

MOM'S NEWS

Spring/Summer
2008



Mary Our Mother
Heart of the Home

From our Lay Director . . .

The Beauty of the Mass

I have been thinking about the Catholic Mass lately, after speaking to a woman who made the comment to me that “the Mass is the same every week”. Her attitude was that there is little prayer going on during our Mass.

The question I find myself asking “is the Mass the same every week?” I too, used to think so, back in the days when I was looking for a reason to leave the Catholic Church. Perhaps it is because I came so close to leaving our Catholic Church, that I now see a beauty to the Mass I came so close to losing as part of my prayer life.

The Celebration of the Mass is just that, a celebration. It is a time to worship and praise and give thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

The Eucharist is the center of our Mass. I think about how wonderful an idea it is. We use every one of our senses when we receive our Lord. Jesus designed the Sacrament in such a way that we need to come together to receive Him. Thinking about how much He loves us and wants us to be connected to Him, as well as being connected to one another, amazes me.

I am amazed at how much of our Mass is based on scripture and how truly beautiful the words are. Sometimes when I am reading a section of the Bible that is new to me and I recognize the verse, I realize that it is part of our Mass, either in the prayers or in the hymns.

Going to Mass, even when one does not feel like it, helps us to continue to learn that obedience is a way to grow closer to God. When we do go to Mass, willing to give all of ourselves to God, including our weaknesses and strengths, the Mass becomes one of the deepest forms of prayer.

I think about tradition versus rituals. Each New Year, as I put our Christmas decorations away, I smile remembering some of our moments together from Christmas. Traditions help us to feel connected and bring us together more closely as a family. During Mass I used to see mindless rituals, now I see a rich tradition. Catholics can go to almost any Church and feel some sense of connection if they are going to the Mass with an open mind and the desire to pray.

Also, we have the power of the Holy Spirit during the Mass. More times than I can count, parts of the Mass came alive to me in a new way. This happens when I come to Mass with an open heart willing to receive whatever God wants to give me.

I found that the Catholic Mass is not the same every week. I have found that when I come to our Catholic Mass expecting to meet our Lord, I do find Him, in this most beautiful form of prayer.

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Register NOW

**Chester County Renewal Day
Delaware County Renewal Day**

Call us with questions
or comments

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Upcoming Mom—Heart of the Home Renewals:

Archdiocesan Renewal Day—

October 25, 2008

- Berks County—Fall 2008
- BuxMont County—Fall 2008
- Chester County— March 15, 2008
- Delaware County— April 20, 2008
- Rock Island—April 12, 2008

Delaware County Update

Delaware County is in the planning stage of the MOM - Heart of the Home day of renewal. It will be held Sunday, April 20th at Archbishop Prendergast High School in Drexel Hill. Back by popular demand is Sr. Marie Michele who will be our Spiritual Moderator for the day. Further details to follow. If you have any questions please contact Ann Murphy amu1000508@aol.com

Rock Island Vicariate, Moline Illinois, Update

As the New Year begins we look forward to planning our second MOM-Heart of the Home Renewal Day to take place on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois. Last year was a wonderful learning experience and we hope to profit from it by making the day even more enjoyable and spiritually fulfilling. It is a special opportunity to appreciate, elevate and celebrate our vocation as mothers, in imitation of Our Blessed Mother, in whatever capacity that may be. What a blessing to have a mutual prayer support system. Know that MOM-Heart of the Home, in its entirety will be in our prayers. Our best wishes for enacting God's plans in the events of 2008.

Chester County Update

Chester County's Mom, Heart of the Home Day of Reflection will be held on March 15th, 2008 at Bishop Shanahan High School. Our theme is "A Motherhood of Forgiveness and Grace". Please join us.

Our day will include the companionship of other magnificent Catholic Mothers, beautiful music, food that you neither have to prepare nor clean the kitchen after, Catholic resources and several presentations including:

- "Free to Forgive" Forgiveness is a process. We invite you to explore this process of growing into the freedom to forgive. Carol Jensen will share her knowledge, experience, hopes and struggles as a mother, grandmother, wife and retreat director who continues to pray for the desire to forgive as Jesus does. Carol has a Master of Arts degree in Holistic Spirituality and a certificate in spiritual direction. In her ministry as a spiritual director she helps women and men come to a place of deep friendship and peace with God and others.

- Becky Matakas brings her experiences as mother, wife, sister and daughter, combines them with her rich devotional life and her study of traditional and current Roman Catholic thought to share with you her inspiration on the power and the blessings grace brings to our lives.



She is a parishioner and parish minister at St. Joseph's in Downingtown and after studies at the University of Michigan and Immaculata, is currently pursuing her Masters in Theology at Villanova. Additionally, if you find that you may have time and talent to share, we could use your help. In return we offer you the opportunity to minister alongside some beautiful, spiritual, kind, compassionate, funny women who will enrich your life as they have mine .

Give me a call at 610-399-4499 or drop me an e-mail at LDBice@bee.net and we will work together to find the place that the Holy Spirit is calling you to serve in whatever time commitment you are able to make.

Archdiocesan Day of Renewal coming October 25, 2008

Cardinal Rigali has been so supportive of our efforts with MOM-Heart of the Home Ministry. He will say Mass for all mothers, those involved with MOM-Heart of the Home, and those who will be new to our ministry. Details will be posted on the website mom-heartofthehome.org. Anyone interested in helping may contact Peg:

ptyl@safeplace.net

*From Our Lay Director
Continued from cover page*

All of the volunteer moms are looking forward to 2008. When we come together God blesses us in our Motherhood, in our evolving friendships, and in our personal and spiritual growth. We have the opportunity to help other Catholic mothers have time alone with God, and for some become reconnected with their Catholic faith. It truly is an honor to be part of this ministry. Cardinal Rigali shared some wonderful thoughts when he said Mass for MOM-Heart of the Home Ministry two years ago. I particularly liked when he shared about his own mother and her group of friends that were a support to her. He spoke about the importance of solidarity among women. This ministry gives us a wonderful opportunity to be a support system to one another.

This October 25, 2008, Cardinal Rigali will say Mass for us at the Cathedral in Philadelphia. All moms from MOM-Heart of the Home, past, present and future are welcome!! I look forward to seeing all of you!!

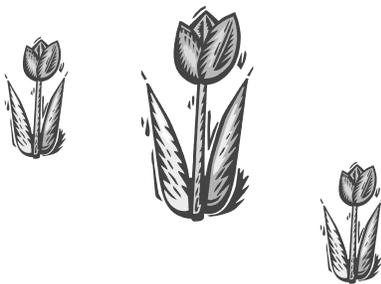
God's Blessings,

Peg Choinski



BuxMont County Update

EXPECT A MIRACLE EVERYDAY was the theme of the MOM retreat day which was held at Archbishop Wood High School on November 11, 2007. About 130 women attended the day. Our morning and afternoon speaker was Denise McKenzie, mother of five children and grandmother of seven. Denise spoke of her daughter's healing through the intercession of St Leoni Aviat. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed her presentation. We were blessed to have six priests for confession and Mass was said by Father Stephen Leva. Many thanks to all who attended our day, to our team and all of our volunteers, Archbishop Wood High School, and to Father Chris Walsh, Chaplain of Archbishop Wood High School.



NEW THINGS HAPPENING!

At a recent MOM-Heart of the Home meeting, the Board decided to combine Bucks County and Montgomery County into the Bux-Mont MOM – Heart of the Home. Bux-Mont will draw on both teams to plan for next year's renewal day. If you have been a volunteer with either group and will be able to help with the 2008 day, please email Mary Alice Shane@hotmail.

Berks County Update

We had our second annual MOM day in Berks County and it was a wonderful day. Kathy Eckert the founder of MOM-Heart of the Home shared her original vision for the MOM ministry and what steps she took to get the ministry off the ground. More importantly she discussed the obstacles and the prayer and persistence that it took as well as some help from some friends to set the wheels in motion. It was significant that one other mother volunteering to help really had the impact of encouraging Kathy to start the ministry as opposed to waiting for the "church" to start it.

Our afternoon speaker was Penny O'Donnell from St. Columbkil's parish. She spoke about several life altering experiences that impacted her spiritual journey. These included a difficult pregnancy where she experienced life threatening cardiac problems and then mothering her own daughter who became pregnant as a teenager and ultimately offered the child for adoption. Her candor and steadfastness were heart warming as well as inspirational. As is typical of mom's witnessing at renewal days, Penny made us laugh as well as cry.

We were very excited that several more women offered to volunteer to help organize the day next year and we are looking forward to working together. There has already been a suggestion for a mother from Mary's Shelter in Reading to be a speaker. Mary's Shelter offers temporary housing and support for young pregnant women and their newborns who need a supportive environment in order to achieve independent living skills. So if you know of this organization or have other ideas for speakers please contact Margaret Chovanes coordinator @ 610-845-2600 mchova@aol.com. We are looking forward to getting together with some of our new volunteers just to go out for breakfast and get to know one another. Anyone interested, please let me know and we'll make sure you receive information about when and where.

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praying_moms@yahoo.com
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*And be ye kind to
one another, tender-
hearted, forgiving
one another, even as
God for Christ's
sake hath forgiven
you*

Ephesians 4:32



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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