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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- We have a total of 16 volunteer catechists working in the program this year. Our enrollment this year is approximately 126 with 16 JRC houses participating in the program.
- We are looking for volunteer drivers for our Tues. night program and helpers at our upcoming fundraisers. If you would like to be a volunteer in our program contact Sr. Diane Marie at the office (782-0030).

The Power of Prayer

By Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ

"Ask, and it will be given to you seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matt. 7:7

These words from St. Matthew's gospel are very familiar to those who believe. Several references in the scriptures reassure disciples of Jesus that prayer is a powerful connection to the Father. It is he who guides with his love and grace those who simply ask for his blessing. Jesus tells us that the heavenly Father will give good things to anyone who asks him. He models for us that prayer is an integral part of everyday life.

After his baptism, Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. This passage from the scripture reveals to us the power of prayer. Jesus relied on the Father to lead him through this desert experience. His words to Satan show us the great love

he had for the Father.

"You shall do homage to the Lord your God; him alone shall you adore."

Jesus has gone before us to show us the way to the Father. How often we read that Jesus went off to pray. He demonstrates for us that communicating with the Father gives us the grace we need to move through the challenges we encounter in life. Jesus was continuously seeking the Father's guidance.

When God hears our prayers and helps us through a difficult situation, we, like Jesus, must turn to the Father with a grateful heart. We must give God the honor and praise he so deserves.

There are so many issues in our world today that demonstrate that Satan is still tempting God's people to do evil. Today more than ever it is essential that

Christians follow the example of Jesus and pray with full confidence that their prayers can and will change the violence, hatred, and evil that is so widespread in the world. We must believe in the power of prayer.

How often we hear someone say, "All we can do is pray." Praying is exactly what we need to do. Jesus tell us in Jn. 15:7-8:

"If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will—it will be done for you. My Father has been glorified in your bearing much fruit and becoming my disciples."

If we stay close to Jesus and believe in the power of prayer, nothing can harm us. Believing in the power of prayer can bring us and those for whom we pray unlimited blessings. Our loving Father will never abandoned those who seek his love and rely on his grace.

Summer Donations

A special thank you to those benefactors who sent donations during the summer.

- Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
- Mrs. Janice Phelps
- Ms. Amanda Morgan



- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Leon
- Ms. Sally Grzesiak
- Knights of Columbus #259



Altar server, Frances Scovel, assists Fr. Joseph Christy during the opening Liturgy. All prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we enter into another year of prayer and study together.

Praying to the Spirit

Once again we began our year by calling upon the Holy Spirit to help us during the coming year. This year one of the goals set by the staff was to help the members of our faith community learn a variety of ways to pray. At our opening liturgy and prayer service, we began with a song asking the Spirit to fill us with love, peace, and joy. In the words of St. Augustine, "Singing is praying twice." The participants in the Friends of Jesus program also recalled that the highest form of prayer for Catholics is the Mass.

Fr. Joseph Christy reminded those in attendance that the Holy Spirit is always with us. It is the Spirit who leads and guides us throughout the day. The group prayed fervently during the Mass asking the Spirit to open their hearts to hear the message of Jesus.

Both the members of the Interfaith and the Friends of Jesus groups received the prayer card shown here. It is our hope that they understood from our first prayer experience of the year that prayer is an important part of our daily activities. Everyone was encouraged to pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit every day especially when they were in a difficult or challenging situation.

Each week we will begin our session with the following prayer by Marianne Misetich, SNJM, which will be sung.

Holy Spirit, fill me with you love (peace, joy)

**Holy Spirit, take my heart and keep it
close to the Father, close to the Son,**

Holy Spirit, make us one in love (peace, joy)

Everyone was excited to be back together after the summer break. They all look forward to gathering for prayer and study each week. If you have a special prayer intention call the office and we will include your intention in our weekly prayer.



Upcoming Events

Spaghetti Dinner

Italian American Club

October 14, 2014 5:00PM-6:30PM

\$8.00 Dessert included

Fall Auction: November 1, 2014

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym

1:00PM: Doors Open for Early Bird Preview and Ticket Sale

5:00PM Food Available

6:00PM: Live Auction with Mel Busler





**Religious Education Program
for People with Disabilities**

Mission Statement

Jesus' ministry on earth was all inclusive. We read in the scriptures how Jesus cured the sick, healed the blind, the crippled, and raised the dead to life. Jesus desired that his mission of all inclusive love be offered to all people.

The Watertown Catechetical Board, under the sponsorship of the Catholic Parishes in Watertown, recognizes the importance of the commission by Jesus to bring His love to all people including persons with disabilities.

It is our desire to provide for the spiritual well-being of persons with disabilities by sharing with them opportunities for spiritual enrichment, prayer, faith sharing and fellowship.



Praying the Prayers of the Bible



Our theme this for this year will be *Praying the Prayers of the Bible*. Each week we will look at how one of the great people of the bible communicated with God. In our first lesson we will meet Eliezer whose prayer to God was a plea to grant him success. Abraham had asked Eliezer to travel to his homeland to find a wife for his son Isaac. This was not going to be an easy request to grant but Eliezer believed that the God of his master Abraham would not disappoint Abraham who was faithful to the Lord.

"Give me success today." was a short but powerful prayer. Eliezer's prayer was simple, specific, and definite in reference to time. He asked God to direct him to the right woman to be Isaac's wife and to do it right away.

Looking at ways others pray can help us to learn how to pray in a variety of unique and meaningful ways. We will look at several great people both in the Old and New Testament. Each week there will be a short prayer learned from the story of the great person we are studying and the way that they expressed their prayer to God. For example:

Moses: Be with us Lord.


Hannah: Look upon me Lord, remember me.

Isaiah: Send Me Lord.

Apostles: Lord, teach us to pray.

Every lesson will include time to pray, sing, listen, create, and share what we have learned about prayer. Each small group will keep a "Joy Journal." At the end of each session they will share where or how they found the gift of joy that God offered to them during the lesson or sometime during the week. You can be sure that in our future newsletters we will be eager to share these very special God experiences.





Watertown Catechetical Board

Special Religious Education Committee Members 2014—2015

<p>Board Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastors</p> <p>Fr. Donald Robinson Fr. Jonas Tandayu Fr. Steve Murray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christian Formation Coordinators</p> <p>Elizabeth Bamann Sr. Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC Helen Guardino-Trimm</p>	<p>Parish Representative</p> <p>Sandie Butler Patrick Henry Katie Patrick TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Program Coordinator</p> <p>Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee Chairperson</p> <p>Alice Busler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p> <p>Sr. Noël Chabanel Hentz, SSJ</p>	<p>Committee Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish Representatives</p> <p>Our Lady of the Sacred Heart</p> <p>Alice Busler— Chairperson Julie Gould</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Patrick's</p> <p>Catherine Deline Sarah Schantz</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Family</p> <p>Patrick Bates— Vice Chairperson Nancy Keefe</p>	<p>St. Anthony's</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>Virginia Burdick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interfaith Representatives</p> <p>Janice Phelps Kim West</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Program Representative</p> <p>Terese Burdick Francis Scovel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Program Coordinator</p> <p>Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p> <p>Sr. Noël Chabanel Hentz, SSJ</p>
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Another Night at the Races



For the second year, Chip Burdick invited our people with disabilities to a night at the Can-Am speedway to raise money for the program. Tickets for the night at the races were sold for \$8.00 each and the proceeds given to the Religious Education Program. In addition to the ticket sales, the drivers passed their helmets through the crowd. Thanks to all who bought tickets and to Chip and the Can-Am staff, we were able to add \$1,100 to our program bank account.

In addition, over thirty of the participants of the program enjoyed an evening together. The highlight of the evening was the opportunity to go down on the track and collect autographs from the drivers. Then the group helped to start up the engines for the final races of the night. They shouted loud and clear "Gentlemen, start your engines."

This year Anderson Stenard had the honor of being the flagman who started the first race and then posed for a picture with Chip Burdick.

We are grateful to Chip Burdick and the Can-Am staff for making this evening at the races a profitable and memorable experience.

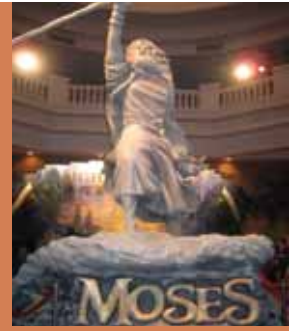


Some of the group took advantage of sitting near the first turn of the race track. Truly it is an exciting sport to be in as the cars come zooming around the track.





Awesome Trip to the Sight and Sound Theater Lancaster, PA



On a beautiful sunny morning last June, fifty-one participants, Rel. Ed. staff, JRC staff, parents, religious Sisters and Fr. Leo Wiley boarded the bus and headed to Lancaster, PA. This was our fourth trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre. Every time we see one of the shows we all say, "That was the best show ever!" It seems that each time the performance is bigger and better than the last.

Our first stop was the picnic lunch at one of the rest areas. We were all pretty shocked when we got out of the bus and were hit with the cool air. It was certainly not picnic weather but we were at least grateful that it was not raining. Of course as you can guess the weather didn't stop anyone from enjoying their lunch.

We arrived at the Heritage Hotel around three o'clock and had an hour to rest before we boarded the bus and headed off to the Plain and Fancy Restaurant. The first event of the evening was to attend a Chalk Talk on the theme of *Faith and Forgiveness*. The presenter told the story of how the Amish community was challenged to practice their faith and forgive the man who shot ten Amish girls a few years ago. His story was moving and the drawing he did as he spoke was amazing. At the end of the presentation he highlighted the drawing with a black light and the image of Jesus and the cross shown through the original drawing. The sound of a spontaneous gasp in the room was a true indication of how touching this presentation was for everyone.

The next morning we headed for the theater for a fantastic show. The story of Moses was beyond description. You almost have to see it to believe it. These biblical stage performances have really helped our people understand the stories of the Old Testament. Moses is now among one of our favorites.



In Memory of Our Beloved

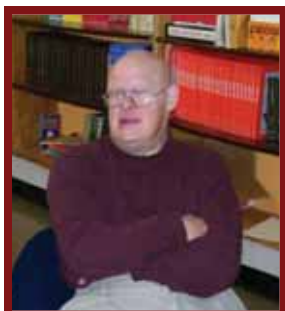


Mark John Richardson

Sept. 12, 1949  Sept. 11, 2014



Mark was a long standing member of the Religious Education Program. Over the years he attended all three components of the program, most recently the Outreach program. We all shared special moments with Mark over the years. We will miss his wonderful sense of humor, great stories, his harmonica playing, and charming personality. Mark was proud to be a member of the Catholic faith and the Religious Education Program. We know he is now entertaining his friend Jesus in heaven. Thank you, Mark, for the numerous ways you blessed our lives and for the many times we heard you say...



God Bless You!



We also remember in prayer Cathryn Warren and Joyce Dietrich who recently entered into eternal life. Cathy and Joyce were both members of our Outreach Program. They lived in the JRC home on Holcomb Street. Joyce loved to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." We will miss these ladies who enjoyed participating in the program. May they now rest in the arms of the Lord.



May the angels lead you into paradise.

Cathryn Warren
July 3, 2014

Joyce Dietrich
Sept. 22, 2014



Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jackson deliver the sign

New Office Sign

Through the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doscher our office is now easily found. Paul and Debbie wanted to contribute to our Religious Education Program in memory of their deceased parents who died both within the same year.

It has taken a while to have the sign made by Mr. Dan Jackson who designed and created the finished product. He and his wife delivered the sign last fall. We were grateful to Jake Johnson and his staff for installing the sign.

Mrs. Marjorie Sylver, the mother of Sr. Constance Marie SSJ and Debbie Doscher, loved to garden. So this spring the Sisters in the Formation Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased flowering plants for our garden around the sign. Most of the planting was done by Sister Suanne Marie.

We are grateful to Paul and Debbie for this wonderful addition to our program. We even have people stop by to see what our program is all about. Thank you Paul and Debbie!



Sr. Suanne Marie SSJ after planting.

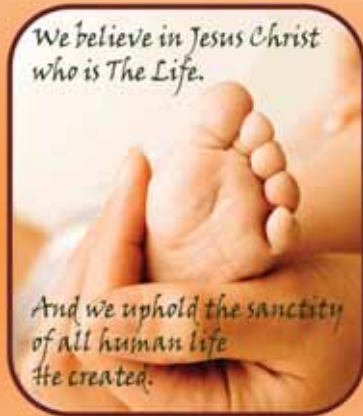
Given In Memory of
Majorie J. Sylver
and
Henry C. Doscher
By
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doscher

Plaque that is placed on the sign.



The garden continues to grow.

Celebration of the Sanctity of Life



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
 October 22, 2014
 7:00PM

Celebration of the Sanctity of Life

The month of October is set aside as *Right to Life* month. Last year the Right to Life committee members of the four Catholic parishes, in conjunction with our Religious Education Program for People with Disabilities, planned a special liturgy to pray in thanksgiving for the gift of life and that all people will uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

The event was attended by several members of the four Catholic parishes as well as many of the participants of the Religious Education Program. Our people with disabilities served as lectors, gift bearers, and altar servers. They also sang a meditation song after communion. Following the liturgy everyone gathered in Sechi Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

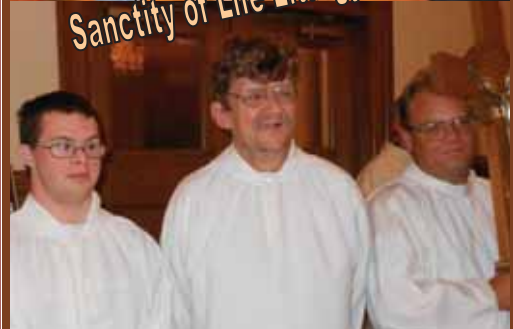
Since the evening was such a success and a prayerful public statement of our belief in the sanctity of all life, the committee has decided to make this a yearly event.

This year the Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 7:00PM. It is our hope that more people will join us this year. Once again some of the members of our program will participate as lectors and altar servers.

It is our hope that the Transform group will be present to lead to enhance the celebration of the Liturgy with prayerful music.

Following the liturgy, the Ladies of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parish will provide refreshments for everyone in Dostie Hall. We hope that the Catholic community will come out strong for this year's prayer on the theme of sanctity of life. Please invite any of your non-Catholic friends to join us for this time of prayer and evening of celebration of our belief that all life is inviolable and worthy of reverence and respect.

Let us join in prayer for those who do not share our belief and ask God to free our world from all those who disrespect, abuse, violate, or kill innocent members of society.



The right to life is the first among human rights.

POPE FRANCIS