

# Daughters of Mary, Mother of Our Savior



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Saint Joseph's Novitiate

February 2025

*"To be perfect in our vocation is nothing else than to fulfill the duties which our state of life obliges us to perform, and to accomplish them well, and only for the honor and love of God." - St. Francis de Sales*

## FROM THE MOTHER GENERAL

Dear Friends of the Daughters of Mary,

Though our pond has been frozen for a few weeks and the ground has been covered with a couple inches of snow, the Sisters at the Motherhouse have been preparing for several events that will take place in the spring.

### At the Motherhouse

At the end of March, there will be a day of recollection for our catechism students at Round Top. The Sisters have begun planning the day's activities and writing spiritual talks for the children.

We have also started preparing for our annual ladies' retreats that will be held in May and June. Since the retreats will be at a new location this year, it's necessary to revise schedules and reorganize the arrangement of rooms.



*During these wintry months, the Sisters are planning our flower and vegetable gardens.*



### Administrative Meetings

Preparations for the next school year are also made this month. A week is set aside for the principals of our schools and their assistants to return to the Motherhouse to confer about the coming academic year. During these meetings, school policies and the curriculum are discussed, as well as ideas for furthering our work of spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart.

### The Juniorate

St. Madeleine Sophie, the patron of the Sisters who are being trained in the Juniorate, wrote, "In this struggle concerning education, the Heart of Jesus asks us not for our blood, but for our minds. We must strengthen our studies by intellectual work." Following this maxim, the Juniorate Sisters continue to study and learn skills that will help them fulfill the works of the community. Some of the new courses for second semester are European History, English Composition, Apologetics, and Methods of Teaching Religion. These young Sisters also gain experience in making rosaries and arranging flowers for the altar. They greatly appreciate the opportunities to learn so many spiritual and practical lessons that will assist them in their future work for souls.



*The Juniorate Sisters prepare projects for summer catechism.*



### The Novitiate

The Novices and Postulant also continue their classes in the spiritual and religious life. Aside from their studies, they do much of the cleaning, cooking and sacristy work at the Motherhouse. Our Postulant has begun sewing the habit she will receive on July 2nd, while the second-year Novices are helping to make new habits for their profession of vows. They eagerly look forward to taking the next step in dedicating their lives to the Sacred Heart.



### At the Schools

Our schools have a number of academic, patriotic and devotional events during February. The Sisters hold a variety of contests to challenge the students' skills and to instill in them an interest in learning. Competitions are held especially in spelling, geography and math. To honor the birthday of George Washington the Sisters and students offer special prayers for our country and have a parade, during which they sing patriotic songs to honor the father of our country and to thank God for His blessings on our nation.



*Students at St. Anne's Academy offer prayers to the Sacred Heart.*

Another event this month, to which the grade school boys especially look forward, is the induction of members into the Sons of the Immaculate Heart, our association for altar boys. After a time of probation which includes instruction in serving Mass, training in sacristy duties, and participation in devotional practices to the Immaculate Heart, a candidate receives his medal and becomes an official member. This is a way to foster in our students a true devotion to our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son, for as St. John Bosco said to his boys, "A great help to you always will be a love for, and unlimited confidence in, our Blessed Lady, Help of Christians, Mother of God... If you will love her, she will shower on you many graces in this life, and be an assurance to you of Heaven hereafter."

### Prayer and Work

A holy prelate from the early 1900's once said, "Devote yourself to your works, but whilst you work with one hand, let the other keep a tight grasp of God... whilst you keep one eye fixed on your work, let the other be fixed on God." In this way we strive to go about our duties and to turn our work into a prayer. As we



*St. Pius V School students line up for chemistry class.*

do, we remember you to Our Lord. During our Forty Hours' Devotion this month, we fervently asked the Sacred Heart to bestow His generous blessings on our benefactors and friends.

In the Sacred Heart,

*Mother Mary Bosco, F.M.*

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*The Forty Hours' Devotion was held at the Motherhouse from February 16-18.*