

# MOM'S NEWS

Winter 2014



MOM Heart of the Home  
www.mom-heartofthehome.org

## From our Lay Director . . .

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final letter as Lay Director of our wonderful ministry. The last three years as your Lay Director has definitely been a journey for me. A journey where I've grown in my faith, met many wonderful women as yourselves that have made me stand in awe of your great faith and made me realize how truly blessed we are to have this ministry and each other.

As I shared at the last renewal day, the past year and a half had been very hard on me and my family. My father passed away in September 2012, my brother-in-law died suddenly at age 56 in October 2012, my sister, who lost her husband in October, was diagnosed with colon cancer in January 2013 and my mother-in-law passed away in February 2013. As time passed and we went through the grieving process, I realized that my faith had gotten stronger and I was so thankful that I was able to be comforted knowing that my father, brother-in-law and mother-in-law were all with our Heavenly Father resting in peace with no more pain. My sister is coping very well with her chemo treatments and the doctors are very pleased with her progress though I still pray daily for the miracle that will cure her completely.

As more time passed, we were able to celebrate again as a family when my son got engaged this past Thanksgiving. In fact, this weekend we met my son's fiancée's parents for the first time as we started to plan the wedding. It was fun planning for the big event that will happen in 2015.

Just as with life, our ministry has had its ups and downs. We are in one of the down periods now. All the counties, except for Chester County, have not been able to sustain a yearly day of renewal. This year might be our last renewal day in Chester County and therefore the last one for our ministry. I have been praying daily asking God to show us where this ministry should go. If you have wanted to volunteer, now is the time. If you have volunteered but would like to do more, now is also the time. Please contact one of us and together we will see what God and his Holy Mother want us to do.

I was reading my Living Faith daily devotional and I came across this the other day that I would like to share with you. It's from Mark 3:13 "Jesus went up to the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him".

*Jesus chose twelve men to be his companions. They embodied many all-too-human traits. As time passed, they would reveal by their words and actions impatience, fear, betrayal, doubt, misunderstanding, impetuosity, pettiness. These would be balanced by courage, steadfastness, faithfulness, trust, goodness, purity of heart. All in all, these companions housed many of the same traits that both plague and delight us, for we can easily find them within ourselves. Despite their shortcomings, Jesus remained faithful to them. Jesus loved them, encouraged them, forgave them and trusted them. He gave them a share in his own spirit. We share in that gift as well and are called to be patient with each other in this journey of life. Great and powerful mysteries came forth from these companions of Jesus, though they barely grasped the importance of them. We are living vessels of God's grace and power, even in our weakest moments.*

So as we continue in this journey of life, I ask for your patience and your prayers. I invite you to this year's renewal day whose theme is "Come Back to Me". We welcome you back to the renewal day if you've been away for a while". If you've never left and you feel your faith is strong, may it grow even stronger. We don't know the fate of the MOM Heart of the Home ministry but may we always be faithful companions on the journey. God Bless!

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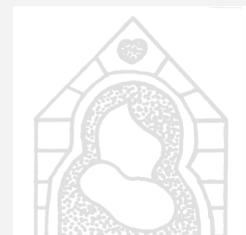
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### We'd love to hear from you.

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### Visit our website:

[www.mom-heartofthehome.org](http://www.mom-heartofthehome.org)



# To Reach our Heavenly Father

By Kerry DePalo

There are stories that stay with me. In the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, I read one entitled, "Are you going to help me?" and it has always stayed with me. The story is set in the late 1980s in Armenia, when an intense and powerful earthquake killed more than 25,000 people. When that catastrophic earthquake struck, a boy named Armand and his classmates were at school. Their school building collapsed and they were buried under the rubble.

Immediately following the earthquake, Armand's father rushed to the flattened school. As he located the spot where he believed his son's classroom to be, he recalled a promise he'd made to his son, "No matter what, I'll always be there for you." So, in the chaos and confusion that prevailed in the aftermath of that devastating quake, he began to dig. He dug for 8 hours ...12 hours ...24 hours... 36 hours. In the hours he spent removing the rubble of that school building, many people, including emergency response officials and other distraught parents, begged him to stop. They told him he was making matters worse; they told him it was a lost cause. Ignoring their pleas, arguments and demands that he abandon the rescue effort, he instead, persisted alone.

Then, in the 38th hour, as he continued to pull off stones and remove debris, he heard his son's voice. He screamed, "Armand!" He heard back, "Dad! I told the other kids not to worry. I told them that if my father were alive, he would come and save me. And when he came, they would be saved, too." Miraculously, Armand's father rescued his son and his son's fourteen surviving classmates.

I think of that story often. It reminds me that in the journey of our lives, there may be times when we will feel just as Armand must have felt. And when we feel like the roof is caving in or the bottom is falling out, we must proclaim: "No one need worry, for our heavenly Father will come!" We must openly declare our faith in His commitment to, and love for, us, and we must do so boldly.

When we have been wounded by all of life's hurts and instead of feeling holy, we feel full of holes, we must allow God to love us into wholeness. We must allow Him to remove all of the dirt and debris from us. Nothing, and no one, is beyond His care.

"But how do we allow God to do so?" many of us might ask. Well, another story that has stayed with me comes to mind, and may suggest the answer. This story concerns the coal miner who took his son down into the mineshaft to show the boy where he worked. While there, the miner said to his son, "Wait here for a minute, I need to go further down the tunnel." As the son waited, the light in the mineshaft went out and he was left in utter darkness. The child started to scream for his father. From the bowels of the tunnel, the miner commanded his son to start walking in the direction of the sound of his voice. But the boy cried that he couldn't see and didn't know which way to go. The miner yelled to him to ask, "Is the light on your helmet on?" The boy told him

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Prayer to Mary, Help of Christians

Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin, Help of Christians, we place ourselves under your motherly protection. Throughout the Church's history you have helped Christians in times of trial, temptation and danger. Time and time again, you have proven to be the Refuge of sinners, the Hope of the hopeless, the Consoler of the afflicted, and the Comforter of the dying. We promise to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, to proclaim His Good News of God's love for all people, and to work for peace and justice in our world. With faith in your intercession, we pray for the Church, for our family and friends, for the poor and abandoned, and all the dying. Grant, O Mary, Help of Christians, the graces of which we stand in need.

*(Mention your intentions.)*

May we serve Jesus with fidelity and love until death. Help us and our loved ones to attain the boundless joy of being forever with our Father in heaven. Amen.

(Continued from page 2)

it was not. The father insisted he turn it on. The boy did, but cried out that the helmet's lamp only lit the ground one small step ahead of him and that everything beyond that was pitch black. The father replied to his son, "Well, take that one step." By following his father's advice, and taking one small step at a time, the boy reached the safety of his father's arms.

In life, many of us may find that we have travelled paths that have led us to places we didn't like and didn't want to be, or to crossroads, where we've found ourselves stuck, and uncertain of which way to turn. Encountering circumstances like these, we might consider asking ourselves a crucial question: "Have we followed our heavenly Father's voice and allowed Him to lead us?"

Take Saint Peter, for example. The first words Jesus spoke to Peter were, "Follow me." And, again, after Peter had denied him, Jesus spoke these very same words to Peter: "Follow me." They were also, then, the last words Jesus spoke to Peter.

Are we following our Lord? Our Lord chose to be Mary's child, and we must follow His example. He commanded us to do so from the cross, when He gave us His most precious Mother to be ours. Remember, Mary herself told her cousin Elizabeth, "Generations will call me blessed." Are we fulfilling that prophecy by calling Our Mother blessed? (...with each Hail Mary, we are!) Yet, have we taken seriously following both Our Lord's example and command to choose to be Mary's child? Are we asking Our Mother Mary to lead us, her children, on the safest, shortest, most perfect path to God? We can begin today, to place ourselves in Our Mother's hands, by Marian consecration and give her the delight of leading us to the greatest family reunion ever.

From our

## Spring Coordinator

Praise be the Lord!

Here it is near time for our 20<sup>th</sup> day of Renewal. Last year's day was a wonderful day for all those attending. FAITH was our theme and our speakers conveyed the faith of the women in the Old Testament, faith of current women and ways we could put our faith into practice.

Our new location at SS Simon and Jude Meehan Center worked so well, giving a more intimate feel to the day. We are thankful for all who attended last year. We invite you all to come join us this year on March 22, 2014 for the 20th Annual Spring day of Renewal.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our day. We have jobs as big or small as you want. Please pray on it to see if God has volunteering with us in His plans for you.

God's blessings on you and your families.

Mary Cooper  
Spring Coordinator

### **Our Mission:**

**MOM - 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.**

**We recognize that ALL women are nurturers and are welcome!**



# MOM - Heart of the Home

*For, By, and About Mothers*



## MOM - Heart of the Home 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Day of Renewal

While our day tends to be focused on motherhood, we recognize that ALL women are nurturers and are welcome! Slow down and replenish your spirit. Deepen your relationship with God and Mary Our Mother. Be strengthened and inspired.

**March 22, 2014 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** (check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION!!!!**

**SS Simon and Jude – The Meehan Center - 10 Cavanaugh Court, West Chester, PA**

*Our Theme for the day is “Come Back to Me”*

**Morning Speaker – Meghan Cokeley** was born and raised in Somerville, NJ in a practicing Catholic family. A graduate from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. and M.T.S. in Theology. She continued her theological studies at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Washington, D.C. where she completed three years of doctoral coursework in Theology. Meghan has also served in parish ministry as a Director of Religious Education, Catholic school religion teacher and serves currently as the Director of the Office for the New Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**Afternoon Speaker – Judy Armour**, married 45 years, mother of four children with three grandsons. She has spent many years working as a scientist and has authored numerous papers. Then God had other plans for her and so she has spent the last 35 years in Church ministry in various diocesan positions, evangelization programs, and many parish ministries. She has recently retired from Immaculata University where she worked as an Academic Counselor.

**Our celebrant** will be **Father Matt Guckin**, resident of Saint Joseph, Downingtown.

A resource area, opportunities for individual and group devotions, the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and individual spiritual direction will also be provided during free time.

BECAUSE OUR DAY OF RENEWAL IS DEVOTED TO GIVING YOU A “DAY OFF”, PLEASE LEAVE CHILDREN IN THE LOVING CARE OF THOSE AT HOME.

Registration Fee\*: \$25.00 by March 14<sup>th</sup>. (\*\*Discount for groups of 5 or more: \$20 per person.) \$30 after March 14<sup>th</sup>. Fee includes buffet lunch including salad, sandwiches, dessert and drink. We will also have coffee and tea available throughout the day.

*\*Sorry, no registrations at door. Unfortunately we can make no refunds however registrations are transferrable.*

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.mom-heartofthehome.org](http://www.mom-heartofthehome.org) to pay via PayPal or fill out the form below and mail:**

### **Please Print**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your first time attending? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Return form with \$25.00 check or money order by March 14<sup>th</sup> to:

MOM - Heart of the Home, c/o Barbara Coffey, 1420 Gary Terrace, West Chester, PA 19380

**\*\*Group discount payments must be mailed in.** Please list the names of all the individuals in the group on the back of this form.

***Cancellations due to weather:***

In case of delay or cancellation due to inclement weather, you will be contacted via e-mail (should you have provided this information to us). This information will also be broadcast on KYW1060 AM station or [www.kyw1060.com](http://www.kyw1060.com).

***Any questions:***

Please contact one of the Spring co-coordinators:

Lidia Manieri at [lidia@mmanieri.com](mailto:lidia@mmanieri.com) or 610-399-9488; (cell) 610-350-7232

Mary Cooper at [coopmh@aol.com](mailto:coopmh@aol.com) or 610-524-1108; (cell) 484-563-1002

Either will be reachable the day of the retreat before 9 a.m. via their cell phones.

GROUP List (Please write Full Name, Parish, Phone number, and email address)

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