

EPIPHANY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Ordinary Time, September, 2014

EPIPHANY: A HOLY FAMILY?

It was a great joy to have Fr. Christy Arockiaraj, S.S., return to Epiphany as the celebrant on Sunday, August 31st!!!! His homily referred to our community as a “Holy Family” because of our care for each other, welcoming reception of newcomers, outreach to the less fortunate, and belief in Christ’s presence among us. While it was good to have the Epiphany spirit recognized, his reference to us as a holy family caused some reflection and discussion.

For many of us, this is our spiritual home where cares and joys are shared, celebrated, and mourned. We think with love of those who have died or moved away and whose presence is still among us. We pause in gratitude for Renee’s life with us, a true “miracle”, according to Fr. Christy who knew her when she was desperately ill. We recall sacramental moments like Philip’s First Communion, Suzanne and Rob’s wedding and the baptism of their daughter, Rosie. We mourn Barbara’s recent death with Tom and their family.



Catholicism has a “family” focus with Joseph, the humble carpenter, as Christ’s human “father”, the Blessed Virgin Mary as his mother, and Christ, the Son as our Savior. John Paul II in Redemptoris Custos refers to the “sanctification of daily life” in the original Holy Family and particularly in the person of St. Joseph and reminds us of the humility necessary to live a serious Christian life.

So far, Epiphany seems to have balanced successfully the need for structure with the need for independence, two qualities with which families often struggle. Major decisions are made by the elected Board and a variety of committees and individuals care for different aspects of the community’s needs. Just like many

families, we have a “cousin” relationship with a nearby parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, where Kass is the pastoral associate and where recent funerals have been held. Isn’t this what the church and “the community of saints” is all about?

In today’s world with so many babies born without families (or not born at all), violence and poverty within families, and often little community support for needy families, it is a blessing to remember our families of origin and our spiritual family at Epiphany! We are beloved of each other and of God! Thank you, Fr. Christy, for this reminder.

(Fr. Christy, a Sulpician priest, teaches philosophy and psychology at the seminary in California where Fr. Tony Pogorelc, S.S. is now the Vice Rector.)

BARBARA RISHER

Barbara Risher’s death on July 7, 2014 is mourned by all who knew and loved her! She was an extremely gracious, smiling, and elegant presence at all community events, a true “lady” in the best sense of the term. Originally from Hawaii, she had



a successful career as a speech pathologist for the Anne Arundel



County schools and was married for almost 30 years to Tom Risher. Many were not aware of her medical problems and her suffering which she often bore silently and with great patience. Her funeral at Our Lady of Perpetual Help was attended by many Epiphany members and the eulogies by the grandchildren were very moving. Sr. Kass Collins gave the reflection. We extend our deepest sympathy to

Tom and the family! A memorial scholarship fund in her memory has been set up at Anne Arundel Community College.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Our own beloved, Peter Bernardi, S.J. will be leading the annual Day of Reflection, as usual at the Franciscan Friary in Ellicott City, on Saturday, October 4th (also the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order!). Fr. Bernardi will speak on “Pope Francis and New Perspectives in Christian Living”. Cost is \$50, scholarships available. The program includes a 4:00 p.m. Mass there so there will be no Sunday liturgy at the clubhouse.

NEW BOOK

Fr. Seamus (James) Murphy, S.J., has a new book out: War’s Ends: Human Rights, International Order, and the Ethics of Peace, Georgetown University Press.

OPINION PIECE BY RENEE BARNEY:

Synod on Family

While we meet on October 4th and baste in Father Bernardi’s overview of Pope Francis and “New Perspectives of Christian Living”, take stock that on the day after, and several more until October 19th, bishops will convened with the Pope to discuss “the pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelisation”.

The Synod of Bishops is the advisory board of the Pope. Last year, they completed a preparatory document outlining the points to review for this Extraordinary General Assembly (*the last one was held in 2012*). Considering the urgent status of this meeting, the preparatory document notes several issues for specific scrutiny, such as;

1. the widespread practice of cohabitation, which does not lead to marriage, and sometimes even excludes the idea of it
2. same-sex unions between persons, who are, not infrequently, permitted to adopt children.
3. mixed or inter-religious marriages;
4. the single-parent family;
5. polygamy;
6. marriages with the consequent problem of a dowry, sometimes understood as the purchase price of the woman;
7. the caste system;
8. a culture of non-commitment and a presumption that the marriage bond can be temporary; forms of feminism hostile to the Church;
9. migration and the reformulation of the very concept of the family;
10. relativist pluralism in the conception of marriage;
11. the influence of the media on popular culture in its understanding of marriage and family life;

12. underlying trends of thought in legislative proposals which devalue the idea of permanence and faithfulness in the marriage covenant;
13. an increase in the practice of surrogate motherhood (*wombs for hire*); and
14. new interpretations of what is considered a human right.

You can find the full text at

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20131105_iii-assemblea-sinodo-vescovi_en.html.

As for the Synod, their talking points are based on questionnaires sent to thousands of Catholics around the world on the theme of “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization”. Their responses provided the framework for considering important pastoral issues regarding marriage and the family.

The Bishops encourage all the faithful to engage in continued dialogue and discussions in these critical areas, particularly over the coming two years. This will be facilitated by the Bishops’ Council for Marriage and the Family, which will host a special conference on the family and marriage on June 14th next year.

Renee Barney

MARIE CUSHING’S 90TH BIRTHDAY



The above photo was of Marie’s family at the clubhouse in celebration of her 90th birthday! A week later Vin and Marie celebrated their 69th anniversary. What better inspiration could there be for the ideal of the multigenerational family “Holy Family”? Many congratulations, Marie and Vin, and thanks for your example to all of us.

PROJECT BACKPACK

Epiphany participated in donations for backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms for needy families in Eastport. The principal, Lynn Evans, reported that parents

and kids were thrilled to start the school year out with new equipment! Thanks everybody!

ANOTHER MOVE

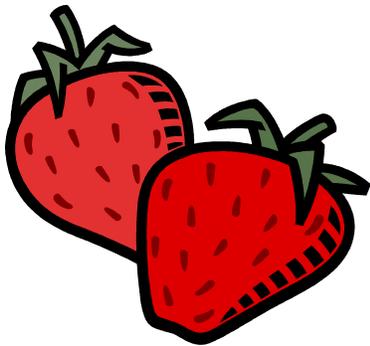
Our Shirley Strobel reports that she is moving to a senior apartment, address is 12120 Odenton Road, Apt. 109, Odenton 21113. Shirley is very sensitive to the sun and will only be able to visit Epiphany during certain seasons and weather conditions. Shirley, all the best but come back as much as you can. What will the choir do without you?

TAIZE PRAYER

Monthly gathering for ecumenical, scriptural-based form of contemplative prayer. 2nd Wednesday of the month-7:30 p.m. -8:20 pm.

October 8th at First Presbyterian Church, 171 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis.

November 12- St. Mary's Catholic Church at St. John Neumann, 620 N. Bestgate Road, Annapolis, 7:30 p.m.-8:20 p.m.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IN CAPE ST. CLAIR

This annual celebration gave Epiphany an opportunity to “strut our stuff” with a booth, manned by community volunteers. Literature about Epiphany was given out as were small bottles of bubbles with Epiphany’s name and contact. A special thank you to Karen Deacon who conceptualized this opportunity and who organized it all! Robert Corletta, who is a resident of the Cape, was vital to the effort in driving our volunteers back and forth to the booth as traffic was closed to the public. Yeah to all who helped with this important project.

EPIPHANY PHOTO DIRECTORY

Laura McIntyre has been photographing us for the last several months for the new photo directory. Please make sure you are in there for this important part of Epiphany history! Thanks, Laura.

Jane E. Lytle-Vieira

In keeping with this theme of the Family, the following is a prayer submitted by Renee Barney, that was recited by Pope Francis on the Feast of the Holy Family, the first Sunday after Christmas last year. The Pope entrusted the work of the bishops to Jesus, Mary and Joseph and recited this prayer:

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer!

Amen.

(Taken from the *Instrumentum Laboris*)