



Harvest House News

A Monthly Newsletter to the Harvest House Ministry

December 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:



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Again!

Since Pope Francis has declared this to be a year of Mercy, I've been thinking quite a bit about what that means. One of the great things about in the age we

live in is that there have been so many great minds who have lived before us, so much of their works have been preserved, and are accessible to us. When I hear of mercy, one description that leaps to mind is from William Shakespeare, and his play "The Merchant Of Venice". We hear mercy described this way: ***"The quality of mercy is not strained; It drops as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; It blesses him that gives and him that takes... It is an attribute to God himself, and earthly power doth then show likest***

God's when mercy seasons justice."

The Bard is such a gifted wordsmith, and you can almost catch a whiff of divine inspiration in this particular passage- Mercy comes 'from heaven', it is 'twice blessed'; bestowing great gifts upon both the merciful one, and the recipient. Most shrewdly, it 'is an attribute of God himself'. Are we not made in His image and likeness? It follows then, that for us to most clearly show the Face of God to others, we must participate in His mercy- both by showing it to others, as well as asking it for ourselves; Sometimes, it is the second piece that is the more difficult. them each to the love and mercy of Christ.

Catherine Bitting

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From the Chaplain

Fr. Paul Oborny



When I go shopping for food items, I look for fat-free; sugar-free; caffeine-free; calorie-free, even gluten free. This season we celebrated the one who is SIN FREE!!! As we go thru life shopping with Mary,

she leads to Her Son who can make us sin-free. I am not yet sin free, we are

not yet sin free. But thru her motherly intercession, thru Baptism and Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments, we come to Jesus. He is the one who saves us from our sins. The Holy Door of Mercy is open for us in a special way this Year of Mercy. We are on a journey with Our sinless Mother seeking to be Sin-free.

AAAAAAAmen!

Cooking Ahead

Our 2016 is already shaping up to be full of great opportunities to gather for prayer, feasting and friendship! Here are some dates to put on your calendars:



Family Game Night - February 18 at St. Jude

Romance Night - February 20 at Church of the Resurrection (\$40 per couple)

SAM Lenten Day of Reflection - March 3 at the Spiritual Life Center (\$10 for Luncheon)

Harvest House Anniversary Mass- June 23 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

We will be including registration forms on the newsletters, as the dates for each of these come closer, but we thought you'd like to plan ahead for some!

Catholic Divorce Survival Guide

The Office of Marriage and Family Life will be offering the Catholic Divorce Survival Guide program for those who have experience the pain of divorce in their life. This 12 week course covers a wide range of topics, and includes an informational session on annulments. We'll be starting on **Monday evening, January 11 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the St. Joseph Pastoral Center (437 N. Topeka)**. If you or someone you know would benefit from continued healing in light of the Church's teachings, please have them join us. They can register by calling the office at 316-685-5240. Cost for the materials is \$25 per person, no one is turned away due to an inability to pay.

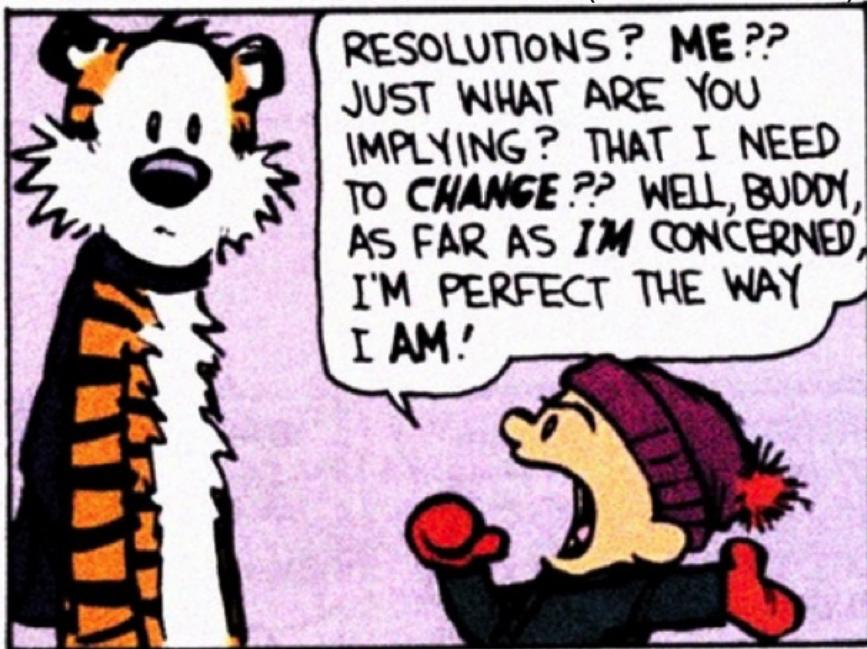
Don't Forget!

Please remember to send or call the office with your monthly meeting information if you would like to have it included in the newsletter. Information must be received by the 15th of the month for the next month's bulletin.

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

Calvin and Hobbes

(Bill Watterson)



Thoughts for the New Year

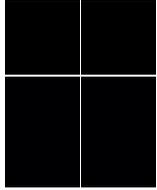
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New Year's resolutions: the pope Francis list:

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh.'
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord.'
10. Be happy: (The Joy of the Gospel).

A blissful New Year to all...



Harvest House Ministry
Office of Marriage and Family Life

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

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