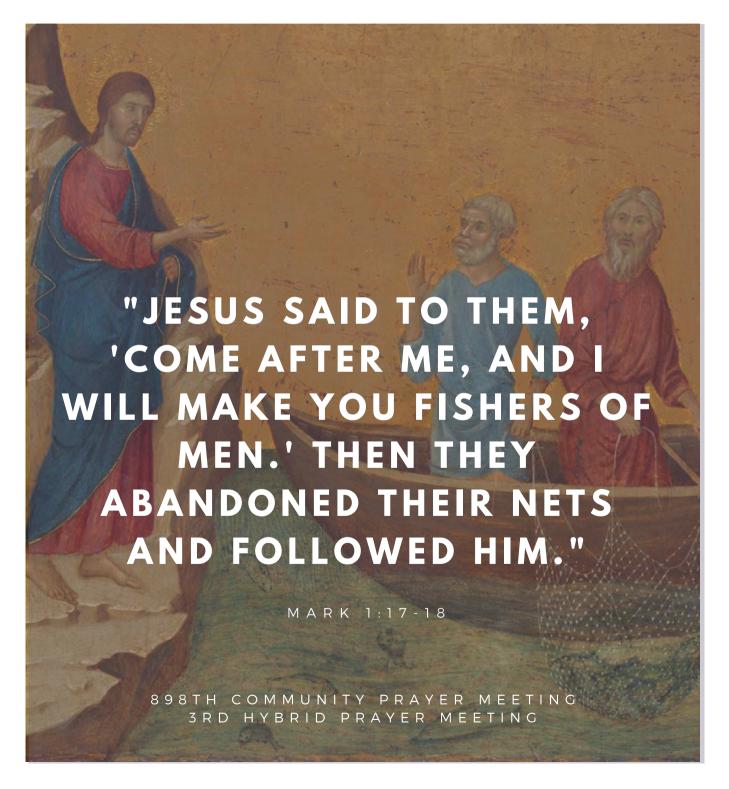
PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



JANUARY 24, 2021

Why a Public Commitment?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past Sunday, The People of Hope received seven new Publicly Committed members. Other than now having the right to vote, their day to day lives will be very much like they were before they made their commitment. One may ask, then why make a commitment? Part of the answer can be found in Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous quote, "It's not the destination, it's the journey". Indeed, the journey of the years spent trying to discern if God is calling me to community by appropriating community teachings, participating in community gatherings, being part of a small group, offering hospitality, being generous with one's time and financial resources, and giving and receiving support is in itself already living out our commitment.

However, it is about more than just the journey. To publicly state that this is where I wish to live my life and these are people I wish to live my life with makes all the difference. By making a Public Commitment I'm saying that I'm no longer hedging my bet and despite whatever may come our way I'm committed to making our life together work not just for my benefit but for the benefit of all my brothers and sisters. Therefore, the Public Commitment I make today is also a commitment to the future generations of the community and a commitment to continue the mission to which God has called us. May our heavenly Father continue to gives us the grace to remain faithful to Him and one another.

Congratulations, to Justin and Delphine Anderson, Mark and Anne Cantine, James and Danielle Dill and Fr. John Gordon. We are so blessed by your commitment and in turn commit ourselves to you.

Januaury 25, 2021

PSALM 37:7

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT

Advent is a penitential season and also a season for great hope. So, if you are feeling anger or unrest, call upon the Holy Spirit to give you peace. If you are feeling sorrow, ask for joy. If you are feeling lonely, ask for compassion for others. Ask for the Holy Spirit today like you do during Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is there for you every single day. Like the little child who woke up this morning and saw little treats in their shoes for the feast of St. Nicolas in your prayer time, look for the treats that I will pour down as you cry out to me

COMMENTS FROM FR. JACQUES PHILIPPE ON PSALM 37

Psalm 37:7-11 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way over the man who carries out evil devices. Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Fret not yourself, it tends only to evil, for the wicked shall be cut off but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land." "This Psalm invites those who encounter such situations not to be eaten up by anger and bitterness which are only hurtful to themselves. The triumph of evil is only temporary. Remain calm and confident. Place all your hope in the Lord. Evil will disappear, the meek will inherit the earth and will delight in great peace. Place your hope in God. Continue to be humble and meek. Calm and peaceful. Preserve in doing good and you will triumph." So Lord, we take a moment to be still. We ask that you would help us to shed the scales of anger and pessimism, the scales of fear and anxiety, the scales of shame and hopelessness, the scales of weariness, frustration and discouragement. Lord, we ask that your light may shine through us so that we would not conceal you but rather reveal you to those around us. Amen.

FALL ON YOUR KNEES

You say, 'Lord, what should I be doing? I am concerned about many things. What should I be doing?' Well, I'll tell you what you should NOT be doing. You should not be going to Washington to try and fix the government. You should not be going to the universities and to the media to try and fix all of that. You should not do that. So, Lord what should I be doing? You should fall on your knees. You should turn to me, fall on your knees, raise your hands and pray and give your life to me. Give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to me. Love me, love your neighbor as yourself. Love your family. Love your brothers and sisters. Love your coworkers. That is what I call you to do. And I tell you, the peace that passes understanding will fall afresh on you and you will do well and you will be doing what I have called you to do.

LORD, LET US NOT FORGET YOUR PRESENCE

During this season I am very near to you. I am near to you in your joys and sorrows and victories. I am near to you in your sadness and your disappointments. I am near to you in your despair and weakness and sin, in your losses and your grief. I am very aware of all of these. So look up, says the Lord, I am here in all your circumstances. So Lord, we turn to you in all our circumstances in our joys and sorrows and weakness and despair and even our sin Lord. We turn to you to receive your great mercy. You are our loving Father. We want to draw close to you. Lord help us when we fail to look up and recognize you when we fail to be aware of your presence, of your walking with us in our victories and sorrows and joys. Lord, help us to turn to you, help us not to forget your presence and power in our life.

Prophecies from Hybrid Community Prayer Meeting
December 6, 2020

TINY CHAPEL SESSIONS: ALICIA & JOE GREEY

CREDITS
Alicia Greey, singer,
songwriter
Joseph Greey, singer, sound
recordist and mixer

THE PEOPLE OF HOPE TINY CHAPEL SESSIONS ARE A

series of songs filmed in the little chapel at our People of Hope Office with the goal of prompting prayerful worship and meditation. Spend time with Christ and be encouraged by the beauty of music sung in his presence.

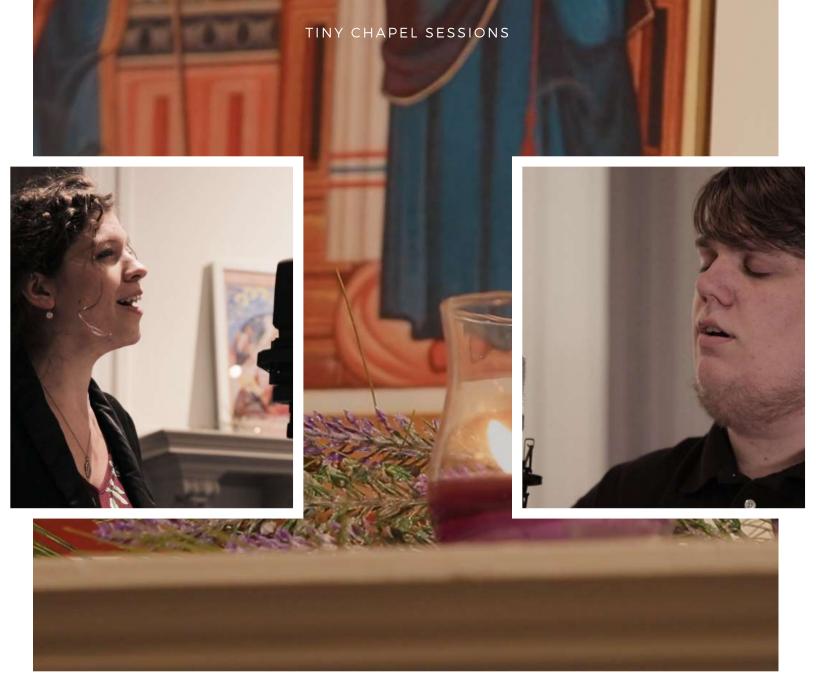
YOU CAN SEE ALL OF OUR TINY CHAPEL SESSIONS AT www.peopleofhope.net/tinychapel

Alicia and Joseph Greey joined us in the People of Hope chapel as they shared four of Alicia's most recent singles, two beautiful songs on the joyful waiting of Advent and two beautiful songs on the celebration of Christ's birth for Christmas.

Alicia and Joe's intimate and sincere vocals are a wonderful way to enter into prayer, each an invitation to receive Christ anew.

A seasoned singer-songwriter, Alicia has devoted her efforts to singing praise to God through reimaginings of old hymns and original compositions. Her most recent album "With God" is available online through her website. If you would like to hear more of Alicia's music be sure to check out www.aliciagreey.com





WORDS WITH THE ARTISTS

AN INTERVIEW WITH ALICIA & JOE GREEY

This interview has been shortened and edited for space. To watch the full interview visit our <u>Youtube Video here</u>.

What are your thoughts on Advent? How did you approach writing songs specifically for the Advent Season?

ALICIA: It's a very special season and in my heart I think musicians, in general, really do connect with that deepness of waiting and that's why there is so much rich music in this particular season. But for me it was a real chance to to rediscover some of the things that I love about Advent.

It's been a different season of waiting than I guess we've ever had before. What was the process like of continuing your musical practice and continuing your songwriting practice during this year? I feel like it's come with some particularly specific-to-this-year kind of hurdles.

ALICIA: It has really pushed me to recognize how much I love sharing prayer with everyone and and having different opportunities to be in Adoration, to be in Mass, to sing with people in different ways.

Uh, I'm very introverted; I hate being in front of people.

I wouldn't have guessed that.

JOE: (laughing) It's a very well-kept secret of hers--

ALICIA: Yeah, it's very hidden, but I do, I actually don't enjoy being on stage. This year has made me realize how much sharing and prayer outweighs that and all the, sometimes fear, sometimes nerve, sometimes exhaustion, that comes with that. I love praying with people and that's really it it's not about leading, it's not about being in charge, or picking the songs or getting to do the Mass, it's just about being with the people and that there's a blessing in each of those and it really pushed me to do different things.

During Tridium week I released one song a day through Facebook and, you know, now doing things like this which maybe a couple years ago I would have said no to and I think it's been a good realization that the prayer is so much more important than everything else just getting to offer the songs because they're not really mine.



"I THINK IT'S BEEN A GOOD REALIZATION
THAT THE PRAYER IS SO MUCH MORE
IMPORTANT...JUST GETTING TO OFFER THE
SONGS BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT REALLY
MINE"

"OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

This is he who seers and sages sang of old with one accord,
Whom the writings of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing All dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be, Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

ALICIA: "This song the text is taken from my favorite Christmas song. It's from the hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten" and the text is actually from around 400 A.D. It's one of the oldest Christmas texts we have.

The original text was used to remind the church at the time that Christ was not created but begotten. That he is one with the Father and with the Spirit. And it's such a beautiful, prayerful text and I hope that first you go and listen to the original chant because it's glorious and beautiful but second that in this ancient text with just a couple days old melody the beauty of the love of the Father and the Son is brought to you and reminded to you in your heart of how close that love is and how much more real that love is than anything else that we have.

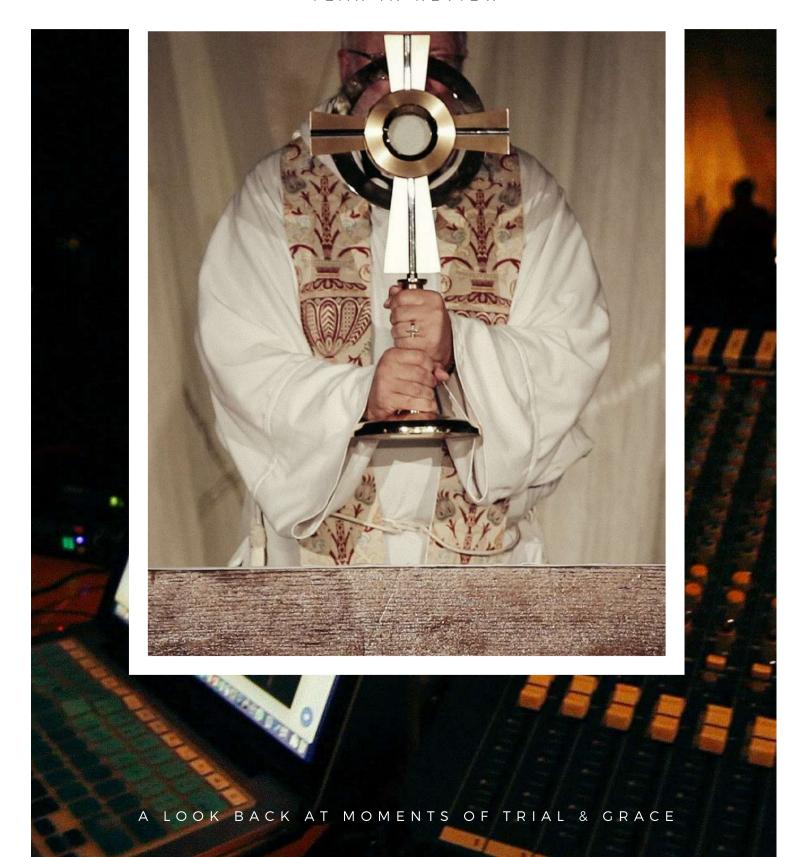
That realness of love is what we celebrate in Christmas. I hope and pray that that real true love is very present to you both in this song and in this season."

IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU CAN WATCH ALICIA & JOE'S <u>ADVENT</u>AND <u>CHRISTMAS SESSIONS ON YOUTUBE.</u>



2020

YEAR IN REVIEW





REVIEW INDEX

"THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US: WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY"

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Although 2020 was full of many changes and challenges, the Lord still was able to do a lot in our body and we have much to be grateful for. Take a look back on some of the sharings and events that happened in 2020 and be encouraged by all that the Lord has said and done this past year!

If you have any glory stories from 2020, please feel free to share with us by contacting Maeve at maevebuganski@peopleofhope.net

JESUS AT THE HEART OF THE VIRUS

AN ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A NURSE WORKING WITH COVID-19 PATIENTS



WRITTEN BY JANE APUZZO

I am a hospice nurse at Morristown Medical Center, so in March when the pandemic was really starting to pick up I was asked if I would be willing to work on a covid unit, and I'm going to share a bit about this experience. This new unit was intended for patients who, for the most part, were not going to survive. My initial thought was to very quickly decline, but I soon felt the Lord leading me to accept this new challenge. So I said yes, during a time when great stress and anxiety was gripping everyone at the hospital as we all tried to wrap our heads around what would be our new norm.

Very quickly, nurses and doctors from all parts of Atlantic Health were thrown into these units with very little training, to help patients with a disease we knew very little about. Units were converted overnight to negative pressure rooms to try to protect the staff from this deadly disease and somehow, in the midst of it all, I felt a great peace in my heart about the decision.

Stepping onto our new unit with a group of staff members who mostly did not know each other would normally be a quite stressful experience, but every day as I worked on that floor I found myself feeling grateful for the amazing group of nurses we had, and the group only continued to amaze me each day after. We all really enjoyed getting to know each other and the great comradery that was built really made what we did a little bit easier.

"I believe
that the Lord
would never
leave these
patients to
suffer alone,
but would
stay at their
bedsides
holding their
hands to
glory".

One of the hardest parts of this experience was that these people who were dying did not get to have their families by their side. Staff did everything we could to ease our patients' suffering, but it only added to the stress. I found, however, that all the nurses truly cared about their patients and would often put their own health at risk to spend extra time in these rooms comforting and caring for their patients.

As a hospice nurse, I have seen many beautiful deaths where I know the Lord was present in these rooms.

One patient I had in the last year was a man in his 50's with cancer; he did not have any family here and very few visitors. The priest came every day to see him and give him communion, and during his last day on this earth as I was spending time with him, I noticed that between tremendous pain and suffering, he would have moments where his face started beaming as he looked up. I know he was seeing the Lord right

there in that room! After his death I was speaking with the priest who visited him daily, and he told me that he asked this man how he was doing one day, to which he response was, "the nights get very lonely, but Jesus comes and sits with me." That phrase often came back to me when I felt sadness that our patients had to be alone, and I believe that the Lord would never leave these patients to suffer alone, but would stay at their bedsides holding their hands to glory.

I believe the Lord is working in many different areas of each of our lives through this trial, and we may never know all the good that has come from this tragedy. I ask you to continue to pray for all the healthcare workers, as I know many doctors and nurses have and will experience some form of post traumatic stress from the things they saw and experienced. Thank you for all the prayers, I know I have drawn great grace and strength from them. Stay well!

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

THOUGHTS ON THE REMOTE CHURCH EXPERIENCE

INTERVIEW WITH PETE TOMASELLO

Q: WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT PHYSICALLY ATTENDING MASS?

A: We miss receiving Jesus' body, blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. Also, every Sunday, we would attend the same mass as my parents and have brunch at their house afterwards. We really miss this family time.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING TO HELP MAINTAIN YOUR FAITH LIFE ON SUNDAYS? HAS THERE BEEN ANY TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED WITH THAT?

A: We use technology to attend our home parish (Little Flower) mass every Sunday. It is so nice to see a familiar setting and familiar faces. Besides the normal homily, our pastor, Father Andy, sends a video with a message every Sunday that warms our hearts. It usually contains "spiritual homework" for the upcoming week.

We've been hosting and attending regular virtual Lord's Days since the quarantine began. We start with the prayers, break for dinner, and come back on for fellowship and entertainment after dinner. It has been an amazing way to use technology to stay connected



Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PRAY FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION? WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE WITH PRAYING FOR IT?

A: We feel that God has provided the grace that has been needed for every moment and every challenge. We've had our breakdown moments like everyone else, but they end on our knees which is where we should have been to begin with. We can only describe this grace as sacramental grace, even with the absence of the physical sacraments. God yearns to be near us more than we could ever yearn to be near Him and so he is breaking the boundaries of time and space to be present in our lives.

"GOD YEARNS TO BE NEAR US MORE THAN WE COULD EVER YEARN TO BE NEAR HIM"



The Tomasello family getting ready for Mass at home

Q: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AFTER THIS "SELF-ISOLATION" ENDS?

A: Going to mass and confession for starters. Then, hiring a baby sitter and going on date night without the kids! Maybe we could combine both into one date. We also would like to stay at a beach house with the kids for a few days.

Special Thanks

TO OUR RETREAT MUSIC TEAMS

Our music teams helped us to enter into praise and worship together, both in-person and virtually, throughout the weekend. We are so grateful to you for supporting our 24 hour Adoration of the Lord in the Eucharist!

Below is the list of music teams who served us so well throughout the weekend.

Joe Buganski Thomas Murphy Greg P Floyd Alicia Montemurno Jon Touhill Mike Waraksa Sue Minogue Joy Touhill

Jim Minogue Chris D'amato Michael Minogue Gwyneth Buganski

AND TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO MADE OUR 2020 FALL RETREAT POSSIBLE

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

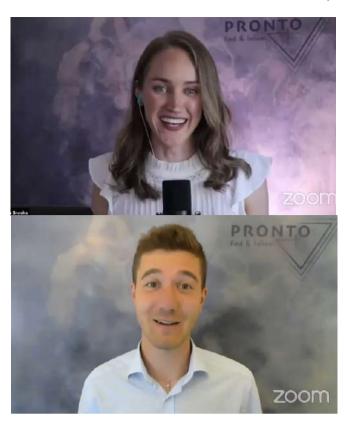
Fr. John Gordon Donna Guido Dave Touhill Marty Buganski Joe McMullen Tim Margiotta Maeve Buganski Laura Allen The Music Teams Koinonia Academy

To revisit our People of Hope home retreat experience "UNITED IN PRAYER" and to read or watch our home reflections, go to www.peopleofhope.net/homeretreat

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF PRONTO 2020 Clare Holmes

Pronto 2020 brought together thousands of young professionals from across the globe

to join in a unified two-hour virtual conference. Delivered in real time, the conference spanned 12 different time zones and drew close to two thousand participants from Sword of the Spirit communities around the world. The content of the conference included live praise and worship, interactive icebreakers, small group discussions, and an exhortation delivered by none other than Anton Colella. Through his talk, Anton effectively inspired us to seek freedom from fear and in that freedom allow the Lord to continually guide our paths in whatever stage of life we are in.



Pronto was emceed by our very own Michela Brooks here in New Jersey and Daniel Dunkl in Vienna

Being able to connect with other young professionals from across the world including my own home community in Glasgow while actively living and serving with the People of Hope in New Jersey rekindled in me the mission and vision of the Sword of the Spirit. One of the most striking ways this happened for me was during our times of praise and worship. Knowing that two thousand people from across the world were unified in charismatic praise and worship reminded me that although we are separated by time and dispersed throughout the world, we are unified through Christ and it is for him and in him that we do all things. It felt like the doors of the upper room were being flung open for us to claim freedom from fear and to go forth boldly into the world knowing we are supported by brothers and sisters all over the world. It is clear that this is just the beginning, that the Lord has reignited the flame, and He is calling us onward and upward.



Anton Colella exhorted the group of over 2000 young professionals from his home in Scotland



The worship team from Lebanon lead the group in praise & worship in multiple languages

AUGUST 6-8 2020

IGNITE SUMMER EVENTS

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS
HELD AT KOINONIA ACADEMY RUN BY IGNITE YOUTH
MINISTRY

Like most events these days, Camp Hope was cancelled this year due to Covid-19. The Camp team still had a deep desire to put on some type of event for our youth. With the help of incredible volunteers, teens and adults alike, we were able to host three awesome events for our elementary, middle & high school youth right at Koinonia Academy under a huge tent. Although we could not make it out to the beautiful rolling hills in Tunkhannock, PA, we were so grateful to have a mini camp experience with the 100 youth who attended.

WATCH THIS YEAR'S VIDEO HERE

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS AT CAMP HOPE,
CLICK HERE

ELEMENTARY

ELEMENTARY CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

Q: What was your favorite part of the event for you? Why?

A: I really enjoyed all the games and activities, but my favorite part was being able to see all my friends, go to Confession, and spend time in Adoration.

Q: What was the talk/witness about & what was one thing you took away from it?

A: Mr. Paul Scarfone was talking about Friendship. One thing I took away from the talk is that you can pick your friends. You don't need a lot of friends, you just need to surround yourself with 4 to 5 good friends who will have a good influence on you. You might keep these friends for the rest of your life!

Q: Even though we had to wear masks & social distance all day, what was one thing you are grateful for because of this event?

A: Even though the Ignite Day wasn't the same as Camp Hope, I think all of the leaders did a really good job putting Camp Hope into the few hours we had. I am really grateful for the opportunity to go to Confession and experience faith and friendship like I do at Camp Hope! - 5th Grade Boy













MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOLER'S PERSPECTIVE

When I first heard camp was not happening I was really disappointed. When my mom told me that there was going to be a camp day I was not really looking forward to it because I knew it was not going to be the same. But, it actually was really fun and I had a great time. They made it a safe and enjoyable environment. My favorite part of the camp day was getting to talk about things that are hard during this time but what makes them a little more bearable. The talk for the girls was about having a strong relationship with the Lord and the different ways he can work in your life. One thing I took away from this was that even when you're going through a rough or a good time God is there working in all different ways but you might not realize right away. Even though we had to be safe I was grateful to see my friends and get to have confession and adoration because I have not been in a long time. Even though it was not the same as Camp, I had an amazing time. - 7th grade girl





HIGH SCHOL

HIGH SCHOOLER'S PERSPECTIVE

My overall experience at the Youthfest was amazing! It was a great way to revamp, and get back on track with my prayer life, and God. My favorite part of the event was definitely adoration. It was such a peaceful time, and we had an amazing music ministry to lead us in that time of prayer. During the event we were given 3 talks: Sofia Margiotta gave the first talk, which was on trusting God and believing that he has a better plan than any plan we have in mind. She also talked about how trusting God, and giving our lives fully to Him can be "scary business", but there's nothing to be afraid of when you put everything in His hands. The second talk was given by Katy Robles. She talked about how God doesn't see us as how popular you are, or how many likes you get on Instagram, or any of the outside world things, or what we look like, but he see us as who we are on the inside, and how we treat others. The third talk was by Ed Moccia, which was on taking that extra step and falling into God's hands, and trusting in Him. He talked about how he took his children to go cliff jumping, and to get into the water you had to take that step off the cliff, and that's kinda like our lives: we need to be able to take the step off the cliff, and let God catch us and He will lead us to amazing things. Personally I thought the day went really well, and I am super grateful I was able to see my friends. They had priests there for most of the day to hear confessions which was also a huge blessing. - Sophomore girl













PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK

IMMEDIATE NEED

- · Paul Giegerich
- Jackie Donnelley
- Don Campbell
- Tom Cvelich
- Lou Cirrotti
- Rose Molnar

SERIOUS & ONGOING

- Rita (Buganski) Arena
- Eleanor Benson
- Dick Birmingham
- Margaret Fierro
- Laura Greey
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone

AROUND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- Steve Clark Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Peter Smith Triumph of the Cross, MD

Please visit our website <u>peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions</u> to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

2020 PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

PRIESTS

We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Joseph Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop Emeritus John Myers, our liaison Fr. Mariusz Koch, our local pastors, as well as all priests associate members of the community. We also pray for Msgr. Bob Oliver, the secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and Fr. John Gordon, Vicar of Pastoral Life and Coordinator of the Office for Evangelization in the Newark Archdiocese.

"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude"

PHIL. 4:6

HEALTH CARE

HEROES

Let's continue to thank and keep in our prayers the following brothers and sisters in the People of Hope, family and friends, who are on the front lines caring for those most in need during this pandemic.

Please visit our website <u>peopleofhope.net/healthheroes</u> to see the complete list of all medical and emergency personnel we are keeping in our prayers or you would like to add someone to our list of intentions.

- Jane Apuzzo
- Marianne Benson
- Anne Cantine
- Dr. Joe Clemente
- Kathy McCabe
- Daria Moccia
- Mary Kathleen Molnar
- Kate Nordstrom
- Charlie Pepper
- Arlene Peregrin

Heavenly Father, we place in your protective hands all these healthcare workers and their families during this time. Bless their work, the patients they care for, and all affected by this virus. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT REGIONAL PRAYER MEETING

Sunday, February 7th, 4:00 PM Virtual - details to come

DISTRICT EVENT WEEKEND

February 19-21 Details to come

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

March 5-7th More details to come

IGNITE

TEAM MEETING

Thursday, February 25 Not Meeting for the Teens

IGNITE NIGHT

Thursday, March 4 8:00-9:30 PM Koinonia Academy

SMALL GROUPS

Thursday, March 11 8:00-9:30 PM Koinonia Academy

COMPASS

TEACHING NIGHT

Tuesday, February 2 7:30-9:30pm Location Details TBA

SMALL GROUPS

Tuesday, February 16 7:30-9:30pm Location Details TBA

TEACHING NIGHT

Tuesday, March 2 7:30-9:30pm Location Details TBA

IGNITE MIDDLE

FEBUAURY

Thursday, February 25 7:30-9:00 PM Koinonia Academy

MARCH

Thursday, March 25 7:30-9:00 PM Koinonia Academy



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