

FROM THE CENTER

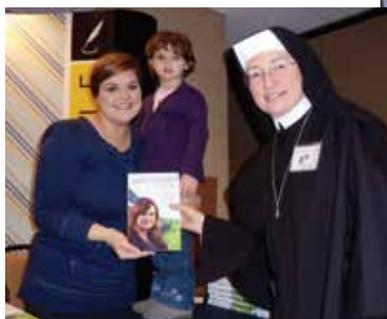
A Newsletter For Friends and Benefactors of Saint Benedict Center Across The Country

The March for Life

As usual the Sisters manned a table at the annual March for Life Rose Convention in Washington, DC. This year was clearly extraordinary because at a nearby table was a newcomer to the pro-life movement – a person who had not only been “pro-choice” prior to October 2009, but had been the director of the Planned Parenthood in Bryan, Texas. Her name is Abby Johnson, and she had a book signing of her story called *Unplanned*. Having already heard much about Abby and her dramatic conversion in *Unplanned*, the Sisters were excited to meet her and were impressed with her warm and sincere pro-life conviction. The spiritual journey described in her new book recounts many shocking experiences that led her to condemn abortion. As an idealistic college student, she felt volunteering at the PP facility was a way to help women and reduce the number of abortions. Gradually it became clear to her that the organization was about making money and increasing abortions. Abby attributes her conversion to the kindness and prayers of the Coalition for Life and the “40 Days” campaign of prayer and fasting. She resigned from her job as director on October 5, 2009.



Above: The Sisters were happy to meet Kelly Clinger and Jacquie Stainaker of the “Silent No More” Movement.



Left: Abby Johnson presents Sister Katherine Maria with a copy of her new book “Unplanned.”

An impressive and powerful group of women at the March for Life walked under the banner of “Silent No More.”

This group, organized by Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life, cannot be ignored: they are women who have had abortions and deeply regret them. They courageously give their personal testimonies of the emotional pain and grief that followed the worst choice they could ever had made. Marching through the streets these women carry signs sayings “I regret my abortion.” It is a chilling display of reparation made by these women who heroically try to stop others from the mistake they made and hid for many years. It is clearly a movement that will grow and have a powerful effect on the future generations. God bless these women.



The IHM school marchers, including the Brothers and chaperones, drove through the night and arrived in D.C. on the morning of the march.

Some New Faces in Familiar Places

IHM has added six members to its faculty, over the past few years. Each of the new teachers contributes a special dimension to the student's learning and appreciation of education.



Steve McCallan, a resident of Groton, MA, is well-equipped for all aspects of the academic trade. He attended the State University of New York where he had the challenge of teaching the physically and emotionally handicapped. In 1992, he moved to New England to raise his family where he spent the next 14 years teaching in the public schools. He took a short hiatus from education for two years, when by the grace of God, he started attending IHM Chapel and school. He now has the tough job of instructing IHM eighth graders the important skills they need before high school...and he's doing a great job!



Hallia Ralis Michaeil has joined the faculty this year, adding a long awaited Spanish class to the curriculum. Hallia was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and attended the College of Vera Cruz there. She has been living in the United States for 16 years and is the mother of a third grader at IHM. Not only does she speak Spanish, her native tongue, but she is also fluent in Italian. She has traveled extensively throughout Mexico and Spain and spent some time in Rome, Greece, Switzerland, and Austria. She taught reading and writing in the poor villages in Mexico. Halia is very devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe and has visited her shrine three times. Her students are advancing rapidly under her tutelage, adding another dimension to their social skills.



Dr. Peter Feudo teaches Algebra I and Junior & Senior English at IHM and is a great addition to our staff. He studied at Boston College, Tufts University, Boston State College, Michigan State University, and Boston University where he earned a Doctor of Science degree specializing in Communication Sciences and Disorders. He was the first Director of Clinical Services for the Speech and Hearing Division of Brigham & Women's Hospital, extending his clinical services and research at Dana-Farber and Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospitals, caring for people ranging in age from newborn to the final years of life. He was Distinguished Clinical Professor at Arizona State University and Professor and Chairman at Marywood College, where he advised the Class of 1996. After the birth of their first two children, Dr. Feudo served Catholic students at Williams College. This rewarding experi-

ence resulted in many conversions and vocations. In 2007, he and his family relocated locally, built a house, and welcomed two additional children into their family, both of whom attend IHM. Dr. Feudo is a perpetually professed tertiary Franciscan living by a rule of primitive observance.



Maureen Dion teaches science to an enthusiastic class of fifth graders every morning at IHM. Three of the five Dion children still attend IHM, the other two, IHM alumni, are now in college. Maureen graduated from Keene State College with a degree in Marketing and Business but still makes learning science a memorable event to her students.. She is the wife of John Dion who taught Chemistry and Physics at IHM for many years.



Sister Magdalene Marie, MICM has been teaching fifth grade at IHM for 7 years and now has added a more exciting subject, Third Year Latin to her curriculum! After graduation at IHM, Sister attended an AP course on Virgil Latin, taught by Mr. Vernaglia, under whose supervision she became his Latin I assistant, receiving expert training from an expert. The next year she was also tutored by Mr. Vernaglia in Latin II teaching skills, after which she taught both levels for two years. Then Mr. Vernaglia privately tutored Sister to teach Latin III. Sister now teaches Introduction to Latin, Latin I, and Latin III. Over the years, 23 of her students have won gold medals in the National Latin Exam – including some perfect scores! It goes without saying Sister is one of the best teachers, because she was taught by one of the best!



Sherri Fill has been coming to Saint Benedict Center since 1993 and began assisting the band in 1996. This year her involvement with our music program has extended to teaching the fourth graders how to read music and play a recorder. The fifth and sixth graders also benefit from her expertise as she prepares them to play a more serious instrument in preparation to join the band in 7th grade. She heads the flute department of our wind instruments, giving special attention to Christmas and Spring recitals on stage, and has been responsible for students competing in the Junior and Senior Districts at all levels, up to the All-State competition.

The Trilogy of Total Consecration

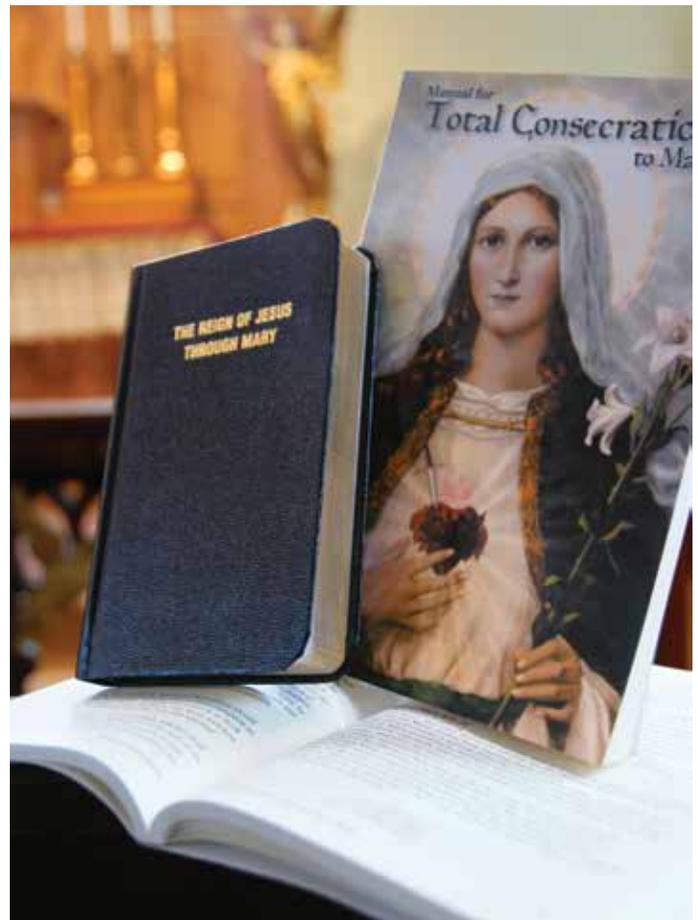
The latest rage with a successful film or novel is to follow-up with a sequel, and as the applause mounts, a third and final continuation, creating a “Trilogy” mimicking the Greek tragedies. My guess is that none of the trilogies was premeditated, but the result of satisfying a popular demand.

The word “Trilogy” can also be applied to the three volumes related to the *Total Consecration to Mary*. The first and essential one is the actual book written by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, called *True Devotion to Mary*. This treatise explains, defines, and defends the need of Mary in our lives and spirituality. Beautifully written, its claims are substantiated by quotes of saints throughout the ages and multiple examples of Mary’s virtues and humility.

The follow-up is a book called *The Manual of Total Consecration*. Meditations and prayer taken from Scripture, the *Imitation of Christ* and *True Devotion to Mary* comprise the contents of this publication. They are divided into thirty-three days of readings and prayer to prepare for the final day when the reader consecrates himself to Mary in the formula of prayer written by Saint Louis for that purpose.

The last of the Trilogy is a little prayerbook called *The Reign of Jesus through Mary* and it is a little companion of supportive prayers for anyone who has made this consecration and actively lives it. It helps keep alive the burning love of Mary established in the first and essential two books.

The difference in this trilogy is that they do not reflect the attributes of a Greek Tragedy but rather the triumph of the Triune God in our soul. In a day and age where the once stable institutions of society seem to fail us, there is still one refuge that is unfailing, safe, and supportive and it is the loving arms of the Mother of God. Why not consecrate yourself today? All three books are available on line at our gift shop: www.saintbenedict.com.



The Ring

In 2005, the Sisters designed a ring and made it available to anyone who makes Total Consecration. On it is an “M” with a cross woven in it, symbolizing “To Jesus through Mary.” A chain flanks either side of the “M” showing our chains of love in this devotion. It is made to fulfill the external practice encouraged by Saint Louis in his writings to remind us of our pledge and show others our commitment. In article 236, as Saint Louis de Montforts nears the end of his treatise on True Devotion to Mary, he gives three reasons for wearing a symbol of chains to signify one’s slavery to Jesus through Mary.



1st. To remind the Christian of the chains of sin, from which Baptism has delivered him, and of the dependence on Jesus, which he has vowed to Him in Baptism.

2nd. To show that we are not ashamed of the servitude and slavery of Jesus Christ, and that we renounce the slavery of the world, sin and of the Devil.

3rd. To protect us against the chains of sin and the devil.

Since its first casting, we have sold over 2,500 to an encouraging number of souls devoted to Our Lady! The ring, which is available on line for \$30.00 plus shipping, is sterling silver and only comes in full sizes.

Old Tapestry Gets New Look



In 1996, we commissioned a company to weave a Guadalupe coverlet 54 X 70" to depict the patroness of the Pro-Life movement and make it available through our Shop. People who have purchased these have used them while praying before an abortion clinic, at the March for Life in DC, Adoration Chapels, private oratories,

and seminary refectories. Some families used them to cover the beds of their children and one chapter of Knights of Columbus uses it for a pall at the funeral of its members.

Technology having improved over the years, our new order of coverlets is slightly different, greatly improved, and equally inspiring. Why not find a place for Our Lady in your home?

The tapestries are now available at our web store at www.saintbenedict.com for \$72.00 plus shipping. Over the years we have designed a total of six woven of images of Our Lady (only four are still available) and have sold over 1,200.

Society for a Good Time

Don Bosco, the unique patron of youth, realized it was necessary to integrate the Faith with everyday experiences, including fun and recreation. He was like a magnet for the poor boys in Italy who joined his games and hikes, which revitalized their love of Jesus and Mary through the wholesomeness they found in practicing their Faith.



In the same spirit, the Brothers and the men at the Center built an ice hockey rink on the tennis court by the gift shop. Donated lights enabled the games to continue at night through out the height of winter.

Every game brought new faces and old from a radius of many miles to enjoy playing sports at the monastery, where we do all for Jesus through Mary.

A Walk of Prayers

A brick walk at the new gym will commemorate the generous donations of those who helped to build the new facility. For every donation of \$500.00 or more the name of the donor or those he wishes to be remembered will be laser engraved in a memorial brick. This process is permanent and will not fade or wear off. The heat of the fine laser ray melts the brick into a dark glass embedded in the stone. It has a very elegant appearance.

Plans for the walk will be worked on once the building is completed. The bricks will be laser engraved as they are requested and put on display.



Brother Peter Mary, Brother Anthony Marie and Brother Thomas Augustine look over some plans for the gym.

Help the Progress! Please help us build a Gym! Consider making a tax-exempt donation to the IHM Building Fund today! We depend on your help and generosity! May God bless you.