

THE FATHER'S VINEYARD



**A Quarterly Newsletter from
My Father's House
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www.myfathershouse.com
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THE REALLY REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

For many people Christmas means Santa Claus, jingle bells, reindeers and gifts. For most people, fortunately, it means a commemoration of Jesus being born in a stable in Bethlehem. The deeper meaning of the Incarnation, however, is that Christ is born anew at each Mass under the appearance of Bread and Wine. The deepest meaning is that Christ is born in us; that you and I are living incarnations of the Incarnate Son of God. We are His hands, His eyes, His body. Therefore, treat everyone you meet with the love of Jesus. He lives in us. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

SEMINARIAN FUND

Once again we would like to highlight our Sr. Bernadette Seminarian Fund. It is an honor to assist a candidate to become a priest. Our first recipient Victor Toro will be entering the Holy Apostles Seminary this upcoming August. We ask your continued prayers and, if possible, financial support for Victor as well as to the Sr. Bernadette Seminarian Fund. Please call Dolores at (860) 873-1906 to make your donation. Please also remember to pray for our Seminarians and our Priests.

MY FATHER'S HOUSE NEWS

In June we plan to have a special Mass, Concert and Banquet in commemoration for My Father's House 25th anniversary. We plan to invite the Provincial of the

Missionaries of Holy Apostles and a representative of the Bishop. At that time we will dedicate the All Purpose Room in memory of Sr. Bernadette Sheldon. More details to follow.

School of Evangelization - We have completed our 10-week training workshop and have given out certificates of completion. Many attended and 20 were officially given certificates as per their complete attendance. If your parish or prayer group is considering a course of evangelization and you would be interested in our program, please call MFH and speak to Bob Olson at (937) 205-0128 or (860) 873-1906.

MFH FUNDRAISER: Dec. 30th beginning with 5:00 p.m. Mass followed with Dinner and Concert by RIA Music Ministry - \$30 per person. Raffles: (1) Trip to Guadalupe (\$75 ticket – only 100 to be sold); (2) Creche (\$5.00 ticket – 3 for \$12.00) and other door prizes (your ticket will make you eligible for this). **COME AND CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF MY FATHER'S HOUSE!**

NEW YEAR'S 2007 – Dec 31st : From 7:00 p.m. to 12 midnight (MASS at 11:00 p.m) potluck dinner at 7:00 p.m.

FR. BILL'S 48th ANNIVERSARY – Join us on Thursday morning Dec. 20th at the Holy Spirit Breakfast to honor Fr. Bill – Mass at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to contribute to a spiritual bouquet, please call Dolores at 873-1906 and give her your intention.

FR. BILL'S LENTEN PARISH MISSION SCHEDULE:

February:

9th – 13th St. Joseph Parish – Ironton, Ohio
15th – St. Luke's Parish – St. Paul's, Mn
16th – 20th St. Alice Parish – Pequot, Mn.
23th – 27th St. Francis Assisi – Lebanon, Ct.

March:

1st – 5th St. Luke's Parish – Ellington, Ct.

8th – 12th Our Lady of the Lakes Parish –
Southwick, Ma
15th – 18th Our Lady of Fatima – Alcoa, Tn

OTHER EVENTS

Holy Land Pilgrimage – If you would like to give us a Prayer Intention to bring with us on our trip please call (860) 873-8767 and leave your message. We will pray for these intentions in our intention book at each Mass.

Holy Spirit Breakfast: During our regular Holy Spirit Breakfast we will have a 10-week “Healing Workshop” beginning Jan. 24th until March 27th. Come join us.

Book Review: We have completed our book study on the Holy Father’s Book “Jesus of Nazareth.” It was exciting and insightful. We plan to continue our book studies on Thursday afternoons following the Holy Spirit Breakfast. Our next book will be “Catholic Compendium of Inner Healing.” Please consider joining us! (See Holy Spirit Breakfast below).

Catechism Retreat - March 28 – 30, 2008. Back by popular demand – be with us as we continue our study using video tapes by Fr. John Corapi and Fr. Bill’s talks.

Marian/Eucharistic Retreat - February 1 – 3, 2008 with Fr. Al Winshman, SJ. We will journey with Our Lady as She draws us closer to Her Son. **DON’T MISS THIS ONE!**

St. Monica’s Prayer Group – COME PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN. We meet at 7:30 pm-8:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the MFH Chapel of the Merciful Father to pray for our children & family members before the Eucharist- **Join us make miracles happen!**

Website Update: We are currently working to upgrade and improve our website and it should be online within a few more weeks to better accommodate

your needs.

A Note of Gratitude: For 25 years, you our faithful followers, have supported us by your presence, your prayers and your generosity. For that we are so grateful. Please continue to support us. A gentle reminder – some have supported us by giving us stock, a remembrance in their Will or a large donation. Please keep these in mind.

UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES

April 2nd – 6th, 2008 – Guadalupe Mexico. (\$1499) - We are now taking bookings for our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We plan to make this pilgrimage a real prayer event for Our Country, in light of the upcoming 2008 presidential elections. (A reminder to please vote for those who support traditional family values: Life, Marriage, the Religious Education of our Children and Decency in the Public Forum). Call Mike Milano at M and M Travel (800 773-2660).

THE PAPAL VISIT: We plan to put group together to attend some of the Papal Masses and to make this a Papal Pilgrimage. The dates are April 17th -20th. More information to follow. If interested, please call (860) 873-8767.



**IS THE REAL REASON FOR THE
SEASON! GOD BLESS**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR**