

Saint Katharine's CIRCLE

Quarterly Newsletter Volume II, #2 May 2015

*The Month of May ~***'Tis The Month of Our MOTHER....The Blessed and Beautiful Days...**

Fatima Statue in the SBS Cemetery

It is wonderful that we are able to publish this second quarterly edition of *SK CIRCLE* in this month of May 2015. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the best example of motherhood, devotion and a sense of hope that Our Lord has given us so freely. During this month dedicated to Mary, let us be a power house of prayer within our families and faith communities and pray each day the:

Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Virgin, I choose thee this day for my queen, patron and advocate and firmly resolve and purpose never to abandon thee – never to say or do anything against thee, nor to permit anything be done by others to dishonor thee. Receive me, then, I conjure thee, as thy perpetual servant; assist me in all my actions, and do not abandon me at the hour of my death. Amen.

How uniting for as many people as possible to say this prayer especially during May.

St. Katharine Drexel wrote about the Blessed Virgin Mary and through her writings taught us about Mary and devotion to her. Below are a few of these quotes and you may find additional ones in this newsletter.

“Oh my God... Would that I could see with my own eyes the tender love He bore His mother. Oh Mary, in my doubts and darkness, tell me what to do and make me do it.” *SKD*

“Oh my Mother, let me never forget that many sins have been forgiven me. May I like Magdalen, be faithful to the end.” *SKD*

“All comes to us through Mary. As she brought her Son into the temple of Jerusalem, so she brings Him into the temple of our hearts and finally will bring us into the temple of God’s glory.” *SKD*

“Teach me, O my dear Mother, as I kneel with you at the foot of the cross – teach me the lesson of sacrifice.” *SKD*

“Help me, my Mother, in the spirit of humble love, to accept the weariness and disappointments of life and the struggle against self as a sacrifice for Our Lord’s glory.” *SKD*



Mary's Statue in St. Elizabeth Chapel at the SKD Shrine.



St. Katharine award recipient's rich life has enriched others

BY LOU BALDWIN

The official feast day for St. Katharine Drexel — the foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who devoted her life to the evangelization and advancement of Black and Native American people — is March 3, the anniversary of her 1955 death and entrance into heaven.

Although her congregation celebrates that day among themselves, a more public observation is held annually at their Bensalem Motherhouse generally on the following Sunday. This year it was on March 8, and Archbishop Charles Chaput visited the convent to join the sisters and the public in honoring Philadelphia's first and only native-born saint.

In recent years the sisters have also used this event as a day to present their annual *St. Katharine Drexel National Justice Award* to an individual who reflects the values fostered by St. Katharine.



By coincidence not design, March 8 also happens to be International Women's Day and this year's honoree, businesswoman **Carmen Bermudez** of Tucson, Arizona, joins such previous female recipients of the award as Regina Benjamin, former surgeon general of the U.S.; Sister Kateri Mitchell, S.S.S., the first Native American executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference; Sister Sandra Smithson, O.S.F., founder of Project Reflect and promoter of education and policy reform; and Sister

Mary Scullion, R.S.M., co-founder of Project HOME.

At the presentation ceremony, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament president Sister Patricia Suchalski, described Bermudez as “a Catholic businesswoman from Tucson whose life reflects the values and visions of Mother Katharine who was also a very, very astute businesswoman.”

[To read the entire story , go to <http://catholicphilly.com/2015/03/news/profile/st-katharine-award-recipients-rich-life-has-enriched-others/>]

Here are some suggestions that may inspire your devotion to Mary during this month of May....

- ~ Pray the Rosary each day
- ~ The Regina Coeli
- ~ Attend a Crowning of Mary

- ~ Wear a medal of devotion to Mary
- ~ Bring flowers to place near Mary's statue
- ~ Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal



“O Holy Mother of God, behold your child! I am not worthy but Jesus gave me to you. I am a part of His legacy; teach me to be all that a child of Mary ought to be.” *SKD*

A Gem on the southern Maine Coast.....Our featured Parish
St. Katharine Drexel Summer Chapel ~ Harpswell, Maine

Our Patroness and namesake's summer chapel in Harpswell, Maine is part of a Roman Catholic Faith Community on the southern coast of Maine known as **All Saints Parish**. There are several churches that are part of this parish and they include churches in Brunswick, Bath, Boothbay Harbor, Richmond and New Castle, Maine. There are six churches and the summer chapel to oversee.

The Pastor of All Saints Parish is: Rev. Frank J. Murray. With such a large number of churches comprising this parish, Fr. Murray has two parochial vicars in the parish as well as the support of two retired clergy and many lay ministries.

Historically, in brief, there were two summer chapels in the area. One was in Harpswell and the other one was at Bailey Island. Over the years and due to deterioration both chapels closed and it was decided to build one new summer chapel. Mountain Road in Harpswell, Maine was the site of choice. In 1999, prior to the churches becoming one parish, it was the parishioners and a volunteer general contractor, Claude Phillipon of St. Charles Borromeo Church who contributed to the building of St. Katharine Drexel summer chapel.

The chapel was completed and dedicated on May 27, 2001 and *St Katharine Drexel* was chosen as its name. In 2005, Bishop Richard Malone charted a new vision and after much work, communication, compromise and planning, the six churches and one mission became the newly created All Saints Parish on July 1, 2009. Over 200 years of parish histories came together.



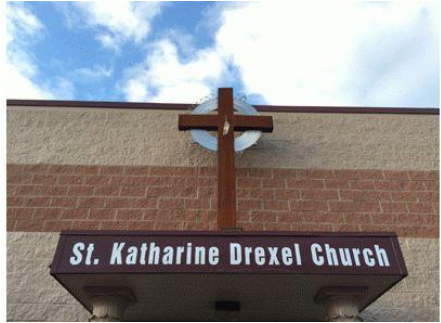
“Our common mission is to become the saints of today as disciples, evangelists and stewards of Jesus Christ. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit, formed by His Word, and nourished by the Eucharist. We believe and we share.”

Please come to Mass at St Katharine Drexel Summer Chapel if you are in Maine perhaps vacationing or visiting. The Chapel is open from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. Mass times are: **Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 9:30am.** Mass is also celebrated on Christmas and Easter. Check the

All Saints Parish website: <http://www.allsaintsmaine.com> or please call 1 (207) 725- 2624 for additional information.

All are welcome.

News from St. Katharine Drexel in Ramsey, MN



The first of February, 2015 we celebrated our 10th Anniversary as a Parish and our present Archbishop, John Nienstedt and Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn, who founded the parish, were here for Mass and the blessing of our new mural of St. Katharine. The mural was created by Sister Mary Jane Sorosiak, OSF of Sylvania, Ohio. We are very proud of it and of our parish and in particular bearing the name of St. Katharine Drexel. Archbishop

Flynn knew many of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament when he served in the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana. His great love for St. Katharine was a proponent in choosing the name for the parish. I am pleased that Bishop Flynn asked me to be its first Pastor and we work hard at emulating St. Katharine's life and charism.
Fr. Paul Jaroszeski



What is happening in Mechanicsburg, PA Great Ideas! Thanks for sharing.

Saint Valentine's Dinner Dance--One of the longest traditions in the Mechanicsburg, PA, Saint Katharine Drexel Parish is the Saint Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. It is always held on the Saturday closest to February 14th. It is a wonderful night of food, fellowship and fun. The Parish Council of Catholic Women sponsors the event. It has grown each year. There is a silent auction for items that



have been donated for the affair. Since 2013 the Council has sent the proceeds from the dinner dance to support the orphanage run by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Ferrier, Haiti. This year the women will present \$1000 for the operation of the orphanage.



Notes to the Sisters--Another beautiful task that some members of the parish have undertaken is to send greeting cards to the sisters in the infirmary at the Motherhouse in Bensalem. For birthdays and various occasions, the cards are sent to acknowledge the wonderful service these sisters have rendered to the Church. Some of the sisters have sent thank-you notes. They are so warm and touching and mean a lot to our parish. We encourage other parishes around the country to do something similar.



Saint Katharine's Feast Day--Each year on the weekend before March 3rd, our relic of Saint Katharine Drexel is placed in the sanctuary along with her picture. The display is there for each of the weekend Masses and remains there until after the Mass on her feast day.

A Saint of Iconic Presence

By: Gary Scott, ASBS and Lou Ann Lorenz

Over three Saturdays in January, 2015, fourteen parishioners of **St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Sugar Grove, IL** gathered to honor our patroness in a very special way. Each person was practicing the art of iconography, or “*icon writing*”. In all ages and in all cultures the icon is not merely a piece of art, but an aid to worship, and an instrument for the transmission of Catholic tradition and faith. In fact, an icon is a link between the eternal and the temporal, aiding the worshiper in his or her own pilgrimage through this earthly life.

Iconography is thus a process of prayer. Prayers are said before beginning to paint, and during painting. The completed icon is blessed by a priest and becomes an object for veneration in the iconographer’s home. The role of icons in the home of every believer is not to be taken lightly. Icons in the home are an extension of the presence of the liturgical mystery which we experience in church. The icon is an integral part of our worship life style.

So how does one “*write*” an icon? Writing begins with the transference of a line drawing to a blank white piece of wood. The line drawing is made from an original icon of Jesus or the saint portrayed. Base colors are layered, shading follows and finally details are added. St. Luke is said to have been the first iconographer when he painted an icon of Our Lady.



Workshop instructor and parishioner, Lou Ann Lorenz, said, “An icon is painted to represent the religious spirit of the saint portrayed in the icon. The iconographer tries to draw out the internal light of the subject. I hope this process was a blessing to my fellow parishioners. If St. Katharine would speak to us today; I believe she would ask us to use our icons to draw closer to the person of Jesus Christ.”

The icon of St. Katharine Drexel portrays her in her religious habit holding a set of Rosary beads. In her left hand she bears a scroll with a familiar quote from St. Katharine. “*Ours is the spirit of the Eucharist -- The total gift of self.*”

St. Katharine’s Cook Book Update....

In the final stages –
Hoping for a release by summer–
A labor of love ...
Stay tuned!!!

Hope you feel blessed and share
Saint Katharine’s CIRCLE.
Contact us with ideas and suggestions.
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