



President's Christmas Message

Gregory Mills
CDM President of the Board

Keep your iPad and your iPhone. This modern convenience works year-round for every occasion. It's basic. It's even "green"! It can be recycled.

I was faced with a quandary for sure. After a few days of shopping, I'd come up with a pretty good package for the "Chinese gift exchange" that is a major part of our parish Advent party. The small packages were different sizes, different shapes.

So I rifled through the hall closet discovering the right container...the perfect gift bag! There were no more worries about wrapping paper. Gone was the concern for folding those corners correctly or making sure there were no lumps in the tape. I'd found a Christmas themed gift bag, some crepe paper, and shiny ribbon. It was a festive presentation. And the gift was well received. It even got "stolen" a couple of times at the gift exchange.

A few days later I witnessed a very different gift exchange. It was the dedication and consecration of the Church of Vietnamese Martyrs. The congregation has met for several years in a building that formerly housed the bankrupt Food Lion grocery store. Yes, it had a blessed sanctuary. But it was not a church home.

I had to park two blocks away from the new church because the parking lots and adjacent neighborhood were full of cars. Sounds of the celebration proclaimed a proud and joy-filled procession that filed around the church grounds. A standing-room crowd filled the 2000-seat church. It is currently the largest Vietnamese congregation in the United States.

Introductory rite and Liturgy of the Word took place in the unlighted church. Early parts of the offertory procession brought the goose bumps. First, Bishop Kevin Vann anointed altars in both the main sanctuary and chapel with holy oil. A group of parishioners used white towels to remove the oil. Honored parishioners dressed the altars with pads and lace-trimmed altar cloths. Another group brought forth the brass candlesticks for both altars and the ambo. Another group lighted the bees' wax columns. Then



CDM International Conference

Harvest of Hope, Peace, and Joy

October 4-6, 2012

CDM returns to the conference scene in 2012! Join us for camaraderie, spirituality, education, growth, and millions of dollars in prizes! (OK, the part about the prizes isn't true, but we guarantee the rest!)

St. Ann Catholic Church
100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, TX 76028
(Diocese of Fort Worth)

Leadership Seminars:

Thursday, Oct. 4 through afternoon of Friday, Oct. 5.

International Conference:

Begins 5 P.M., Friday, October 5.
Ends with closing Mass, 7 P.M., Saturday, October 6.

Look for conference details and registration information at www.nacsd.org.

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USCCB Summit on Marriage and Family Life

Kathy Gorham
CDM Executive Director

I had the privilege of representing 'Catholic Divorce' at the Bishops summit on Marriage and Family Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this past summer. In addition to sixty attendees from different Ministries in the Catholic Church, there were four Bishops sitting in small groups discussing how we, the Catholic Church, can become a marriage/family building church.

Bishop Kevin Rhoades from Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, gave steps on how we can succeed in this task by becoming savvy with social networking and media in our favor. Catholic Divorce Ministry (CDM) is carrying this out by developing Facebook, website updates, member access for articles, and newsletters online. Parishes can use the internet for information that can be given to married couples; these can also be used for remarried readiness groups. For further information try www.usccb.org, www.foryourmarriage.org and www.marriageuniqueforareason.org. Another suggestion was to use the National Pastoral Initiative which is also accessible through www.usccb.org. For those peer support groups that have moved beyond grief, this information could be great topics for discussion. Bishop Rhoades also gave us some facts about marriage today that he received from Georgetown University:

- 1/3 of the Catholics today do not agree that marriage is a vocation from God.
- Women having sex before 18 are twice as likely for their marriage to end in divorce, if they marry.
- Men who are virgins at the age of 18 are less likely to experience divorce.
- Children with two parents do better in school and are more likely to end up in college.
- Most divorces happen in the first ten years.
- A Gallup poll in May 2011 found that 60% of Catholic respondents considered premarital sex morally acceptable.
- Only 15% of divorced Catholics sought an annulment.
- 84% of 18-25 year-olds believe in same sex marriage.
- 38% of those age 50 and older believe in same sex marriage.
- 18% of adult Catholics attend Mass regularly.
- 1/3 of Catholics ever read the bible.
- 1 in 20 discuss Catholic articles.



What can we do in our ministry?

- Educate all ages in our parishes about the importance of marriage.
- During marriage prep classes include: a call to holiness; where to go for help when they are in trouble (e.g., Retrouvaille); make a contract to work on the relationship; and if they start having problems, get help fast.
- Have enrichment programs and retreats about relationships.
- If the parish is honoring married couples during Mass, please make sure that it is announced in

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My Advent Reflection: Let All Be Received As Christ

Sister Theresa Frere, IHM
St. Peter's Church, Waldorf, Maryland

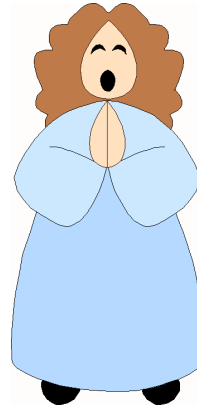
How does the *wrapping* affect how we receive the *gift*? The wrapping often helps to create mystery and wonder, but, sometimes we *rush* through ribbon, paper, and box to locate the gift. Other times we patiently search through endless layers of tissue to retrieve the gift. What happens when there are elaborate wrappings but a disappointing gift? What if elaborate wrappings are missing, and we miss the beautiful gift within? Do we really focus on the *wrappings* or the *gift*? Let us pause in this beautiful preparation season of Advent to see how we can “let all be received as Christ” ... to understand how we are really gifts to each other in Christ.

Christ has a “thousand” faces of beauty and suffering. Our parish Mission Statement calls us to “recognize His face in those we are privileged to serve and protect, especially the poor and vulnerable... to welcome Him in each other through our fellowship and unity.” How do we receive the Christ in others, in our church pews and activities, our homes, our daily routines, and, especially, in the lives of those experiencing great transition and loss?

Are we able to receive the other person who doesn't seem very “gift-wrapped,” whose face and body do not mirror current beauty ads? Are we able to look beyond the layers of anger, fear, and isolation to see the gift of the person within? Can we receive as Christ the person who is aging, confused, poor, or suffering? This Sunday's first reading from Isaiah proclaims: “Comfort, give comfort to my people,” says the Lord...and He is portrayed as a shepherd who “feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms.”

In speaking on this goal at the meeting of the fall

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Prayer to Accept Change

Just when I thought I had it all figured out Lord,
things change again.
When will I be able to rest
In the comfort of knowing what comes next?

You, who transcend all time,
who created the stars and set them in place,
you, who are ageless yet known in every age,
grant me the grace to accept
the changes that are happening.

Empty my heart of anxiety,
and fill it instead with wonder and awe.
Release me from the chains of complacency,
and bind me to your ever-moving Spirit.

When the things I believed to be
permanent and stable
are left by the way side,
enfold me in your undying love
that I may remember in whom all
things are bound.

When fear of something new paralyzes me,
and grief cripples me with anger
over the loss of what had been,
send your angels to give me a gentle push
over that frightening edge into the unknown,
so that I may learn to trust in you.

For you alone are eternal.
You alone are enduring.
You alone are the everlasting Lord,
And in you alone will this
restless world find peace
Amen.

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My Advent Reflection

☞ *Continued from p. 3*

Worship Commission, Msgr. Parent reflected that “communication is the heart of both hospitality and evangelization ... Every communication we make is sending a message about who we are and what is important to us...Christianity is based on communication because Christ Himself is ‘God’s Word.’”

In our eyes, voice, posture... in our silence and waiting with listening hearts... in every form of communication, how do we create a welcoming, respectful space for others? People can often sense this before we ever say a word. We are called, in very Advent language, to meet others in the deserts, valleys, and mountains of their lives. When we invite the sharing of stories, we come to understand how Scripture has unfolded in their lives... and in our own. When we allow the “Christ in me” to meet and “receive others as Christ” we are both changed and gifted.

As we continue to prepare for Christ, let us prayerfully listen to these words: “Perhaps the hardest thing to remember about Christmas is this. It celebrates the incarnation, not just the nativity. The incarnation is an ongoing process of salvation... We celebrate the stupendous fact of the incarnation, God entering our world so thoroughly that nothing has been the same since. And God continues to take flesh in our midst, in the men and women and children who form his body today.” (Sourcebook, Liturgy Training Publications, 1999). How better to celebrate Christmas than to “Let All Be Received as Christ.”

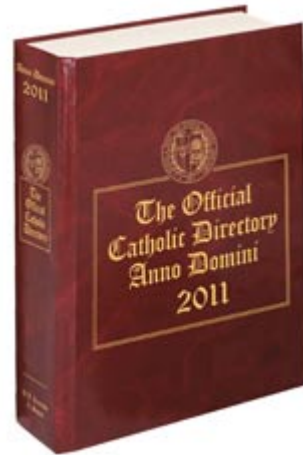
With prayers for each of you,

Sister Theresa Frere, IHM

Coordinator of Ministry to the Sick and Homebound
St. Peter's Church, Waldorf, Maryland



*For Unto Us
A Child Is Born*



Catholic Divorce Ministry is once again listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* (p. 473) published by P.J. Kenedy & Sons. When our Central Office relocated in 2004, an administrative oversight resulted in our listing being omitted. But through proper stewardship of resources we have returned to the pages of this vital publication. Learn more about the *Official Catholic Directory* at OfficialCatholicDirectory.com.

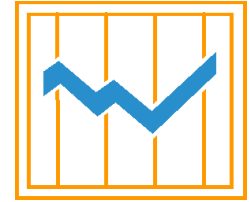
Hey! CDM has
new tollfree
phone numbers!

Voicemail:
855-727-2269

Secure FAX:
855-729-8751



Catholic Divorce Ministry Financial Report



January 1 — December 15, 2011

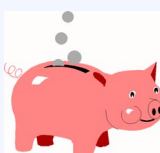
Income

4010-00 · DONATIONS - REGULAR	
4010-03 · Region 3	20.00
4010-06 · Region 6	1.00
4010-07 · Region 7	30.00
4010-09 · Region 9	600.00
4010-10 · Region 10	655.00
4010-11 · Region 11	25.00
4010-12 · Region 12	50.00
4010-30 · Other Countries	75.00
4010-40 · Region 4N	75.00
4010-45 · Region 4S	550.00
Total 4010-00 · DONATIONS - REGULAR	2,081.00
4012-00 · DONATIONS - w/ GIFT	
4012-01 · Donation Amount	10.00
4012-02 · Revenue Amount	10.00
Total 4012-00 · DONATIONS - w/ GIFT	20.00
4020-00 · TRANSFERS- REGIONS TO C.O.	
4020-12 · Region 12	
4020-62 · Holding for Reg 12 Board	1,266.18
Total 4020-12 · Region 12	1,266.18
Total 4020-00 · TRANSFERS- REGIONS TO C.O.	1,266.18
4030-00 · SALE OF RESOURCES	
4030-01 · Pieces to Peace book	116.45
4030-00 · SALE OF RESOURCES - Other	2,313.51
Total 4030-00 · SALE OF RESOURCES	2,429.96
4040-00 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	
4040-01 · Region 1	385.00
4040-02 · Region 2	350.00
4040-03 · Region 3	995.00
4040-05 · Region 5	455.00
4040-06 · Region 6	1,180.00
4040-07 · Region 7	1,140.00
4040-08 · Region 8	165.00
4040-09 · Region 9	1,520.00
4040-10 · Region 10	915.00
4040-11 · Region 11	200.00
4040-12 · Region 12	70.00
4040-13 · Region 13	155.00
4040-14 · Region 14	385.00
4040-20 · Ontario	210.00
4040-26 · Western Canada	60.00
4040-30 · Other Countries	95.00
4040-40 · Region 4N	545.00
4040-45 · Region 4S	920.00
Total 4040-00 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	9,745.00
Total Income	15,542.14

Checking Account Balance as of 12/16/2011 937.79

Expense

5015-00 · CONTRACT LABOR CHARGES	
5015-04 · Bob Zulinski	11,400.00
Total 5015-00 · CONTRACT LABOR CHARGES	11,400.00
5031-00 · BOARD MEETINGS	
5031-16 · June 24-26, 2011	654.75
Total 5031-00 · BOARD MEETINGS	654.75
5050-00 · GENERAL OPERATING	
5050-02 · Postage	258.75
5050-03 · Bank Charges	51.00
5050-05 · Office Supplies	238.02
5050-06 · Telephone	585.74
5050-07 · Printing & Photocopying	131.98
5050-10 · Internet	669.89
5050-16 · Insurance	500.00
5050-17 · Credit Card Charges	431.89
5050-20 · Online Shopping Cart	179.00
5050-99 · Miscellaneous	110.00
Total 5050-00 · GENERAL OPERATING	3,156.27
5070-00 · PUBLIC RELATIONS	
5070-01 · Dues	110.00
Total 5070-00 · PUBLIC RELATIONS	110.00
5110-00 · RESOURCE EXPENSE	
5110-02 · Postage & Shipping - Regular	200.30
5110-03 · Postage & Shipping - Don w/gift	3.21
5110-00 · RESOURCE EXPENSE - Other	746.54
Total 5110-00 · RESOURCE EXPENSE	950.05
5140-00 · JACOB'S WELL	
5140-02 · Postage	98.50
Total 5140-00 · JACOB'S WELL	98.50
5145-00 · PNL	
5145-02 · Postage	98.95
Total 5145-00 · PNL	98.95
Total Expense	16,468.52
Net Income	-926.38



It's not too late to make a tax-deductible donation for 2011!

Please be as generous as you can.

Send a check or donate online:

www.nacsd.org/estore/donate-sponsor/donations.html



USCCB Summit on Marriage...

☞ *Continued from p. 2*

advance so single people can opt out of that Mass and attend another one.

- Have mentoring programs for couples struggling, and mentoring singles (whether divorced or never married); on communication, intimacy and other important issues.
- Give a bible to every newly married couple and to those struggling with divorce with suggested readings; inserts in bulletins on family prayers, and invite Christ in your family day by day.
- Discussions on the most common issues regarding marriage problems: (infidelity, addictions, finances, careers, and parenting).

After many hours of discussing all these ideas and thoughts the conclusion among all the tables was that all ministries in the Catholic Church need to work together and dig deep beyond the surface to find answers so that our churches can become full again, all parishioners feel welcome in the pews, and our youth are educated on how important it is to wait for marriage before engaging in sex.

Catholic Divorce Ministry is on board with responding to this call from the USCCB and is working to achieve their goals. We cannot do this alone; we need YOUR help. Please contact Central Office to volunteer your gifts and talents to help accomplish our goals. We will appreciate any help, no matter how small.

Merry Christmas and a very Blessed New Year to Everyone,

Kathy Gorham

Kathy Gorham, CDM Executive Director



President's Christmas Message

☞ *Continued from p. 1*

came the vases of floral arrangements. Servers set out the celebrant's chalice and paten. Ministers brought up bread bowls and wine cups. All the lights came up at once. The congregation broke out in spontaneous joy! Their church was now whole. There isn't ribbon big enough to make a bow for such a present as that.

These two events, the Advent party and consecration of the church, remind me of the dichotomy of our faith. Jesus Christ came to walk among us, fully human and yet fully divine. We celebrate his earthly coming with festivals and celebrations – gift exchanges – that bring us happiness. Then there are events like the consecration of a church that instill in us an unfettered joy.

It is the birth of Jesus Christ that made possible his passion. It is His resurrection that made possible his passing of the keys to St. Peter – traditio legis.

Let us use this Advent season to evangelize the light of Christ. Let us use this exchange of gifts to evangelize His gift of joy. Let us use this ministry to exemplify joy to the world.

Please accept the sincere wishes of Catholic Divorce Ministry for a joyous Christmas.

Gregory Mills

Gregory Mills, President
Catholic Divorce Ministry



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