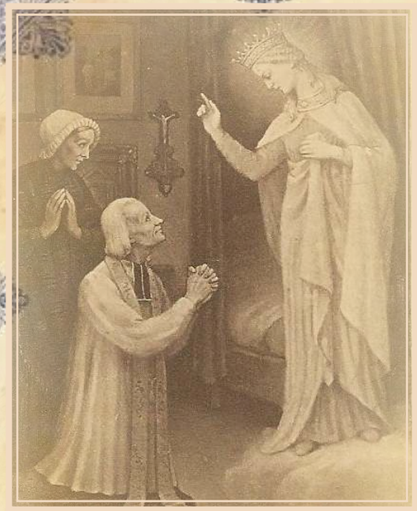
**The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas**

20120 Barnett Road

Brooksville, Florida 34601



*"Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin."*

*"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do."*

*"Jesus on the Cross said to the disciple whom He loved: "Behold your Mother!" How sweet are those words to the Christian who is able to understand what depths of love they contain!"*

*St. John Vianney*

ANGELICA - SUMMER 2016

*The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas*

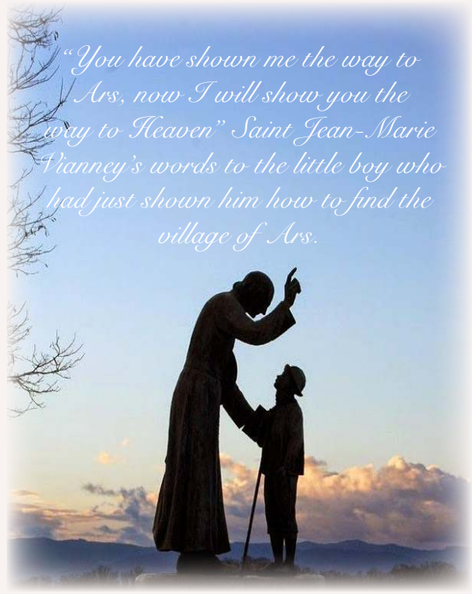


# Immaculate Heart of Mary,

*Pray for us.*

Dear Reader,

On August ninth, we celebrated the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron of parish priests, from whom we can learn the value and importance of teaching the catechism.




It is recorded that, when he came to Ars and began to acquaint himself with its villagers, Saint John Vianney realized that a terrible ignorance of Christian Doctrine prevailed among its inhabitants. He immediately set himself to remedy it by two means: preaching and teaching the catechism. The latter he performed every day for some twenty seven years, until an assistant finally arrived to relieve him. At first only the children assisted at his catechism classes, but soon the adults were seen listening at the windows and at the threshold of the door. Finally the classroom itself was invaded, for by that time pilgrims flocked to hear and view the saint's famous catechism classes.

Although this duty, which the Cure of Ars carried out so faithfully, belongs primarily to priests, it is certainly not limited to them. On the contrary, all the faithful must devote themselves to the spreading of Christian Doctrine, whether it be the Religious and lay teachers to their students, mothers and fathers to their children, or the mere studying of it by oneself. The Church grants the following Indulgences: "Anyone who teaches or learns catechism for half an hour or even twenty minutes, if contrite, can gain an Indulgence for one hundred days each time; if Christian Doctrine is thus taught or learned for twenty minutes or more twice a month, it is possible to gain a Plenary Indulgence twice a month under the usual conditions; i.e. confession and communion and a visit to a church or public oratory with prayers for the intention of the Holy Father." (Raccolta)

The Cure of Ars once preached in a sermon that religious ignorance "alone causes the loss of more souls than all the other sins together, because he who is ignorant does not realize the harm he does by his sin, nor the great good he thus forfeits." How similar St. John Vianney's words are to St. Pius X's: "How many and how grave are the consequences of ignorance in matters of religion! And on the other hand, how necessary and how beneficial is religious instruction! It is indeed vain to expect a fulfillment of the duties of a Christian by one who does not even know them."

Another pontiff, Benedict XIV once said, "There is nothing more effective than catechetical instruction to spread the glory of God and to secure the salvation of souls." Lastly, Pope Pius XII warned that, " The world's greatest affliction is religious ignorance in all classes of society. Radical remedies are urgently needed, but few of them are as urgent as the diffusion of the catechism."

This "diffusion of the catechism" is one of the chief apostolates of our Congregation. Please pray for us in this new academic year, that our teaching may, in the words of Pope Benedict XIV "spread the glory of God and secure the salvation of souls."



*St. John Vianney is one of the patrons of our convent. Each year on his feast we erect a shrine. The statue, an antique from France, was donatd to the convent by a parishioner.*



*Modesto, California*

This summer some of the Sisters traveled to California and Ohio for our annual camps.



*Martinez, California*



*Cincinnati, Ohio*



*The 2015-2016 school year came to a close with our annual spring concert followed by a grueling week of exams. Our First Communions took place on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.*



*Some of the Sisters visited Sacred Heart Church, which is Tampa's oldest Catholic edifice.*





*The Sisters in the midst of busy school preparations. School resumes on September 6.*

*Our new convent watch dog, a German Shepherd puppy, given to the Sisters on the convent's patronal feast of St. Mary Magdalene.*

