The Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 5, 2020

Discernment in our Diocese

Do you think God may be calling you to the religious life--a life of love and service through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience? Would you like to learn more about such a life?

There are approximately 18 communities of religious sisters who live and serve in our Diocese, and all are in need of vocation. If you would like to learn more about the religious life, please contact Sister Laurie-Marie at lauriemarie.parisi@rcda.org or give her a call at 518.453.6690 for more information.

The Six-Month Discernment Challenge

Make a Commitment: Commit to the Six-Month Discernment Challenge. It takes time to discern well. Consider setting aside six months (even a year) to focus explicitly on your vocational discernment.

Develop Your Prayer Life: Discernment flows out of your relationship with God, so commit to Holy Mass, frequent Confession, adoration, and personal prayer time, including silence, praying with the Scriptures, and Marian Consecration.

Seek Accompaniment: Don't make the journey alone. Find a good spiritual director.

Don't Date and Discern: Discern marriage and religious life separately. Let the discernment of each vocation have its time and place.

Start Visiting: Narrow down the search. Pick a few communities that you are attracted to, make contact, and schedule a visit -- sooner rather than later.

Look for Confirmations of the Call: As you grow in clarity about your call, your heart will provide confirmations in the form of peace and joy. The community, your spiritual director, and those who know you best will also be sources of confirmation.

Take a Leap of Faith! Discernment should lead to decision. Some things you can only know for sure by doing. At a certain point, you've got to go for it.

The Epiphany of the Lord

We no longer gaze upon the lowly picture of the shepherds at the manger; passing before us now is the resplendent procession of the Wise Men from the East, representing the pagan nations and all the kings of the earth, who come to pay homage to the Child-God.

Epiphany, or *Theophany*, means the Manifestation of God; today it is realized in Jesus who manifests Himself as God and Lord of the world. Already a prodigy has revealed His divinity - - the extraordinary star which appeared in the East. To the commemoration of this miracle, the Church recognizes two others: the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana, and the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, when a voice from heaven announced, *"This is My beloved Son."* The Magnificat antiphon says, *"Three miracles adorn this holy day,"* three miracles, which should lead us to recognize the Child Jesus as our God & King, and to adore Him with lively faith. Dan Burke - Avila Foundation

I recognize in You, O little Jesus, the King of heaven and earth; grant that I may adore You with the faith and love of the Magi.

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

The Epiphany is a feast of outreach and inclusion. The appearance of Jesus to the three wise men from the East reminds us that Jesus came for all humankind, not just the Jewish people. So too, married love is not a gift to be hoarded. Reach out to someone who is sad, in trouble, or from a different culture. Can you do it together?

Dominican Retreat Center *518.393.4169*

January 17-19 -- Silent Weekend Directed Retreat. $205

An opportunity to spend time with God in silence and solitude!

March for Life on the 24th!

Bus stops: Sacred Heart in Stamford at noon, the Hamden Town Hall around 12:40 pm, and St. John the Baptist around 1 pm on Thursday, January 23. We stop for dinner then arrive at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Forestville, MD, where we will be sleeping on the floor--bring a mattress, sleeping bag or blanket, and a pillow.

On the morning of the 24th, the Knights will provide breakfast and a bag lunch before the bus drops us off near the National Mall in D.C. There will be an opportunity to attend numerous activities near the Mall before the March starts in the afternoon. We usually finish around 3 pm and board the bus (a stop for dinner), we will arrive back late Friday night. Bus ticket is $73

Reserve your seat by calling 652.7170, ext. 102.

Open ♥s, Open Homes

Children in foster care need a loving family to take care of them on a temporary basis due their families' needs. Can you open your home temporarily to help provide emotional support to a child during a confusing time of their life?

Delaware County Department of Social Services provides foster parent training to help prepare you as well as assigns a caseworker, who will provide support. Classes are held in the spring and fall each year during the evening. Call 832.5353 for more information.

New Year's Resolution?

Thinking about New Year resolutions for 2020? Please consider volunteering for one of our Church ministries: lector, altar server, money counting, environmental, Eucharistic, usher, or sacristan? Training provided. The ministries at our three churches are in need of more hands to help out with our Masses.

Justice Series on Wednesday

Join the series as it continues this Wednesday, January 8, at 7 pm with Rick Howard, Esq. moderating the subject of "Justice for All Life – Animal Rights & Livestock" in Fr. Willis Hall (with refreshments).

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

As we start a new calendar year resolutions are common - - but too soon forgotten. Perhaps remembering important things is timely. Share as a family: the happiest time for me this past year was ____ and a regret (sadness) I have about last year is _____ .

Learn More about Catholicism

If you want to learn more about our faith, would like to become a Catholic, or maybe you did not receive one of the sacraments, call the office or speak to Deacon Freeman about an upcoming RCIA class.

Caring for the Sick

Do you know a Catholic friend, neighbor, or relative, who is homebound, in the hospital, or nursing home? Please call the office to arrange for one of our ministers of the sick to bring the Eucharist or just to visit for a spell.

The Ministry can be reached by leaving a message at 865.7394 and dialing extension 207. One of our ministers will be in touch.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

All Jerusalem was upset because "King Herod was deeply troubled." A similar ripple effect happens in families -- one person's negative attitude can affect the whole family. If you want a peaceful and joyful home, it must start with you. Be peaceful and joyful!