



Pray for us, Blessed Maria Celeste Crostarosa

At a ceremony of beatification in Foggia, Italy, on 18th June 2016, Cardinal Amato, delegate of Pope Francis, declared Sister Maria Celeste Crostarosa, Living the life of a hidden and enclosed, contemplative nun, Maria Celeste is little known outside of Redemptorist communities and Redemptoristine monasteries. Who was Bl. Maria Celeste Crostarosa? She is the founder of the Redemptoristine Nuns who is now a Blessed of the Catholic Church.

On 31st October 1696 a baby girl was born in Naples to the Crostarosa family, the tenth of twelve children, and the following day she was baptized receiving the names Julia Marcella Santa. Later on, when she became a nun, she received the names Maria Celeste, and as such she is known to posterity.

Julia was idolized by her siblings for being a lively youngster, vivacious, sensitive, and of good intellect. By the age of five or six, she began to experience an unusual sense of intimacy with Jesus, ‘... knowledge of His divinity in such a sweet way that she conceived the idea of loving and serving Him.’

At the age of twenty, she and her sister Ursula entered the Carmelite Convent of Marigliano (about 12 miles from Naples). However, after only five years in religious life the monastery was unjustly suppressed because of outside interference, necessitating their departure. While still there, Julia had met Fr. Thomas Falcoia, who was giving the community a retreat. He suggested that it was the Will of God that she and her sisters – another younger sister had joined the two – should go to a monastery in Scala, near Amalfi, where he had reformed a community to the spirit and practice of the Visitation Congregation.

It was as a novice in Scala that Julia was named Sr. Maria Celeste and here she received a revelation and was ‘made to understand God’s plans for a new institute which the Lord would place in the world by means of her which would have for its laws and rules His very life.’

Under the direction of Fr. Falcoia and with the enlightened support of St. Alphonsus de’ Liguori, the Visitation convent was reformed according to the Rule Celeste had received from the Lord on April, 25, 1725. In 1730 a young priest, Alphonsus de’ Liguori, had travelled to Scala for a period of recuperation having been worn out by his labours in Naples and here he became acquainted with Celeste. Incidentally both Alphonsus and Celeste were born in Naples merely weeks apart. The Order of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptoristines) was officially founded on the Feast of Pentecost, 13th May 1731. The vocation of the Redemptoristine Sisters was to be a ‘Viva Memoria’ a ‘living memory of Jesus’.

On the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, 14th September, the Sisters received the dark red habit, the colour of love, which reminds the world of God’s deep and infinite love for all humankind. About this time Sr. Celeste had another revelation which she shared with Alphonsus. He was to form a parallel men’s institute to ‘Go and preach to every creature that the Kingdom of God has come upon you.’ This coincided with Alphonsus’ own inspired desire to form a group dedicated to preaching the love of God to the poor and most abandoned. This institute, the Redemptorists, was eventually founded in Scala in 1732.

When Msgr. Falcoia, now a bishop, wanted to alter the Rule and be the only spiritual director for the entire community, Celeste resisted out of obedience to her conscience. She was forced to leave the monastery with her sisters on May 25, 1733. She now went to Nocera near Salerno where, at the Bishop’s request, she reformed a convent where the nuns had become lax in their religious observance. After five years, on 4th March 1738, having been called to Foggia near the Adriatic coast, she founded there the Convent of the Most Holy Saviour.

In Foggia she finally realized her dream of living the Rule the Lord had given her by establishing her own monastery of enclosed, contemplative nuns. The spiritual journey of Maria Celeste was no bed of roses, though favoured as it was with many mystical experiences it was also characterized by obedience to conscience, by a constant search for the meaning of the Gospel, and simplicity of life.

Sr. Maria Celeste Crostarosa died on the 14th September 1755.Sr. Celeste was a strong woman, determined and energetic, of profound integrity and interior freedom, who always defended the rights of conscience. She was intelligent, with great intuition and understood the urgent needs of the society of her time. But Maria Celeste was above all a mystic who lived in deep communion and prayer with Christ.

One of the principle marks of the spirituality of Celeste is the ‘Viva Memoria,’ that is the call of each person to be in himself/herself a true and authentic living image of Christ. Hers is a spirituality of everyday life, lived in communion with Christ, the Redeemer. It should radiate and go forth from us, imparting a contemplative dimension to the reality of the life of every Christian. Contemplation does not mean flight but rather commitment to finding the presence of the God of love in each event of every day. Redemptoristines today are spread throughout the world, living out the charism of Maria Celeste and being credible witnesses of God’s love.

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

September 15, 2019 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

So Many Opportunities to Share Your Time and Talent

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all settling into the routine of the new academic season. It has been very busy for everyone I am sure. I think it’s a wonderful thing that children have so many opportunities these days to sign up for sports and other activities. However, I hope you are also mindful of giving children lots of time to enjoy unstructured activities.

As I said last week, one of the best ways to get to know people in the community is by signing up for a ministry. For school parents, Catholic parents are now being offered the opportunity to spend 10 hours of the year in active participation as a way of indicating their commitment to the parish community. We are now working on which ministries you can participate in to fulfill these hours. There are also ad hoc tasks you can help with to get your hours. This will be finalized in the coming weeks and added to your Parent Participation Portal at the school.

I wish to thank all those who helped with our first OLPH Thursday Noon Mass. It was nice to be able to welcome visitors from other parishes, some of whom emailed their prayers and intercessions to us. You too can send in your prayer intercessions to us. Just email: olphnovena@gmail.com so that we can pray for these at our next Mass on the first Thursday of October.

Marian Novena and Healing Prayers Lead To After-Mass Fellowship

Thank you for joining us for our 1st Thursday noon Mass and Novena with healing prayers. It was great to see new faces from outside our parish community come to join us. The delicious squash soup made by Melissa Lin, Lyse Lau and Sarah Guizzo after Mass and benediction will certainly keep our friends and visitors coming back for more. Join us for the next one on Oct 3.



NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Sept 7 & Sept 8: \$6,657.20. Offering for the Needy: \$1,353. CSsR Pension: \$60. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

CWL Meeting: The Catholic Women’s League will meet on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Madonna Room. All interested are welcome.

K of C Meeting: The Knights of Columbus Council 3821 will meet on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Church Hall. All welcome.

Children’s Liturgy: In this program, children up to 7 years are taught the Gospel message of the day in simple and engaging ways. Children’s Liturgy is available at the Sunday 11am Mass starting Sept 22.

Children’s Mass: Children’s Mass will resume again on Sunday October 6 at 9am and will be held on the 1st Sunday of the month during the school year. There are occasional changes to the first Sunday schedule so please check the bulletin for updates. If you’d like your children to help with tasks for this Mass, please visit our website: www.olphchurch.ca/serve/ministries/childrensmass/

Sunday Morning Coffee: The work of hospitality is a beautiful service to the parish community. We need helpers on Sunday mornings for the 9am after -Mass coffee. It’s a wonderful service for the whole family to work on together - kids can select the kind of donuts or cookies to serve, dad can make the coffee and mom can help with serving. Everyone helps with clean-up! Please sign up on the sheet in the church foyer.

Becoming Catholic: If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, you are welcome to register for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). The journey of getting to know Jesus and finding out more about the Catholic church begins on Sunday Sept 22. We gather between 9am and 10:30am. Registration forms are available in the church foyer and the parish office. You can email your completed form to Bertilla. Her email: bwatanabe@rcav.org.

PREP: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. PREP begins on Tuesday Sept 24th. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep.olph@rcav.org for information.

PREP Teachers & Teaching Assistants Needed: If you are a registered parishioner or high school student needing volunteer hours and would like to help with teaching Catechism, please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep.olph@rcav.org.

Theology of the Body: Come and discover human nature as the “Gift of Self” in our relationship with God and one another. Discover holiness intimately connected with human nature. Discover how the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, redeem human nature. Discover what this tells us about life on earth and Eternal Life with God. Courses are Tuesdays from Sept. 10 to Dec. 3 (except Sept. 17, Nov. 12) from 7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. Register online at rcav.org/tob.

Into the Deep: In the Spirit of Reconciliation (Film) with Fr. Larry Lynn: Join us for a free screening of Fr. Larry Lynn’s film In the Spirit of Reconciliation on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. How do we forgive? How do we find healing? In the aftermath of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, how do residential school survivors and the Catholic Church move forward together? There is only one way forward: In the Spirit of Reconciliation. The documentary portrays tales of sorrow, hardship — and ultimately forgiveness.

Living the Good Life: The development of moral virtues is an important element of Catholic educational tradition. This tradition originated before the time of Christ with the Greek philosophers, particularly Plato and Aristotle. You might be surprised at how much we can learn from them about living a good life and being happy. This presentation will include discussion and practical suggestions for making your family life better and your children happier. Wednesday, Sept.18, from 7 - 9:30 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Vancouver.

PROJECT ADVANCE

Live gratefully, give generously.

You can make a donation to Project Advance by filling out the pledge form you received in the mail or using the detachable envelope on the leaflet. You can also go to www.rcav.org. Just indicate that your parish is OLPH.

Stewardship Reflection

“Everything I have is yours.” (Luke 15:31)

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

SEPT/OCT
OLPH WELCOME BACK BBQ

OLPH Teachers, PREP teachers and members of the Parish Education Committee will be commissioned at next Sunday’s 11am mass. A BBQ will be held in the school courtyard after Mass. All are welcome!

OLPH GOLF OUTING

The OLPH Parish will be hosting their 1st Annual Family Golf Day on Saturday, September 28, 2019. We invite parents, students, staff and parishioners to participate in this new event that will be both a community builder and fundraiser for the Parish.

Don’t golf? No problem! Come socialize with the OLPH community by joining for lunch. Since golf rounds will be staggered, we recommend an 11:30am arrival time if you are joining for the lunch only portion.

Musqueam Golf Course
3904 West 51 Avenue, Vancouver
Tee Time: 9:00 AM - RAIN OR SHINE
Ticket Prices: Adult \$85/ Student \$80
Lunch Only Option \$35
With the exception of the “lunch only option”, your ticket purchase includes: a 9-hole golf round, a bucket of practice golf balls (used at the driving range), pull cart, and a burger lunch: french fries, salad, dessert & beverage included.
OTHER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES
50/50 Tickets - \$20
Longest Drive - \$20
Raffle Tickets - \$20



There is a Parish Ministry Just Right for You!

Want to get more involved in your parish? Use this guide to discover some ways you can get involved, depending upon the type of person you are and what your interests are.

If you are a person who...

...is “on fire” with faith and wants to share it with others:

- host a small faith-sharing or prayer group
- join the RCIA Team
- serve as a sponsor in RCIA
- help plan and coordinate evangelization programs like Alpha
- join the parish Social Justice ministry
- volunteer as a liturgical minister

...is friendly, outgoing and enjoys meeting people:

- be a greeter or usher at Mass
- volunteer at the Parish office
- assist at Parish events
- visit home-bound parishioners
- join the RCIA Team
- serve as a parish sponsor in RCIA
- serve coffee at the Sunday Morning social after 9am Mass

...works well with children and young adults:

- volunteer to teach or assist in religious education classes
- be a catechist for Liturgy of the Word with Children at Sunday Mass
- teach Catechism to children in PREP
- volunteer to provide child care for parents attending RCIA
- help with Children’s Mass
- volunteer as an adult chaperone for youth activities
- join our young adult ministry team

...has musical or artistic talent:

- volunteer to be a musician at Mass
- join the choir or help at Youth Mass

...likes to bake and cook and make crafts

- assist with parish events
- offer to help with special events with the CWL or Craft Group

...works best behind the scenes:

- volunteer to help with maintenance and repair around the parish
- volunteer to prepare treats and refreshments for parish meetings and events
- volunteer to provide reception service

...is a good speaker:

- volunteer to be a lector at Mass

...is a good listener:

- take communion to the home-bound
- serve as a sponsor for a new Catholic

SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENT



...is a good organizer:

- volunteer to help plan the Parish Festival or other parish activities
- volunteer with Youth Ministry

...is handy at fixing things:

- serve on Buildings and Grounds Committee
- volunteer to help with maintenance and repair around the parish

...works well with your spouse:

- help families preparing for Baptism
- serve at the Sunday Mornign Coffee after the 9am Mass

...is focused on prayer and worship:

- volunteer for liturgical ministries such as lector, or Eucharistic minister
- volunteer as Eucharistic minister to Blenheim Lodge and shut-ins
- join a men's group such as the KofC or women's prayer group such as the CWL

...has a knack for numbers:

- help with Fundraising or Project Advance

...works best one-on-one:

- join parish outreach or welcome committee
- be a sponsor for a new Catholic

...wants to serve the poor and improve the community:

- join the parish Family2Family Ministry
- join the Knights of Columbus or Catholic Women’s League
- get involved in organizations like St. Vincent de Paul, Birthright or Pro-Life Movement

...prefers doing to talking:

- volunteer to help with maintenance and repair around the parish
- join the Pro-Life Movement
- volunteer to help the Parish Fundraising Committee
- volunteer to provide hospitality at parish events
- volunteer to provide secretarial service or data-entry service

...is focused on family:

- volunteer as a catechist for Liturgy of the Word with Children at Sunday Mass
- help with parenting education classes
- volunteer to help plan or coordinate intergenerational faith programs

...is an IT genius, social media pro, or marketing expert:

- volunteer to help the parish and school with communications strategy and technology

Adapted from www.waterloocatholics.org