

THE FATHER'S VINEYARD



**A Quarterly Newsletter from
My Father's House
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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRIESTS

We really want to thank our wonderful Priests for putting our schedule in their bulletins. These Bulletins are a primary source of public relations. We ask all of you to thank our Priests.

Sister Bernadette Sheldon, SCJ (1932 – 2007)

Most are aware that our beloved co-foundress was taken home on Mother's Day, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. We thank the hundreds of you who attended the wake/funeral and have given donations to the Seminarian Fund in her honor. Needless to say, it was very difficult for every one here to lose such a holy, loving and gracious lady. And yet we feel her presence; that she is much closer to us now and more powerful to help us than ever before. We remember her at every Mass.

Seminarian Fund: The Seminarian Fund in honor of Sister Bernadette has been set up. One Seminarian, Victor Toro is applying to Holy Apostles Seminary. He will be applying and hopefully be the first recipient of our scholarship. Please remember to pray for our Seminarians and our Priests.

DISCIPLESHIP

To be a Christian is to be a disciple. Jesus commands us to "go forth and make disciples of everyone." Literally, to be a disciple is to be one who listens to and

obeys the voice of our Lord so that we may think, love and act like Him. The first responsibility, therefore, is to listen; to meditate upon the Word of God and the teachings of the Church, especially in the New Catechism. The second obligation is to love not only Catholics, not only Christians, but everyone with the very love of Jesus. An increase in this love happens every time you receive the Sacrament of Love, the Eucharist. The third obligation is to live the Christian life in such a way that we bring Christ's life to our families, to our workplace, to our world. So a disciple is one who listens to the Word of God, who loves with the Heart of Jesus and who lives by the Holy Spirit.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE NEWS

Next year will be our 25th anniversary. We will speak about our plans in our next news letter.

Book Review: We have stated a book study on Thursday afternoons following the Holy Spirit Breakfast. We are now going through the Holy Father's new book "Jesus of Nazareth." This is exciting and informative. Please consider joining us!

School of Evangelization: Beginning September 27th, during the Holy Spirit Breakfast, we will start a 10-week evangelization training which will be run by our evangelization team at My Father's House. Those who participate in at least 80% of the meetings will receive a School of Evangelization certificate. The harvest is ready, the laborers are few – please join us!

The Best of Times; The Worst of Times: With the departures of Sister Bernadette and the retirement of Nancy and Ed McSweeney, this past year has been the worst of times; nevertheless, because so many people have stepped up, they have also been the best of times. God has blessed us. More people are coming to My Father's House than ever before. Our staff

here has been wonderful. In addition, my health has been better than ever before with thanks to gifts of the people here.

My Father's House Schedule: Enclosed is a schedule for My Father's House. Please take it out, along with the flyers, and hang it up so that you will be reminded of our upcoming events. In addition, we are asking that you make sure that it gets into your parish notices.

HIGHLIGHTS

We wish to highlight our upcoming pilgrimages to the Holy Land and also our 12-Day Italian Retreat; also the upcoming Bible School presented by Presentation Ministry as well as the Eucharistic/Marian Retreat with Marty Rotella; the pro-life Theology of the Body Retreat; the Couples Retourno Retreat; the Boundaries/Inner Healing Retreat; and the dynamic Catechism Retreat featuring Fr. John Corapi on video and Fr. Bill.

WE COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT

My Father's House is a faith ministry. We count on the spiritual, physical and financial support of each and every one. We really thank you for your support in the past, and we pray that you will continue.

FROM OUR CANADIAN TRIP



(by Dolores Petcavage)

Our first stop before heading to Montreal was the Divine Mercy Shrine where Fr. Bill said Mass for us. We then went to St. Joseph's Oratory which was colossal. Some of the other places we visited were St. Anne's Falls which were exciting; St. Joachim's Shrine, a delightful Church; and the Huron Indian Village which was enlightening. At Trois Rivers we visited Our Lady of the Cape de la Madeleine, a peaceful and serene shrine with an awesome candlelight procession around the lake. Our visit to St. Ann de Beaupre was unforgettable with rosary walks, outdoor

stations, candlelight processions, climbing the Holy Stairs on our knees and ice cream treats. During our trip, we survived dorm rooms, a 5:30am false fire alarm, thunderstorms and a tornado. Our fellow travelers became our family away from home and we look forward to seeing them again soon here at MFH, and you too!

Family Reunions

Since My Father's House has opened, one of our charisms has been to strengthen and healing families. During the summer many families have family reunions. My Father's House has proved to be an excellent place for families to meet, worship, grow and play. Please plan to have your family reunion at My Father's House. The highlight of a family reunion will be a Family Mass for all of your deceased and living members. Call Dolores at (860) 873-1906 to schedule.

Youth Retreats

Another strong feature of My Father's House is that it is an ideal location for youth retreats. Local grade and high school kids have come for fun-filled and inspirational retreats. If you are affiliated with any youth group or school group, please evangelize them so that they will want to come. These retreats are conducted either by our wonderful staff here at My Father's House or by their own personnel.

SOMETHING NEW: On the 2nd Thursday of the month **St. Monica's Prayer Group** will meet at 7:30 pm-8:30pm to pray for our children before the Eucharist-**Come join us and make miracles happen!**

40 Days of Life: Sept. 26 – Nov. 4th – a special time of prayer and fasting for the unborn.