

CWIA Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 9:00am - Noon

Holiday Inn – Eisenhower

2460 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia Phone: 703.960.3400. Near Metro Yellow Line–Eisenhower

Guest Speaker: Sandy Bertini

Sandy, a parishioner of St. Ambrose Parish, currently serves as Pontifical Mission Societies Coordinator for the Arlington Diocese. She has written articles for *The Arlington Herald* and won Honorable Mention in the *Catholic Press Awards*. Sandy speaks around the country about being a missionary in everyday life. Her faith journey was firmly established through her parents' devotions, excellent Catholic schools, and an early commitment to a life submerged in the will of God. Sandy came into the Renewal after attending a *Life In The Spirit Seminar*. Married with three grown children, Sandy has joy in helping God "write the final chapter" of her mother's and aunt's lives as they share their senior years with her. Sandy will speak on attacking the trials of life armored in the breastplate and helmet of God's holy will.

Cost: \$15, Full Breakfast Included. For tickets call: Kathleen Murray (703) 451-5737, Cathy Czaja (703) 354-8331, Patti Davis (703) 971-3633, Edelmira Cruz (703) 266-4850, Gail Coates (301) 247-2442.

Stella is planning a trip to the Holy Land in the first week of November, but there are only 20 spaces remaining. If you are interested in making this great trip, you must register and provide a \$100 deposit before July 2011. Mail to CWIA at the address below. (First come - first served.)



Christian Women In Action

A Ministry to Catholics

Please refer to our website for updates: www.cwiaholyspirit.org



Our breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Holiday Inn – Eisenhower**. Cost: \$15. Men are welcome. Bring your friends and family. For info, call Patti at (703) 971-3633. Our next breakfast will be May 28.

Life In The Spirit Seminar: Saturday, April 16 at St. Louis Catholic Church, beginning with the 8:30 Mass. Free continental breakfast and lunch. If you have not attended the seminar before, or attended more than three years ago, it's time to refresh your commitment.

Annual Conference: Mark your calendars for our annual CWIA Charismatic Conference at the Holiday Inn - Eisenhower Alexandria on October 7-9, 2011. We'll have great speakers, and the great Bishop Tamayo will be with us.

Bible Study: Thursday mornings, Annandale area. Aleu: (703) 642-8378

Intercessory Prayer Meetings: Mondays, 10:30am-1:30pm. Lunch is served. If you're staying, bring something to share. Stella: (703) 971-3633

Prayer Chain: Clara - (202) 244-7532

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Christian Women In Action

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CWIA Bylaws

1. To worship, praise and glorify God in all areas of the members' lives.
2. To win souls for Jesus Christ, especially those not reached by commonly used methods of evangelism.
3. To share with believers and non-believers the full gospel of Jesus Christ, including Jesus as Lord and Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Deliverer and Healer.
4. To work for spiritual unity among Christian believers.
5. To foster fellowship among women, especially the elderly, widowed, separated, single mothers, and the incarcerated.
6. To encourage women to participate in the activities of their local church.
7. To help women recognize their proper role and relationship according to the scripture.
8. To provide outreach meetings, bible studies, workshops, and weekend retreats for spiritual growth.

Intimacy With God

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, I greet you in His wonderful name!

In the last newsletter I spoke to you about obeying God, but if we do not know Him as a personal Savior, how can we obey? So, today I will address the subject: Do You Love God? Immediately you may think, "Well, of course I do!" But I ask you to consider: Does your heart really hunger and thirst for the Lord? Do you realize how very much He loves you?

The reason I ask is that a number of years ago, I experienced a time when I was unsure about how I truly felt about the Father. When I would pray and attempt to tell God I loved Him, I felt like I had marbles in my mouth. It was as if the Holy Spirit had jumbled my words to help me realize that I didn't really know what I was saying.

Finally, I was compelled to confess, "Father, I don't know whether I love you or not." That was a painful admission, but at that moment, the Lord began to show me that I was not relating to Him in the way He wanted me to. He helped me to see that I was having such a difficult time accepting His unconditional love because deep within me, I still believed I had to earn or deserve it. I was trying to merit the love the Savior had freely given me on the cross. This meant I was withholding areas of my life from Him because I didn't really trust Him – and that was hindering the depth of my relationship with Him in every way.

You see, intimacy with the Lord is more than what you and I can do to make Him happy. It is about who we are – our personalities, characters, skills, and everything else about us – being completely devoted to who He is, just as He is to us. Romans 5:8 reminds us, "He loves us unconditionally. *His love never fails – even when we do.*"

Do you doubt that you love the Father in this way? Are there areas in your life that you haven't entrusted to Him because of some fear of rejection or inadequacy? Do you realize the depth of His love for your *personally*?

These are important questions to ask because there is nothing so beneficial or freeing as to truly experience an intimate relationship with God. When you open yourself completely to His unfailing love, He builds within you stability, security, serenity, and spiritual understanding. Allow me to explain.

1st – Intimacy with the Lord builds stability in your life. A relationship with God is like an anchor that keeps you grounded, no matter your circumstance, because He never changes. Although people and situations around you may come and go, He remains the same sovereign Lord who will never leave or forsake you.

2nd – As you grow in your relationship with the Lord, you realize you *secure* you truly are in Him. He teaches you how profoundly He cares for you, just as you are – not because you are perfect, but because it is His nature to do so. As 1 John 4:10 teaches us, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Our duty is not to succeed – that is His responsibility; rather, our job is to trust in His love and respond to His call in faith and obedience.

3rd – Intimacy with God is the key to serenity. Even with difficult times, you have peace because you have confidence that your situation is in His capable hands. Each time you face a trial, you can be certain that He will teach you that you can trust His unfailing character and provisions in increasingly profound and meaningful ways.

4th – You develop sensitivity toward others, understanding the struggles they experience. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit in you, you become more responsive to the needs and emotions of others. This makes you far more effective as you relate to and minister to others.

Finally – Spending time daily with the Father – listening to Him in prayer, meditating upon Scripture before the Blessed Sacrament, etc., will increase your spiritual understanding. You will begin to comprehend God's word in a deeper way than ever before, and He will teach you to see your life from His perspective. It's amazing how much more you are able to understand about the world around you as you grow *in* your knowledge of the Lord's ways.

Please attend the Life In The Spirit Seminar on April 16, 2011 at St. Louis Catholic Church. Call for directions and visit the website for updates. This will help you to know Him better and understand His love for us. Come and bring someone with you. Don't lose this opportunity to grow in the spirit.

Prayerfully yours,

Stella Davis

Your Servant