



# FIAT

## *Faith in Action Today*

**Annunciation Parish, Clifton**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

## Welcome to “FIAT”!

Welcome to the first edition of FIAT, our Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish’s Faith Formation Newsletter. Annunciation Parish takes its very name from the pivotal faith experience of Mary’s yes to becoming the Mother of Jesus. Imagine how surprised Mary must have been when Gabriel appeared to her announcing that she would conceive and bear a son, the Son of God. Mary was bewildered. This was not the way she had planned her life. What was being asked of her must have been beyond her comprehension. This certainly wasn’t the normal course of events.

While Mary questioned how all of this could be,

she didn’t respond with anger or despair. She responded with love and with faith - she trusted God and she said YES! And that was just the beginning...

Mary’s *yes*, her *faithfulness*, her *fiat* set the stage for the redemption of the world! And Mary’s faith was an active, living faith. She continued to say yes to God each step of the way throughout her life. As we approach the year 2010, our 100th anniversary as a Parish Community, we too are being called to a bright new future here in our Parish - a future full of wonderful possibility as we build upon our past. Following Mary’s response, we move forward in faithfulness - FIAT. We move into the

future by living *Faith In Action Today*. We nurture and hand on our faith in a manner that is *Formational, Informational, and Transformational*. Like Mary, may we respond with a resounding YES - in Latin *FIAT: Let it Be!*



**Annunciation of the Theotokos  
Dionysiou Monastery, Mt. Athos  
Iconographer: George the Cretan  
Mid 16th Century  
Heritage: Cretan**

## When is the month of Mary?

We say that May is the “Marian” month, and that October is the month of the Rosary. But did you know that the month between August 15th and September 15th has more Marian Feasts than any other four week period of time? On August 15th we

celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. August 22nd is the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On September 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. September 12th is the Me-

morial of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And on September 15th we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. So perhaps August 15th - September 15th is *really* the month of Mary, at least as far as the number of Marian Feasts goes!

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### Special points of interest:

- Annunciation Parish is beginning many new Faith Formation initiatives.
- In honor of Mary and the Annunciation, we are referring to our Faith Formation Process as FIAT.
- In August, we will celebrate Catholic Kids’ Summer Days and a Prayer Service for ALL students!

# The Assumption of Mary

On August 15th, a Wednesday this year, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A “solemnity” is the highest ranking Feast Day on our Catholic Liturgical Calendar. Eastern Christians refer to this Feast as the “Dormition”, or “falling asleep” of Mary. It is on this day that we celebrate the end of Mary’s earthly life and her passover into eternal life.

The Dormition of Mary has been celebrated in both the East and in Rome since at least the 5th century. In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of Mary to be infallible dogma.

In the Assumption of Mary, we are reminded of what God has said of creation since the beginning: it is very good. All creation is holy. Just as God has “harvested” Mary into heaven, body and soul, so too do we anticipate bodily resurrection.

The Assumption is a harvest festival. It is good on this day to gather some of the harvest from your garden (flowers, fruits, vegetables, herbs) and place it in



**Dormition**  
**15th Century - Russian**  
**School: Tyver**

your home by an image of Mary. *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers* (©United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) includes an order of service for the Assumption Day Blessing of Produce.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a holy day of obligation in the USA. All baptized Catholics are to attend Mass on this day. Masses at Annunciation will be at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. August 15th.

# The Queenship of Mary

The Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 22nd. This Feast is celebrated on the octave (8th day) of the Assumption.

Celebrating Mary as Queen has a long history in our popular piety. For example, the Latin text of the hymn *Salve, Regina* dates to around the year 1080. The Coronation of Mary is the 5th Glorious Mystery of the Rosary. We conclude the Rosary with the “Hail

Holy Queen” prayer. And think of the popularity of the May Crowning devotion! Pope Pius XII instituted the liturgical Feast of the Queenship of Mary in 1954. It was celebrated on May 31st until the reform of the Calendar, when it was transferred to August 22nd, illus-

trating its close connection to the celebration of the Assumption.

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22nd, we will be celebrating a Prayer Service for all students of our parish, kindergarten through college, as they return to their respective schools. Please join us as we ask Mary, our Parish Patron, to intercede for a safe and fruitful academic year for our youth. The evening will conclude with a social.

**“This Feast (the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary) is celebrated on the octave (8th day) of the Assumption.”**

# The Nativity of Mary

We celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8th. This Feast has been celebrated for centuries in both the Eastern and the Western Church. Isn’t our Liturgical Calendar wonderful! Exactly nine months to the day after we celebrate Mary’s conception (December 8th - the Immaculate Conception), we celebrate her birth! Perhaps you will gain an appreciation for the importance of this Feast when you realize that we only

celebrate three births in our Liturgical Year: Jesus (December 25th); John the Baptist (June 24th) and Mary (September 8th). And we do celebrate these as births - not birth-days.

The Bible does not note Mary’s birth or death. But tradition,



**Nativity of the Mother of God**  
**Dionysiou Monastery, Mt. Athos**  
**Iconographer: George the Cretan**  
**Mid 16th Century; Heritage: Cretan**

coming from the apocryphal Gospel of James and the early Church, tells of Mary’s parents (Joachim and Anne - whose Feast Day we celebrate July 26th!) and of Mary’s birth.

In the 5th century, on September 8th a basilica in Jerusalem said to have been built on the site of Saint Anne’s home was dedicated.

# Our Lady of Sorrows

So far we have looked at some of the joyful, glorious events surrounding Mary - her birth, her assumption into heaven body and soul, and her queenship. But Mary experienced many sorrows in her life as well. By the 14th century, the Church numbered Mary's sorrows as seven: 1) The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, when Mary was told by Simeon the destiny of her child and that she, herself, would be pierced by a sword; 2) The Flight into Egypt to escape the massacre of the Holy Innocents; 3) When Jesus at age twelve was lost in Jerusalem (subsequently found in the Temple); 4) When Mary encoun-

tered Jesus as he carried his cross to Calvary and his execution; 5) Mary as she stood at the foot of the cross witnessing the passion and death of her son; 6) Mary's witness to Jesus' body being taken down from the cross; and 7) Jesus' burial.

We celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows each year on September 15th, one day after we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



**Crucifixion; 14th Century  
Andrei Rublev Museum  
of Early Russian Art**

In the 13th century, the Italian, Jacopone da Todi, composed a sequence song for this Feast Day. It was entitled, *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*. You will recognize the English translation of this text as the hymn, "At the Cross Her Station Keeping." We usually associate this hymn with the devotion of Praying the Stations of the Cross. Sing this hymn as part of your prayer on September 15th - Our Lady of Sorrows. And recall

both the joys and sorrows of your life as you journey with Mary.

## The Most Holy Name of Mary

On September 12th the Church celebrates the optional Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary. This celebration is a recent addition to the Universal Roman Calendar.

Why would we celebrate the name of Mary? Primarily because God is glorified by Mary's role in salvation history. The glory belongs to God! In the beautiful canticle the *Magnificat*, Mary, herself, proclaims that all generations will

call her blessed. Why? Because God has looked upon her lowliness and done great things for her. In this song, Mary clearly announces that God's name is holy. (See Luke 1:46-55)

**"Why would we celebrate the name of Mary? Primarily because God is glorified by Mary's role in salvation history. The glory belongs to God!"**

Does it still seem odd to have a Feast Day celebrating a name? Not at all! Recall that in former times, and still to this day in many cultures, a person's name day (the Feast Day of their Patron Saint) is far more important and widely celebrated than their birthday.

So on September 12th celebrate the Most Holy Name of Mary, and don't forget to send a special Feast Day greeting to all the Marys in your life, as well!

## FIAT

We hope you have found this first issue of *FIAT* beneficial! *FIAT* is about journeying together in faith. It is **Faith In Action Today**. It is a parish-wide, intergenerational faith formation process that is **Formational, Informational, And Transformational!** *FIAT* is **Faithful** to the Teaching Authority and Tradition of our Roman Catholic Church. It is **Innovative** in planning for the future of our Parish and the Church. It is **Accessible** to the entire Parish Com-

munity and neighborhood. And it is **Timely** in meeting the needs of our particular time, place and culture.

To be a Catholic Christian is to spend our entire life being formed, informed, and transformed by our faith. To be alive is to change. To have faith



**Theotokos - Annunciation  
16th Century - Russian  
Andrei Rublev Museum,  
Moscow**

that is alive is to always continue to grow in our faith.

As we as a Parish Community approach our 100th anniversary, we do so with the same faith that Mary embraced at the Annunciation. We say yes to now, and yes to what the future asks of us. If we are faithful, Annunciation Parish's second century will be a testimony to our faith—our *FIAT*!

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### It's Happening at Annunciation!

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There are many new Faith Formation initiatives happening at Annunciation Parish! Don't miss out—mark your calendars now for some of our upcoming events and celebrations...and for more information read our weekly Sunday Bulletin and visit our parish web site at [www.bvmannunciation.org](http://www.bvmannunciation.org).

- ◇ Wednesday, August 8th, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Catholic Kids' Summer Day for children 6-8 years of age. Register by August 1st!
- ◇ Wednesday, August 13th, 7:00 p.m.: Meeting for Parents of Annunciation Children & Youth.
- ◇ Wednesday, August 15th, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.: Catholic Kids'

Summer Day for children 9-11 years of age. Register by August 1st!

- ◇ Wednesday, August 22nd, 7:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer with a Blessing for all children, teens, and young adults of Annunciation Parish, kindergarten - college, as they return to their respective schools for a new academic year. ALL parishioners are encouraged to attend to support our young people and their families. A social will follow.
- ◇ Monday, September 10th, 7:00 p.m.: Baptism

Preparation for those parents anticipating the birth/baptism of an infant/young child.

- ◇ Monday, September 17th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.: Reconciliation Family Preparation (precedes First Communion Preparation). Register by August 25th!
- ◇ Monday, September 24th, 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Confirmation Family Preparation for current 6th and 7th graders (and parents), and any other teens who have been baptized, celebrated First Communion, but not confirmed. Register by August 25th!



Annunciation Parish  
Photo courtesy of Diocesan Publications