

JESUS IS LORD!

# PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

"THE PROMISES OF THE  
LORD I WILL SING  
FOREVER, THROUGH ALL  
GENERATIONS MY MOUTH  
SHALL PROCLAIM YOUR  
FAITHFULNESS."

PSALM 89:2



892ND COMMUNITY PRAYER MEETING  
3RD VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING

JUNE 28, 2020



And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

J O H N 1 4 : 2 1

## **DEEPEN YOUR RELIANCE ON MY HOLY SPIRIT**

Remember, it was not you who chose me, but I who chose you. The same Spirit that raised me from the dead lives in you. Do not base your belief, on what you feel or the situation you are in, but rather realize that I have not left you orphaned in your situation. If I had based my belief in the Father's love for me on what I felt or the situation I found myself in, I would have never been able to bear the cross and die for your sake. My call to faith is pure grace and you cannot will it, but rather you must surrender to my love daily. My people, on this Pentecost I want to open the eyes of your heart to Faith and Hope in all circumstances, to rely not on your efforts, but rather to deepen your reliance on the Holy Spirit who dwells in you. (Ref from John 14:15-21)

## **I AM YOUR HOPE IN TIMES OF TRIAL**

If it were to your benefit that I tell you exactly the details of what is going to happen next, I would do so. I am your Hope. In times of trouble, I am your rock and your deliverer, your protector and your shield. I know every detail and every second of your lives. I am your Hope in times of trial. I encouraged you to more prayer, greater prayer, to prayer for yourselves, your families, your communities and our church.

## **ASK FOR MORE OF MY HOLY SPIRIT**

O my People, how I wish to pour out more of my Holy Spirit upon you, to animate you, direct you, empower you, and embolden you to be My witnesses. The Holy Spirit gives you the power to withstand the attack of the enemy who seeks to overcome you. You do not receive because you do not ask. Therefore, ask, My people, ask for more of My Holy Spirit so that it may be given to you.

THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

The Holy Spirit  
penetrates the  
most unimaginable  
situations. He does  
so today just as he  
did in the Acts of  
the Apostles

POPE FRANCIS

# PENTECOST EXHORTATION

Ed Moccia

**Thank you to Ed Moccia for his uplifting exhortation at our Pentecost virtual prayer meeting. We've transcribed the entire talk here so that it may continue to inspire and encourage us.**

You might notice I kind of have a little bit of a beard here, that is because I'm going to be speaking about Pentecost from that perspective of Peter and the early apostles and disciples and so I just wanted to get into character-- So just imagine this is *not* the Ed Moccia that you know, this is one of the early disciples.

Come Holy Spirit!

My sense is that we can think that somehow, because of being limited physically and by distance, that the Holy Spirit can be limited. My sense is that *the Lord isn't limited*. The power of the Holy Spirit: he's not limited by time and space and distance, we are. I want to begin with a prayer and I know James just prayed a prayer but--

Lord, I pray that even now all of us while we are not physically gathered in the same space that, Lord, you are bigger than that, that you are present to all of us, and I pray that your Holy Spirit and this Pentecost would not be limited by the barriers that we think may be in place but that you would still come and renew the face of the earth through us and the name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

Okay so I want to begin by using one line from Scripture, this is from the Gospel of John. "Simon Peter said to them 'I am going fishing' and they said to him 'we will go with you.'" Simon Peter said I am going fishing. This is a really big deal, this is significant. The gospel writer John doesn't include that simply so we knew "Oh, Peter was going fishing." No. Why is this so significant? Where did Jesus call Peter from? It was this kind of same scene but in the beginning of the Gospels. Jesus called Peter from fishing and it says Peter left his nets. Peter left fishing and he followed Jesus. Jesus said I'm calling you from fishing, you're now going to become fishers of men. Now Peter is returning to his former way of life, that's why the one line "I am going fishing" is a really big deal.

Now think about what this means, for three years Peter was with Jesus and it wasn't enough. Peter walked with Jesus, Peter followed Jesus. He listened to Jesus, he was there, he witnessed the miracles firsthand, he served Jesus. Peter even correctly professes, it's not fully understood if he meant it, but he professes Christ as Jesus, as the Christ, as the Messiah. He was there. He was even sent on mission in the name of Jesus. And remember Jesus had already risen from the dead and appeared to the disciples including Peter before this happened, so Peter had witnessed the risen Christ and even with all of this, Peter says "I am going fishing." I'm returning to my old way of life.

All of this Jesus wasn't enough, alone, for Peter. This wasn't the real goal of Jesus; serving alongside Jesus wasn't Peter's real mission.

We know that Pentecost changes everything. If you juxtapose the Peter of the Gospels and the Peter of Acts, they're two very different people. The difference, of course, is the Holy Spirit. But here's what's key: the Pentecost, we're celebrating today, the indwelling presence of God in us through the Holy Spirit, doesn't just help Peter do what he was already doing in the Gospels, but somehow do it better. It's not like, "oh, now Peter has the Holy Spirit so he's a better servant of Jesus, he's better at preaching, he's better doing everything he was doing in the Gospels..." If you read through Acts, you realize that *Peter and the early disciples actually began acting like Christ and actually began speaking in the name of Christ in a different way*. They preached with power and authority in the gospel as it was Jesus, only Jesus who spoke with power, right? But in the Acts it says "they were cut to the heart when they heard the preaching of the Apostles." The Apostles, through the early disciples in Peter, they were the agents of miraculous healings. They acted with boldness and courage, it said that they rejoiced at the opportunity to suffer for the name, they prayed for boldness and courage *like Jesus*. It says even some of the healings were so powerful they even raised people that seemed like they were dead, from the dead. *So we begin to see the real difference that the Holy Spirit makes is that now Peter and the other disciples are actually becoming Jesus*.

And this is what the Holy Spirit does. It's not just about serving Christ better or more effectively or even with just some kind of greater power, it's actually something far greater. *The real work of the Holy Spirit in us is transforming us into Christ*.

If I asked all of you what your goal in life was or the purpose of your existence or what your mission in this life, I might get all different sorts

of answers. But your primary goal in life, your fundamental mission, your deepest calling *is to become a unique face of Christ to the world*.

Saint Paul says "the old man has died," right? Saint Paul said, "the old man, the person I was, I no longer am. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." Saint Paul is saying, in these terms, "I have become Christ," right? As Saint Paul says "we're to put on Jesus Christ" and that Greek word that Paul uses to "put on" is the same word to put on garments, or to get dressed, so to speak, into Christ, so that when others see me they actually don't see me, they actually see Christ. I actually take on Christ. So the point here is *we become a new creation, not a better creation*. This is what we're actually celebrating today. This is the real gift of Pentecost, the unimaginable gift of the Holy Spirit. God became man so that man may become God and this gift is brought to you today by the Holy Spirit.

So three perhaps takeaways, three senses that maybe we could focus on this Pentecost. One is becoming Christ. I think so often we think "what do I have to do, what do I have to do, what do I have to do?" have to do?" Doing is always secondary to being, what we do is important, but not nearly as important as we think. And who we are is so much more important than we often think. I've been just reflecting on how the coronavirus has impacted all aspects of our life. Back in February or even early March, no one could have guessed or predicted the way the virus has impacted our lives. It's not just like "oh the way I drive my car is different, or the way I go to the store is different." Everything is different now because of the virus, right? School, work, summer plans, our gathering or Pentecost prayer meeting, it's all different because of the virus.

Similarly, but even more so, becoming Christ is a total game changer. It's meant to impact all aspects of our life. Again, we're not just called to

do something for Christ and its church, right? We don't want to be gospel disciples, it kind of sounds scandalous, I don't know if I'm being recorded, but we don't want to just become gospel disciples who somehow serve alongside Jesus and we're there. It's so much more than that. We actually want to become Christ. So I said three takeaways, number one, become Christ.

But number two, is how we do this? And I hope you hear the irony in this question, how do we do something that actually we don't do, it's about becoming. How do we do something to become Christ? It doesn't have to do with doing something, it has to do more with transformation. I just want to offer this, I think the way we become Christ is by spending time with the Father. By allowing us to be with the Father and have the Father see us, it's only when we realize that the Father sees his own divine nature in us, that's how we realize who we really are.

I've been on a bit of a personal retreat this Easter season, virtually of course, and I've been encouraged to spend time with the Father and just go through some meditations. One of the meditations the person leading me through this retreat said was, "Ed, because of the gift of Pentecost, because of the indwelling presence of God in me, when the Father sees me he sees himself, He sees his son in me and he loves me like he loves Jesus. The Father loves me as much as he loves Jesus." It sounded scandalous to me! I don't know if it's even theologically accurate. I said "wait, what did you just say?" "Ed, the Father loves you just as much as he loved his son Jesus." The Father loves you as much as He loves his son Jesus. And again I was like, "dude come on like, I don't know, can this really be true? Jesus and me. Jesus is the Son of God, I'm the son of Carl and Theresa. Jesus became man, died on the cross and rose from the dead and it was my sin that nailed him to the cross. I'm kind of okay if the Father loves Jesus more than

he loves me." But just because it's too good to be true, doesn't mean it isn't true. This is why - the good news. I have a really hard time grappling with this, that the Father would love me so much that he would love me as much as his son Jesus. So this is what I do in my meditation. I just been sitting with the Father, I've been imagining the Trinity, which itself is kind of a difficult thing to do, but I imagine the Father and the Father is here and the Father is loving his son, the Father is eternally giving of himself to his son Jesus, and Jesus, of course, is reciprocating that and that's so real that it is the third person, the Holy Spirit. And now here's the Father, the Father is loving the son. So the son Jesus is receiving the Father's love and I'm looking at this as like this outside third person. But then I imagine, okay now Jesus moves out and I move in in the same way that the Father is loving the son, the same way, the same intensity, the same unimaginable infiniteness, he is now loving me in that same way. The only difference is I can't reciprocate it as perfectly as Jesus does. But the Father is actually loving me the same way he loves his son Jesus. This is unbelievable, thank you Jesus for this! So we want to become Christ, we become Christ by allowing the Father to love us in the same way that he loved Jesus.

And then my third takeaway here is just a thought on baptism in the Holy Spirit and our charismatic spirituality. For many years I've been praying a simple prayer in the beginning of the day during my prayer time, I pray: "Father baptize me in your Holy Spirit today." Many years ago when I was younger I wanted to give all of my life for the rest of my life to Christ. This is kind of like this buzz phrase, "all of my life the rest of my life" that we should throw around. But I can only give all of my life for the rest of my life by giving today fully for God. So I want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit every day. A number of months ago in January I led a men's session

at SPO's big ASCEND conference and I was emceeding it. It was easy for me to imagine I needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit to preach to these men and I'm the one leading them in prayer and I had to be on fire, I had to be light and a witness, I needed the power of the Holy Spirit. Yeah, that's true but, most of my life isn't lived on stage. It's lived out actually right here, in my home with my family, with Daria, with my children, with those that I work with.

Last week, I met with my pastoral leader and great friend and brother Paul Quense. It was awesome, but I didn't want to meet with him because I felt like I was really busy, it's like I have too much to do. But again, I prayed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. I needed choosing to spend time with Paul to prioritize that. It was awesome and that's me living Baptized in the Holy Spirit. I sold something on Facebook marketplace and the person came to pick it up and I just prayed for Baptism in the Holy Spirit for that moment. I asked the person why he was using this kind of room divider that my parents had and he said he was using it for his mom who was sick and had to move in with them. So I just prayed for courage and asked them "hey what's the name of your mother? I'm a Catholic and I would love to pray for your mother." I didn't pray over him but I had courage in that moment to say I'm a Catholic and I would love to pray for you. When I have patience with my kids, I'm living the baptism in the Holy Spirit. When I go to bed on time, I wake up on time so that I can begin my day with prayer, I'm living the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

So the three points one more time: become Christ, the Father loves you as much as he loves Jesus this is how we become Christ, and let's pray for baptism in the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

I know we're going to transition to worship now, I just want to read from Ephesians as we begin worship here. Saint Paul begins "Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ who

has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing, how can it be? Because we now share the same nature with Christ because of the indwelling presence of God through the Holy Spirit in us. Not some of the gifts, not some of divine nature-- we share *all* of the spiritual blessings with Christ. And our only response, our only response really to this almost scandalous--it sounds scandalous this news, seemingly too good but true nonetheless--not our only but our *first* response ought to be one of praise and worship, to give thanks.

So let's pray that we may be baptized anew in the Holy Spirit today on Pentecost but also tomorrow and the day after that. Let's praise and worship God for his saving work of salvation in our lives. Amen.

-EM

**"And this is what the Holy Spirit does. It's not just about serving Christ better or more effectively or even with just some kind of greater power, it's actually something far greater. The real work of the Holy Spirit in us is transforming us into Christ."**

“A process of self-destruction is always reversible. But time is short. For several years, the decline has been accelerating. All civilizations that ignore the eminent dignity of the human person have vanished. The rejection of life, the murder of pre-born children, the murder of the handicapped and the elderly, the demolition of the family and of moral and spiritual values: all this was the first act in the tragedy of the suicide of an entire people.

However, I must add, among the institutions that seem suicidal and decadent, there are true seeds of renewal. I have met many generous families that are deeply rooted in their Christian faith.

I have seen fine religious communities that are faithful and fervent. They remind of the Christians who, in the twilight years of the Roman Empire, kept watch over the flickering flame of civilization. I want to encourage them. I want to tell them: your mission is not to save a dying world. No civilization has the promises of eternal life. Your mission is to live out with fidelity and without compromise the faith you received from Christ. In that way, even without realizing it, you will save the heritage of many centuries of faith. Do not be afraid because of your small numbers! It is not a matter of winning elections or influencing opinions. It is a matter of living the Gospel.

Faith is a fire. A person himself must be on fire in order to transmit it. Watch over this sacred fire! “

In Loving Memory of  
*Fr. James Carroll*

**Born October 5, 1930**  
**Baptized October 19, 1930**  
**Entered Eternal Rest**  
**May 4, 2020**



*We are grateful to the Lord for the life of our dear brother, Fr. James Carroll, and his many years of service, love, support and friendship to all of us in the People of Hope. We pray that he is with our Heavenly Father and look forward to the day that we see him again in the Kingdom!*

Resources to honor and remember our dear brother by (please click):

[St. Mary Stony Hill](#)  
[Remembers](#)  
[Fr. Carroll](#)  
[\(Obituary included\)](#)

[Jon Touhill sings](#)  
["Well Done" in](#)  
[memory of Fr. Carroll](#)

[Comic Parable](#)  
[Drawings by](#)  
[Fr. Carroll](#)  
More to come!

**Fr Carroll loved children and was constantly striving to make his heart like that of a child, playing his guitar for the Lord, praying aloud with a humble heart.** - Judy Touhill

Many years ago one of my sons did something which was directly opposite of what he was told. When I said we were going up to St. Joseph's Shrine to confession, he said to me "I will go to confession but not to the Shrine. Fr. Carroll is my confessor". So, we went over to Mary Street where he went to confession with Fr. Carroll. I realized at that time what an important priest Fr. Carroll was in the life of Koinonia and my son.

- Diane Tomasello

**My memory of Father Carroll is him sitting by himself near a cabin or in a field at Camp, reading his Bible and being prepared (always!) to hear a confession.** - Fred Bunsu

For many years after the GCG, on a monthly basis, Fr Carroll would come to our house for dinner. After dinner he would hear our confessions. Even the very young ones wanted to go to confession. They would sit with him and he would lead them in a prayer and give them his blessing. What a gift it was to have this saintly priest in our home. Afterwards we would have dessert. He loved anything chocolate with his hot tea!!!

- The Conant Family

**A few years back I recognized that we have a Saint in our midst. I asked Father if I could have his bible. He gave me one of his older bibles. I indeed have a Bible from a saint!** - Bill Ross

One of the blessings of having Fr. Carroll live with us, as a family, were the times of the heavy snow falls and blizzards. At that time, Fr. Carroll could not leave to say Mass at Stony Hill. We were all essentially quarantined. He would then convert our dining room into a chapel, and all those who were able to make it through the snow were welcome to join us for Mass. This was a personal blessing and an honor for us as a family.

- John Dalessio

My earliest memory of Fr. Carroll was from KA as a student when he would come to the classroom with stick figure cartoon drawings of bible stories/parables and teach us using these simple drawings and simple songs that he'd play on the guitar. Every story would end with "what does the story mean, clap clap, what does the story mean, clap clap". Secondly, I remember him from a young age, always being a presence at Camp Hope, on the bench near his cabin ready to hear confessions; always ready to help a soul be restored to relationship with God. Thank you Fr. Carroll. - Phil Tomasello

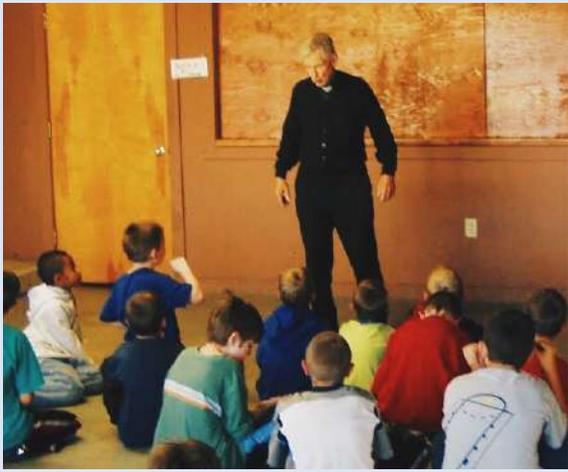
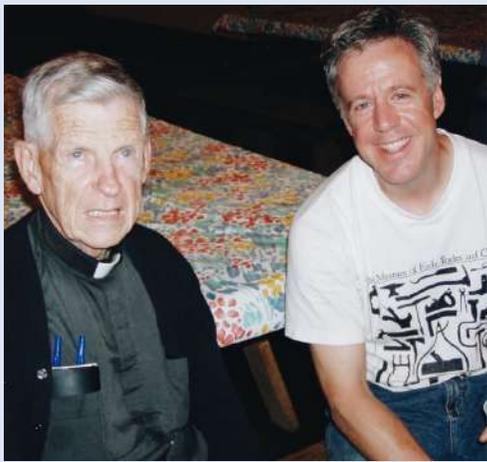
**Fr. Carroll baptized me on January 11, 1981, and he baptized my son, Damien Moccia, on January 11, 2009!** - Ed Moccia

One day when I scheduled a time with Fr. Carroll for confession at St Mary's Stony Hill, I found him upstairs in the parish center with his old guitar in hand and on the floor he had a series of praise songs with chords he had written out with a marker on large sheets of easel paper. Later on when visiting him at St Joseph's in Totowa, I found that he was STILL using his guitar for worship; we talked about getting him new strings for it! I was so inspired by his steadfastness and determination to do whatever it took to express his love for Jesus by praising him in song, and I have no doubt that it was a great source of consolidation for him. - Jim Minogue

**When I would get to KA before the teacher's prayer time, as I parked my car, I would see Fr. Carroll in his car, reading his well-worn Bible.**

- Len Forman

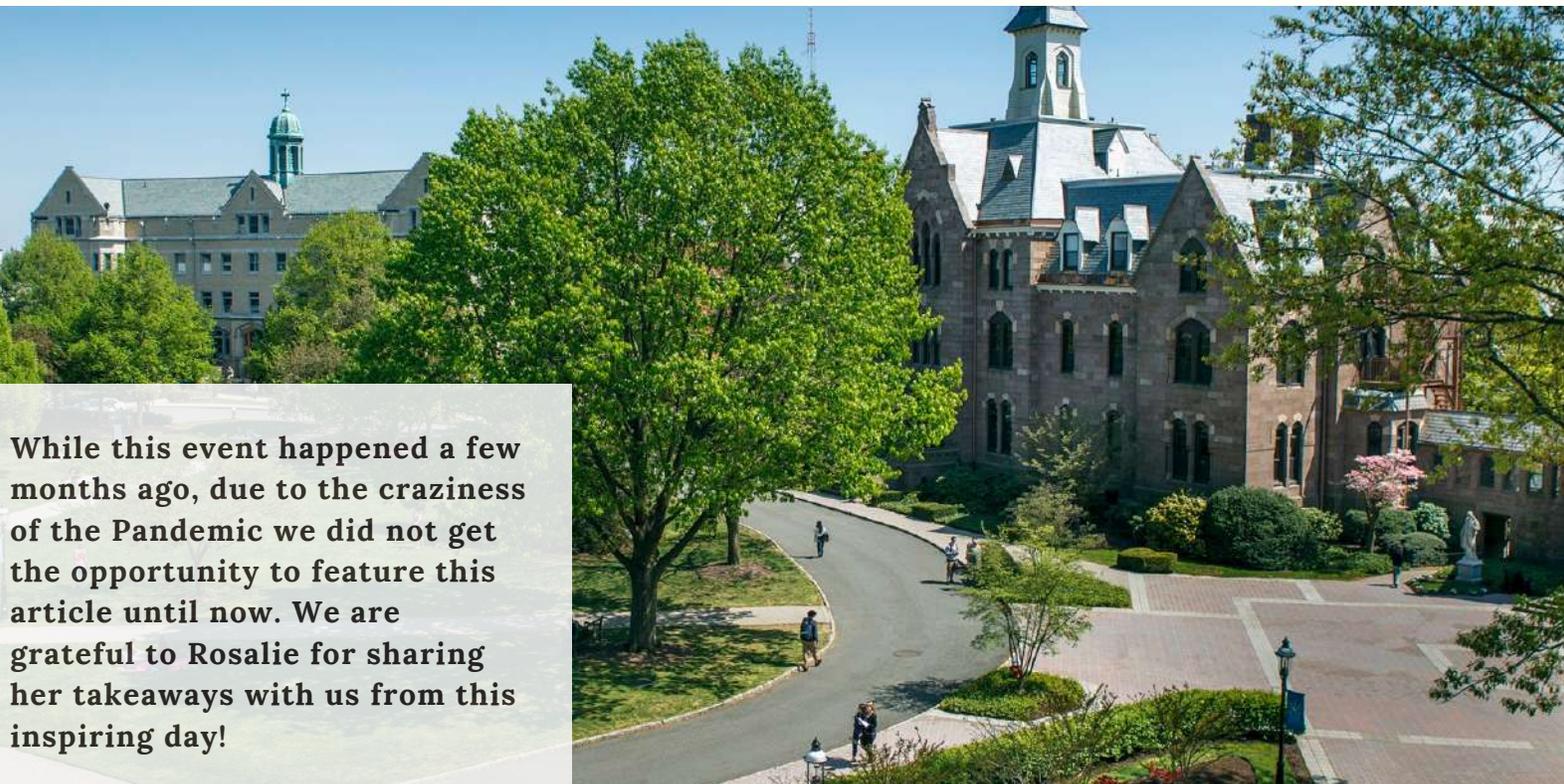
Fr. Carroll and I were roommates on one of our district retreats in New Hampshire. We shared a room about the size of a phone booth. Somehow he survived my world class snoring and never uttered a negative word. His preaching on those retreats was a daily highlight for all of us. May he rest in peace. - Bob Filoramo



March 7, 2020

# ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S DAY

*A brief summary of the Archdiocesan Women's Day from March - better late than never!*



While this event happened a few months ago, due to the craziness of the Pandemic we did not get the opportunity to feature this article until now. We are grateful to Rosalie for sharing her takeaways with us from this inspiring day!

## TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WOMEN'S DAY

*By Rosalie McMullen*

My brief summary of a fabulous Day for Women! Here are three points that stand out to me:

- 1) God loves each of us in a very individual way, and he receives love from us in a way that is different from any other person; so, take the time to rest in God and allow Him to love us as only He can, and love Him as only we can!
- 2) We are an instrument of God's love to others. Allow God's hand to use that instrument He created to accomplish His work.
- 3) We carry eternity within us (Christ in the Eucharist). Eternal life cannot remain contained; it goes forth to bring life. Encourage others for the smallest of steps they take toward God. God will bless our efforts as we move toward Him and help others do the same.

*ARE YOU AGED 22-30?*

JOIN HUNDREDS OF YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS FROM THE SWORD OF  
THE SPIRIT AROUND THE GLOBE IN AN  
INTERNATIONAL ZOOM CONFERENCE

**JULY 18TH  
10AM EASTERN**

*THIS IS THE JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE LEADERS OF  
OUR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OUTREACHES ACROSS  
ALL OUR REGIONS WITH THE PURPOSE OF UNITING  
AND INFORMING EACH OTHER OF SOME EXCITING  
THINGS GOD IS DOING AMONG US.*

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW VERY SOON!  
MARK THE DATE & TIME IN YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

**INSPIRATIONAL . JOYFUL . INTERACTIVE**

**IMMEDIATE  
NEED**

- Paul Giegerich
- Jackie Donnelley
- Don Campbell
- Judah Miklosovic  
(grandson of John  
and Mary Quense)

**SERIOUS &  
ONGOING**

- Eleanor Benson
- Dick Birmingham
- Margaret Fierro
- Laura Greey
- Shannon Hardy
- Danielle Neri
- Lee Scarfone

**AROUND THE SWORD  
OF THE SPIRIT**

- Steve Clark - Servants of  
the Word, Chelsea, MI
- Peter Smith - Triumph  
of the Cross, MD

Please visit our website [peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions](http://peopleofhope.net/prayerintentions) to see our complete list of our prayer intentions and to add to our list.

**2020 PRAYER  
PETITION HIGHLIGHT**

**YOUTH:**

May our children and grandchildren be deeply converted to you Lord Jesus. From birth to maturity, protect them Lord. May we equip and train them to engage this culture in order to transform it and not be negatively influenced by it. Help them respond as you call them to the married vocation and to priesthood and religious life, especially with the communities that work in our life and mission, including the Brotherhood of Hope and the Servants of the Word. We pray for more young men and women to work and witness to our youth, of the love and joy and the exciting journey they are experiencing in living for Christ. We pray for our family members who have left the faith. Bring them back.

Amen.



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

**PHIL. 4:6**



# HEALTH CARE HEROES

*Let's remember to thank and keep in our prayers the following brothers and sisters in the People of Hope, family and friends, who are on the front lines caring for those most in need during this pandemic.*

*Please visit our website [peopleofhope.net/healthheroes](https://peopleofhope.net/healthheroes) to see the complete list of all medical and emergency personnel we are keeping in our prayers or you would like to add someone to our list of intentions.*

- Jane Apuzzo
- Marianne Benson
- Anne Cantine
- Dr. Joe Clemente
- Kathy McCabe
- Daria Moccia
- Mary Kathleen Molnar
- Kate Nordstrom
- Charlie Pepper
- Arlene Peregrin



**Heavenly Father, we place in your protective hands all these healthcare workers and their families during this time. Bless their work, the patients they care for, and all affected by this virus. Amen.**



# THE PEOPLE OF HOPE

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

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