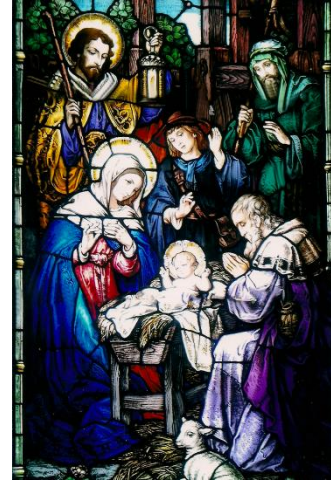


Merry Christmas



Mt. St. Michael
Spokane, WA

*O Come, All Ye Faithful,
Joyful and Triumphant!*

Feast of the Nativity, 2015

Dear Parishioners and Guests,

Praised be the Newborn Savior, His Holy Mother and Good St. Joseph!

On behalf of Most Rev. Bishop Mark Pivarunas, CMRI, and of the Priests, Brothers, and Sisters of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen, I extend best wishes and assurance of prayer on this Christmas Day. I do so also on behalf of our assistant pastors, Fr. Bernard Welp, CMRI and newly-ordained Fr. Robert Letourneau, and on behalf of Rev. Mother Mary Agnes, Mother General of the Sisters.

I pray that you will be filled with the joy of this holy season and blessed in many ways. After Midnight Mass, you are cordially invited to partake of the refreshment in the parish hall.

A special welcome to our visitors to Mt. St. Michael! May your visit be a memorable and an inspiring one. I respectfully remind all of the laws of the Church regarding Holy Communion: Only those who are baptized, practicing Catholics may approach the Communion Rail to receive Our Divine Lord. They must also have observed three hours' fast from food (or anything alcoholic), and be free from mortal sin since their last worthy Confession. I also invite you to read the blue pamphlet available in the vestibule, which details why we should attend the traditional Latin Mass exclusively and avoid the modernized liturgies of Vatican Council II.

The Priests, Brothers, and Sisters
gifts you have given them. We wish



heartily thank you for the cards and
we could do so individually, but it

would be virtually impossible to do so. Thank you, too, for your support for Mt. St. Michael during the past year – we couldn't do it without you! A most sincere thanks, too, to all who helped with the Christmas preparations: serving at the altar, singing in the choir, cleaning the church, putting up the beautiful decorations – the Sisters did it wonderfully, as always, in the chapel, and our high school students splendidly “decked the halls”! Thanks to all who helped in any other way as well. May the Divine Infant reward you.

We are nearing the end of our Centennial celebration, and many thoughts and much gratitude flood my memory as I look back on this observance that will end on January 10th. Allow me to recap the main events of this past year:



Our celebration actually began well over a year ago, August 24th of 2014, to be exact, and since that was the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking for Mt. St. Michael, it was a perfect date to start our Centennial observance. At the annual parish picnic, held that day, we let go a 100 balloons into the sky (photo at left).

Our good Sisters' annual Christmas concert, held at the Bing Theater for the local community, also was a Centennial event. During the concert they memorialized the singing of “Silent Night” by French and German soldiers a hundred years before (during World War I) – probably the only time in history that belligerents ceased killing each other to sing a beloved hymn together, each side in its own language!

January of 2015 brought the priests of CMRI (Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen) and the priests affiliated with them to the Mount for their annual January meeting. January 14th witnessed a singular event – a Solemn Requiem Mass for the deceased Jesuit Priests and Brothers buried at the Mount's Jesuit cemetery, with an all-priest choir singing the chants of the Mass! Open House for the Spokane community then took place the following weekend.

February 11th was special for more than one reason. Not only was it the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, but it was also the patronal feast of the diocese of Spokane. Being the 100th day of the 2014-2015 School Year, it only seemed right to celebrate it as a Centennial Event, with Rosary Procession to our very own Lourdes Grotto, and afterwards on the ball field – what the heck – let another 100 balloons fly into the sky! Krem 2 News graciously provided television coverage for the day. We did get a card returned from one of these balloons (each had a card attached), and it had been found somewhere in the north Idaho woods. So, that was quite satisfying.

March 15th, Laetare Sunday, A hundred years before on this day, appointed first bishop of Spokane by



called for its own special observance. Bishop Augustine Schinner, none less than Pope St. Pius X

himself, presided at the laying of the cornerstone, and solemnly blessed it. Our Centennial observance this day included the dedication of our brand-new Mt. St. Michael Museum in Room 200 (photo at right), and a breakfast for parishioners.



The annual school Auction in April was perfect with its dress-up theme: 1915! You would have thought that a lot of ladies and gents had just stepped out of the pages of history from a hundred years ago. A fun time – as always – was had by the attendees.

The end of June and the month of July brought some wilting heat, and so the Singing Nuns' Centennial concert luncheon had to be cancelled, but the July 4th Concert still took place on the lawn outside. Fortunately, it was scheduled for the evening, so the slight dip in temperature made it a little more bearable.

In October we held our annual Fatima Conference, but a couple of events made the Centennial shine more brightly: a Solemn Pontifical Mass in honor of St. Michael, offered by Bishop Mark Pivarunas, Superior General of CMRI. A specially-made set of new vestments, by dedicated seamstress Mrs. Amy Baldi, added to the glory of the occasion. The many who attended the annual candlelight Rosary Procession in honor of Our Lady were delighted to see the *luminarias* (lit candles in paper sacks) all along the ½ mile-long procession route, placed there by the Knights of the Altar (our altar servers). The girls and young ladies of the Sodality all presented flowers before Our Lady's statue after we filed back into church to conclude our prayers that evening. How beautiful it all was!

Our High School drama class, composed mainly of Juniors and Seniors, provided great entertainment at the Mystery Dinner Theater Centennial event in early November. A real "Whodunit?" mystery had to be figured out by the audience, who enjoyed a great meal at the same time.

The week before Thanksgiving brought an amazing transformation to the old kitchen. It got a complete makeover, courtesy of KXLY television station's weatherman Mark Peterson and his "Extreme Team"! They and many parishioners chipped it to give the kitchen a thorough remodel, equipment upgrade, and better heat (much appreciated by the ladies who cook lunch for the students during the school week). The news coverage was entertaining and very favorable. Thank you, Mark, your crew, your station, and all the parishioners who did so much to help.

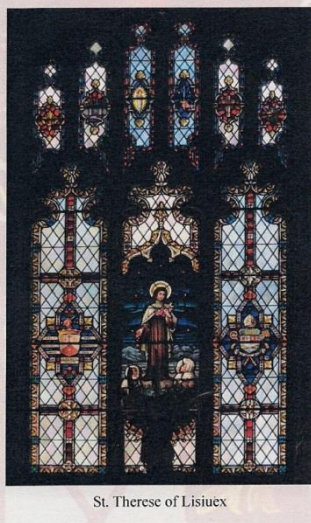
With the Mount celebrating the 100 years of its existence, it seemed only fitting that the annual Singing Nuns December Christmas concert, titled "HIStory," would take place at historic Mount Saint Michael. Four separate showings took place, and the audiences loved it! Along with the Sisters' beautiful show of the Jesuit days was featured, though not with Jesuit education for



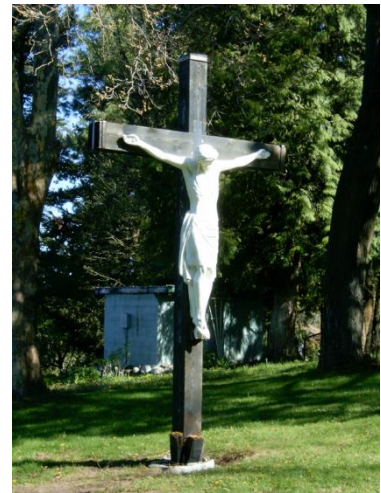
singing an inspiring historical slide
The old building continues on,
the priesthood, but with the vibrant

Catholic life of a parish, a school, rectory, convent, and Marian bookstore and publishing house!

My letter would not be complete without mention of the chapel stained-glass windows restoration project, currently being worked on by Associated Crafts, a company noted for its expertise in this regard. Be assured that this is a TOTAL restoration of our beautiful chapel windows, installed in the 1940's and '50's. It includes repair of every aspect of these aging fenestral gems, complete repair & repainting of their wooden frames on the outside, and installation of a proprietary acrylic glazing on the outside that won't let the weather touch the stained glass at all, effectively making a double pane and keeping out undesired heat and cold. The windows will last a very long time, to be sure. Our daily prayers to St. Joseph have borne fruit. Thanks to the generosity of special people, including those who gave to the "Penny Drive" and our own students of St. Michael's Academy (who raised over \$1,200 themselves!), the price tag of approximately \$100,000 is nearly 90% funded. Remember, there's still a 6 p.m. benefit dinner on Monday, December 28, hosted by the good Sisters, to help finish paying the expenses. Thanks so much for attending it.



Last, but certainly not least, one of the great blessings of the Centennial Year is not a mere memory, but a devotional monument that will last for many years - the outdoor 15-decade Queen of Peace Rosary Path. Featuring granite monuments with pictures of the Mysteries of the Rosary to mark the Our Fathers and Glory Be's and large metal medallions to mark the Hail Mary's of the Rosary, this project on the front side of the Mount is well on its way to being completed. It will be an inspiration to praying the Rosary for countless numbers of people, I'm sure, and I can't wait to pray my first 15-decade Rosary there myself. I can't thank enough the Graham and Muglia families who are heading this effort and doing the work (along with other volunteers). The Path will be a wonderful memorial to their departed parents Bernard "Norm" and Mary Philomena Kieffer, who inspired this to become a reality. At right is the photo of the large Crucifix, which is where, of course, the Rosary Path begins.



Please do come to the High Mass on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, which marks the day when the Jesuits officially moved in a hundred years ago. I hope you can also make it to the music event presented by the parish choir, men's choir, and Sisters' choir on January 10th, that will be the official close our observance. Refreshments will be served after the 10:30 Sunday Mass, and the singing will follow. Come and celebrate in joyful thanksgiving!

Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,



Fr. Casimir Pustkowiak, CMC