

Madonna Guild Newsletter

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Church

January 2022

A Big Welcome to Our New Officers for 2022!

At the December 2021 meeting new officers were elected. Katherine Larson (Galhotra) is President, Mary Kay Nelson is Vice President, Christina Vasquez is Secretary, Dorota Rapacz is Tech Officer and Margie Zavala is Treasurer. Special thanks to Terry Linn (President) and Julie Luna (Vice President) for all their hard work and dedication during 2021. They both did a fine job of leading the Madonna Guild! Please wish all our new officers success throughout 2022. At the end of the newsletter you will find contact information for the current officers. We welcome any comments and suggestions you may wish to share with us.

A Heartfelt Thanks to Mary Matthew

The ladies of the Madonna Guild wish to sincerely thank Mary Matthew for hosting our annual Christmas party at her house on Wednesday, December 8th. You know Christmas is such a busy time but Mary was so kind and generous to welcome us into her home for a quick meeting, a merry time of stuffing 210 stockings, a delicious pot luck lunch and a wee bit of Christmas cheer. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank Mary for the welcome we received. By the way, we have some excellent chefs within our ranks. All the potluck dishes were delicious! Anyone care to share your recipes?

Christmas Stockings Ministry Shines

Nothing shows the love, heart and dedication of the Madonna ladies like our Christmas Stocking Ministry. Led by the expert skills of Lorraine Robertson, a group of seamstress elves cut and sewed 210 stockings in July. These stockings were then decorated by even more of Santa's elves in August using paint, handsewn holiday designs, pictures, glitter and sequins. Meanwhile, Terry Linn managed the huge year-long task of gathering and cataloguing all the stocking stuffers donated by our Madonna ladies, parishioners and the Tempe Police Department (thank you, Arleen!). By December, all that was left to do was stuff the stockings. The stockings were donated to Meals on Wheels, Walking Down Ranch, White Mountain Catholic Charities, and White Mountain Apache Tribe (Bii'Nalwod). A massive "thank you" to all who so generously gave donations, time and talents to make this a success.

Spiritual Book Study Offers A Twist

Are you a regular participant at the spiritual book study sessions but have missed it during the holiday hiatus? Have you been wanting to attend but just can't find the time

to commit to reading a book? Well Bernie McConnell has a new twist just for you. The next “book” study is an exciting video series called The Chosen (season 1) and will be on Wednesdays 9:30am-10:45am in the SJFC starting January 19th for eight weeks. The Chosen follows the life of Jesus and the twelve Apostles with discussion after the video. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bernie at (703)508-1573.

Do You Knit or Crochet?

As you know, Terry Linn started a wonderful Prayer Shawl Ministry which helps those who are ill, have experienced a loss, or are suffering in any way. It’s a sincere way to offer comfort in a time of need. A hand knit or crocheted prayer shawl can feel like a big hug during hard times. If you knit or crochet (or would like to learn!) please contact Terry at (734)259-9826. Terry hosts a monthly meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 3rd in the SJFC Knights of Columbus room. Terry has patterns, knitting and crochet needles and yarn. All she needs is your help in joining this worthy cause. Donations of yarn will be gratefully received.

Christmas Book Giveaway Well Received

For a second year in a row, Bernie McConnell spearheaded the effort to give each parish family a book for spiritual reflection. This year, Life Is Messy by Matthew Kelly was handed out after the Christmas Masses. The Madonna Guild covered the expense of the 500 books ordered. If you didn’t receive your copy, extra copies are available after Masses. (Summer visitors can obtain their copies when they are back in town in 2022.)

Rosary Makers Need You

Have you thought about starting a new and meaningful hobby? Dorothy Dobry is looking for volunteers to make rosaries. Crafting a rosary is easy and you can do it while watching television or listening to music. Dorothy provides everything you need including written instructions. She will also show you how to make them. Completed rosaries are sent to a prison ministry in need of more rosaries. What better way to honor Mary and to help others with their prayer life than to make rosaries? If you have questions, please call Dorothy at (928)368-7371.

Father Dan’s Ordination Anniversary & Birthday Gifts

In December, to celebrate the 51st anniversary of Father Dan’s ordination and his 76th birthday, the Madonna Guild gifted him a total of \$500. Father Dan sent a lovely “thank you” letter in which he wrote in part: “...your magnificent gifts for my birthday and anniversary were so touching and so generous. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love and support, not only now, but in all the years we have worked together.”