



LADIES OF HOPE

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOL. 2 NO. 1



Our Lady of Hope, pray for us!

Join our Adventure in Faith!

President's Message

Dear Ladies,

I hope you are enjoying these last days of summer.

In June, I asked for your help in building a leadership team for the Ladies of hope. Many of you graciously responded to the request and have taken on projects and events. Many thanks to Marsha Slick, Nancy Dion, Ginny Richards, Eileen Quigley Alner, Sharon Hohn, Pat Garman, Pam Skojec, Lily Santiago, Deborah Baird, Sandy Sly, Viviane Castaneda, Fran Black, Donna Bongiovanni, Christine Payne, Angelina Crew, and Margaret Gentges who attended the June planning meeting. For their efforts, I am eternally grateful. If you are interested in being part of the leadership team, let us know, as we still are in need of team members.

This October we will embark on a new adventure in our Catholic Faith with a program called **Endow**. The motto for this program is *Love the Learning, Build the Friendships, and Live the Faith*. **Endow** stands for Education of the Nature and Dignity of Women and begins with St. John Paul II's Letter to Women. In this amazing letter, he encourages each of us to embrace a "New Feminism" which recognizes what he calls the "genius of women" and responds to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence in every aspect of life. **Endow** provides women from all walks of life a way to explore what it means to be a Catholic woman today and to understand what a gift it is to be a feminine person created in God's image. *Please see page 5 for more information.*

As part of the **Endow** program, we hope to sponsor two retreats for young ladies: a middle school retreat called "Girl Genius" and a high school one called "True Beauty Revealed" in January. There will be more details to come.

I hope you will be able to join us on this adventure into our faith.

*Yours in Christ,
Marie*

LOH BOARD:

President:
Marie Kennedy

Vice President:
Marsha Slick

Treasurer:
Pat Garman

Secretary:
Christine Payne

Ex Officio:
Donna Bongiovanni
Viviane Castaneda
Angelina Crew
Trish Daquano
Cheryl Forbes
Sherry Grasson
Peggy Kearney
Barbara Principe
Nicole Sutter

Contact the Board at
olohladiesofhope@gmail.com

Confirmation Reception Request

-Donna Bongiovanni, Viv Castaneda, & Nancy Dion



On Friday, September 12, a large group of 9th grade students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation, the third sacrament of Initiation. As fellow parishioners, we join in congratulating the

Confirmandi as they take this significant step in their Catholic Faith formation.

Your kind support is needed to provide refreshments for a reception to honor the students and their families after the Mass that evening. We need help making cookies, setting up the hall, serving punch, and refreshing the food tables. A few hours of your time is all we ask. A request for volunteers has been sent out through *SignupGenius*. Thank you, in advance, for your generous help with this important parish event!

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

Our Lady of Hope Parish: <http://ourladyofhope.net/>
Arlington Diocesan Council of Catholic Women: <http://home.catholicweb.com/ADCCW/>

The Marian Tea Tradition at Our Lady of Hope

Oh, Mary, we crown thee...

-Trish Daquano

For a number of years, one of our members would daydream and pray that the Ladies of Hope would figure out a way to host a large tea party and crowning in honor of our Blessed Virgin Mary. Out of the blue one day, her prayers were answered, and the logistics became very clear. During the LOH Board's 2010-2011 summer planning meetings, the idea of a Marian Tea which would culminate with a May Crowning was presented, discussed and approved. Next, Peggy Kearney, who was President at this time, and Trish Daquano shared the idea with our Pastor, Fr. William Saunders, who was very happy and supportive about this endeavor.



The Board decided that May would be the best month to host this event, and a committee was formed. There were many eager hostesses for this first Marian Tea, and this spirit has continued every year since then. Ladies from ages 3 to 103 were invited to attend, dressed in their finest Sunday attire. Approximately 65 people attended our first Marian Tea and May Crowning which was held on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Our honored guests during the inaugural tea were Fr. Saunders, and Fr. Kevin Fimian, the Parochial Vicar.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has always been the theme of these teas – she is front and center. This year and every year, Fr. Saunders has given us permission to display the parish's large Blessed Mother and Baby Jesus statue on a large round table in front of the Parish Hall crucifix. This table is reverently decorated with the theme colors, and attendees are invited to bring flowers to fill vases surrounding the statue. While processing, the ladies are led in Marian songs and praise by Suzanne Yerks, pianist and OLOH Choir Director, and Sabine Morson, vocalist, while a lovely floral crown, made by Kathleen Strawhacker, is placed on Mary's head.

Each year a number of ladies graciously volunteer to host a table during the Marian Tea and transfer the Parish Hall into a pretty floral tea room. Tables are adorned with personal statues of Mary, linens in the year's colors—this year's were pink and green--and the hostess's tableware, all mirroring love and devotion to our Blessed Mother. (It is amazing how just "the right" table linen, floral design, dishes, and baskets just seem to show up at Mary Linzmeyer's home, and she shares them us!)



On every table are Marian programs, also designed by Kathleen Strawhacker, and prayer cards provided by the Legion of Mary and OLOH gift shop. For this year's Tea, each table also had a card describing one of the Marian parishes within the Diocese of Arlington. These pretty and descriptive cards were made by Deborah Baird, Lily Santiago, Marilyn Mahieu, and Kathleen Strawhacker.



No one leaves the Marian Tea being hungry! Many different types of delicious sandwiches, fresh veggies and fruit, cookies, pastries, and varieties of tea are served on beautifully decorated food and tea service tables. For the past two years, we have been so blessed to be able to use Della Drodgy's elegant German samovars to heat water for the tea.

Young ladies are also a vital part of the tea. Each year, these fine teens are recruited by Viviane Castaneda, who is an expert with the servers' brigade. What would we do without their assistance and energy? It is such a treat to chat with these sweet girls.

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The Marian Tea Tradition at Our Lady of Hope *cont.*



During the tea, time is carved out to allow hostesses to share why their special Marian statue is cherished, and these testimonies are moving. Listening to how Our Blessed Mother has interceded for so many of our sisters in Christ is touching and God sent.

A tea wouldn't be complete without door prizes, and this year we had a generous supply of donated items. Sherry Grasson, the parish Gift Shop Manager, selected appropriate religious books, and Donna Bongiovanni, an expert embroiderer, donated a framed picture of Blessed Mother Teresa that she crafted. Adorning the prize table were tea pots donated by Eileen Quigley. Laura Thompson surprised us with a hand-crocheted afghan and oil painting as a raffle prize. In past years, Angelina Crew and Viviane Castaneda have painted flower pots. This year, too, Birthright in Leesburg benefitted from the proceeds of the raffle. It is a joy to witness the artistry by our generous ladies and to know that each door prize goes to a loving home.



May 17, 2014, was the fourth annual Marian Tea with 104 ladies in attendance. Each year we welcome more guests with some tables having three generations of sisters in Christ! For some, it will become a yearly tradition as one of this year's hostesses, Pat Garman and her lovely granddaughter Brittany, would attest. Ladies look forward to attending each year because the May Crowning evokes fond memories of this event when they were young. Each of us, no doubt, enjoys this special opportunity to honor Our Blessed Mother in a relaxing afternoon of sharing fellowship, prayer, song, and bountiful fare.



The Marian Teas have been possible with Our Blessed Mother's intercession, Fr. Saunders' support and that of his staff, and the talent and time of numerous ladies. Only some of the volunteers' names are mentioned, but there are so many others, including men, who bring the Marian Tea to fruition each year. It is truly a labor of Marian love.



I hope and pray that it is God's will that what began as a one-time event will become yearly fixture for our parish. Perhaps you will join us in May 2015, for the fifth annual Marian Tea and May Crowning? I look forward to seeing you there!



Marian Tea 2014

Opportunities to Enrich Your Catholic Life

Happy 40th Birthday, Birthright!

-Mary Lynn Linzmeyer

In October, Birthright of Loudoun County will be celebrating their fortieth anniversary of assistance to mothers and little ones in Loudoun County and the surrounding area. The office in Leesburg has been in several locations over the past 40 years and is now located at 823 South King Street, Suite I. Birthright services are available to any woman with a problem stemming from pregnancy or complicated by it. Whatever the background or need, Birthright can help. No judgments are made, and all information is confidential. Birthright relies solely on the private donations of individuals, churches, and groups for its operation. Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church has been a regular and generous benefactor of the Birthright office since 2001.

In celebration of this milestone anniversary, two events sponsored by the Knights of Columbus are being planned at our own Our Lady of Hope parish. The first date is October 5, when we will be asking parishioners to take home empty plastic baby bottles to fill with change - or cash or checks - to benefit Birthright. And on October 25, we will have a fun-filled evening of Bingo for Birthright with all proceeds going to help the mothers and babies in need. OLOH is also planning a car wash fundraiser in the spring of 2015. This year, Birthright will be increasing its after school hours and its social media presence, and the support from these events will help further these needs of the Birthright office.



Please mark your calendars, too, for October 19, when Birthright will host a reception at St. John the Apostle Church in Leesburg from 4-6 pm. All former Birthright volunteers, friends of Birthright, and the public are invited to attend this event to meet the current volunteers, ask questions, enjoy fellowship, and see what has been accomplished by Birthright in your own backyard. Click on [Birthright](#) for more information. *We are always looking for new talent and volunteers!*



"I CAN DO THINGS
YOU CANNOT, YOU
CAN DO THINGS I
CANNOT; TOGETHER
WE CAN DO GREAT
THINGS."

-MOTHER TERESA

What can you do in 60 minutes?

-Marsha Slick

Our parish is blessed to have Adoration at our church every Thursday. The Ladies of Hope are pleased to be a part of this by filling the 3:00-4:00pm Holy Hour with members from our group. There is a need, both from The Ladies of Hope to fill this time slot and from Our Lord to meet with YOU. Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering on a Thursday afternoon. It can be every week, once a month or once a year. The benefits you get by being with the Lord will make the other hours in your day, week, and year more fruitful. The long and short of it is: We need YOU and YOU need HIM. How better to fill one hour?

Contact Mary Ann Gruber at gruber506@verizon.net (703-444-6565 H#) or Marsha Slick at chsmss2@live.com (H 703-433-0034) to sign up for the LOH Thursday Holy Hour.

Parish Service Partnership

-Tess Torres

Parish Service Partnership seeks to assist parishioners by providing services, lending a helping hand or a listening ear, and encouraging participation in ministries and activities. Services we hope to provide include warmly welcoming our newcomers to the parish and the neighborhood. We hope to provide rides to church or doctor appointments for those who cannot drive and visits with home-bound parishioners. We hope to provide meals to those families who are welcoming our tiniest parishioners home, facing unexpected emergencies such as hospital stays, difficult recoveries, or dealing with bereavement. If you know of a parishioner who could use assistance, is new to our church, or if you would like participate in any aspect of this rewarding ministry, please contact Tess Torres at (571) 278-5736 or psp@ourladyofhope.net.

Inspiration from St. John Paul II for Education and Fellowship



Education on the Nature and Dignity of Women

-Marie Kennedy

"Transforming the hearts and minds of women by inviting them into the joy, freedom, and dignity that come from living out their gift of authentic femininity in Christ."

Coming this October to our Parish, Endow is a Catholic educational program that brings together women to discover their God-given dignity and to understand their role in humanizing and transforming society. The first study will begin with St. John Paul II's words on feminism and the giftedness of women, "the feminine genius". We will meet for 5 or 6 weeks before Thanksgiving and 5-6 weeks after Christmas, and there is no homework. Childcare will be provided during the Wednesday morning study which will be from 9:15-10:45 am. There will be evening study groups (days and times yet to be determined).

To learn more about a study group based on St. John Paul II's "*Letter to Women*" at Our Lady of Hope Parish, please call Marie Kennedy at (703)433-0864 or e-mail: dken5854@aol.com May Our Blessed Mother intercede for us as we begin this exciting study!

Catholicism, Coffee, and Conversation at Trinity House Café

-Marsha Slick

I am so excited about a new Catholic Christian Café that is opening in Leesburg, and I want to share some information and opportunities with you.

The name of the café is **Trinity House Café** and is located at **101 E. Market St.** (at the corner with Church St. — how appropriate!) in Leesburg. The official opening is scheduled for late September. The project is the realization of a dream for Ever and Soren Johnson who founded the non-profit John Paul II Fellowship in 2006 in response to John Paul II's call for a new evangelization and his prophecy that the result would be a new springtime for the Church and humankind in the third millennium. The mission is to renew Catholic community and culture.

The Café will be open 7 days a week and will provide food, drinks, and fellowship. The ultimate goal is to have workshops, Bible studies, children's programs, a library, and gift shop in a safe, friendly, Catholic Christian environment. All will be welcome, but you will know it is Catholic! No preaching - just living examples of Christ's love for all. Please visit the website at trinityhousecafe.com for all the latest information.

Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering to help with this once in a lifetime chance to get involved in our community and spread the word of Christ. I ask that you pray about serving in this Catholic Fellowship. We need volunteers to make this work. Even if you can only help out once a month, it would be a blessing.

The idea is to have a "host" or "hostess" to greet people as they arrive at the front door. The first impression is so important, and we want everyone to feel at ease and welcome. As a volunteer, you may be asked to hand out calendars for events at the Café, show people around, answer questions about gifts/books for sale, or just be a friendly face to talk to. If you would be interested in helping in this area, please let me know. I am the volunteer coordinator for Trinity House Café, and you can contact me at chsmss2@live.com. How rewarding and fun this will be!

“NOT ALL ARE CALLED TO BE
ARTISTS IN THE SPECIFIC
SENSE OF THE TERM. YET, AS
GENESIS HAS IT, ALL MEN
AND WOMEN ARE ENTRUSTED
WITH THE TASK OF CRAFTING
THEIR OWN LIFE: IN A CERTAIN
SENSE, THEY ARE TO MAKE
OF IT A WORK OF ART,
A MASTERPIECE.”

— [POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II](#)

Ladies of Hope Calendar 2014-2015

September

- September 7 Donut Sunday (Marsha and Viviane)
 September 12 Confirmation Reception (Donna, Viviane, and Nancy)
 September 21 Commitment Sunday
 September 30 Meeting: Program by Marie and Angelina

October

- October 5 Donut Sunday (Lily and Deborah)
 October 5-31 Baby Bottle Coin Collection for Birthright
 October (TBD) Trip to Franciscan Monastery (Barbara and Nicole)
 October 25 Bingo for Birthright (Knights of Columbus)
 October 28 Meeting: Program by Marsha / Am. Heritage Girls & Girl Scouts for Operation Christmas Child (Nov 17-24)

November

- November 2 Donut Sunday (Pat and Pam)
 November 1/2, 8/9, 15/16 Thanksgiving Pie Sales (Christine)
 November 15 Parish Art Show
 November 17 Deliver Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (Marsha)
 November 18 Meeting: Birthright Presentation (Mary Lynn and Donna)
 November 24/25 Pie delivery and pick-up
 November 27 Thanksgiving

December

- December 6 Christmas Market: Book and Bake Sale
 December 7 Donut Sunday (Pat and Marie)
 December 25 Christmas

January

- January 4 Donut Sunday ***Two volunteers are needed for this Sunday!***
 January 19 March for Life
 January 27 Meeting: Program by Fran and Eileen

February

- February 1 Donut Sunday ***Two volunteers are needed for this Sunday!***
 February 7 Parish Marriage Vow Renewal
 February 14 Parish *Festa Italiana*
 February 18 Ash Wednesday
 February 21 Lenten Retreat (Lily and Deborah)
 February 27 Knights' Fish Fry

March

- March 19 St Joseph's Feast Day (Angelina)
 March 20 Knights' Fish Fry
 March 24 Meeting: Program by Nancy and Sharon

April

- April 5 Easter
 April 28 Meeting: Program by Pam, Sandy and Marsha

May

- May 3 Donut Sunday (Ginny) ***Volunteer is needed to help Ginny!***
 May 11 First Holy Communion (Viviane)
 May 18 Marian Tea (Donna, Mary Lynn, and Trish)

June

- June (TBD) End of Year Potluck
 June 14 Parish Picnic

Please Stay in Touch...

If you know of a member who has not received a copy of our newsletter, please send a note on her behalf to the Ladies of Hope at ohladiesofhope@gmail.com Please put "Add a name" in the subject line. *We don't want to miss anyone!*