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The Bible



Within these pages:

Comfort, encouragement,
refreshment, counsel...

CWIA Prayer Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2016

9:00 am – Noon

at our **NEW** location:

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150

Phone: 703.644.5555

2 miles from Metro Blue Line (Franconia-Springfield)

For info/tickets, call Patti: 703.971.3633

Kathleen Murray: 703.451.5737

Edelmira Cruz: 703.266.4850

Cost: \$15 - Buffet Breakfast

www.cwiaholyspirit.org



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

Blessings to all of you in this New Year of Our Lord-2016-the Year of Mercy. What awaits for us in this coming year? Whatever it may be, it is in the hands of our Lord. We must trust His love of Mercy! Difficult times are here and are yet to

come. How do we find ourselves?

Have you ever gone through a very difficult time--one in which you cried out to the Lord for comfort yet sensed no response from Him? Trials are painful enough, but for a Christian, God's apparent silence in the face of suffering can even be worse. Where is He? Why doesn't He help? How can we reconcile our continued distress with the fact that He is "The Father of Mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in our affliction (2 Cor.1:3-4)?"

May I suggest that the problem isn't that the Lord is not responding to our cries, but that we do not always understand all the ways He offers us comfort? We usually want Him to console us by delivering us from the trying situation or pain. However, that's not always His way. God has given us the Holy Spirit as our helper to come alongside and encourage us as we endure and learn from our suffering. (John 14:16).

God draws near to help us through - but not necessarily out of difficult situations. I haven't always agreed with the Lord regarding the heartaches and pain He allowed into my life. They were not experiences I wanted at the time, but now I know they were essential. Without them, I would have missed valuable lessons and would be inadequate to comfort others in their suffering. When I've thought I couldn't take another step, the Holy Spirit has quieted my fears, eased my pain and invigorated me with power!!

However, there have also been times when I couldn't feel God's presence and had to rely upon what I knew to be true about Him. We also read about the Saints going through the very same things, emotions, fluctuate, but truth never changes, these facts anchor our soul: (A) The lord is always with us; (B) Nothing happens to us unless He allows it; and, (C) He has a purpose for the suffering and trials He permits.

(continued on next page)

The Bible

Now, I may not comprehend what He is doing in the moment, in fact, I may never understand but I know He loves us and promises to work every situation together for our good (Rom.8:28). When we need a reminder of these truths, we need look no further than the word of God (Bible). Often times, that is the last thing we feel like doing. We'd rather seek our friends or wallow in our misery for a while, but the scripture is our Divine source of encouragement and refreshment. Ps.119:50 says "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your word has revived me." The Bible gives us a new outlook and a sense of confidence in the Lord. Within its pages we find the hope and guidance we need for every situation in life.

We Catholics are not used to reading the Bible daily and may not know how to read it. Well, I have studied the Bible and love to learn what the Lord promises us; therefore, I write to you each time using Scriptures, teaching you how to use it for your daily life. There have been times in my life when I've simply cried out to God, not knowing where to turn in His Word. I do not recommend this as a regular pattern for Bible reading but, occasionally, I have simply opened the Scripture to read whatever passage I find in front of me. One time when I was struggling with a difficult issue, I opened to Ps. 62, "My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation". That was precisely what I needed to hear.

The Holy Spirit can guide us to the exact passage to encourage us (John 14:26). That is why it is important to read God's word every day. Sometimes the reason people do not sense the Lord's comfort is because they are not listening to the counsel He offers in the scripture.

I ask you learn to study. Learn to use the Word of God that He has given to us in the Bible. Make it a part of your daily life. Please look up the scriptures I give you. It's good for your soul!

My love and prayers,
Your Sister in Christ Jesus,

Stella Davis

Mark The Date!

Our next annual conference will be August 13-15, 2016 in Springfield, Virginia.

You are invited to our **prayer breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 31, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS** at 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA 22150. 1.9 miles from the Franconia Springfield Metro station. Call Holiday Inn Express directly for shuttle info: 703.644.5555. For info go to www.cwiaholyspirit.org or call Patti 703.971.3633. Price is \$15 and includes a Buffet Breakfast and all tax/gratuities. If you wish to stay at the hotel on Friday night, the discounted rate (for the breakfast meeting) is \$89. Bring a friend. Great speakers, fellowship, praise & worship. Men and women are invited. The Lord is waiting for you! There will be a healing service afterwards.

January 30th Guest Speaker: JUDY O'NEILL Judy served on the CWIA Board for 3 years before recently retiring with her husband to Florida. She and her husband, Charlie, have been married 36 years and have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Born to a Catholic Mother and a non-Catholic Father, Judy never attended church regularly. After marriage she continued living a lukewarm faith life and got caught up in worldly things until God intervened by allowing her and Charlie to go through bankruptcy after investing in what turned out to be a Ponzi scheme. With God's grace and mercy, Judy turned back to her Catholic faith, started going to daily Mass, praying the Rosary, and reading the Bible and other books while searching for a deeper relationship with God. A friend took her to a charismatic prayer group, and although she was skeptical, Judy became hungry for the Holy Spirit and read every conversion story she could get her hands on. She went to charismatic prayer groups, seminars and other charismatic gatherings, but...there was never any dramatic conversion for Judy. She longed for an amazing, bells and whistles spiritual experience, but God had other plans. He led and taught her slowly and steadily, preparing her for His purpose. Although it has been a long and sometimes still challenging journey, it has proven to be spiritually fruitful. Now Judy is very Spirit-filled and walks confidently with the Lord. She learned the value of Obedience, Trust, giving Thanks and Praise to God in all things, Eucharistic Adoration and the beauty of Our Blessed Mother's 'Fiat'...'Let it be done to me according to Your Will'. Through it all God has finally convinced her that He knows what He is doing! Come and hear the rest of the story, and bring a friend with you. Men and women are welcome.

Our next prayer breakfast will be Saturday, March 26, 2016.

Intercessory Prayer Meetings: Mondays, 10:30am at 5917 Bond Court, Alexandria, VA 22315

Prayer Chain: For prayer, email our Prayer Chain at fraven1@verizon.net.

Pennsylvania Trip: This is our very last call for our overnight trip in April to see the show "Samson" at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster County, PA. We will also visit the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA.