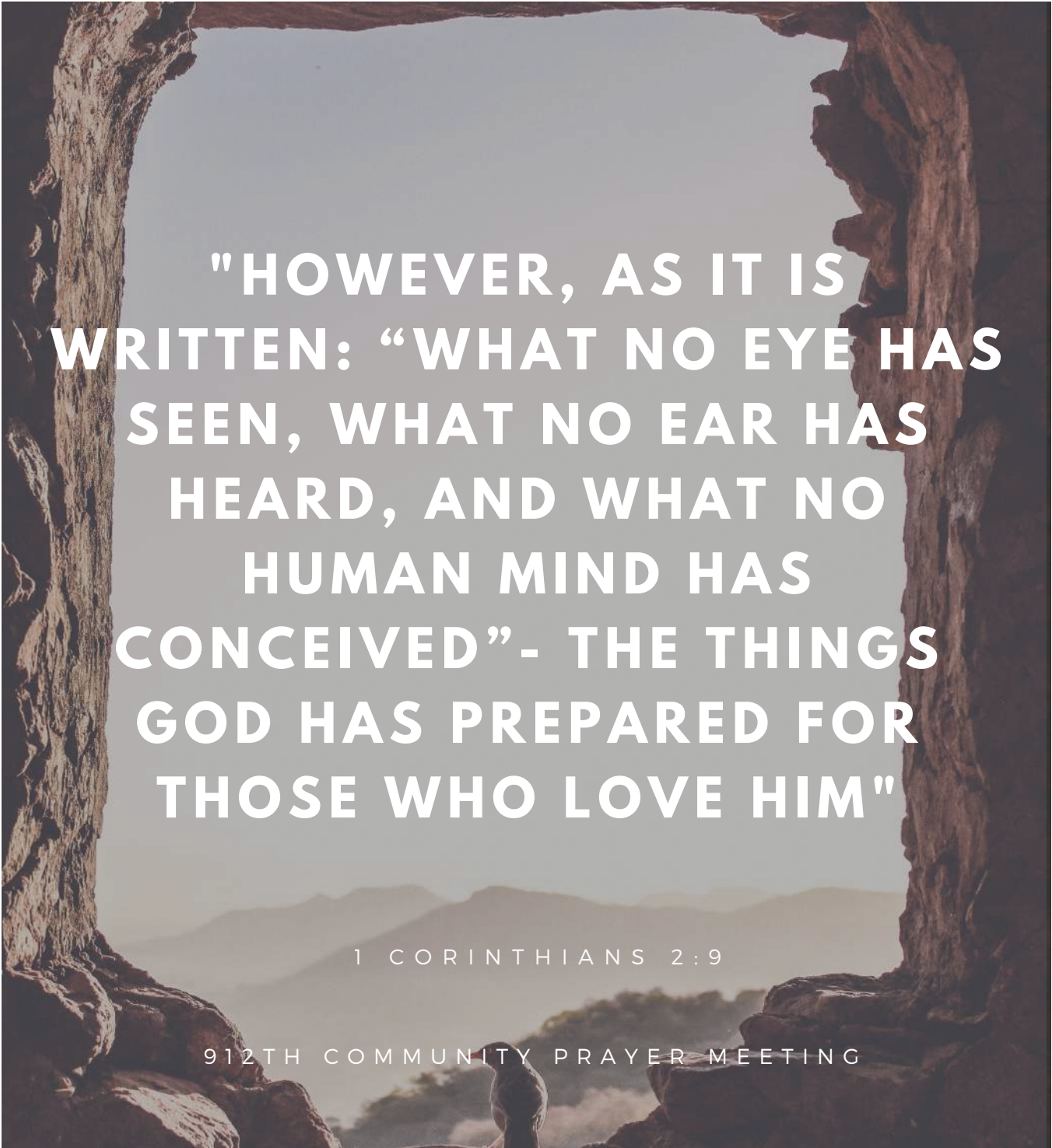


JESUS IS LORD!

PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



"HOWEVER, AS IT IS
WRITTEN: "WHAT NO EYE HAS
SEEN, WHAT NO EAR HAS
HEARD, AND WHAT NO
HUMAN MIND HAS
CONCEIVED"- THE THINGS
GOD HAS PREPARED FOR
THOSE WHO LOVE HIM"

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

912TH COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2023



"But, seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well"

M A T T 6 : 3 3

I AM BY YOUR SIDE

My dear People of Hope, what is it that you are worried about? What is it that makes you anxious or fearful? Today, I desire to give you a grace of a deeper resolve. To put me first in everything. I grace you to confirm your will, to transform your mind, and to surrender your heart to seek me first in everything. Especially the things that worry and concern you. In your cares and your questions, your trials, the things that can make you anxious, seek me first. Why? Because I am already there. I am already by your side. I tell you, do not be anxious and do not worry. I love you, my People of Hope.

(Ref Matt 6)

VICTORY THROUGH PRAYER

The Lord proclaims victory to you, my People of Hope. Know the truth of the battle. The heavenly hosts are growing as souls complete their purification. Among them are some who have come from your numbers. They are now with the Lord interceding for all of you. Although you experience a difficult battle on earth, know that great victories are happening in my kingdom as a result of their prayers and yours. Never stop praying for souls. What you can not see is greater than what you can see.

BRING MY LOVE AND MERCY TO OTHERS

See what love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God. And so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him." My children, the love of the Father has been poured into your hearts and you have felt and known his love. But there are so many that have never heard of the love of the Father or a God who loves them as a father. They are lonely, afraid and confused. Will you bring the love of the Father to them? Ask me each day to use you to bring the love and the mercy of the Father to whomever I send you

(Ref 1 John 3)

**Prophecies from Community Prayer Meeting
November 6, 2022**

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

We just heard the passage from Galatians - 'But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law.' I feel the Lord would tell us 'The fullness of time for many of your prayer petitions, concerns, desires of your heart, the fullness of time for them is coming. It's coming in the days and months of this coming year of 2023. It will be the fullness of time for those prayers to be heard and answered. So I tell you, be alert, keep your eyes open, keep your eyes on me, be expectant because you will be hearing in this fullness of time answers to many of those deep, heartfelt desires and prayers you have been uttering, maybe for even years.

I GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF SACRIFICE

Come close to me, closer so I can embrace you. Do you get tired of me telling you how much I love you?. Well, I love you and I want to give you a gift. The gift that I wish to give you and your children is a gift that will give you great joy this year. It will give you great peace and bear great fruit in your lives. The gift I wish to give you will bring you closer to me so you can become more like me. The gift that I give you is sacrifice, self-denial and service to others. Service especially to those close to you. With this gift, you will be my People of Hope and my people of sacrifice and I will pour blessing and blessing and blessing on you, your community, your families and your church. I will bless you because I love you and I embrace you

SEEK MY WILL

You are my heirs. And with that, comes the blessing of spending all of eternity with me. But there is also responsibility that comes with being an heir. Part of that responsibility is to come to me every day in prayer. To thank me, to praise me and to seek my will. To seek my will for your life and my will for your family. To seek my will for that day. And as you seek my will, be open to laying down old gifts and receiving new gifts that I may wish to give you. Gifts than can be used to bring others to me that they too may become my heirs

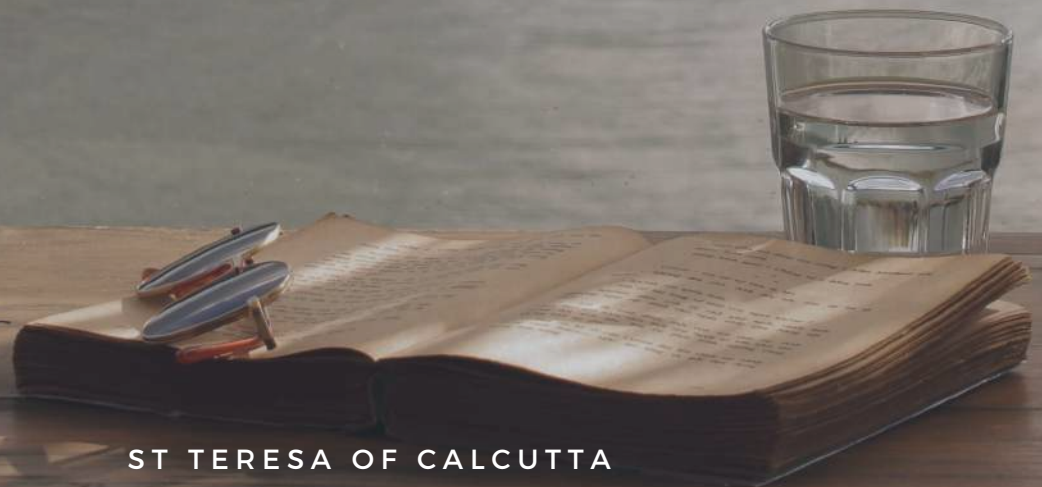
RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fruitful virginity and consecrated maternity, what unexpected graces and surprising beauty were poured out upon my mother. She is a masterpiece of the Holy Spirit. And I tell you that I have unexpected graces and surprising beauty for each of you. Turn to my mother, for she knows how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and receive the beauty and the graces that I have for you. Unexpected and surprising, they're there. Turn to Mary, follow her example, receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Prophecies from Mary Mother of God Mass
December 31, 2022**

THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

Do not let the past
disturb you— just
leave everything in
the Sacred Heart,
and begin again
with joy.



ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA

"MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE
NATIONALLY AND ESPECIALLY IN
OUR STATE TO SUPPORT WOMEN
AND FAMILIES"



NOW MORE THAN EVER: A PRO-LIFE RESPONSE TO 2023

BY HELEN O'MULLAN

There is much good news and as well as great challenges in the Pro-Life world. As a result, parish Life Ministries' participation is growing, thank God! We need every pro-lifer to get engaged.

This January was the 50th Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, (thankfully overturned by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022). Let us pray for the healing of individuals, our nation, and our culture from the devastating effects of the legal abortion of over 63 million babies. May our leaders, our culture and each one of us be converted to the reverence and protection of every human life created in God's image from conception to natural death. Much work remains to be done, nationally and especially in our State, to support women and families so that abortion may be unnecessary and unthinkable. Will we choose to fast and pray for this critical intention?

You are welcome to join us at a [weekly Holy Hour on Thursdays 7:30 to 8:30pm at St Vincent DePaul Church](#) to pray for our country, for LIFE and for healing of the wounds of abortion. OR, perhaps begin a weekly Holy Hour in your parish.

Want to keep abreast of Pro-Life News? Here's a list from Helen: LifeSiteNews online is a great daily resource; also EWTN Nightly News, NJRTL (NJ Right to Life), NJ Catholic Conference and USCCB Pro-life, &/or your favorite pro-Life organization are good sources. Be sure to have on hand the Pro-Life Resources for pregnancy, abortion pill reversal, post-abortion healing, etc that you might recommend if the need arises. Parishes and dioceses should have these available.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBCenter.org) has a hotline for ethical life decisions 24/7. 215-877-2660

LOCAL PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

WOMEN'S DIGNITY

In the aftermath of the historic Supreme Court Dobbs Decision, some rallies rejoiced in the good news of pro-life progress. Other rallies revealed the venom of so many women who chanted, "My body, my choice". Clearly, many women, wounded by abortion either directly or in our culture's mindset, do not value their own God-given dignity.

Esther VanBuskirk recently spoke at a Communion Breakfast on the true beauty of God's intention in creating women. She begins a [discussion series on the Dignity and Vocation of Women](#) at St. Vincent's on Thursday afternoons in February 1:00 to 2:30.

Call Esther's cell to sign up. On the Feast of the Annunciation, Saturday, March 25 Carol Cirrotti will address a [Women's Morning of Reflection](#) on how Jesus unveils human dignity.

New Jersey's Rally for Life in Trenton is planned for June 24th, the Dobbs anniversary, which is also the Feast of St John the Baptist.

INSPIRE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Have you heard of Inspire Family Life Center in Warren? Recently founded to "help mothers love life...help families live life", they offer free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and counseling, resources, material and caring support, adoption referrals, and education on parenting & life skills. They are amazing, Christian and local!

Located at 51 Mount Bethel Rd in the Arch Plaza, 24/7 support @ 908-615-9008, www.inspirefamilylifecenter.com Visits, volunteers & donations welcome.

NEW JERSEY NEWS

Here in New Jersey, touted as a destination state for abortion, legislation and executive orders are increasing abortion access. Yes, we must pray, fast, and work to elect and hold our leaders accountable. We must also act to increase our support of pro-life pregnancy centers and other social support for mothers, babies and families in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you can join your parish Respect Life ministry or volunteer at a pregnancy center, or join 40 Days for Life prayer vigil campaigns (beginning again February 22 to April 5). A wonderful Lenten commitment!

Follow our link to learn more about [Life Ministries at St Vincent de Paul Parish in Stirling, NJ](#)

This article is the continuation of a new bulletin series which will seek to highlight the many ministries and communities around the world which we are blessed to call friends.

PLEASE KEEP
THE ST VINCENT
DE PAUL LIFE
MINISTRY, THE
INSPIRE FAMILY
LIFE CENTER,
AND THE
PROTECTION OF
ALL HUMAN LIFE
IN YOUR
PRAYERS

"TREMENDOUS"

A REFLECTION ON THE MARGIOTTA DISTRICT'S JOINT PRAYER MEETING WITH PETROS, COMPASS, AND ST PAUL'S OUTREACH, NJ

BY JUSTIN ANDERSON

A little while ago some 40's and under friends and I were talking, and the topic of the recent district Dec. 11th prayer meeting came up. When asked what I had thought, I replied "It was tremendous." Some time later, I was asked to expand on what I had meant. However, after a moment's reflection, I realized I had a problem: while I was sure it was tremendous, I wasn't sure I could say why! Nevertheless, I will do my best to share what I came up with.



First, upon reflection, I realized that the prayer meeting wasn't "tremendous" because everything went off without a hitch. After all, one of our children refused to go to childcare, and a particularly tall gentleman partially blocked my view of the screen with the lyrics to the songs. (Yes, I am a screen reader.) And even though the leaders, music, and childcare were all good, and even though everyone laughed when Dave Touhill, with his uncanny comic timing, opened his comments by declaring himself "a freshman at Rutgers," I have to admit that for me none of these elements was what made the time together so remarkable. So, what was it? I continued to ponder, and eventually something emerged.

"THE REASON I HAD FOUND THE DEC. 11TH PRAYER MEETING 'TREMENDOUS' WAS BECAUSE AT IT I SAW A BIT MORE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH"

I think what made Dec. 11th tremendous for me starts with the fact that it was a unique gathering of various “groups” present in the Church in New Jersey. At the gathering was not only the Margiotta District, but also the Petros Community, Compass, and SPO missionaries from both Rutgers and Seton Hall. For me, this did not come with a sense of having those “extra people at our district gathering.” Rather, there was a sense of an “all-together-ness,” a unity.

" THIS DID NOT COME WITH A SENSE OF
HAVING THOSE 'EXTRA PEOPLE' ...
THERE WAS A SENSE OF
' ALL - TOGETHERNESS , ' A UNITY "

Moreover, for me this experience was accentuated by tangibly profound moments. One such moment occurred when a young man (by which I naturally mean “a man younger than me”) stood up and offered a striking reflection on what he does for a living. He recounted how being a photographer he is in a privileged place to capture the sacred silent moment that lies between a bishop’s greeting and the recipient’s response. As I listened to this man’s description of his work, it struck me that he had found God hidden in his daily life. It made me want to see deeper into my own daily experiences, to find God there again.

As I recalled all of these things about Dec 11th, it was at this point that something emerged. I knew in a flash I had the words. The reason I had found the Dec. 11th prayer meeting “tremendous” was because at it I saw a bit more of the Body of Christ, the Church. And when we encounter the Church alive, the living, breathing Mystical Body of Christ, we get to encounter its Head, Christ Himself. And Christ is always tremendous.



LEARN MORE ABOUT:

Compass Young Adults

www.peopleofhope.net/compass

Petros New Jersey

www.stpeternewbrunswick.org

[/young-adults](#)

St Paul's Outreach

www.spo.org/northeast

“The joy promised by the Beatitudes is the very joy of Jesus himself: a joy sought and found in obedience to the Father, and in the gift of self to others.”

COMMUNITY - W I D E LORD'S DAYS

BY BOB FILORAMO

One of the recent rich blessings in our life together has been Community Lord's Days, mixing old and young, familiar and new faces. We were hosted by two couples, each with large families. It was so encouraging to experience an evening with children who eagerly participated in the [Lord's Day prayers](#), thanking the Lord with some spiritually mature words of gratitude. Moreover, these children were obviously no strangers to service, pitching in, following their parents' directions. That these couples were willing to host "whoever signed up" speaks volumes about their commitment to our covenant.



As we offered our own thanks to the Lord these two nights, I shared what Lord's Days together have meant to us and the life of our community. For year after year, week after week, families got together, shared life and a meal, often with home-baked aromatic challah bread. In many ways Lord's Days together helped build the community as networks of relationships were formed and ultimately strengthened, getting us through challenge after challenge.

As Eileen and I have grown older, "invitations out" have been fewer; our own ability to regularly host Lord's Days has been quite limited. However, we joyfully celebrate the Lord's Day alone every week, knowing how essential it is in living out our covenant. So, to find ourselves "invited out" twice to share a Lord's Day meal with folks we might otherwise never have spent time with, to be among young, vibrant children whose faith is obvious and genuine has been an unexpected grace for us and a source of renewed hope for the on-going life of The People of Hope. We look forward to more "invitations out".

COMPASS

RETREAT TESTIMONIALS



The weekend of November 18-20th, around 50 young adults came together for the annual Compass Fall Retreat. As a light snowfall fell as retreat attendees arrived for check-in, they were greeted with a roaring fire in the main space to keep the room warm as the retreat began. The retreat took place at Camp Shiloh in Hewitt, NJ for the second year in a row. Camp Shiloh provided an inviting, warm and peaceful environment - perfect for a retreat weekend away.



The retreat's focus was on the Beatitudes. Over the course of the weekend, the group heard five talks, an opening talk Friday night giving an introduction and overview of the Beatitudes and the four to follow zoomed in on four of the eight beatitudes. The talks were impactful and all posed questions to ponder and pray through. There were also powerful and prayerful times of worship, small groups & personal prayer as well as time for people to socialize and get to know one another. Overall, it was a very blessed weekend and the Lord worked in power.



READ ON FOR TWO SHARINGS FROM COMPASS MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE RETREAT.



The Compass retreat this year was a welcome respite. In the months leading up to it I had been experiencing a feeling of apathy towards my faith and the practice of it. I was very involved with SPO and had really pursued my faith in college and now I was home living with my parents working a job that felt like a dead end. I continued to pray but I think that in some way I had grown to believe that the Lord had stopped listening. I found myself unfocused in mass and just waiting for it to be over. I had absolutely no desire to go on this retreat. None whatsoever. I was concerned about the lack of sleep and how useless I was going to be at work on Monday but more than that I didn't want to go because I was certain nothing was going to happen. Nothing had happened in a long time, why would this one weekend in November be any different. I was dragging my feet about going and was very nearly late to the start of it.

The first talk of the retreat was the one that stood out the most to me. The talk was given by Joe Buganski and was about mercy. The part that stood out to me most prominently

was something along the lines of we can't give mercy to others if we aren't merciful with ourselves. I was floored when I heard this. For a year and a half, I had been beating myself up feeling as though I was less because I wasn't where I thought I should be. I remember sitting and reflecting on that for the remainder of the weekend just wondering how I could change this?

Since the retreat I have felt a deep sense of peace and calm. It was as though my general apathy had been replaced with a serene feeling. In the weeks since this feeling has not diminished significantly and has flowed into other areas of my life. I don't feel dejected and indifferent anymore, I don't feel as though I have failed at what it is I should be doing. I suppose the biggest thing that I took away from the retreat was a lasting feeling of peace and cheer.

STEVE, COMPASS MEMBER

It's been a while since I fully entered into a weekend, being able to be both physically and mentally present, yet I was able to achieve this at this year's Compass Retreat. I managed to sign up and get there which, though seemingly simple, was something I wasn't able to bring myself to do last year, so that felt like a huge accomplishment to me. The ability to be completely mentally present feels impossible to me- to have no distractions, no brain fog, and no dissociating - yet God made it happen. I cannot begin to explain how freeing that weekend was.

I got to run in the snow with my new friends in complete full-bodied laughter. I praised and worshiped with a vigor I haven't experienced in so long. The talks have prompted me to take stock of my own heart and assess what it is I cherish. Do I see God in my joys and in my struggles? Am I opening my eyes to his workings around me, in other people, and in my own life? Am I treating myself the way God would- with mercy and with grace? Do I view myself and my life the way God does? Am I striving to live out the beatitudes and attain holiness? Do I really want to get heaven?



There was so much to take away from the weekend, but the part that sticks with me the most was how it felt to be there. To be a part of a people and not feel alone. A lot of the truths that I had been struggling with recently were clearly experienced that weekend. It went beyond simple fellowship; the only word that I can grasp to convey how I felt is "kindred". It felt like family, which was not how I had viewed Compass before. It's just occurring to me now, as I sit here writing this, that God may want me to start making that shift. To start viewing the members of Compass as more than just my friends and allow them to be my family.

So, there was a lot to unpack and, clearly, I still am. The taste of true freedom from that weekend is one that I hope to remember and call upon when I need it. Living out the beatitudes isn't easy nor is it passive. We are called to a life of action, one that requires us to pray and call on God as it is not possible to do alone. He gave us Himself and He gave us our families, those both given and chosen, so that we may always have someone by our side. I pray that we remember this today, and every day, as we strive for a deeper relationship with Him. Amen.



HALIE, COMPASS MEMBER

IMMEDIATE NEED

- MaryAnn Paster
- Jackie Donnelley
- Lou Cirrotti
- Edwarda Harmon
- Jack Bickel

**SERIOUS &
ONGOING**

- Rita (Buganski) Arena
- Eleanor Benson
- Margaret Fierro
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone
- Rose Molnar
- Dan O'Mullan
- Carol Ann McCarthy

**AROUND THE SWORD
OF THE SPIRIT**

- Steve Clark - Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Mike Shaughnessy - Servants of the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Jerry Munk - Work of Christ, Lansing, MI

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

2023 PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

YOUTH

May our children and grandchildren be deeply converted to you Lord Jesus. From birth to maturity, protect them, Lord. May we equip and train them to engage this culture, to transform it, and not be negatively influenced by it. Help them respond as you call them to the married vocation and to priesthood and religious life, especially with the communities that work in our life and mission, including the Brotherhood of Hope and the Servants of the Word. We pray for more young men and women to work and witness to our youth of the love and joy and the exciting journey they are experiencing in living for Christ. We pray for our family members who have left the faith. Bring them back Lord Jesus. We pray in a particular way for Koinonia Academy, the Ignite Youth Program and Camp Hope

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

With Heartfelt Gratitude

My letter here is to express my deep gratitude to the Lord for the privilege of having served in leadership within the People of Hope. Serving with the coordinators for 10+ years and many of you brothers and sisters over the last 40 years, has blessed me richly with growth in faith, love and joy. Looking back at what God accomplished and what he did through me I find incredibly humbling.

Much of my service time was spent at Camp Hope and in the development of the Ignite Youth Program along with Laura Greey. Serving our youth has been a pure joy and privilege.

Alicia and I thank you for your cards, honorings, prayers and words of love and encouragement which have brought us deep joy and gratitude and have especially sustained me during my recent health issues. Our focus these past months has been to intercede for all of you, your families, for our life in the People of Hope and all the key service needs as our life and mission expands.

With holy gratitude to the Lord Jesus and each of you,

Gary and Alicia Montemurno

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARGIOTTA DISTRICT ADORATION NIGHT

February 24th
8pm
Details TBA

ANCHOR PRAYER MEETING

Sunday, February 26th
11:30am
Koinonia Academy

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

March 18-19th
Details TBA



COMPASS

SMALL GROUPS

Tues Feb 28th
Locations & details coming
from small group leaders

908.222.9722

info@peopleofhope.net // www.peopleofhope.net
1040 Plainfield Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

 @thepeopleofhope  @peopleofhopenj



T H E P E O P L E O F H O P E
A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION