

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Take not your eyes from the light of this star if you would not be overwhelmed by the waves; St Bernard

The origin of the title “Star of the Sea” can be traced back to the ancient maritime traditions, where the North Star, the ‘stella maris’ was considered a guiding light for seafarers, leading them safely home. Sea Captains used a ‘sextant’ to determine their true course on the trackless deep. Christian seamen claimed this title, *Star of the Sea*, for Our Blessed Mother, as their protectress and intercessor when faced with difficulties and dangers at sea. Can the Rosary be our ‘sextant’ when we are ‘storm tossed and unconsolated’ Is. 54:11 on the Sea of Life?

Historically, the sextant was a vital instrument in determining a seafarer’s location on the pathless sea.

Where on the darkest of nights, through vast expanses of the ocean, without landmarks and sunlight, it was easy to get off-course and become lost. Once locating the North Star, a sailor could align its image, reflected in the sextant’s mirrors with the horizon to mark the ship’s position on a nautical chart and determine their course .

For St. Bernard our Blessed Mother is our dependable North Star:

Take not your eyes from the light of this star if you would not be overwhelmed by the waves; if the storms of temptation arise, if you are thrown upon the rocks of affliction, look to the star, invoke Mary. When you follow her, you will not go astray; when you invoke her, you will no longer be in doubt; when she supports you, you will not fall; when she leads you, you will surely come to eternal life, and will find by your own experience that she is justly called *Maria*-that is, *Star of the Sea*.

The words of the Hail Mary give us the key to the



source of her light. Every time we pray, “Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with Thee” she re-lives the moment of Christ’s conception in her womb. And she remembers the words of the angels to the shepherds, “And they shall call him, ‘Emmanuel,’ which means “God with us.”

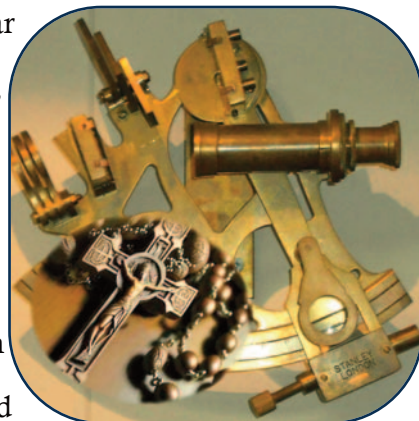
When the way became uncertain, that prophetic word became her simple light. It became her guiding star reminding her that she was *Theotokos*, literally, the “God bearer.” She was the one trusted to bridge heaven and earth by her “Yes,” by her dedication, and by her constancy – as

constant as that North Star. Cf. *North Star*,

friarmusings.com, 1/1/17

Our Blessed Mother gave her Rosary to Saint Dominic exhorting him to ponder the prophetic message, “God is with you” in all of the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious moments of Christ’s life. Just as Mary had “kept all these things, pondering on them in her heart” St. Peter exhorts us: “Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19

By the light of a star reflected in the mirror of a sextant, a seaman can find his course on a dark and pathless sea. In a similar way, by fixing our attention on the prophetic light, radiating from each Mystery of the Rosary, Our Blessed Mother assures us that we will never be lost, storm tossed or unconsolated.



2025 A YEAR OF JUBILEES
The Lord is faithful in all of His works and loving in all His deeds. Psalm 135:13



In 2025 we are honoring three of our sisters in their Year of Jubilee with two words of their choice.

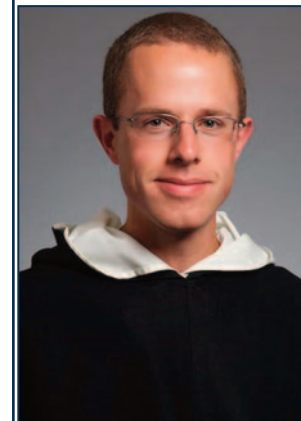
Peace and praise are the two words **Sr. Anna Maria** chose to describe her **25 years** of religious profession quoting the Office of St. Albert the Great, "Lord, grant that I may be ... in a house of prayer and praise forever."

Sr. Mary of the Compassion when asked about her experience of her **60 years life** of religious profession she used two words: "fulfilling and adventurous." In her many years as Treasurer, sister has 'adventured' to various cities for NATRI/RCRI National Conferences. But for sister study and contemplation of Sacred Scripture were fulfilling since "Dominicans love to study and study to love." Cardinal Timothy Radcliff, OP

For **75 years**, **Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception's** two words have been love and joy. When asked who do you love? With her whole joy-filled being she proclaims, "Jesus!"



2025 ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ OCTOBER 3 & 5
Preacher: Fr. John Mark Solitario, O.P.



Fr. John Mark Solitario is a coordinator for campus outreach at the Thomistic Institute. He met the nuns and friars of the Order of Preachers at the Dominican Monastery of the Mother of God in his hometown of West Springfield, MA. After studying the liberal arts and philosophy at Christendom College and teaching high school theology as a member of Providence College's PACT program. Father entered the Dominican novitiate in Cincinnati, OH, and went on for theological studies at the Dominican House of Studies. Following the solemn profession of religious vows, he was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ in 2019. Focusing on the Universal Call to Holiness in the theology of the Spanish Dominican Juan Arintero, he earned his licentiate in sacred theology in 2020. He enjoys working with students and professors as they seek to know better the truth about God and his creation through the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Intentions: _____

Please check here if no
 acknowledgment needed ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

ROSARIES FOR VOCATION

Since 2021, every year, over 300 roses have been offered to our Blessed Mother!

During the month of October, anyone who prays a Rosary for Vocations to our Monastery, may "plant" a rose on the Vocation Intercession Board in our lobby. The fruit of these prays is obvious.

Currently we have a Postulant in our Novitiate and ten wonderful young women attended our July 2025 Vocation Discernment Retreat. Nine are pictured here with our Discernment Retreat Team.

Vocation Directress Sr. Clara Marie and special guest, Sr. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (center), Sr. Dominic Marie, Sr. Faustina Marie, and Fr. Jordan DeGuire, OP.



If you are unable to come to add a rose to our Rosary for Vocations board, please, pray your rosary anywhere and send a few roses to our Blessed Mother for these young women.

WEB ADDRESS: www.opnuns-fh.org
Donate on-line via PayPal or “Givng”
Prayer Line: 248-626-8253

SEE IN THIS ISSUE:

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Please, share Echoes with your friends.



You may donate on-line via PayPal at www.opnuns-fh.org and please consider remembering us in your will.

ROSARY TRIDUUM ~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Please join us as we honor Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary with three days of prayer and petition.

Friday & Saturday - October 3 & 4 starting at 7:00 PM:
*PRAY THE ROSARY,
RECITE THE TRIDUUM PRAYER
CELEBRATE HOLY MASS*
Followed by Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church,

Sunday - October 5th at 10:30 AM:
*PRAY THE ROSARY,
RECITE THE TRIDUUM PRAYER
CELEBRATE HOLY MASS*
Followed by the distribution of Blessed Rose Petals

There will be no 7:15 AM Mass on any of these three days.
*On Friday and Saturday: The Chapel will be open from 8:00 AM-2:30 PM.
Our doors will reopen at 6:30 PM for the 7:00 PM the Rosary Triduum*
Sunday the Chapel will open at 9:00 AM and close at 2:30 PM

Father of holiness, for the journey of your pilgrim Church on earth, you have provided the Virgin Mary as a sign and beacon. Through her intercession, hear our petitions, sustain our faith and enliven our hope, that no obstacle may divert us from the road which brings us salvation. Grant this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



** Please unite with us by praying the rosary at home if you are unable to join us in our Chapel .*