria (Assistant Superior) and Sister Mary Triana (Councilor)

February 2020



August 2020

A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE

For eleven years, St. Louis was blessed to have the Most Reverend Archbishop Robert Carlson as our Shepherd. Mount Grace Community is grateful for our dear Archbishop's concern for us and for his generosity of heart. We also enjoyed his meaningful visits to the convent.

To our dear Archbishop Robert Carlson, please accept this tribute of gratitude dedicated to you in all sincerity. We will accompany you with prayers as you continue your ministry as a priest after the Lord's own heart.



Sister Mary Triana's Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession

The Silver Jubilee is a once-in-a-lifetime event in one's religious life. It is rightly so when on August 8, 2020, our dear Sister Mary Triana gratefully celebrated the 25th Anniversary of her Religious Profession. The day was planned as a much-awaited reunion with family and high school friends, but because of the pandemic, only the members of our Mount Grace community witnessed the celebration. The outgoing Most Reverend Archbishop Robert Carlson (now Archbishop emeritus) officiated the Jubilee Mass with his concelebrant, Fr. Kent Pollman.

Sister Mary Triana is thanking the Most Holy Triune God for the religious vocation He bestowed upon her. Sister is also extending her gratitude to all who have been part of her spiritual journey and those who are at presently travelling with her to the Kingdom.



Our Sister Jubilarian with the Most Reverend Archbishop Robert Carlson, August 8.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE QUARANTINE TIME



We held garden processions twice. The first was on Divine Mercy Sunday for the prevention of the spread of Covid-19. The second was on the Sunday of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

We pray the Most Holy Rosary daily and our intercessory prayer always includes intentions for world peace, and for the well-being of the front liners and for all people around the world affected by the ravages of this pandemic.



We joyfully welcomed our new Shepherd, the Most Reverend Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski on his first visit to Mount Grace Convent. His well-appreciated October visit will be more profoundly featured in our next Newsletter issue.