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.

Church. Speakers included Bishop Robert Guglielmone, Hector Molina and Carole Eipers. Registration for the conference is \$40.

Message from President

Summer time is upon us with a vengeance. I hope that you can either stay in the air conditioning or spend time in the water. However, the water in Lake Monticello has felt a lot like bath water the last few days.

June has brought much joy and also sadness. The weather turned out perfect for our outing at Lake Monticello. I was happy to welcome all to my home. The "Consoling the Heart of Jesus" retreat is going well with 21 participants. I look forward to the beginning the "33 Days to Morning Glory" retreat in July. The Ways & Means committee is busily planning the creation of crafts for the fall food sale. I can feel the love that comes as we plan and prepare for the Tea Room Lunch.

On a sad note, we remember the nine people in Charleston who were shot while they studied the word of God in their church. Also, our sister, Ellen Williams, was called home to the Lord on June 17th.

We will certainly miss Ellen's contributions of time, talent and treasure to the Women's Society. She served as our Ways & Means chair for the last six years. She was instrumental in the creation of our cookbook "From the Devine Kitchens" and securing the latest St. Joseph ornament of the altar. She organized the fall food sale. She encouraged the craft workshop sessions with the goal for us to come together to create, eat and share ourselves with each other. In addition to this Ellen was friend to many. She was forever planning and arranging for people to come together at her home or to play bridge at Mary T's. I think that her gift of hospitality is her legacy.

I would like your input for planning future events. Our Christmas lunch is generally the first Friday in December. Please make recommendations of where you might like to hold the lunch this year. Also, in thinking ahead to the General meeting in January- Do you have a suggestion of a caterer? What type of program would appeal to you? Let me hear from you on these or other items.

Gwen Skipper

Calendar

July 7 & 8 - Crafts sessions (See fund raiser article)

July 18 to 26- Birthright Baby Shower (see Baby Shower article)

July 22 Birthright Tea Room Lunch (reservations required)

August 1 – 1st Saturday Rosary, Mass, Breakfast

September 6 – Rosary for Unborn Led by SJWS after 8:15AM Mass

September 20 – Monthly meeting In the new building 1:30PM

September 25-USC International Students Lunch (Sponsored by our Community Outreach Committee)

September 27 – Columbia-Midlands Deanery Meeting at St. Joseph's

In our May newsletter we invited everyone to use our Women's Society website to find information about activities and copies of our Newsletters (current and past).

http://www.stjosephcolumbia.org/#!blank/ccjp

Now we want to call you attention to our Facebook page. Thanks to Rebecca Hamby we have another place to share our Society's work and praise to God. See

https://www.facebook.com/stjosephwomenss ocietycolumbia?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 WantedThe 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