



Palm Trees & Cedars

(Ps. 92)

A Monthly Newsletter from the Senior Adult Ministry

JUNE 2016

“The Church still needs you. She appreciates the services which you may wish to provide in many areas of the apostolate; she counts on the support of your longer periods of prayer; she counts on your advice born of experience, and she is enriched by your daily witness to the Gospel.”

- St. John Paul II, Letter to the Elderly, 1999

From the coordinator - Catherine Bitting:



I've been thinking about rain quite a bit recently. Our family has been in Kansas for the last six years, and I don't recall ever having experienced this much rain in May before! It's beautiful, in many ways, not the least of which because we're often told that rain is a sign of God's mercy. Shakespeare tells us so; so do the lyrics of a number of Christian songs, and prayers which implore the Lord to "rain down" His Grace upon us; that His mercy "falls like a sweet spring rain." But, as humans in the 21st century, what is our reactionary response to rain? We try to escape it! We duck under awnings, or into doorways, make mad dashes to cars and homes, and wait in the store until it passes. Now, obviously, when we speak of actual, physical rain, this is more than understandable. But it bears

thinking –is this how we act in response to God's rain of mercy? When we are offered a time of suffering so that we may experience His grace through pain, or by offering up our pride/vanity, etc. do we react this same way? Do we put up an umbrella to deflect this deluge of grace; do we pull our hoods firmly over our heads and run for cover, so that if we are splashed with His grace, it's only by accident? We are halfway through this Year of Mercy, declared by Pope Francis – are we truly opening ourselves to the gentle, soaking, cleansing rain of God's grace and mercy? Are we seeking out ways where we, like the lands in the psalm, will "drip with fruitful rain?"

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From the Chaplain

Fr. Paul Oborny



A pair of robins raised their babies right outside my apartment window. As the babies grew in size and feathers, they start leaving the nest. I noticed that one of the three babies remained. As I watched

mama robin was sitting on one edge of the nest and baby was on the opposite edge. As he had been doing since he broke out of his shell, baby robin was opening wide his mouth expecting mama to feed it. As I watched this avian

drama, mama robin proceeded to push baby out of the nest letting him flutter to the ground below. Seeing mama nearby, baby resumed opening its wide mouth expecting to be fed. But mama ignored the now-verbal request. Instead, she started pecking on the grassy ground teaching baby how to find food for himself. Some would say that mama robin was harsh and uncaring. But she was showing her baby how to survive in the real world. Isn't that much the same way that God treats us? He pushes us out of our comfort zone to prepare us for what is coming... AAAAAAAMEN!

Save the Date! Harvest House Anniversary Mass

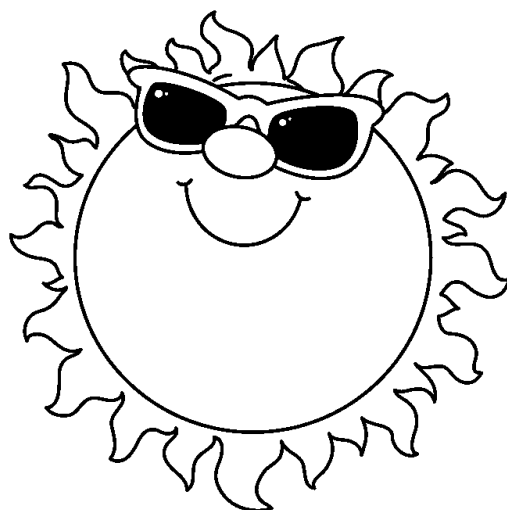
The celebration of the 27th Anniversary of Harvest House in the diocese will take place on **Thursday, June 23, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Wichita**. We are so grateful to Bishop Carl A. Kemme for being the main celebrant for the 10:00 a.m. Mass! **Fr. James Billinger**, pastor of Holy Savior Catholic Church will be the guest speaker at the luncheon. There will be a rosary prior to Mass beginning at **9:30 a.m.** Mass will be followed by the yearly raffle, a delicious luncheon, and a short presentation.

Raffle prizes this year include some fabulous options, including a year-long membership to Botanica and two tickets for the Autumn Day Trip to Oklahoma to visit Tulsa Aquarium and the Tulsa Cathedral! There is no cost to attend the Mass, but all are invited to join for a luncheon as well! (Cost for luncheon is \$10 per person). Please call the office with any questions (316-685-5240). Information and registration can be found on the back of the newsletter.

The Year of Mercy Day of Service: Zip Lock and Load!

The Corporal Works of Mercy instruct all to "Give food to the hungry, and drink to the thirsty"; Come and join with others to prepare care bags for those who are homeless in Wichita! We will be meeting **Tuesday, June 7, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the St. Pius X room of the Cathedral** building to fill ziplock bags with necessities for the homeless. If interested in joining, please call the office at 316-685-5240 to sign up. If you are unable to join, but would like to contribute items to this project, please call the office for information about ways in which you can help! ***"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt. 40)***

Harvest House Center	Day of Month & Time	Date
All Saints, Wichita	3rd Wednesday @ Noon	June 15 th
Cathedral, Wichita	1 st Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.	<i>On hold</i>
Holy Name, Coffeyville	4th Tuesday @ watch bulletin	June 28 th
Hutchinson Tri-parishes	1st Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.	June 2 nd -Mass, breakfast at Carriage Crossing, then carpooling to visit doors of Mercy.
Marion County	2 nd Friday @ 9:00 a.m.	June 10 th
Mary Queen of Angels, Ft. Scott	Varies	
Newton Parishes	2 nd Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.	June 9 th
Sacred Heart, Colwich	2 nd Wednesday @ 12:00 p.m.	June 8 th
St. Anne, Wichita	1 st Thursday @ 1:00pm	June 1 st – Ice Cream Social
St. Francis/ St. Ambrose St. Paul/Erie	3rd Thursday @ 12:30	June 16 th
St. Francis of Assisi, Wichita	3 rd Thursday @ Noon	June 16 th
St. James, Augusta	3 rd Wednesday	June 15 th
St. John, Clonmel	1 st Thursday @ varies	Check Bulletin
St. John, El Dorado	2 nd Monday @ 1:00 p.m.	June 13 th
St. John, Iola	1 st Thursday @ 11:30 a.m.	June 1 st
St. Jude, Wichita	3rd Tuesday @ 10:30am.	June 21 st
St. Margaret Mary, Wichita	3rd Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.	June 16 th
St. Mary, Derby	2nd Monday @ Noon	June 13 th
St. Michael, Mulvane	4 th Thursday @ Noon	Please call to confirm
St. Patrick, Chanute	4 th Thursday @ Noon	June 23 rd (<i>day of HH Anniversary Mass</i>)
St. Peter the Apostle, Schulte	1 st Monday @ 10:00 a.m.	June 6 th
St. Vincent de Paul, Andover	4 th Wednesday @ 11:30 a.m.	June 22 nd
St. Cecilia Haysville	1 st Tuesday	June 7 th





Day trip to the Tulsa, OK Aquarium, and the Cathedral of the Holy Family of Nazareth

September 15th, 2016

Depart & Return Location: Parking
lot directly west of Cathedral
(located at Central & Broadway;
catty-corner from the Lord's Diner)

YOU could win a spot on our
Senior Adult Ministries Day Trip
this fall by taking part in our Prize
Raffle! Drawing to be held
following the Harvest House
Anniversary Mass on June 23rd,
2016!



Shepherd's Crossing Unveils New Community Center

Shepherd's Crossing, the Independent Living community on the Catholic Life Campus, will unveil its new community center in June. This 7,000 square foot center will feature a wellness center for personal and group fitness, large meeting and party spaces, and a scenic dining venue. Chef Mari Dimattia has been working to develop a menu that will suite a variety of taste and offer flavorful, healthy options at reasonable prices. Residents and their guest will enjoy meals in "The Landing," a brand new dining area, offering menu items such as pecan crusted tilapia, tarragon chicken salad, and other scrumptious dishes while looking out to the lake and natural habitat just behind the center.

Shepherd's Crossing is continuing to grow with the construction of 42 new homes which will be completed by 2020, over half of which are already reserved. Many great floor plans and views are still available for those looking to spend their retirement in a spiritually and intellectually nourishing environment. All of the homes at Shepherd's Crossing are two bedroom, two bath, with a two car garage and feature maintenance free living.

All are invited to an open house on **Thursday, June 30 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Come explore the new community center and take a peek at the upgraded interior finishes available to personalize the Shepherd's Crossing you decide to call home! For more information or to schedule a personal tour please call Jennifer at (316)771-6593!

Save the Dates

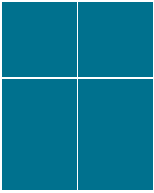
There is generally a short hiatus from the newsletter during the summer months of July and August, but it will reappear back in your mailbox in early September! But before that break, here are some dates to plan on so they don't sneak up on you over summer:

- **August 5-7** is the Midwest Catholic Family Conference at Century III! Come by the Office of Marriage and Family Life's table to say hello!
- **September 15** is the date of the next Day Trip! The bus will be heading to Tulsa, Oklahoma to visit the aquarium, and to pop into the Cathedral of the Holy Family. Cost is approximately \$65 per person. SEATING IS LIMITED, so please call the office for more information.
- **October 9** is the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass for those celebrating wedding anniversaries ending in "0" or "5". More info will be coming on this.

The newsletter can now be received via email! Visit the "Senior Adult Ministry" tab at www.CatholicDioceseofWichita.org, and there is a "sign up" link on the right hand side of the page!

Summer Celebration on Seneca!

St. Anne's Harvest House is hosting a Dinner/Game Night on July 7 from 5-9 p.m. in Setter Hall. Cost per person is \$12.00. This includes dinner and chance to win prizes. There will be bingo, pitch, LCR, Bunco and others.



Senior Adult Ministry
Office of Marriage and Family Life

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 (316) 685-5240

Return Service Requested

Reservation Request Harvest House Anniversary Mass

Please fill out and return with payment if you will be joining us for Mass and luncheon on June 23

Return with payment to: **Senior Adult Ministries**
Office of Marriage & Family Life
437 N. Topeka
Wichita, ks 67202

Cost per person is \$10 (Please make checks payable to Catholic Diocese of Wichita).

For information contact Catherine Bitting at 316-685-5240.
Please have your registration in by June 15!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Parish: _____

I wish to obtain ____ raffle tickets and have included my donation of \$ _____ here.

Raffle ticket suggested donation is one chance for \$1, or 6 chances for \$5.

Donations accepted but not required. Winners subject to applicable local, state and federal taxes.