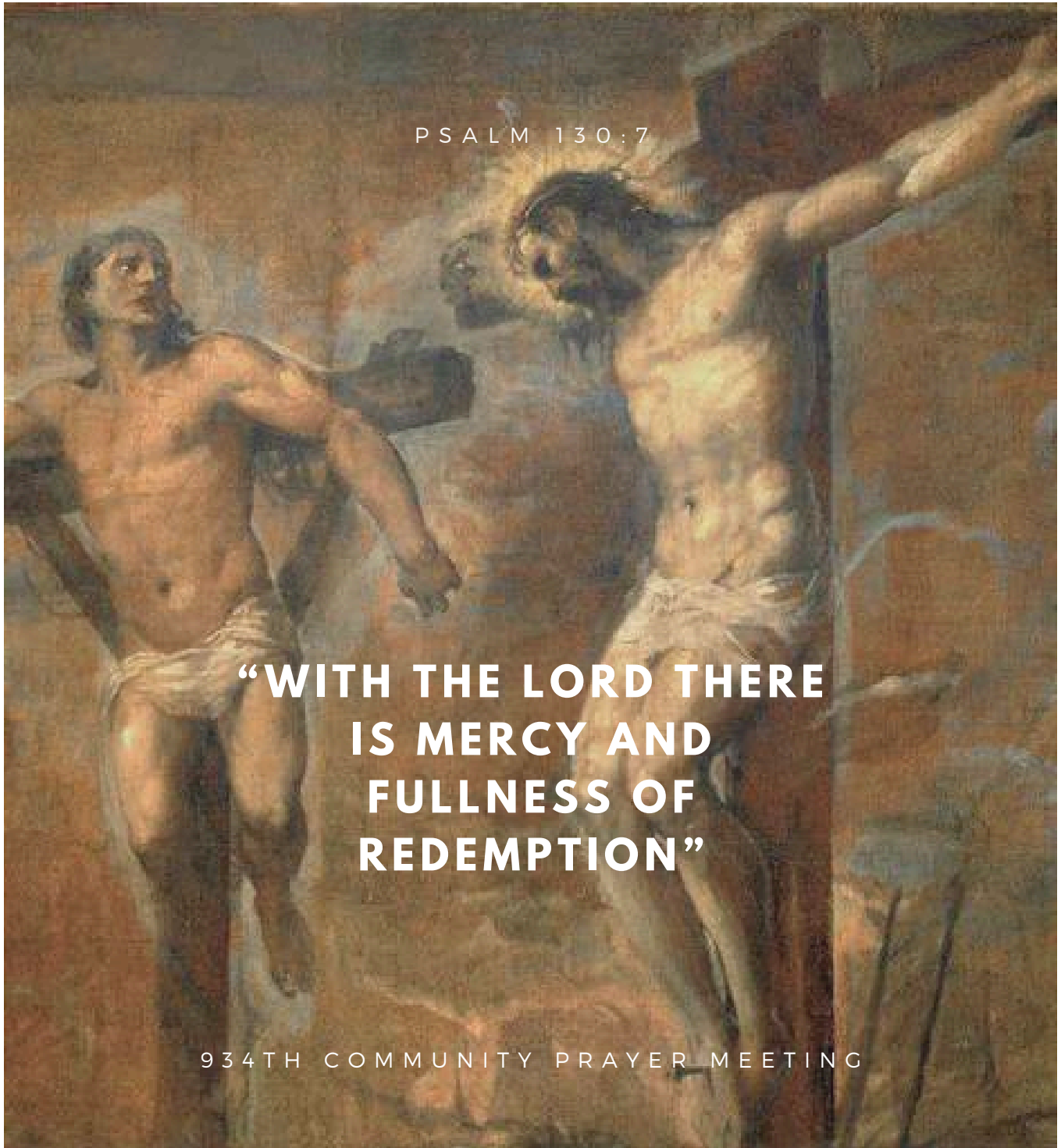


JESUS IS LORD!

PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION



PSALM 130:7

**“WITH THE LORD THERE
IS MERCY AND
FULLNESS OF
REDEMPTION”**

934TH COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING

MARCH 22, 2026



IGNITE

YOUTH MINISTRY
PRAYER REQUEST

The Kairos YES Retreat is this weekend! Please keep Ignite Youth Ministry and everyone attending in your prayers!

The YES Retreat is a three day, two night high school retreat for Sword of the Spirit youth and their friends. The goal for this weekend is to create an environment where youth have the chance to say YES to the Lord's call of discipleship. The retreat also aims to bring youth to initial or deeper conversion, to pray with them for Baptism in the Spirit, to help them grow in confidence in worship, and to encourage them in the use of the gifts of the Spirit.

Participants and volunteer staff can expect a weekend of awesome talks, testimonies, and breakout sessions; deep discussion in small groups; and powerful, God honoring worship!



STORIES FROM
THE WINTER
CONFERENCE

Deep Gratitude

"What return can I make to the Lord for all that he gives to me?"

Psalm 116:12

“THIS IS HOW”

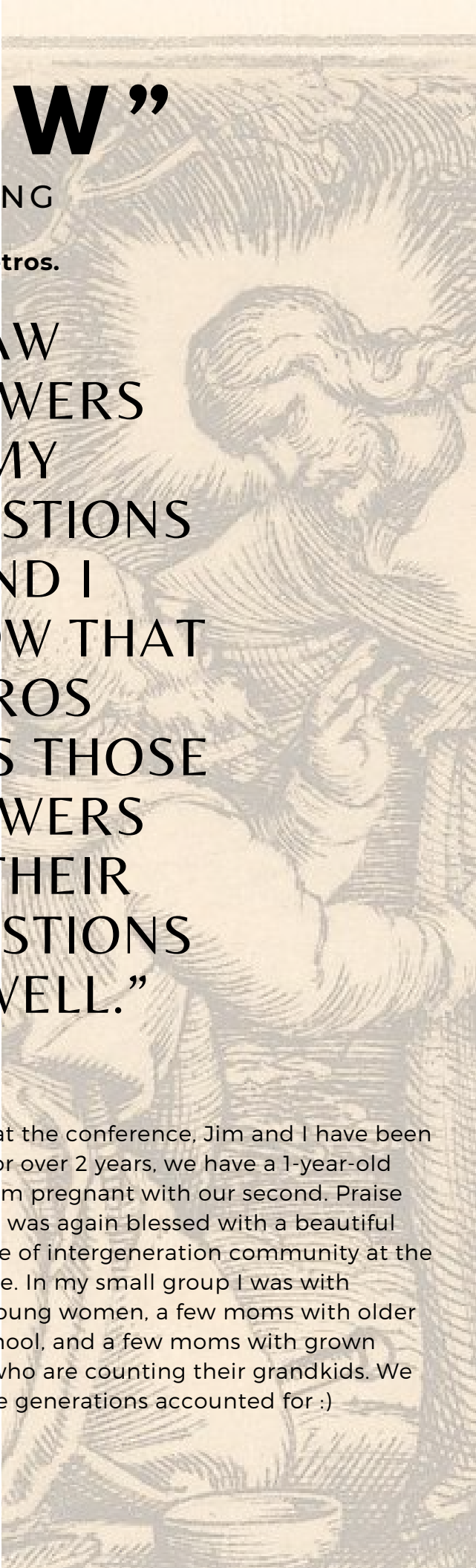
GRATITUDE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

A reflection on our joint Winter Conference with Petros.

The community conference holds a special place in my heart. When I was first dating Jim Murray and we were a part of Compass we were invited to RSVP for the community-wide Lord's Day that took place the evening of the conference and we were assigned a host house. At that Lord's Day I was with Jim, the couple who hosted and their 4 kids, another young couple with 4 kids, the parents of one of Jim's roommates, and an older couple who had stories to share about the building of Mary Street.

It was a beautiful celebration of intergeneration community. Jim and I had been having discussions about marriage, and I felt nervous about starting a family, I had questions, “how do you raise children well in a world that feels so broken?” “How can you give your children the best chance at thriving in this life and spending eternity with Jesus in the next?” I felt overwhelmed by the idea of bringing a life into the world and being responsible for it and I felt young.

At that Conference Lord's Day dinner I saw some answers to the questions I had, I listened to kids not even in middle school thank the Lord for their parents and the hard work they do to provide for the family, I saw kids not even in school yet thank the Lord for their brothers and their friends. On the drive home that night I knew “Jim, this is how you do it! You find families who you align with, and you raise your families alongside each other. You do it together with people who share the same values you have.”



“I SAW
ANSWERS
TO MY
QUESTIONS
... AND I
KNOW THAT
PETROS
SEES THOSE
ANSWERS
TO THEIR
QUESTIONS
AS WELL.”

This year at the conference, Jim and I have been married for over 2 years, we have a 1-year-old son, and I'm pregnant with our second. Praise the Lord! I was again blessed with a beautiful experience of intergeneration community at the conference. In my small group I was with another young women, a few moms with older kids in school, and a few moms with grown children who are counting their grandkids. We had all the generations accounted for :)

It was so powerful to hear witness from these women of the difficulties they've faced in life, of the ways that God has provided for them, and the countless times that community has served them in times of need. I was so moved to listen to their stories, and to share my own as well. I feel so grateful to be a part of a community with so much wisdom and with people who are so willing to share their stories. I left feeling inspired.

This year Jim, Theo and I were blessed to join the Chedid family for Lord's Day after the conference, and we were joined by an Anchor couple as well. It was so beautiful to witness the Petros Community striving for what they know is good. I saw answers to my questions in the People of Hope Community just those few short years ago, and I know that Petros sees those answers to their questions as well. I am so excited for their community and the journey they are embarking on as they enter covenant community and discern with the Sword of the Spirit. Seeing the young families, couples and young adults of Petros reminded me of how grateful I am for the generations of our community, and I am happy that we'll be able to share the age and wisdom of our community with them moving forward.

- Miranda Murray, *Lighthouse Member*

**“I FEEL SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF A
COMMUNITY WITH SO MUCH WISDOM AND
WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SO WILLING TO
SHARE THEIR STORIES.”**





WHAT RETURN CAN I MAKE TO THE LORD?



PHOTOS BY MARITES ALLEN



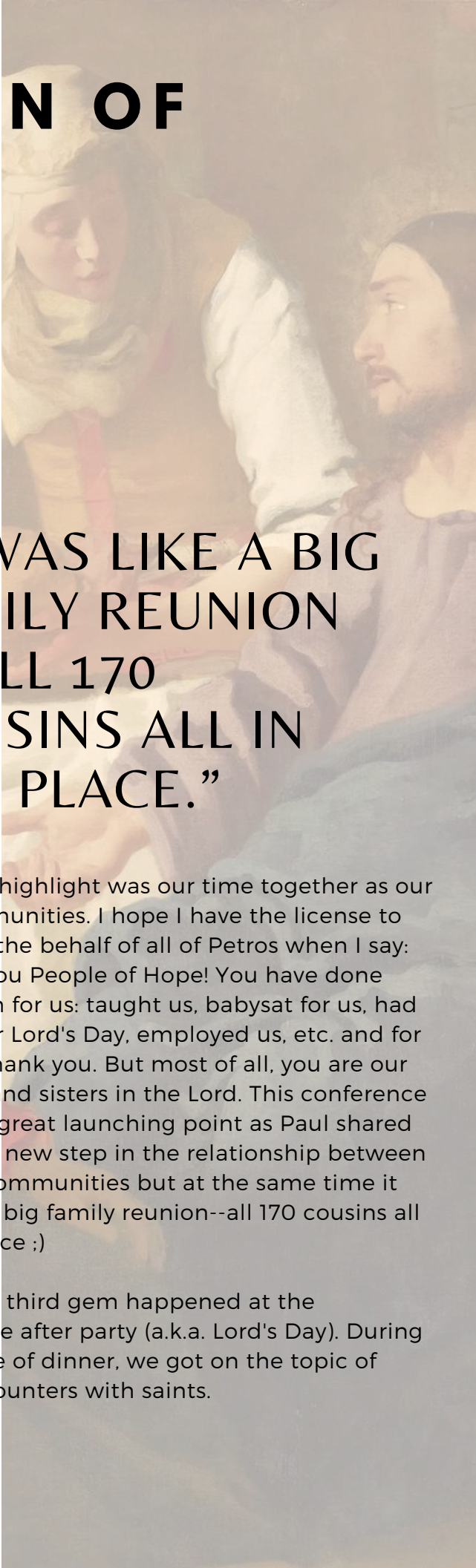
A FAMILY REUNION OF FAITH

AN “ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE” FOR ONE ANOTHER

A Petros reflection on the 2026 Winter Conference.

Reflecting back on the Winter Conference a few weeks back, I think what comes to mind is a simple thought of "man that was really good!" From Paul and Patty's talk, to the witnesses from Jerry and Daria and everything in between there was a certain lightness to the day that was refreshing and encouraging for me both in my personal life and as a Petros community member. To hone in on three specific gems from the conference, I would say that learning about the "challenges to gratitude", our time together as two communities, and being inspired by the virtues of the saints all called me on to put on an "attitude of gratitude."

Leading up to the conference, I had been battling with that louzy old "thief of joy"-- comparison. Why does this friend get all these good things? Why does that coworker get to go to the conference and not me? And so on. Paul and Patty spoke to this well and mentioned how praying that the Lord bless others as well as praying for our own contentment are two great antidotes when comparison creeps in. Further, during our small group, some of my brothers from the People of Hope were mentioning that you never know all the things that someone else is dealing with. We see only parts and before we jump to conclusions or start whining we should recognize that each of us has a cross to bear. Lord help me to grow in contentment this Lent and Easter!



“IT WAS LIKE A BIG FAMILY REUNION — ALL 170 COUSINS ALL IN ONE PLACE.”

A second highlight was our time together as our two communities. I hope I have the license to speak on the behalf of all of Petros when I say: We love you People of Hope! You have done very much for us: taught us, babysat for us, had us over for Lord's Day, employed us, etc. and for that we thank you. But most of all, you are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. This conference felt like a great launching point as Paul shared about the new step in the relationship between our two communities but at the same time it was like a big family reunion--all 170 cousins all in one place ;)

Lastly, the third gem happened at the conference after party (a.k.a. Lord's Day). During the course of dinner, we got on the topic of close encounters with saints.

One couple was driving on Jersey highways right next to Mother Teresa and another couple got to meet Pope John Paul II. I was captivated by these stories. It was encouraging to hear that even in brief encounters these saints of God showed the light of Christ. I was grateful to the Lord for the witness of the saints. It is one thing to read about them from books but it was doubly encouraging to hear that these saints made an impact even in brief moments. I am eager to grow in the virtues that the saints show us so well.

So, thank you Lord for a great conference and please give us the grace to grow in this virtue of gratitude...Amen!

- Andrew Olsen, *Petros Member*

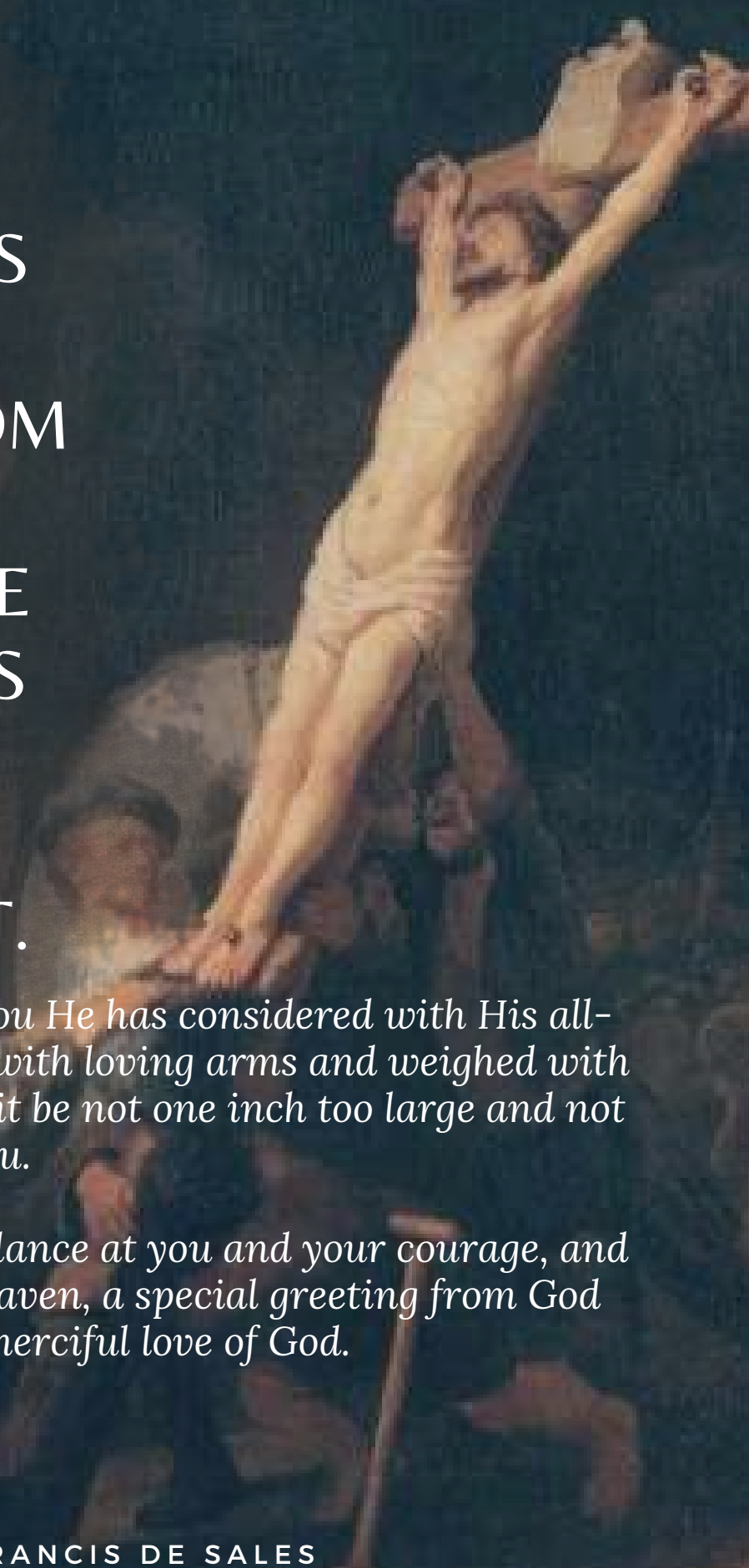
**“I HOPE I HAVE THE LICENSE TO SPEAK ON
THE BEHALF OF ALL OF PETROS WHEN I
SAY: WE LOVE YOU PEOPLE OF HOPE!”**



THE
EVERLASTING
GOD HAS IN HIS
WISDOM
FORESEEN FROM
ETERNITY THE
CROSS THAT HE
NOW PRESENTS
TO YOU AS A
GIFT FROM HIS
INMOST HEART.

This cross He now sends you He has considered with His all-knowing eyes . . . warmed with loving arms and weighed with His own hands to see that it be not one inch too large and not one ounce too heavy for you.

He has . . . taken one last glance at you and your courage, and then sent it to you from heaven, a special greeting from God to you, an alms of the all-merciful love of God.



Remembering Baptismal Days

Spending time with the members of the Lighthouse District during their Culture Night discussing the celebration of baptismal days, reminded us of the richness of this tradition which we have been celebrating in our family for 45+ years. Some of the individuals have been present during baptismal day honorings and shared their firsthand impressions; others admitted to needing to find out when their baptismal date is, so that they can begin to honor it as a gift from the Lord. We talked of the different ways to celebrate, from the simple to the more elaborate, but always stressed the importance of honoring the individual, and renewing the baptismal promises.

- Ed and Cecilia Neri



RICH TRADITIONS

Takeaways from Lighthouse Culture Night

This Life We Live & Love: Lord's Day Dinners

A few weeks ago Chris and Diane Tomasello and John and I were blessed to join in the Lighthouse Culture Nights.

We shared together on this "Life we Live and Love" in the lived experience of Lords Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk a bit about welcoming folks to our homes through the years. It was also good to hear from our Lighthouse people on how Lords Days have been working for you and yours.

Our team was encouraged by the "Lights" you are trying to "Shine as you Go?" in the Lords Day settings. We were impressed by your honesty and humility, and their plans to try to welcome this tradition at least once a month. Life and seasons are full and so this was a great hope to make Lords Day work.

We, as a team focused a bit on simplicity, creativity and JOY as we plan to serve brothers and sisters in our homes. Simple shared menus, family team work in preparing/cleaning up for the evening, and receiving one another with lots of JOY! Practically, we suggested having a couple meals in mind, as well ask asking your participants to bring what they like to drink (thus helping the budget a little).

In addition, we shared as well about using the evening to share blessings of course, but also to spend a little time to really get to know one another better by hearing about guests "favorite things" -----childhood adventures, cooking opts, art projects, home building times. Asking guests if they recently celebrated birthdays/baptismal days and then making note of it at the dinner table (nice surprise for kids). Learning about grandparents and family heritage, fun school events, sacramental prep and participation have been some beneficial times for us to "know" one another a bit more. Sometimes bringing a picture to share is interesting and helpful.

Lords Day is a blessing for all ---no matter age or stage, especially if we welcome the Holy Spirit into our evening. Looking and listening to one another presents us again with "Knowing" more personally God's Family a little better. There will come that time when we look across a prayer meeting and see Family "A" and say to ourselves ---"Oh, I know them " because we spent the Lords Day tradition together, and the fruit of that time gave me an avenue to say "I know YOU more now ----- thank you Lord!

The Tomasellos and the Provinsals have been humbled through the years to get to know one another during the celebration of Lords Day. Its been a building process that connects us.

The Lords Day is a Tradition that allows us to bless one another in this life we "Live and Love."

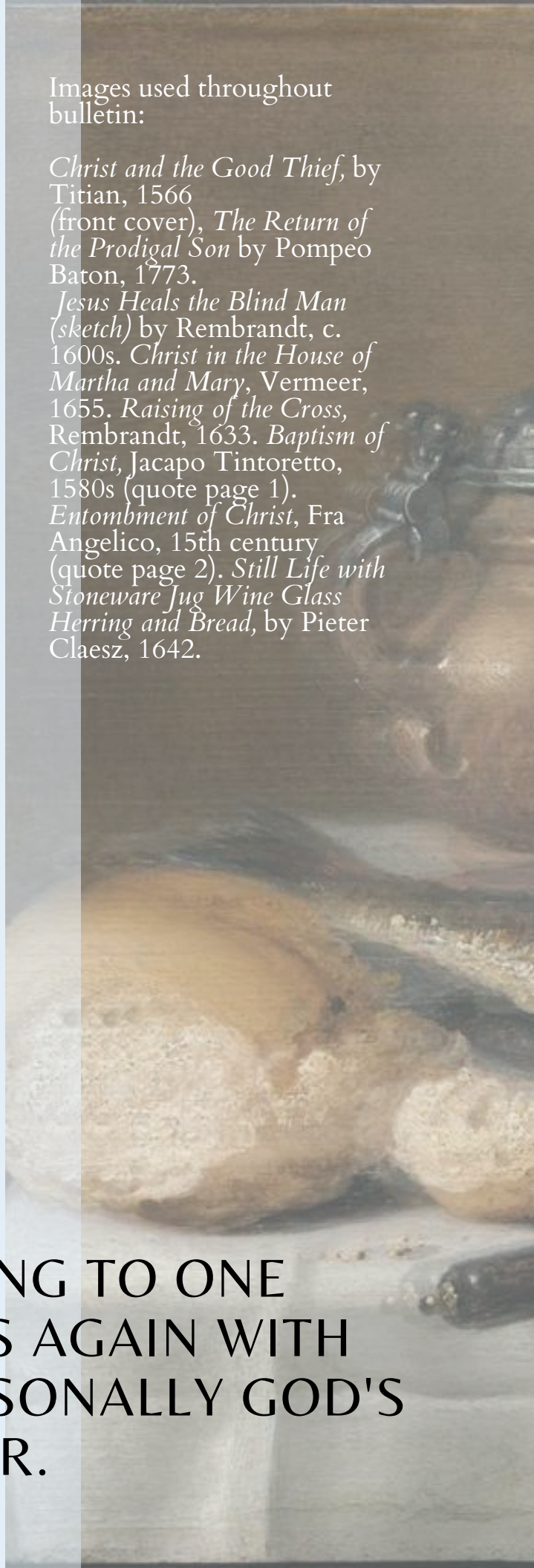
-Normal Provinsal

LOOKING AND LISTENING TO ONE ANOTHER PRESENTS US AGAIN WITH "KNOWING" MORE PERSONALLY GOD'S FAMILY A LITTLE BETTER.

Images used throughout bulletin:

Christ and the Good Thief, by Titian, 1566 (front cover), *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Pompeo Batoni, 1773.

Jesus Heals the Blind Man (sketch) by Rembrandt, c. 1600s. *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*, Vermeer, 1655. *Raising of the Cross*, Rembrandt, 1633. *Baptism of Christ*, Jacopo Tintoretto, 1580s (quote page 1). *Entombment of Christ*, Fra Angelico, 15th century (quote page 2). *Still Life with Stoneware Jug Wine Glass Herring and Bread*, by Pieter Claesz, 1642.



PEOPLE OF HOPE

LOVE HIM TOTALLY
who gave Himself totally for your love



ST CLAIRE OF ASSISI

IMMEDIATE NEED

- Stevie McGill
- Kathy Garcia
- Eric Garcia
- Lynn Hull
- Paul Major

SERIOUS & ONGOING

- Mary Ann Bastiaansen
- Eleanor Benson
- Clara Bickel
- Judy Bonnesen
- Peggy Camiolo
- Jackie Donnelley
- Margaret Fierro
- Ginny Gallic
- Shannon Hardy
- Joseph McMullen
- Gary Montemurno
- Danielle Neri
- Dan O'Mullan

Please visit our website peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

PRAYER PETITION HIGHLIGHT

RETIRED MEN'S GATHERINGS

Lord, we're grateful that our retired brothers are coming together regularly, guarding against isolation. Please bless this ministry. May its development continue be guided by Your Holy Spirit.

"Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and petitions full of gratitude".

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANCHOR MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, April 10th
Details coming soon

LIGHTHOUSE POTLUCK LORD'S DAY DINNER

Saturday, April 11
5:30PM
Koinonia Academy

YES RETREAT



March 27-29
Hillsdale, MI

IGNITE CHURCH HOPPING

Thursday, April 2
Details TBA

908.222.9722

info@peopleofhope.net // www.peopleofhope.net
1040 Plainfield Ave, Plainfield, NJ 07060

 @thepeopleofhope  @peopleofhopenj



T H E P E O P L E O F H O P E
A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

Thank you
TIM & SOFIA



In thanksgiving for your many years of faithful service as
Director of Camp Hope

Thank you
MAEVE



Maeve, thank you for the many ways you served the People of Hope these past seven years through your work at the community office and beyond.

Each of us have experienced God's love through the love and care you poured into all you did. Thank you for sharing your talents with us allowing our prayer meetings, retreats, conferences and anniversary banquets to be places we encountered the Lord's beauty. Your friendly smile and warm greetings were always so welcoming. May God bless you and Gabe as you get ready to welcome Elliana's baby sister. Love, from all your brothers and sisters in the People of Hope.

IN LOVING MEMORY
JOHN “JACK” BICKEL JR.

Born into earthly Life: November 19, 1947

Baptized: January 4, 1948

Born into Eternal Life: December 31, 2025

Jack was raised in Arlington, Virginia, where he spent his childhood developing the curiosity, discipline, and adventurous spirit that would characterize his life. After graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in civil engineering, Jack completed Officer Training School and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy, serving with the Navy Seabees.



Jack lived life with an extraordinary sense of adventure. Rugby had been his first athletic love, but his pursuits soon expanded far beyond the ordinary. He embraced skiing, scuba diving, tandem skydiving, whitewater rafting, spelunking, dirt bike riding, and nearly any challenge that promised excitement and discovery. At times, he could also be found enjoying a friendly game of badminton or tennis. While he enjoyed watching sports, it was participating that gave him the greatest joy.

During a particularly stressful period of his life, Jack gave his life to Jesus—a turning point that led him to join the People of Hope. His adventurous spirit continued as he served for several years at St. Antonius before reentering the workforce and marrying his dear wife, Clara. Together Jack and Clara raised two beautiful children, John and Maria. Their grandchildren, Jack and Charlie, have been a special delight.

The core of Jack's life was his faith and his family. As an active member of the People of Hope community, Jack and Clara built a life grounded in faith, service, and devotion. Jack's warm smile put everyone he met at ease, often opening the door for him to share about Jesus and all that God had done in his life.

A devoted parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Jack was a daily communicant, attending Mass wherever his travels might take him. Faith was not simply a part of Jack's life—it was the foundation upon which he lived.

We remember Jack for his joyful spirit, his sense of adventure, and above all his deep love for the Lord. He lived his faith openly and simply, encouraging others by his example of prayer, perseverance, and trust in God. Our community is grateful for the gift of Jack's life and witness. While we mourn his passing, we do so in the hope of the Resurrection, confident that the Lord—together with Jack's infant daughter Teresa—has welcomed him into eternal glory.