

Covenant Life

- Adoration - To pray in the New Year we will gather on January 9th at 4pm in the MSMCS gym for a time of prayer, praise, and Adoration in place of our normal prayer meeting.
- Contributions for 2021 must be received by December 31st to be counted as 2021 donations, please contact me with questions or anything last-minute.
- If you have not already entered your 2022 Promise, you can do it [here](#) or contact Sue Wagner or reply to this email.
- Our plan is to continue Sunday in-person prayer meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for at least the first few months of 2022.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - Today is the Feast of the Holy Family and all the readings focus on being and living as family. It is rightly said that the family is the building block of society. Growing up in Community I experienced that. We studied God's word and adjusted our lives to conform to what is said about building strong families. This was true across all aspects of family life. We fanned out marriage enrichment and other programs to build strong marriages. We fanned out our version of Growing Kids God's Way to raise Godly children. We started a school to form our children in courageous virtue and equip them to be holy and successful in the world. We engaged in countless bible studies and small groups to support one another in the journey to live lives as holy, healthy, evangelistic families.

And what happened as a result? We grew together as an extended family. Yes, we became so close that many felt that we were closer to our Community sisters and brothers than we were to our flesh and blood siblings. And that was not a bad thing because, the stronger we became individually and as a Community we were able to give back, give to our families, our local churches, and serve those in need.

As I think back on our history as a Community, *family of families* might best describe who we are. God called us into a special relationship just as He called the

Israelites in the Old Testament. He called us together to journey to Him, to experience His great love, and give it away. No journey is easy...each has its own unique challenges. That is why we need each other.

We each need someone we can be vulnerable with. Someone that we can trust and that will just listen and respond in love. Not trying to fix us but just encourage us with God's eternal promises.

We each need a small family of those that will journey with us. We all have good days and bad days. We need a small group that we can turn to on bad days. We know that we do not have all the answers and that is why we need a small group that we can learn with and from...a small extended family who will not judge us but will learn with us. A small group that will call us on and be there when we need them.

Community is family and we build Community by being family to our covenant sisters and brothers. Community is built through these special relationships, both a pastoral care relationship of vulnerability and a small group where we can learn and laugh and support one another.

If you are not in Community relationships that are supporting your covenant life take a step today to call someone and do something about it. If you are not sure whom to call, call your Area Pastoral Coordinator (Chris Coxon, Tom Harman, or Mike Wagner) and ask them for help. We need each other. We need our Community family to be our Holy Family.

Let us pray "Heavenly Father, I turn to You as my Father and ask for Your help, today and every day, to live as Your child. I want to learn about You, I want to give my life more completely to You today, I want to be Your witness today. Thank You for bringing me into relationship with Community. Show me how to build the relationships that I need to sustain and grow my holy family. Give me the courage to reach out to others to love them, serve them, care for them for I know it is in doing that I will be the child You call me to. Amen"

God bless,

David