



Harvest House News

A Monthly Newsletter to the Harvest House Ministry

JANUARY 2015

To recognize and *harvest* all the gifts being returned to the parish and diocesan family in love by Catholics during the third stage of their lives for the glory of God and the good of neighbor.

From the coordinator - Catherine Bitting:



Last month, as I was working through the literal ‘hustle and bustle’ of the secular shopping season leading up to Christmas, I thought to myself; “How sad! In just a few weeks, at the stroke of midnight, December 26th, all of the joy and cheer, store decorations, the jingle bells and the reindeer- they’ll all disappear! They’ll vanish in the night, packed away until next year. We won’t see them again until the day after next Halloween! What a void!” And to some extent, that’s true. If we allow ourselves to be thrown off balance by the secular calendar, and the whirlwind that leads up to December 25th, we certainly will feel that ‘void’, that sudden absence of *stuff*. It can be sad when a radio station that started playing Christmas songs while we ate Thanksgiving turkey has suddenly lost all sounds of cheer, and we’re abruptly brought back to the usual teenage wailing about heartache.

But Christmas isn’t over!

We get to celebrate for weeks!

Our Christmas season lasts clear on up to the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, which falls this year on January 11. While the rest of our society goes about sullenly packing away ornaments, and sweeping up pine needles, we as Catholics, are still alive with joy! St. Stephen, St. John, the Feast of the Holy Family, and the Feast of the Three Kings- all of these prolong our celebration, and direct our vision towards the newborn Christ child. Just as my favorite part of Christmas is seeing the light of love and joy in my children’s eyes, so too our Mother Church wants us to share in the joy of the *entire* Christmas season!

Catherine Bitting

(316) 685-5240

bittingc@catholicdioceseofwichita.org

From the Chaplain

Fr. Paul Oborny



New Year's Day is special to us all. For me it is personally special because I was born 01.01.'37. And it is even more special for me since I was baptized in church on the same day. As was the custom during the 1930's I was born at home. It was in the wee

hours of New Year's morning. They told me I weighed over 9 pounds.

Dad told me later, "you looked pretty frisky" so he bundled me up and took me, with my 2 older brothers, to Church for Holy Day Mass. While there he asked the Pastor to Baptize me. The Lord must have wanted me to start living the new life of Grace as soon as possible. This story still inspires me to keep on striving to be His humble servant. Happy New Year!!!

God Bless – AAAAAAAmen.t



So Much Better than Elves!

Thank you so much to all of the gentlemen and ladies who came to the assistance of Bishop Carl Kemme in December! We had about eighteen representatives from various Harvest House groups who came together to lend a hand with the Bishop's Christmas cards. All in all, our group stuffed about seven thousand envelopes, and even kept them all in the correct zip code order! Many who came seem to enjoy the company, and having an opportunity to meet others from around the Diocese. Time passed quickly, and work went smoothly. Truly, your hard work and joy in serving were inspiring to witness, and we're so thankful to all of you who came to join. God bless. *(photo of Emmett McGreevy)*



Coming up: Marriage and Family Week 2015

Over the next few weeks, keep an eye out for news of upcoming events for Marriage and Family week. Marriage and Family Week is celebrated in our diocese the week of February 8th through the 14th. There will be events such as family catechesis, game nights, and Romance night! If there is an event you can attend, please come! This will be a wonderful time of learning, celebrating, and spending time with loved ones throughout the Diocese—come and join us!

Harvest House Spring Trip

Harvest House through the Office Of Marriage and Family Life would like to plan a trip in June 2015 to Colorado Springs (possibly the 16-20).

As of now it would be a 5 day, 4 night trip and would cost somewhere around \$700 for a double. A plus will be staying at only one hotel and not having to move our luggage as much.

We would like to have commitments before planning this trip further, with a deposit of \$50.00 per person with your registration. Village Tours requires a minimum of 30 passengers on a bus tour. In the past, we have had trouble getting to the 30 amount.

If enough interest is received we will continue with the planning of this trip. If not the \$50.00 deposit will be refunded to you. We must have all money and registrations back by January 31, 2015 to finish the trip planning.

If interested, please call Catherine Bitting, the Harvest House Coordinator at 685-5240. The Office of Marriage and Family Life will handle all registrations and deposits for this trip.

Marriage Healing & Divorce Ministry

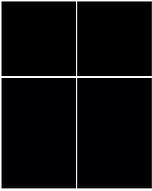
One of the biggest goals that our Office of Marriage and Family Life has is to rejuvenate the Marriage Healing Ministry and Divorce Ministry in our diocese. So very many of our families are touched by the pains of strained marriages, and so many families bear the wounds of divorce. Our diocese is having an informational meeting on Thursday, January 22nd for individuals who might be willing to facilitate certain Marriage healing/Divorce Ministry programs throughout our Diocese. Attending this meeting does not equal a commitment, but will merely give attendees a better understanding of what our office is trying to accomplish, and invite you to consider serving in this very necessary capacity. There will be 2 times for the meeting, with the same content presented in each. They will be at 10:00 and at 7:00pm, on Thursday, January 22nd at the St. Joseph Pastoral Center (on the Cathedral Campus) at 437 N. Topeka. If you have any questions, or would like to RSVP, please call Catherine at 316-685-5240.

Don't Forget!

**Double Check with your Harvest House Leaders
regarding your December meetings!**

**Please send me information on the dates, times, meeting
places and programs for your Harvest House groups by
the 15th of the month, so that I can have them included
in the newsletters that get sent out.**

**Feel free to call the office at 316-685-5240, email me at
bittingc@catholicdioceseofwichita.org or mail
to me at 437 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67202. Thanks!**



Harvest House Ministry
Office of Marriage and Family Life

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No 152
Wichita, KS

437 North Topeka
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 685-5240

Return Service Requested

Happy New Year! Did You Know?

The practice of making New Year's resolutions, said to have begun with the Babylonians as early as 2600 B.C., is another way to reflect on the past and plan ahead.

New Year's Day was once the time to swap presents.

- Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.
 - Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
 - Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks.
- In Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware are exchanged for good luck.

Many New Year's traditions surround food. Here are a few:

- In the southern US, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune.
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a donut) symbolize "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune.
 - The Irish enjoy pastries called bannocks.
 - The tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight comes from Spain.
 - In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
- In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors (and allowed to remain there!)(*from almanac.com*)