

Nazareth Newsletter

Hello Nazareth families!

Spring is right around the corner, and you know what that means - summer is coming! And what does summer mean? Nazareth family retreats! It's not too early to send in your registration for camp for this year. The team would like to encourage you to think about families in your parish or community who might enjoy a Nazareth family retreat experience. Feel free to make copies of the registration form that is located at the end of this newsletter and pass them around to your friends. Word of mouth is the best way for the apostolate to grow.

The team is beginning to make plans for this year's retreats. We are hoping to do some new things during camp, while maintaining the elements of camp that have been such a blessing to us all over the years.

Fr. Roger Vandenakker is joining us for Week Two, but the priest for Week One is yet to be determined at this time. We are trusting God to provide us with the priest He has in mind for us for that week. You will find the dates for this year's camps as well as the cost, in the body of the registration form.

May our families be blessed with a special measure of Easter joy, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! May this Year of the Eucharist be a special time of grace for our families. We ask that the Holy Family of Nazareth pray for all of us in this time of adversity against the family. May the Nazareth Family Apostolate be a source of blessing to each of us, our families and our friends.





Nazareth Family Day

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 11th, 2005**, the date of the next Nazareth Day for families.

Where: Mark & Joyce Reilander
2874 Stafford Third Line,
Pembroke, Ontario

When: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The afternoon will begin with the celebration of Mass. Following Mass, there will be games for the children and a time for the adults. A potluck supper will finish off the gathering.

Things to bring:

- main dish and/or salad
- dessert
- drinks

Please call the Reilander's (613-735-3894) by the middle of May to confirm whether you will be attending or not. This will help with the planning. Please plan to come! It is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together for a joyful day of sharing faith, fun and family - a chance to see old friends and make new friends.

Directions to Reilander's

- Travel West on #417 towards Pembroke
- After passing through the village of Cobden, several kms Watch for sign to Whitewater Road (County Rd #24)
- Turn left on to Whitewater Rd. #24 and proceed for aprox. 2.5 kms.
- Turn left at crossroad on to Stafford Third Line Rd.
- Travel another 2.5 kms. To top of big hill.
- Watch the green 911 numbers to # 2874.
- You have arrived, #2874 Stafford Third line, on the top of the hill, after the woods on the left, white house, red roof.

Any problems call (613) 735-3894

"Thérèse - the Story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux" - Movie Review

If you haven't yet had a chance to see "Thérèse - the Story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux", and it is playing in your area, then bless yourself and your family and go! This is a lovely, simple movie directed by Catholic actor Leonardo Defilippis who wished to make known the story of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and bring it to the big screen. It is a warm, loving account of Thérèse's passion for Jesus and her desire to love Him with her whole being, in this life and the next. The love between Thérèse, her sisters and her father is palpable, so tender and warm. It is no wonder that a houseful of vocations sprang from such a loving and prayerful home. (All five sisters entered the convent, four at Lisieux.) Lindsay Younce, the young actress who plays Thérèse, has a natural beauty and wistfulness that warm the screen. Her portrayal of Thérèse is winsome and engaging. Some viewers might find it odd that the same actress plays Thérèse as a nine-year-old, a fifteen-year-old and a twenty-four-year-old, but somehow it just doesn't seem to matter. Likewise with the fifty-year-old actress who plays her twenty-year-old sister Pauline. The beauty of what happens on the screen seems to surpass age.

The movie is appropriate for most ages, though younger children (under 10) may find the scene of her death to be somewhat disturbing, as it is portrayed very powerfully.

It is important for as many people as possible to support this movie at the box office, to let those making movies with a positive message know that they are appreciated for their gift to the world. Mr. Defilippis has done the world a great service by helping to spread the story of Thérèse and her "Little Way".

For more information about the movie, visit www.theresemovie.com

(Reviewed by Sue Atkinson)

"The Spirit of Nazareth" by Sue Atkinson

This past summer while attending two weeks of Nazareth family retreats, I was thinking about the spirit of Nazareth. I had been wondering what the particular charism of Nazareth was, and it came to me that there are several elements that make up the spirit of Nazareth family life. Presence (about which David Darwent wrote so well in the last newsletter), poverty, purity and perseverance all seem to have a particular place in living "Nazareth". If we look at the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth, we see wonderful examples of all of these. The way to holiness for us and our families, for those of us called to the Nazareth way of life, is to embrace and to endeavour to live out each of these elements.

Poverty takes many forms, but poverty of spirit - embracing our "littleness" before God - is at the heart of the spirit of Nazareth. We realize how without God, His love and His grace, we have nothing. It is in recognizing our poverty that we come close to the experience of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We place ourselves in the place of dependence on divine providence for all that we need, materially and spiritually. God the Father wishes to lavish gifts on us His children and when we place ourselves in the place of receiving, then He can bless us.

Purity, particularly in our relationship with our spouse, is again a reflection of the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph lived a chaste life with one another, and that chastity bore fruit in the raising of Jesus in holiness. As married couples we are called to live the virtue of chastity, living as signs of contradiction in our negatively sex-saturated society. Particularly as we live and embrace the lifestyle of holy living and loving, we can redeem the forces in society that seek to destroy the family.

A friend of mine who has several children once told me that she no longer prays for patience, but for perseverance. We too pray for the grace to persevere, to "keep on keeping on". The way was long and difficult for both Mary and Joseph, particularly in the early years of marriage and family life, as it is for so many people starting out. They are a wonderful example of the fruit of perseverance.

Presence, poverty, purity and perseverance - as we embrace each of these and strive to live them in our families, the grace of Nazareth will dwell in our homes and our hearts. It is not an easy road for us, just as it was not easy for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. However, we have the reassurance of knowing that we have the grace to live the spirit of Nazareth in all its beauty and its pain.

Reflection - Winter Nazareth Day

Hello to All!

In December 2004 we celebrated Nazareth Day with many families. Our Nazareth Day was held at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Rockland (which houses St. Edith Stein's Parish). The day started off with a snow storm but it didn't stop people from attending. Fr. Roger started the day with a wonderful Mass.

December 12 is the Feast day of "Our Lady of Guadalupe", we decided to celebrate this Feast day and we had a fantastic Mexican celebration. We watched a movie that told the story of "Our Lady of Guadalupe". The children and some adults made beautiful roses out of tissue paper and presented them to our Blessed Mother on the Altar. We ate lots of Mexican Food. The Youth got together, and as usual, these very talented youth put a skit together. We are very proud of our youth, they have an amazing and pure love for God.

Reflecting back on that day, it always excites my heart to see all these wonderful families. We all share beautiful friendships in Christ.

My family along with a few other Nazareth families stayed a little longer and decided to join St. Edith Stein for a Spaghetti Supper. Needless to say, we were very tired when we arrived home.

May God continue to grace and bless us with the support of other families like those of Nazareth. We feel safe, a sense of freedom, being understood, feeling the love and support of each other as we journey through life.

As we work to keep our focus on Christ, we pray that God will continue to shower his blessings on us as we strive to live Nazareth.

Yours in Christ,

Peggy Doucette

March4Marriage

SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2005 - National march for Marriage & Freedom for Faith, Family, and Freedom

Gather at Supreme Court (corner Kent & Wellington): 12:00-12:30pm

March from the Supreme Court to Parliament Hill: 12:30-1:30pm

Speeches & Music: 1:30pm-4:00pm

Speakers: Pat O'Brien (Liberal MP), Dominic Tse (Chinese Evangelical Task Force on Marriage), others to come.

Information: <http://www.march4marriage.ca>
canadians@march4marriage.ca

Hi everyone (by Keith Doucette)

Important Day! A day to stand together to show Canada and our government what family and Marriage is all about. I will be there with my eight children. There will be inspirational talks from some people with backbone in government. Great men like Pat O'Brien who stands up for family. It is politicians like Mr. O'Brien that are examples of democracy. **Marriage is the backbone of this great Country.** Take the time to join your fellow Canadians on April 9th. Hope to see you there. May the Blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

The story below is an example of a man of great moral stature, solid conviction and well respected in the world of politics. This man will be known for years for standing up for the truth.

This Pastor has guts!!

Thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and call it Pluralism.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea. Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "one nation under God."

"Through her Eyes: A Journey to Jesus" - *The Rosary on CD*

This contemporary and totally original album by award-winning Canadian Catholic singer/songwriter Mark Mallett uses dynamic music scores to draw you into the mysteries of Christ's life as no Rosary CD has ever done.

"Through Her Eyes: A Journey to Jesus" is a double CD or cassette set including:

- All four Mysteries, including the new Luminous Mysteries
- Scriptural meditations to introduce each decade
- Deeply moving, original music scores beneath each decade help one to powerfully experience the life of Christ (spoken by Fr. Ray Guimond and Mark Mallett)
- Refreshing & contemporary musical versions of the "Apostle's Creed", "Our Father", "Glory Be" and "Hail Holy Queen" all written & produced by Mark Mallett
- Four original songs Mark has written to honor Mary (including the concert favorite "Family Beads")
- Dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of all America, it has Mary's words to St. Juan Diego at the end of each Mystery (spoken by Christine Foisy-Erickson of MiCasa Ministries)
- 154 minutes in length!

To order, visit www.markmallett.com. Double CD or cassette is \$29.99CDN, plus GST and postage (Total for one set is \$36.09CDN.)

(The Atkinson family ordered this a little while ago, and has been blessed by the beauty of the arrangements of the music played with each decade. The Marian songs are also beautiful, drawing us into the heart of Jesus through Mary.)

Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father, you have given us a model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us, O loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace, and joy reign. May it be deeply contemplative, intensely Eucharistic and vibrant with joy.

Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow through family prayer. Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our family, especially in their distressing disguise. May the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus make our hearts meek and humble like His, and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.

May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins. Help us, O loving Father, to take whatever you give and to give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us. St. Joseph, pray for us. Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.

Blessed Mother Teresa (Year of the Holy Family, 1994)

DOMINUS VOBISCUM

Retreat Centre Registration Form - (please print) – Nazareth Family Camp

PARENTS

FAMILY NAME _____ GIVEN NAME _____

FAMILY NAME _____ GIVEN NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(NO.)

(STREET)

(APT. #)

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF HOME PARISH _____

CHILDREN

GIVEN NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

(D/M/Y)

GIVEN NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

(D/M/Y)

GIVEN NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

(D/M/Y)

GIVEN NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

(D/M/Y)

(Please add page if listing more than four children.)

Registration Fees:

Registration is required by May 1st, 2005 and must be accompanied with full registration fee. The sooner the application arrives, the more likely a spot will be available.

Please make cheques payable to Cheryl Darwent and write "Dominus Vobiscum" on the back of the cheque. Send the completed registration form and cheque to:

Cheryl Darwent,
271 Agathe St.,
Rockland, ON,
K4K 1K7

Please indicate the week you would like to attend Nazareth at Dominus Vobiscum.

Nazareth Week

(July 31st – August 6th, 2005)

\$350.00 (includes lunch Mon. – Fri.)

Follow-up Week

(August 7th – August 13th, 2005)

\$350.00 (includes lunch Mon. – Fri.)

Do you have personal liability coverage? (e.g. Home or tenants insurance) ____yes____no

Name of insurance company _____

I HAVE READ, AGREE AND COMPLY WITH THE RETREAT CENTRE POLICIES OUTLINED IN THE LITERATURE I RECEIVED WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT

DAY/MONTH/YEAR