"THE ANNUNCIATION" E-NEWSLETTER

SANTOS ANJOS (Holy Angels)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

A means of embracing to proclaim Jesus!

January 1, 2010 Year 2 Number 7

"HAPPY NEW DAY"

Wise Mother Church! Right on the first day of January we start the year celebrating the Mother of God, Holy Mary! The "Happy New Year" starts with she who fulfills the unprecedented, the inexplicable, something new and eternal. The virgin who brings to the world God Himself!

Heaven and earth got together in Bethlehem and "He who opens so no one closes and closes so no one opens," opened the heavens, came down, was born of the Virgin Mary, and closed behind Him a dogmatic door: always Virgin Mary!

From that moment on it has always been "Happy New Day." This is why, we should sing and praise every morning with Daniel 3 "Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers and to be praised and highly exalted forever."

All of God's promises are YES in Jesus and during this time of happy greetings and wishes there is no superstition, New Age, eastern meditations, or esotericism to "make" a happy year, except to reject sin, and embrace the promise in Scripture and in our hearts.

The year will always be tired and old, from beginning to end, if we seek happiness in the "now" and do not go deeper to the source: the heart of the Creator!

The awe we are attracted to in the things of this world, the euphoria of consumerism, loud music, the glories and crowns of earthly victories, bring moments that pass away, because without God they are as finite as life without eternity. Only God is eternal and eternal is His Word. His laws rule the world. All things are renewed and good in Him; we are new creatures because the Holy Spirit is at work in us. Jesus gives us a new commandment: love one another; He sustains us with new wine in new wineskins; He gives us a new heart able to receive a new spirit, and He establishes a new covenant.

Those who are in Christ are new creatures, with a new look, new emotions, new thinking, new behavior. Our bread is daily because in Him everything is new; even the tomb where they tried to imprison Him was new.

The desire for "newness" which we feel a need for and seek in the world was placed in our hearts by God Himself, so that we might find, each day, new strength and new thirst for life: life to the fullness.

The Happy New Year we so much look forward to, before being happy, must be "holy," surrounded by God, who is love, for only love is able to transform a cold stable in an insignificant town in the meeting place between Heaven and earth.

Only love is able to transform distant and cold hearts into places of adoration and the meeting between the human and finite with the divine and eternally new!

May we all embrace each "HAPPY NEW DAY" in our hearts during this year of 2010, immersing ourselves in the love of God from January 1 to December 31!

Lenira Krepsky

Santos Anjos Consecrated Member

Our Apostolate

FELLOWSHIP

WEEKLY PRAYER AND SHARING GROUP

COLLABORATION WITH PARISH MINISTRIES

BIBLE, PRAYER AND FAITH BUILDING COURSES

EVANGELIZATION

MISSIONS, WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND SEMINARS

SANTOS ANJOS OPEN HOUSE

The Living Water Prayer and Sharing Group

Our Prayer and Sharing Group (PSG) is growing in the love of God and neighbor, faith, prayer, fellowship and the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Through praise and worship we open our hearts to God and to what He has to say!

We meet on Mondays at St. Albert the Great Parish from 7 to 9pm, in the Our Lady of Good Counsel Room ("CWL Room").

Come join us and bring a friend!

Note: *The Life of Prayer* Seminar will run for 7 weeks within the PSG setting.

The Life of Prayer Seminar is here!

Used as the follow up program to our **Throw the Nets into the Deep** Seminars and Retreats, *The Life of Prayer* is also for everyone who ever participated in a Life in the Spirit Seminar and for anyone who did not, but is open and eager to know more about the special graces (or charisms) of the Holy Spirit as a means to enrich their relationship with God.

It is a call to all believers, because one of the hardest things in our lives as Christians is to balance and keep up with the pace and demands of the world and our call to know, love and serve the Lord.

The Life of Prayer is about encouraging and supporting our personal daily prayer lives with a method proven to work. We will address: Personal Prayer and the Love of the Lord; Removing Obstacles to Prayer; Inner Healing; the Charisms of Prayer; Discerning God's Will: the gift of Discernment of Spirits; Contemplative Prayer and more.

The Life of Prayer Seminar is one of the most popular programs at our Santos Anjos Formation School in Brazil, with some of the talks frequently used in half or full day workshops.

The seminar will run from January 11 to February 22, 2010, at St. Albert the Great Parish, from 6:45 to 8:45pm. Space is limited to 55 participants and we are about two-thirds full. Registration is $10. A free will offering will be taken with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to the SVDP Society.

To register, please contact VeraLucia at 403-400-0627 or vlcottim_coughlan@yahoo.ca

Testimonies

I entered the Church in Easter 2008 and completed the RCIA classes in late spring 2008. I was full of hope and love for our God, Jesus Christ, and the Church. However I realized very quickly that my knowledge of religion and how to build on that was not where it should be. I had not had much formal training in how to understand, build on or increase this knowledge in my new found religion. The RCIA group had given me some in what I should do and believe in, but it was only the start. VeraLucia had spoken to our RCIA group about a plan for a **Prayer and Sharing Group (PSG)** she wanted to start that summer. I joined and it has surpassed what I had initially hoped for. She covers many different topics. I have been enlightened with learning how to pray, learned new prayers and the different ways to praise Jesus and how to be able to talk and share prayer with others interested in the same thing. She has shown how to become comfortable in prayer and sharing; how everyone else is the same as me; and how to overcome our sins and rise above them. VeraLucia spends time on the Holy Spirit and how we can open ourselves to Him and receive His gifts. She is a positive influence on the group and is very hard working by preparing each meeting and always coming up with something I have never thought of in that particular way. The **PSG** gives all the participants a real sense of "being part of the group" and belonging to a community of faith. It has been a real pleasure meeting these people, knowing of their love for Jesus, and growing in fellowship. The only regret is that my work takes me away at times and I feel that I miss out when I cannot attend. What I like the most are the songs and praising Jesus. Both VeraLucia and Tim are very important spiritual guides and have given me a much better insight of my faith.

I came to the **Prayer and Sharing Group** for two reasons: I was invited by VeraLucia to help with the music ministry, and I wanted to grow in my faith. Regular meetings would ensure that I would stay committed to this goal. Looking back, I can already see the positive growth the **PSG** has offered me. I am no longer shy when I sing God's praises. As many people can attest to, I sing very loudly and passionately during our praise sessions, because God wants us to praise with all our being. I am also vocalizing my prayers between songs when others are praying or singing in tongues and filled with the Holy Spirit. I used to keep all my prayers to myself, fearing what others would think. I have grown immensely in my knowledge, especially about angels, Mary Our Mother, ways to pray and reflect on scripture, Novenas, and how to be welcoming. I am not afraid anymore to confess my failures, for I know that no one is there to judge, but to love and encourage me. I cannot imagine a better place to grow in my faith!

DID YOU KNOW?

On PRAISE - Part II

Fruits: The first fruit is an increase in fraternal charity. Praise, while expressing our love of God, also strengthens our fraternal bonds. Praise forms a communion of the same admiration.

Praise also brings out numerous charisms by invoking the Holy Spirit. As a testimony of our open hearts, of our love and our availability, praise asks God to come among us. As such, praise is the best preparation to exercise charisms.

Praise also evangelizes. On the morning of Pentecost, praise caught the attention of the crowd gathered around the Cenacle. *"We heard them all praise the wonders of God in our own language"* (Acts 2). Many prayer groups have experienced this; praise attracts and touches hearts.

Moreover, praise frees us up and heals us: *"...but I will heal them and lead them; I will give full comfort to them and to those who mourn for them"* (Is 57:18). There is a mysterious bond between praise and healing. Witness Paul and Silas giving thanks in prison at midnight (Ac 16:25-28): all the prisoners' chains were broken. As a prayer group, praise invites God's healing power...even among those who only listen!

A grace of choice: Praise can thus be seen as special grace God bestows upon us. By welcoming this grace into our prayer groups, we also welcome it into our daily and personal life. Thus, while on earth, we prepare ourselves in faith for the eternal heart to heart, perfect fruit of our promised salvation, to the praise of His glory.

Father Dominique de Chanterac

Our Vocational Path...

...is a call from God! A constant and irresistible voice! At Santos Anjos (Holy Angels) Catholic Community the call is to fraternal life and to serve the Church! Under her blessing we say: *"Here I am, Lord, I have come to do your will."* (Ps 40.) It is not an easy path in a world like today's: egocentric; but it is pure joy for those who embark on it! As Beginners, Postulants, Disciples and Consecrated, we are called to give our YES to God and to the Community with all freedom! Formation in the Christian, Human and Community Foundation Charism areas allow us the necessary conditions to make our choice. Calgary Beginners are more than halfway passed this first stage of their journey and we ask for your continued intercessory prayers for them!

What Else Is Happening?

BILLINGS OVULATION METHOD (BOM)
Basic Teacher Training Part 1: Weekend Workshop
January 22 – 24 2010 at the Town and Country Centre
275 Jensen Dr. NE Airdrie, AB

Friday night session, 7 to 10pm, is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE seeking more information on the BOM method or wishing to use the method personally.

Developed by doctors and based on proven scientific research. 99.64% effective with proper instruction and user motivation. Useful for both planning and postponing pregnancy. Natural, harmless and reliable through all reproductive phases of a woman's life. Is NOT the Rhythm method. Helps establish and maintain respect & harmony in marriage.

For information and to Register: Natural Family Planning Association (Alberta)

Toll free: 1-866-796-3722 E-mail: info@billingsnaturalfamilyplanning.org

MASS FOR HEALING

Friday, February 5

7pm

Celebrant: Father Alfredo Pereira

St. Luke's Parish

Light the Fire **May 15-16, 2010**

Catholic Charismatic Weekend

CALLED TO BE LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

At Our Lady of Victory Camp (OLVC), Bentley, Alberta.

This weekend is for Catholic families, singles, youth, lay people and consecrated in Alberta and beyond who want to praise our Lord Jesus Christ and go deeper into their faith and spiritual life.

It is a chance for families and friends to come together and celebrate through the charisms of the Holy Spirit. It is an opportunity to bring those you care about into an encounter with the living Lord.

This is the CRNA's third annual provincial conference. Youth ministry will be provided by a "Team" of Young Adults from OLVC.

To register and for more information on cost, directions and what to bring, please contact Teresa van Kampen, Chairperson, CCCRS at 403 278-9863.

...and so we celebrate the start of a great New Year for the Lord! Right from our family home (*yes, this is our igloo in our backyard*), our Calgary mission celebrates the beginning of its fourth year! We remember the days back in January 2006 when we started our Prayer and Sharing Group at Canadian Martyrs parish in the NW. We remember those who embraced what we do and walked with us back on those days!

We also celebrate the second year of our *"The Annunciation" E-Newsletter*, now with a new "face" and more enjoyable for you to read.

Through this new format we will continue to bring you faith-building articles, teachings, testimonies, information on what we are doing as far as our evangelization work, and to promote other events in and around the city of Calgary, which are of the same spirituality and/or have the same goals as ours!

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Until next time, God bless!

VeraLucia Cottim-Coughlan
Coordinator, Calgary Mission