

Sisters and Brothers, our Lord has revealed His saving power!

5/09/2021

Covenant Life

- Happy Mother's Day to all our faithful, dedicated, loving mothers!!!
- We are excited to try something new this year in preparation for Pentecost: Mike and Sue Wagner will be hosting a *Community-wide* praying of the **Holy Spirit Novena** at 7pm starting Friday May 14th through Saturday May 22nd. Please join as often as you can, we expect the call to only last 10 minutes. The Novena text is [here](#), the zoom link is [here](#).
- Our next Gathering will be a special Prayer Meeting on Pentecost, Sunday May 23rd at 4pm. Please allow the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart for this special outpouring of His Spirit by participating in our **Let the Fire Fall Challenge**. Details are [here](#).
- After our Pentecost Gathering, we will have a small reception to honor Neil Coward for his lifetime of Community leadership service. If you are able consider bringing an individually wrapped appetizer or dessert to share.
- How are you doing on this week's **Challenge**? Laura's email asked us to start and end our day with praise and, more specifically, to begin our morning and evening prayer times by asking the Holy Spirit to bring four blessings to mind that we can thank and praise God for. Even if we have missed some days this week, this is a lifetime habit that will transform our perspective.
- I encourage study and reflection of the Word Gift from our recent Gatherings...the audio recordings are [here](#), the summaries are [here](#), and the transcripts are [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - We have powerful readings to reflect on today. The second reading ([1 Jn 4:7-10](#)) lays the foundation explaining to us that God is Love and His love is revealed in His Son Jesus. John exhorts us to love one another because He has loved us first. Love within a family is natural, but for me the witness of Community has been a witness that God calls us to love everyone. Growing up in God's Delight I witnessed so many people loving, serving, sacrificing for others. Love was poured out without question. The love within our Community appeared

stronger than what I saw members had with their traditional families. What was it that built these strong bonds of love?

What I observed was repeated selfless acts of love...so many people, not doing what was in their own self-interest but, dying to self by focusing on what others needed and loving them through selfless service. This is what Jesus asks of us in the Gospel today ([Jn 15:9-17](#)) ... to lay down our lives for one another and keep His commandments.

This has always been the blessing of the Community. It is not a place where we can be served but it is a place where we can serve. Community is a safe place where we can lay down our lives for one another and practice really living His Word. The closer one draws to Community the closer we will see His love poured out. But we cannot sit back and wait for *it* to happen. We must draw close to one another, in small groups, in bible studies, in pastoral care relationships, in service opportunities... Yes, it has been hard this past year to draw close, but this remains our ongoing challenge...to befriend Jesus by loving those He has called us into relationship with.

This is what drew me into a deeper relationship with Our Lord and what He continues to call us to as members of the Christian Community of God's Delight. We are to be His People, His Witnesses through our love for one another! When we respond, when we say yes to Him, we become part of His plan and His Spirit flows through us to accomplish the impossible. This is what Peter witnessed in the first reading ([Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48](#)). When we surrender and let Him, we will see His Holy Spirit descend and His Will be manifest. Miracles that will astound. This is what we are called to, to be His Delight, to lead as many as possible to experience the love of the Father, and into a personal relationship with Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit. Let us say Yes together today.

Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I repent for the many times I have not loved as You have called me to. I know You are love and call me to love. I ask for a special outpouring of Your Holy Spirit today so that I can love as You love. I recommit to remaining in You. I recommit to keeping Your commandments. I recommit to

loving those You have sent into my life especially my family and my covenant sisters and brothers. Astound me today with Your presence as I surrender every moment to You. I love You, I praise You, I am ever grateful and thankful for Your abundant love! Amen."

God bless,
David