

St. Joseph Women's Society

Mary & Martha News

Summer 2015

Columbia, SC

Spiritual Reflection

A Note from Janet

Recently a broken pipe brought cascades of water into my condominium living room. – and a great deal of anxiety for me. I called one plumber after another and finally found one who solved the problem, but left me to struggle with various agents to repair the water damage in my home.

Dealings with the property management company, insurance agents, and the repair providers all led to difficulties for me. I suffered with this chaos which continued through several months. Of course my suffering was nothing compared to a person who loses a child in a tragic accident, or one dealing with a terminal disease, or a woman who learns that her fetus is seriously impaired.

Yet all suffering – great or small leads us to understand something that God is teaching us. In my case it was the importance of patience to recognize that all would be made right again. I also needed humility to better understand how unimportant my personal inconveniences were.

Our “sufferings” help us understand that Jesus’ death redeemed us, enabling us to be united with God who intended for us to live with Him forever. As Saint Frances Cabrini wrote, “...in every trial there is an admirable secret work of grace.”

Janet O Keeffe

Birthright Baby Shower and Tea Room Lunch



The Women's Society is sponsoring a parish-wide baby shower to provide help for women facing a crisis pregnancy. Baby clothing, disposable diapers, and other items for infant care are needed. These items will be collected from July 18th to July 25th.

Also, we are hosting the third annual Tea Room lunch to raise funds for Birthright. The luncheon will be held on July 22nd from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. We are excited at being able to host this event in the new Ministries and Administration Building. All proceeds will go directly to Birthright. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements about the event.

Libit Woodington will be asking for help to prepare food and serve this event. If you cannot help physically you can make a contribution to purchase food for the lunch. Last but certainly not least be sure to make your reservation early and invite a friend.

Hearts on Fire Conference

Mark your calendars for Oct 2-3. *On Fire with Faith: Igniting the Hearts in the New Evangelization* conference will be in Simpsonville SC at St Mary Magdalene

The Saint Joseph Women's Society are friends in faith who share the Gospel; serve the parish, community, and world; and mold strong Catholic woman leaders.

https://www.facebook.com/stjosephwomenssocietycolumbia?fref=ts&__nodl

Rebecca invites everyone to send information, photos, or links to her for inclusion on the page. Contact her at becca_hamby@bellsouth.net.

Help Wanted The History Committee

Each year the History Committee puts together a scrapbook to summarize the scope and breadth of SJWS efforts and accomplishments. The committee is inviting everyone to contribute to the 2015 SJWS Scrapbook. Not everyone can be involved in putting the book together but there are ways that everyone can help.

- Please let the committee know what activities you are participating in at the church and the community.
- Send pictures of these activities so they can be part of the 2015 scrapbook.
- Also send pictures of any events the parish had this year such as the Priest Appreciation Reception in February, our new building dedication, our farewell to Father Grey --to name a few.
- We also need pictures of service projects, such as the Snack Pack Program, church decorating, and church cleaning..
- Any activity connected to our parish or parishioners' service to our community should be documented. So send pictures of work such as volunteering at Catholic Charities, the International Lunch, Birthright Tea, and Providence Hospital.

Some members might want to be involved in putting specific pages together. You can take pictures of upcoming events of the parish; you can decorate a page depicting an event included in the scrapbook. Sample pages that we know we would like to have in the 2015 book are Holy Week Events (the Seder Meal, Holy Thursday Mass, Good Friday Services and Easter). We would like to have several pages for each of the 12 months. You can contribute Holy Cards and Religious pictures to help enhance the book.

You can make labels for pictures. You can contribute scrapbook pages that our pictures can be displayed.

Please contact Regina Spell at 803-776-9575 or e-mail her at rsPELL909@gmail.com. She is anxious to receive your ideas, suggestions, pictures, and offers of help.

Update on our Bantu Family

It is hard to imagine but it has been 10 years since many of our members became involved in an effort to assist a Bantu family that had emigrated from their African nation. Initially we had to do a great deal to help the family settle into their new home and country. Currently, we help with transportation, dental help and school supplies, and are available to help when needed.

The family is doing well in Columbia. The father continues to work at the same apartment complex that he did when they arrived. He speaks English. The mother, who is legally blind, is a stay-at-home mother and speaks very little English.

The children speak English like Americans. The younger two were born here. In the fall the youngest, Ali, will enter Kindergarten at Arden Elementary where his sister, Asha, is an Honor Roll student and will be in fifth grade.

Hassan is a rising sophomore at Eau Claire High School. He plays in the school band. He got his first paying job this summer, after the SJWS member took him for applications and interviews. He works at Sonic on North Main.

Abdi is a rising senior. He did attend Eau Claire High School, but is now enrolled at Richland One Middle College. This program offers 11th and 12th graders an opportunity to attend high school on a college campus. They can complete their high school courses as well as take courses at Midlands Tech.

Abdi is a National Merit Scholar. He is on the tennis team and in the school band. One of our members has been helping him visit colleges He

will complete his first two years at Midlands Tech unless he gets a full scholarship at a four year college.

Thank you for your support for this outreach project.

Bantu Committee

Fund Raiser Expansion

Plans and work are taking shape to offer craft items at our annual November Food sale. Sessions are being held where women will gather and learn to make various craft and holiday items that will be sold during the Food Sale. Two sessions will be held this week. An evening session will be held on August 3.. Supplies and easy to follow instructions will be provided and materials may be taken home to continue the work. For further information contact one of the following women.

Maria Carrero mariadccarrero@hotmail.com , or

Julie Rotureau rotureau@att.net , or

Gwen Skipper gwenskip@bellsouth.net