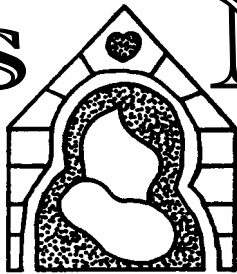


MOM'S NEWS

Spring/Summer
2007



Mary Our Mother
Heart of the Home

From our Lay Director . . .

This Is The Day The Lord Has Made

Did you ever hear this song on a day that left you wondering if it really was a day made by the Lord? Let's face it, we all have days that we are just "getting through" because we are challenged beyond our limit for that moment. How do we enter in to the Lord's grace on these days? How do we live knowing that He created this day, just as much as those that are going wonderfully?

Recently I heard a quote that I have thought much about this past week.

"God does not necessarily always want us to be happy.
He is much more interested in our growth."

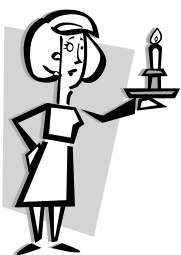
C.S. Lewis

Let us all take time out for renewal this year. From time to time we need to reflect on the path of growth that God is leading us through. There are so many crossroads we come to that sometimes we are not aware that the decisions being made are affecting the path of growth. Take time daily, if only for a few minutes, to talk to God about the direction of our day. Take time weekly to attend adoration, where we can sit before the Lord and let Him show us His love for us. Take time away from the business of everyday life and attend a MOM-Heart of the Home Renewal Day, where we have the opportunity to spend time alone with God and with other mothers who are striving to live their vocation of motherhood as God is asking of them.

Let us build a community of support for ourselves that is there when we are challenged, as well as when things are going wonderfully. God created us to need one another. This support system has blessed many moms who are part of the county teams planning the renewal days. We are finding that volunteering in this ministry is such a great way to meet other moms with similar values and get to know them on a more personal level. The structure of the team meetings is centered on prayer, the meeting agenda, and then a social time for those who are able to stay. Mothers who are extremely busy say that they can cut out other activities in their lives, but tend to want to hold onto the team participation with MOM-Heart of the Home because they get so much personal support from the experience. We especially encourage anyone who is feeling lost in the shuffle within the Catholic Church, or those who have just moved to a new area, to try it and see if volunteering for this ministry is a fit.

The Bible tells us in Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." When we thank God in all circumstances, we are recognizing that He is with us through difficult moments. We are taking our eyes off ourselves and the situations and putting them on God. It is a way of reminding ourselves that God is greater than any suffering and God can and will work THROUGH this suffering, and bring about good, if we allow Him to do so.

Continued on Page 3



Register NOW

Chester County Renewal Day
Delaware County Renewal Day
Montgomery County Renewal Day

Call us with questions
or comments

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Upcoming Mom—Heart of the Home Renewals:

- Berks County—November, 2007
- Buck's County— November, 2007
- Chester County— March 17, 2007
- Delaware County— March 3, 2007
- Montgomery County— to be announced

Montgomery County

Montgomery County is in the planning stages for the Spring Renewal Day. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Lindy Johnson at lindy.johnson@comcast.net.

Delaware County Update

Delaware County is currently in the planning phase for its Day of Renewal. The date is set for Saturday, March 3rd. We are in a new location for 2007! St. Anastasia Parish, in Newtown Square, has graciously offered us their facilities. If you would like to volunteer to help in anyway with the day, please contact Connie McCloskey at 610-325-7471.

Philadelphia County Update

We are in the planning stages for the first Philadelphia County MOM-Heart of the Home Renewal Day. We could use help! Anyone interested in volunteering, please call Rita Knight at 215-333-7464 or Michelle Dolan at 215-708-0668. Also, please pray for the Lord to guide the steps of those who bring this wonderful ministry to Philadelphia County!

Chester County Update

Chester County's Day of Renewal will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Bishop Shanahan High School. Our theme this year is "Be Still and Know That I Am God" Psalm 46:10. Our main celebrant will be Father Francis Mulranen from St. Cecilia's in Coatesville. The morning speaker is Patricia Gallagher, a mother of four grown children and a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Royersford. Tricia is a gifted writer and speaker. Six years ago, overwhelmed with her problems, she called upon God to send her a "team of angels". Since that time, she has distributed thousands of angel pins and prayer cards across the country and to military personnel overseas. Her talk entitled "Tea, Talk and a Team of Angels" will highlight this awesome venture. She will also speak on "The Gift of Changing Yourself". Our afternoon speaker is Regina Lenox, a Chester County mom, former teacher and administrator for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and an independent consultant for faith communities. She teaches for the National Church Ministry Institute in parishes. Regina will elaborate on how history turned for the world on Mary's "Yes" and ways women can live up to Mary's role model. She will also give concrete ways for Mothers to follow Mary's example. We are looking for women to sing in the Mothers of Peace choir at the renewal day under the direction of Pat Lamb. No experience necessary. If interested, rehearsals are Monday nights on February 26, March 5th and March 12th. Contact Pat at plamb@broadrun.com or 610-384-4933. We are also looking for women to help us with our renewal days. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity for the renewal day, please call Lidia Manieri at 610 - 399 - 9488 or idia_manieri@qvc.com. Thank you and hope to see you at our next renewal day on March 17th at Bishop Shanahan High School.



Berks County Update

We had a wonderful, first Berks County and first Allentown Diocese MOM - Heart of the Home renewal day on November 18th at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Bally. Thank you to all the mothers who attended and for your positive feedback.

Our morning speaker Denise (Strong) Mckenzie from Drexel Hill is known to other MOM renewal groups. She shared her remarkable story of being involved with others in praying a novena to St. Leonnie of Aviat. Her daughter was cured from her chronic painful back condition. This cure was recognized by the Vatican as a miracle and was used in the canonization of St. Leonnie. Denise humbly shared her doubts, disbelief and finally sheer joy of the miraculous events that have affected her entire family. Her daughter Bernadette is soon expecting her second child.

Sr. Kathy Rooney SSJ, the spiritual advisor for MOM - Heart of the Home, also shared her experience as a birth mother reunited with her daughter after over 30 years. Her separation and reuniting with the church and ultimately becoming a sister was an inspiration to us all.

In addition to the speakers, some of the highlights of the day included a meditation lead by Sister Nancy Kramer of St. Colu mkill's, a verbal history of Most Blessed Sacrament Church and its role in helping to establish Catholicism in Pennsylvania, and making of a scrapbook of the day. We also had prizes for the mom with the most children - 8, the mom who traveled the farthest - from Delaware, and for the dad who stayed home and watched not only 5 of his own children but 4 others so two mom's could come to our day!

There were a lot of great suggestions for future topics, speakers and themes for participations in future Berks renewal days. We are looking forward to continued success and participation in Berks County. Look for more information in the next newsletter!

Margaret Chovanes
Berks County Coordinator

Bucks County Update

The official account of the November 5th retreat day!

Many thanks to all of the Moms who literally took a spiritual “journey” in order to attend the retreat on Sunday, November 5, 2006. The Renewal day, which was to take place at Archbishop Wood High School, had to be moved after we received a call that the school would be closed due to unforeseen circumstances. Within an hour, Msgr. James Beisel, Pastor of St. Robert’s and Vicar of Bucks County, after hearing about our plight, graciously offered us the use of his school. He was the one responsible for the realization of the day, our ‘Knight in Shining Armor’. Our theme was “Blest Are We,” and we truly were! Phone calls were made to a hundred plus women on Friday night, with the change in venue and directions to the school. All but about four women were able to make it.

When the priest scheduled for the day was not able to make it, Father Chris Walsh filled-in at the last minute as our celebrant – what a Godsend! Katy Soulas, who lost her husband on 9/11, was our morning speaker.

She spoke of how her spirituality helped her through this most tragic time. Our afternoon speaker and spiritual moderator, Sister Kathleen Rooney, spoke of her faith journey. We were blessed to have them with us at St Roberts.

So, here’s what really happened: The Wednesday before the retreat, our first two complications arose.

First, the priest scheduled for the Mass wasn’t able to attend, but luckily we had Fr. Chris on speed-dial, and he said yes to be our celebrant (although he did introduce himself as Father ‘Will-Do’!)

Secondly, Sister Kathy thought that the retreat was on Saturday, not Sunday. But after we had minor chest pain, we straightened her out. Then, Eleanor sealed our fate. She said “What else could go wrong?” Who would have known what would come next? Friday morning, two days before the retreat, the first of many messages was left on Eleanor’s answering machine saying “you won’t be able to come to the high school and set up on Saturday.” But, Eleanor wasn’t home, and then a subsequent message stated, “You can’t have the retreat here at all!” The school then called Ginny, one of the team, to make sure the message was received and to offer the facilities on the following weekend. Ginny, busy teaching a second grade class, began hyperventilating. Knowing that she had ordered 115 lunches for Sunday that were not returnable, Ginny called Mary Alice. Strangely, Mary Alice remained calm and composed. (She reminisces, “I went to my happy place and didn’t come back till Tuesday!”).

Several phone conversations later, Eleanor was found and regained control of the situation. She immediately called Msgr. Beisel, and within an hour, we had a place to hold the retreat. All that was left to do was notify the 115 women, priests, speakers, and the lunch delivery folks of the location change. That seemed simple enough; after all we had all of the phone numbers.

Three of us met at Mary Alice’s house, armed with cell phones, and managed to get about 125 calls made in an hour and a half. The women we called were so gracious and understanding! We felt much better after we accomplished this task, and were ready to take on the challenge of a new place to have our day.

Who knew that it would be so easy, or so much fun, to move a hundred folding chairs across the parking lot, into the elevator and down to the cafeteria? And then move them back on Sunday? (God bless our willing volunteers!) When we walked into the building on Saturday, we were greeted with a beautiful stained glass picture of Our Lady, assuring us that things would be fine. And they certainly were!

From Our Lay Director Continued from cover page

So Lord, we praise you and thank you for this day that you have made! Let us work at wanting to see your glory in all areas of our lives! Let us acknowledge often in our mind and hearts that you are walking right beside us each day and loving us enough to allow us to “grow up”. Let us rejoice and be glad, to the best of our ability for each day for we know that gladness (joy) is much different than happiness. We can feel the joy of the Lord through some of the most trying times in our lives.

As I pray for all the mothers who are part of this wonderful ministry, I ask God to give you His joy in your vocation of motherhood.

God’s Blessings!
Peg Choinski

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Every Day I kneel and pray and thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to serve You through the gift of motherhood.

I thank You for creating that special bond between mother and child, that begins even before birth, and blossoms into a very special kind of devotion and love.

I thank You for entrusting to me the care of these children who are first and last Your children.

Lord, I ask to be blessed with the capacity to love each of my children unconditionally.

I ask for the wisdom to teach my children the important lessons of life.

I ask for the energy to be able to do all that is required of me in caring for my family.

I ask for a contented spirit so that I may fulfill these duties in a selfless and joyful way.

I ask for the gift of humor to help me through life's little disasters.

I ask for the patience to bear their faults for I must remember that my children are only human.

I ask to be able to forgive my own mistakes in parenting for I must remember that I am also human.

I ask that my children feel secure enough to approach me with any problem or worry.

As they grow older, I ask to be able to support their decisions and respect their individuality.

I ask that You guide them so they will make the right choices.

I ask to be able to model for them in living my life with You and for You.

I ask to be able to see Your face every time I look into one of theirs.

I ask that my children understand not only how much I love them, but most of all how perfectly and completely You love them.

I ask You Lord to bless them and keep them safe in Your loving arms all the days of their lives.

For these things I pray.

Kathy Chinici, 5/99



HAVE MOM with your morning beverage! Mom-Heart of the Home Mugs for sale at all renewal days.



MOM is on the MOVE!!!!!!

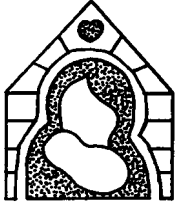
We are pleased to announce that Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois, will host a vicariate—wide MOM-Heart of the Home Renewal Day on Saturday, April 21, 2007. Committee members from the fourteen parishes are excited about launching the program in this area.

Our thanks to Peg Choiniski for all her assistance and prayer support.

We wish everyone in the MOM Network a most Blessed Christmas and Peace-Filled New Year.

Thank you from

Loretta Ceurvorst and
Judy Hourigan



www.momheartofthehome.org

REGISTRATION FORM

13th Annual Chester County MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal

Be Still and Know that I am God Psalm 46:10

When? Saturday, March 17, 2007, 8:45 am - 3:30 pm (check-in begins at 8:15 a.m. followed by coffee and fellowship)

Where? Bishop Shanahan High School, Downingtown, PA

Welcome mothers and grandmothers of all ages! TAKE A DAY OFF! Slow down and replenish your spirit. Bond together with other Catholic mothers. Reflect and celebrate your vocation of motherhood. Deepen your relationship with God and others. Be inspired.

Speakers

Patricia Gallagher –. Mother of four grown children and a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Royersford, Tricia is a gifted writer and speaker. Six years ago, overwhelmed with her problems, she called upon God to send her a "team of angels". Since that time, she has distributed thousands of angel pins and prayer cards across the country and to military personnel overseas. Her talk entitled "Tea, Talk and a Team of Angels" will highlight this awesome venture. She will also speak on "The Gift of Changing Yourself".

Regina Lenox - Regina, a Chester County mom and former teacher and administrator for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, is an independent consultant for faith communities. She teaches for the National Church Ministry Institute in parishes. Regina will elaborate on how history turned for the world on Mary's "Yes", and ways women can live up to Mary's role model. She will also give concrete ways for mothers to follow Mary's example.

Celebrant: Rev. Francis Mulranen, St. Cecilia, Coatesville, PA

Registration Fee: \$20.00 by March 3. Mail in form below with check or register online and pay with debit/credit card www.momheartofthehome.org. Fee includes box lunch. Sorry no registrations at door. Directions are on the back.

Because our day of renewal is devoted to giving Moms a "day off", please trust your children to the loving care of those at home.

Cut here and mail form below or register and pay debit or credit card online at www.momheartofthehome.org

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ E-MAIL _____*

***IMPORTANT - MOM-Heart of the Home does not sell its contact list, and uses it only for MOM-Heart communications. ___ Check here if you do NOT want MOM-Heart of the Home to contact you by email.**

TELEPHONE: _____ PARISH: _____ COUNTY: _____

___ MY FIRST TIME ATTENDING? ___ ADD ME TO THE VOLUNTEER LIST

Return form with \$20 check or money order by March 3 to:
No cash, please. \$25 registration fee Mar 4-13.

MOM - Heart of the Home
Co: Ss. Philip & James Rectory
107 North Ship Road
Exton, PA 19341

Tickets may be transferred to another person if you can't attend.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 3, 2007

Visit us at www.momheartofthehome.org
Email – info@mom-heartofthehome.org

Attention first time attendees

If this is your first time attending the MOM—Heart of the Home retreat, please bring a swatch of fabric, 5” x 5” for the Chester County Mothers’ Quilt. A swatch from something that signifies motherhood for you is ideal—for example, a piece of fabric from your child’s growing up years). This quilt is an on-going project symbolizing unity with mothers.

Directions to Bishop Shanahan High School

Woodbine Road is located off Business Route 30 in Downingtown, PA

From West:

Exit 30 By-Pass at Rt. 113 (Uwchlan Avenue). Go south on 113 to Route 30. Left on 30 to Woodbine Road. Right on Woodbine Road. School is 1/8 mile on right.

Or

Exit 30 at Business 30. Go down ramp and go left at light (Quarry Road). Left at next light (Business Rt. 30). Go 1 mile to Woodbine Road. Left on Woodbine Road. School is 1/8 mile on right.

From East:

Exit 30 By-Pass at Business Route 30. Go down ramp to light at Business Route 30. Turn left and go 1 mile to Woodbine Road. Left on Woodbine Road. School is 1/8 mile on right.

From South:

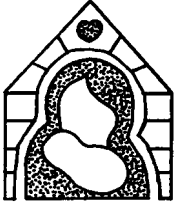
202 North to Route 100 North. Follow Rt. 100 to entrance to 30 By-Pass.

Take 30 By-Pass West and Exit at Business Route 30. Go down ramp to light at Business Route 30. Turn left and go 1 mile to Woodbine Road. Left on Woodbine Road. School is 1/8 mile on right.

From North:

Take 100 South to Route 113 South. Make Right on 113 until it dead-ends at Business Rt. 30 (5-6 miles). Turn left on Business 30 to Woodbine Road. Right on Woodbine Road. School is 1/8 mile on right.

**For more information, contact _____.
or Lidia Manieri, Chester County Coordinator at 610-399-9488 (lidia_manieri@qvc.com)**



www.momheartofthehome.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Delaware County MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal

MOM - Heart of the Home Registration Form

Delaware County Day of Renewal
Saturday, March 3, 2007
St. Anastasia Parish, Newtown Square, PA

Our speaker is Maria Carto Schiavo, a cancer survivor who was first diagnosed with cancer at the age of 14. The cancer returned again at ages 18 and 24. She was told that she would never have children due to the extensive treatment for her cancer. Today she is a mother of three and a full time mom!

Please return all registration forms by **February 24, 2007**

If you are sending in money for more than one person, please supply name, address, phone and parish for all people. You may use the bottom or the reverse side.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parish: _____

Return the form and \$20 check or money order (NO CASH please) made out to:

MOM - Heart of the Home
c/o Connie McCloskey
2608 Kirk Ave
Broomall, PA 19008

Any questions may be directed to Connie McCloskey at 610-325-7471 / connie_mccloskey@hotmail.com

Inside:

- ◆ MOM-Heart of the Home
- ◆ Website: Mom-heartofthehome.org
- ◆ Prayer Chain:
praying_moms@yahoo.com
- ◆ Letter from our Lay director
- ◆ County Updates
- ◆ MOM is on the Move!
- ◆ A Mothers Prayer
- ◆ Register for Delaware, Montgomery and Chester County online:
www.momheartofthehome.org



*May the
God of Hope
fill you with all
joy and peace...*

Romans 15:13



Our Mission:

M O M - Heart of the Home ministry is a movement for spiritual renewal in the Roman catholic church. It is dedicated to Mary our Mother.

Mary, a woman of peace, intercedes for us as we seek to bring peace to our families, and to our world.

Through days of renewal and other spiritual opportunities, this movement rejuvenates, elevates and empowers motherhood. Designed FOR, BY and ABOUT mothers, it builds community through newsletters and various projects.

MOM'S NEWS



c/o St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
15 East Pleasant Grove Road
West Chester, PA 19382

Welcome Moms of all ages
...new mothers, grandmothers,
moms to be, married, single,
divorced and widowed mothers

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