

Council Corner

Newsletter of the Mother of God Community Council - December 20, 2019

Growing in the Charisms Monthly Teachings and Activation of the Holy Spirit

Mark G. and Kinday Toto will be leading this new series to help members and friends of the community to grow in intimacy with the Giver of the Gifts, the Holy Spirit, and learn how to be activated to exercise those gifts. This course will entail points from Damian Stayne conferences and Damian's book Lord, Renew Your Wonders.

Our first meeting will be on **Sunday January 26 at 6 PM** before our regular Praise & Worship gathering. We will meet the last Sunday of each month. After each meeting there will be a practical assignment to experiment with during the off weeks to help activate your gifting in your lives. Mark and Kinday hope to assist all participants to understand where in their lives the Holy Spirit wants to give more of His power in a special grace for others. The goal of the class will be to help all identify their current charisms and how to be empowered by the Spirit to act. We believe the Holy Spirit wants to give all believers more power in the Holy Spirit for mission in family, Church and careers so that we act more in union with the Holy Spirit.

The series will be held in the School library. Online registration will be open **January 7 through Jan 21. This series will be free of charge.**

We will be using the book "**Lord, Renew Your Wonders: Spiritual Gifts for Today**" by Damian Stayne, and are asking participants to **read chapter 1 prior to coming to the first class.**

Please pray for the success of this series, and contact Mark or Kinday if you would like to serve on the team for this series. Please tell a friend about it; all are welcome. The only prerequisite is an opened heart surrendered to the Lord!

What's Going on at Goshen House?

Many and various groups have been using our facilities over the last few years, including *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* Syro-Malabar parish, who just broke ground on their own church property near Olney, MD. *American Heritage Girls* and *Trail Life* for boys are both chartered by Mother of God Community and meet regularly in Goshen House and the school gym. *Teams of Our Lady* and a local *Neo-Catechumenal Way* community have also used our facilities and chapel. All are welcome!

**The Community Council will
be on retreat January 10-12
and requests members to give
input and insights on what we are
called to as a community.**

UPCOMING DATES

Christmas Eve Mass	7 pm, Tuesday, December 24
Mary, Mother of God Community Celebration	11:30 am, Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Prayer Meeting Resumes	7 pm, Sunday, January 5, 2020
Nat'l Prayer Summit	9 am-5 pm, Saturday, Jan. 26

Mother of God Homeschool Ministry

The new Mother of God Homeschool Ministry continues to be a resounding success in this, its second year. September 2019 saw the launch of two high school level academic classes, taught by a local homeschooling mother. 7-10 high school students are enrolled in each class, including Sacraments & Apologetics and American Government & Economics. The subject matter at the high school level is taught from a Catholic worldview, so important as students learn to think critically about world affairs and how the Church plays a role in current events. Ministry coordinators Amy and John O'Callaghan are working with other homeschooling parents and local recently retired Catholic teachers to increase the offerings to high schoolers for the Fall 2020 semester.

Importantly, last summer Amy was invited to meetings with diocesan officials to discuss how the diocese can support homeschoolers across the diocese. One exciting result was the first-ever Mass opening the school year for homeschooling families in the diocese, with Archbishop Gregory himself officiating. Archbishop Gregory supported homeschooling initiatives in dioceses where he previously served. The Mass in September was held in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, followed by an outdoor picnic for homeschooling families from around the diocese. Thank you, Archbishop Gregory!

The ministry continues to offer four six-week sessions of PE classes, adding this year a few PE classes for high school aged students. Well over 60 homeschooled students are being served by the ministry, and we expect more with additional high school classes next Fall.

Amy and John O'Callaghan continue to lead the ministry, with Teri Stief providing administrative support. We give thanks to God for continuing to guide and bless this new ministry. Thank you all for your prayerful support!

National Prayer Summit

Once again we will welcome Lonnie Bringham, son of Prayer Summit founder Rev. Ray Bringham, for a daylong prayer summit to be held on **Saturday, January 25, 2020** in Our Lady's Chapel at Goshen House.

The purpose of the Prayer Summit is to **ask God for revival across our nation** by the church taking time to humble ourselves together as one people of God in Christ Jesus. We will ask for God's mercy on us, on the Church and the whole nation. We are dedicating time to seeking God through the Biblical prayer of **2 Chronicles 7:14** with his promises of healing and restoration of our land. It will include great praise and worship, dynamic preaching and a new call to repentance for our sins against the Lord and for our lack of seeking his face and his Word.

This will be a **Catholic and Ecumenical Summit** of proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are also praying for unity among the Christian denominations and peoples. We are looking for "boots on the ground" to contact local Catholic and Protestant churches and **SPREAD THE WORD!! Can we rely on you to help?**

The current plan is for the Summit to take place on **Saturday, January 25 from 9 am to 5 pm** and feature Praise & Worship, intercession and different leaders to lead prayer at different hours. The Summit will conclude at our weekly **Praise and Worship gathering on Sunday, January 26th**. In short, we are praying for revival and conversion!

Please pray for the success of this gathering, and let Rick McKinney know if you can serve on the planning team!
rickmckinney@hotmail.com
or 301-977-0705

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14



Patronal Feast Day Celebration
Wednesday, January 1, 2020, 11:30 am
Goshen House Dining Room

Celebrate the liturgical
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
with a community brunch
followed by prayers of consecration
to Our Lady on her Feast Day and ours.

*The name "Mother of God" was chosen for
our community to signify that, like Mary,
we are called to receive and treasure the
Word of God in obedient faith.
By yielding ourselves to God that Christ may
be formed in us, we become vessels through
which Christ is brought forth into the world.*

**Please bring a baked good or fruit
to share as part of our meal.**
Everyone is welcome!

NOTE: There is Mass at St. John Neumann
parish at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Contact Teri Stief at 301-648-8557 for more
information or to help.

Family Ministry

Join this New Ministry!

Rachael Gargulinski, herself a young mother who loves being a covenant member of Mother of God Community, would like to start a ministry to young families like hers. She is **looking for a few people** who have ideas about events and gatherings that would be of interest to families in the area. **Please join Rachael for an initial planning meeting** to brainstorm ideas and come up with a game plan for some fun events in the near future.

Our first planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10 am in the Goshen House living room. Little kids are welcome, but we do need to get down to business! Rachael would love to see everyone operating in their own unique gifts, so that this new ministry can be the best it can be!

Please contact Rachael via e-mail at rsanders77@gmail.com or call her cell at **703-395-3387** to let her know if you can or can't make it to the meeting - she wants to hear from all those interested in reaching out to families!

Did you know...

**Dawn Glennon
has been volunteering
her time to help
MOG School Principal
Hall Miller and the
MOG School Board
develop more efficient
policies and procedures.**

Thank you, Dawn!

Life in the Spirit Seminar Exceeds Expectations

The community just completed its latest Life in the Spirit seminar, capping off a seven-week course with a celebratory dinner prior to the December 15 Praise & Worship gathering. The LIS seminar took place each Sunday evening starting back on October 12, which allowed participants to also experience our weekly Praise & Worship gathering after class each week.

Against all expectations, the Lord filled the school library with so many people, we had to move to the larger Pre-K room on the main floor. The number of chairs we needed grew each week. While some of the people who came to the first meetings did not continue all the way, overall, we had about 30+ people every week. This was a larger group than we have had in the recent past. Some of the participants who did not return, called Kinday Toto and wanted to let us know that they simply could not commit. But they thanked us for holding the seminar because they said there are no other groups in the area that offer Life in the Spirit. These include leaders of at least two prayer groups in the area, one of which is at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville.

Participants came from far away. There were two couples who came every week all the way from Emmitsburg, MD. They were blessed and one of the spouses had a real encounter with the risen Lord. They shared at our Praise & Worship gathering about their experience. Another participant stated that they now want to go back to Mass every week. And yet another participant had a time where she heard the Lord call her name during praise and worship. She knew it was the Lord. She said she kept turning around and telling herself, "well no one knows me here." That particular participant is hungry for God. Another one had a vision during the praying over for Baptism in the Spirit, and saw herself dancing with St. Michael the Archangel.

Our celebratory dinner was very sweet, as dinner organizer Nancy McCambridge noted. It felt like a family dinner. We shared the love of Christ with each other. The Lord did a great work among us using the gifts of each of our team members.

Thanks to all the team members for saying yes and for contributing what they could, when they could. At some point, we will hold a review, since we are going to do this again and want to see how we can improve. We want to think long term and incorporate lessons learned the next time. There are several areas regarding logistics that can easily be improved on by hashing out those details during the planning meeting.

Way Maker

Miracle Worker

Promise Keeper

Light in the
darkness

Lord, prosper the work of our hands!

Ps 90:17

Terri Celmer recently blessed the Community with the above plaque, based on a praise song we have been singing on Sunday nights. Look for it soon on a wall in Goshen House!

"Council Corner" is published by the Mother of God Community Council. Its purpose is to promote openness and dialogue amongst covenant members regarding issues of importance to community life.

If a covenant member would like to submit a news item, please submit it to a Council member for review: Tom Singer, Bob McCambridge, Dawn Glennon, Mark Gargulinski, Rick McKinney, or Don James. Thank you!