

Ladies Guild Annual Tea and Meeting – Saturday – January 9, 2016

Marie Reale welcomed everyone to our Tea at 11:00 am and began with the recitation of The Miraculous Medal Prayer. She said the events for the day would begin with lunch, followed by the exchange and opening of gifts, the exchange of names for secret prayer pals for this year and then we would have a short meeting. This is also when we pay our annual \$20.00 dues.

Following the lunch and gift exchange and drawing of names for this year, Marie Reale reminded us that the theme for our Tea today was Love, Peace, Mercy, Joy, Gratitude and Charity. The tables were decorated by various member volunteers and each table had one of the themes Marie mentioned.

Marie read a short inspirational article that listed topics included in our theme:

1. Keep Your Eyes Fixed on God
2. Live The Reflective Life
3. Make It A Habit (Count your blessings and express your gratitude)
4. Tap Your Memory – Especially on rough days
5. Take Time For Prayer
6. Live in the Truth

Marie Reale asked someone from each table to talk about the theme of their table.

1. M.J.'s table's theme was Joy and she used a Tammy Newbury quote to express their theme: "Joy is the outward sign of an inward faith in the promises of God."
2. Lynn Vaughn's table's theme was Peace and she read a poem titled Peace: "Peace brings freedom that we crave, from great stress, it shall save. One main thing, it does assure, we'll feel at ease and secure. Peace brings friendliness and joy, It is sacred, not a toy. Rooted deeply in respect, Justice something must protect. Peace brings tranquility, Along with much needed – stability. Sense of quiet, and goodwill, Peace is serene and very still. (By AnitaPoems.com.)"
3. Marie VanHeusen's table's theme was Charity and she said there was a church with a logo that was inspirational, "A community of faith anchored in hope, with heart and charity with a symbol that depicts 'Faith, Hope and Charity', so she just replaced their Parish's name on the printed logo with ours for her table!" She also included images of Blessed Mother Teresa on her table as the best example of charity in our church!
4. Rosalie's table's theme was Love and she used one of Mother Teresa's quotes, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Another quote that was inspirational for their table was "We love because He first Loved us." Rosalie said there was no greater thing than love and if you love you cannot hate. She said we all know how to love; it is just the practicing of it that we have to work at.
5. Wanda's table's theme was Mercy and she said every year she picks one particular word to work on all year. She has picked faith, hope and joy in the past. She said this year she picked Mercy because there is a lot to work on with this. She said in the Our Father we say Forgive us Lord as we forgive others, and we have to do that first; and we will all work on that this year.

Father Sam said he did not have a table but the pulpit and the theme of his Homily at Christmas was Faith, Hope and Love and at the time he had no idea of the themes the Ladies Guild had selected for our Tea. He drew from Popes Benedict XVI and Francis' Encyclicals and he did not preempt; but this just shows how all of us work together and especially the kids. He said he keeps them at the top of the list and we have a couple of the kids at the Tea today and we also have a couple who have moved up from the kids to the Young Adults so we are doing something right! He also reminded us that when

Bishop Gregory was here, he said he came to give us something but when he left he said we gave him something, especially The Parade of Saints in which everyone took part in. Father Sam said “We Are a small church with a big heart!”

Marie Reale asked us to keep Gloria in our prayers. Her daughter is Elle. She reminded the ladies that Lent begins on February 7th and the Lenten meals will start on the 12th and we will have one also on the 19th and 26th of February.

Father Sam announced that this Sunday is dedicated to the Ladies Guild. Marie Reale said that this year the Rosary will always be on the weekend when we have our meeting so it won't be split up as it has been in the past. Marie VanHeusen said there is one exception and that is during the month of May.

Father Sam said the Relic of St. Sharbel will be coming either the 24th and 25th or 25th and 26th of February and he does not yet know what we will be doing to celebrate that. He is leaning towards a Liturgy rather than a Novena and for that event only, he would allow cameras in the church to accommodate a possible overflow crowd in the Social Hall. He has to get more information on the Novena because that might involve a lot of Arabic and music we would not be familiar with so he will let us know as he finds out more because we want to do something coordinated and organized.

Marie VanHeusen worked on our calendars for the entire year and those were passed out. Marie Reale asked the ladies to please remember to bring our calendars to all of our meetings each month and Father Sam said to keep in mind that all dates are subject to change.

Marie Reale said we will have a covered dish on February 7th, which is the day before Ash Monday and it is to celebrate the Feast of St. Maron, which actually falls on the 9th. Father Sam said there will be a 6:30 service for Ash Monday on February 8th, and the Feast of St. Maron on February 9th is a Holy Day of Obligation and there will just be a noon service for that.

Emma gave the Treasurer's report and we currently have \$3690.00 in the bank and that does not include the annual dues of \$20.00 per person that she began collecting today or the cost of today's Tea and Luncheon.

Marie Reale thanked all of the ladies who put up a table and said it was much appreciated and we will probably go back to our December date for this coming year. The Bishop's visit in December made the January date necessary for this year's Tea.

The meeting concluded at 12:45 with a recitation of The Miraculous Medal Prayer.

Presented by Kathy Criminger