

One Family in Mission

Called to Evangelize



Formation



Hospitality



Prayer



Service

Office of Parish Stewardship December 2020

We are pleased to present our December issue of **ONE FAMILY IN MISSION** newsletter. We invite you - as part of that **FAMILY** - to share articles, best practices and any other items that you believe would benefit our community of Stewards. Please send them to tzalud@drvc.org.

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Called to Evangelize

Although we usually think of them in terms of Pentecost, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit make wonderful gifts to share as a matter of *Dramatic Missionary Growth* on every day of the year, in and out of all our beautiful liturgical seasons.

During this Advent season we can call upon the Holy Spirit to send down His gifts upon us and use them so as to practice the four Pillars of Stewardship: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Our practicing of these pillars can become our outward expression of our Faith here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

For example, rather than avoiding someone who is grieving as they face the first Christmas without a loved one's physical presence, taking prayerful time to ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to offer gentle words of comfort and to perform simple acts of kindness is a merciful expression of the Gift of **Wisdom**.

Taking time this month to read scripture or watch the Catholic Faith Network will help us to grow and apply the gift of **Understanding**.

Taking time from a busy schedule to listen attentively to a troubled soul and to offer prayerful advice to share their burdens in confidence with a priest in holy Confession can be a life-changing gift of **Counsel**.

Having the courage to offer the loving benedictions of "Merry Christmas" instead of "happy holidays" to others practices the missionary act of **Fortitude**.

Gifting ourselves with ongoing catechesis, such as provided in Formed content offered in each monthly *One Family in Mission Newsletter*, equips us with the **Knowledge** we need to be able to confidently, gently, and peacefully defend the Faith throughout our lives.

Continuing to fast, to pray, and to do corporal and spiritual works of mercy as a means of showing love to God, even when He seems not to be answering the prayers as we would like

them to be answered is a gifted expression of **Piety**, a wonderful gift, indeed, to share at this time with all those suffering from the effects of the virus.

Teaching our children why we give and receive gifts on Christmas, and helping them make spiritual or corporal gifts of love to and in the Name of the Infant Jesus is a powerful way of educating our children in the Gift of the **Fear of the Lord**, which is the loving respect a child voluntarily gives a parent, in this case, we, no matter our age, give to God our Father through Jesus.

Filled with the giving and receiving of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we might more fully give and receive the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, long-suffering, humility or gentleness, fidelity or faithfulness, modesty, continence or self-control and chastity. This Advent, let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit so as to grow closer to the Lord.

This Advent season and upcoming Christmas season, may you and your loved ones be blessed by our Loving God, who came to us as a little babe in the manger 2,000 years ago. Merry Christmas and God bless!

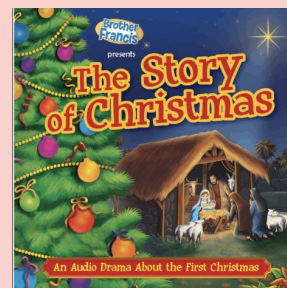
This Advent and Christmas season let us pray a "Hail Mary" for the hungry, the cold the sick, and the lonely.

Hail, Mary, full of grace
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Formed Stewardship Content of the Month

Each month, our office suggests Stewardship content from Formed.org that will help you grow in the faith! If you are not signed up with Formed.org, check with your parish to see if they have a subscription. This month, we recommend a children's audio drama to help them learn more about Christmas!

The Story of Christmas: An Audio Drama about the First Christmas



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May God bless you and your loved ones!

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