

Loreto John Paul II Newsletter

Welcome to the second newsletter created by the fourth-year John Paul II students at Loreto Secondary School Wexford. This week is Mary Ward Week and we thought it would be nice to dedicate a section in our newsletter towards her. Stay safe and stay connected.

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Silly Jokes to brighten your day!

- Why didn't the bicycle stand up? It was two tired.
- A ham sandwich walks into a bar. "Sorry" the bartender says, "we don't serve food here."
- How do you get a squirrel to like you? Act like a nut.
- What did the shark say after he ate the clownfish? "This tastes a little funny."
- "why don't eggs tell jokes? They would crack each other up.
- "did you hear the rumor about the butter? Well, I'm not going to spread it!
- "I had a neck brace fitted years ago and I've never looked back since."
- "what's brown and sticky? A stick"
- "what do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant."
- "I was going to tell you a time-travelling joke, but you guys didn't like it."
- "Don't trust atoms. They make up everything!"

Mary Ward's Life

Mary Ward was born in Yorkshire, England in 1585. She was a daughter to Marmaduke and Ursula, who were all Catholics. Catholics were being persecuted for their faith during this time causing Mary to live with many relatives.

Mary had no yearning ever to marry but to be a Catholic nun instead. She journeyed overseas to join a convent called the Poor Clare Community in St. Flanders, Northern France. There was no space for her to stay so she became an Extern Sister. She didn't feel that this was for her. However, God had a different plan in mind.

Mary returned to London where she worked tirelessly, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, offering catechesis, and supporting those who were struggling with their faith. Many women joined her on a new adventure, following Christ and spreading the message of the Gospel. Towards the end of 1609 Mary and her companions left London to go to St. Omar and opened a school for English emigrants.

In 1611 while Mary was praying, she heard God saying, "take the same of Society." This meant that Mary should adopt the same way of life as the Jesuits. Mary and her companions set out to complete what God had requested. In 1620, Mary presented her vision for women to the Pope. They travelled through the mainland by foot over the Alps to Rome. Here the Pope didn't approve her vision as he believed it was shocking and dangerous.

Over the next few years, she travelled extensively through Europe, establishing schools in Belgium, Bavaria, Austria, Hungary and Italy. However, despite the support of the locals and the success of the schools, the cardinals of the Inquisition objected to her plans and ideals. In 1631 at the insistence of the cardinals, Pope Urban VIII signed a Bull of Suppression condemning Mary Ward as a "*heretic, schismatic and rebel to the Holy Church*". She was arrested and imprisoned in Munich, Germany. The schools were all closed. When she was finally released from prison years later, she saw that her life's work had been ruined. With a few of her closest companions she returned to her native Yorkshire where she later died in 1645.



Today, two congregations look to Mary Ward as their founder, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ). Members of both congregations can be found all over the world. Mary Ward stands as a beacon of hope for the world today. Although she had faced many obstacles throughout her life, she remained persistent and lived with true inner freedom. Her legacy lives on through all of us as Loreto students, and through all the other Loreto Sisters and students across the world.



Scripture

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’ (John 8:31–32).

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13)

Quotes from Mary Ward:

- Let thy love be at all times rooted in God and then remain faithful to thy friend and value him highly, even more highly than thy life.
- Serve God with great love and liberty of mind.
- Work with great tranquillity, joy and magnanimity, for what is not done in one year can be done in another.
- To love the poor, preserve in the same, to live, die and rise with them, was all the aim of Mary Ward. (Taken from Mary Ward's tomb stone, Jan 20th1645)
- The Felicity of this course was a singular freedom from all that could make one adhere to earthly things, with an entire application and apt disposition to all good, works. (Mary Ward's 'Vision of a Just Soul' 1616.)
- In our calling a cheerful mind, a good understanding and a great desire after virtue are necessary, but of all these a cheerful mind is the most so.
- Divine love is like a fire which will not let itself be shut up for it is impossible to love God and not to labour to extend his honour.
- Cherish God's vocation in you. Cherish God's vocation in you. Let it be constant, efficacious and loving.
- Love verity...the verity of the Lord will last forever...

Prayer for Mary Ward's Beatification

God, creator of all that is good,
we thank you for giving Mary Ward to the Church and to the world.
Impelled by the fire of your love,
she did not shrink from risks,
Labours or sufferings.
She lived and worked for your greater glory,
For the good of the church,
For the nurture of faith
and for the dignity of women.
She was a pilgrim
who spread the joy of the gospel.
A woman for our times.
Grant that through the solemn testimony of the Church
the example of her life may be a light for all who seek God's will.
Amen

Loreto Worldwide: Loreto Rumbek



In 2017, South Sudan was ranked as the world's most difficult nation for girls to receive an education with only 2% of young girls enrolling in secondary school and 90% of females in the country being functionally illiterate. Sr. Orla Treacy from Bray in Co. Wicklow set up the Loreto Primary and Secondary Schools in Rumbek, South Sudan in 2008. Having seen first-hand the 52% of young girls forced into early marriage and denied an education, she decided to take action.

In twelve years, the Loreto school in Rumbek has managed to completely transform young girls' lives in the area with 62% of those enrolled graduating from 3rd level education.

A class of 23 girls who graduated from Loreto Girls Secondary School in 2014 were praised by the UN as the largest, single group of girls to graduate from a single institution in the area. 2 years later in 2016, 29 girls graduated with a 100% pass rate and a score above 60% was achieved by every girl in the National Secondary School Certificate.

At Loreto Rumbek, it is a priority that every one of their students has a textbook and their current ratio of 1:1, is proof of that. Medication and health services are provided to the students for free from nurses who are trained, experienced and always on call. They also have access to power and water all day.

We are seeing an amazing progress in the Loreto Girls Secondary School in Sudan with figures supporting that the dropout rate hasn't exceeded 5% since 2014. The numbers for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 4.5%, 3.9% and 2.9%, respectively. From this data it is also clear that each year the number of students who dropout

is decreasing and quite rapidly I would add. Evident that many more girls are finally able to access a great education system.

In conclusion, the girls at Loreto Girls Secondary School in Rumbek are doing an amazing job along with Sr. Orla Treacy and the other teaching staff. The young girls and women in Sudan are the backbone to society. They work tirelessly every day, cooking, cleaning and looking after younger children. These girls are so inspiring and absolutely deserve to receive the highest form of education they can, the same as everyone else.

Please visit this link to learn more about Loreto Rumbek:
<https://www.loretorumbek.ie/>

The Life of Teresa Ball

In Ireland during the 17th and 18th centuries Catholic families, who could afford to do so, sent their children abroad to be educated. The Ball family, wealthy silk merchants in Dublin, sent their daughters Anna Maria, Isabella and Frances to the Bar Convent in York, run by the sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary who drew their inspiration from the spirit and ideals of Mary Ward.

After finishing her school days Frances returned to Dublin in 1808. She felt a deep desire to follow Christ in religious life and confided in a priest friend, Daniel Murray. Daniel later became Archbishop of Dublin and was instrumental in helping Mary Aikenhead to found establish the Irish Sisters of Charity and Catherine McAuley, the Mercy Sisters.

Frances Ball, now known as Sister Teresa, returned to Dublin with two young women, Ignatia Arthur and Baptist Therry. In November 1822, they moved into Rathfarnham House, then in need of much repair. Since they were three in number they decided to name the house 'Loreto' after the village in Italy to which the Nazareth House of the Holy Family was said to have been miraculously transported. It is from this that the sisters became popularly known as Loreto sisters. The following year, 1823, the sisters opened a boarding school

and a 'free' day school for the local children. This school, Loreto Primary School Grange Road, continues to thrive today.

The success of these first schools prompted Daniel Murray to request Frances to open other schools within the diocese. However, invitations then came from further afield so that, by the time of her death, Frances had opened thirty-seven convents and schools in Ireland and had also sent sisters to India, Canada, England, Spain.

Today there are over 75,000 students throughout the world attending Loreto schools. Teresa Ball died May 19th 1861 in Loreto Abbey Dalkey in Dublin. This year will mark her 160th anniversary.

Good News Story

Prison Inmates raise money for a teenage boy in need.

A teenage boy's life came crashing to the floor when his mother and father both suffered medical issues and lost their jobs. Syreen, the teenage boy, was happy attending an all-boys school in America. Unfortunately, when the parents lost their jobs, they were unable to pay the annual payment of \$12,900. The school offered to provide some scholarship help but it was not enough to cover the fee.

Around 800 Inmates at the Correctional Training Facility, also known as Soledad Prison, heard of this boy, and decided to help. They decided they would try and raise enough money to pay for the rest of the fee. While in prison, the inmates would perform small jobs such as cleaning and mopping the floors. Each hour they worked they would receive 8 cents. Over 3 years they managed to raise 32,000. They put all their money together which amounted to \$24,000 and then received a donation of \$8,000 outside of the prison.

The inmates got this idea from an Empathy program that was taking place in the prison. It was a book club where students at Palma high

school would discuss literature with the inmates. The book that inspired them was 'Miracle on the River Kwai.' This story tells of the survival of prisoners in war camps, who made sacrifices for each other which they called 'mucking out.' An inmate, Jason Byrant, came up with the idea of helping someone out, kind of like what they had heard about in the book. Their idea was that they could help get some kid get a head start that a lot of them never had.

The inmates came to school with a request to help someone and the school told them about Syreen, who was one of the student's part of the book club. It was decided that after the hardship he was going through they would pitch in to help.

This all happened back in 2016/2017 which resulted in the boy being able to continue attending his high school and later graduate. He then went on to use some of the money that he was given to pay for The Academy of Art University in Florida in 2020.

Syreen was extremely grateful and said that it taught him not to be to judge to harshly.

Jason Byrant went on to work as the Director for Restorative Work.

Thank you for reading our Newsletter!