



*Our Lady of Good Counsel,
Pray for Us*

THE SHARELINE

A Newsletter for
the Women of Blessed Sacrament Parish
Council of Catholic Women ("CCW")
NOVEMBER 2008

Editor - Becky Hicks (561-3780)
Personal Email: beckyhicks02@gmail.com
Work Email: bhicks@netwasatch.com
Contributors - CCW Members

Our Next Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2008 - International Feast
Social at 6:30 pm * * * Meeting at 7:00 pm
*** * * Meet at the Parish Center * * ***

Co-President's Message:

Many thanks to all those who participated in making the boutique a success again this year. The co-chairs of the boutique were Becky Hicks and Bette Jo Kirk. They did a fabulous job in organizing such a huge event. I will not steal their thunder as I am sure they would like to send kudos on their own to all the committee chairs and volunteers, but I did not want to go without thanking them. It is always so much work each year and this year was no exception.

I have been enjoying the weather every day this fall and will miss it when the warm temperatures are gone. We talk about paying closer attention to the wonderful gifts around us. Stop and smell the roses. Tell someone that you love them. I can honestly say that I have been paying closer attention this year. I have many times said, "Thank you, God for this beautiful day. Thank you for my family and friends. Bless all of them. Hold them and keep them close to you."

Somehow, I thought that if I stopped to smell the roses, time would slow down long enough for me to acknowledge and appreciate. Instead, when I stopped to smell the roses, the world kept racing around me. I felt cheated when my time to smell the roses turned into a quick whiff and then had to move on. I had to block out the craziness and make the time to appreciate the core of God's creation. In that time of solitude, I found that my thoughts would turn back to family and friends. I thanked God for all his blessings and realized that in my time to stop and smell the roses, I found prayer.

So then prayer became a part of those times when I can only catch a whiff of the roses when I am racing through the day. When I do not have time to sit in quiet, I pray on the go. When I hear a siren and pass the fire engine on the road -- I say a prayer for the recipients of their services. When I make the green light, I say a little prayer. When I watch CNN, I say a prayer for world leaders.

I hope that your holiday is filled with many cherished moments. I hope that when you stop and smell the roses, you feel the warmth of God's arms around you. When I am stuffing the turkey, I will be thanking God for you.

Much love and blessings, Michelle Beasley

A huge THANK YOU to the Boutique Committee Chairs - Ada Chukwukeme, Brenda Singletary, Cheryl Illario, Dale Price, Jan Cundey, Laurie Hofstetter, Linda Popish, Maureen Newman, Michelle Beasley; Cheryl Johnson; their committee members, and the many wonderful adult and student volunteers who gave of their precious time to help make the 2008 Holiday Blessings Boutique a success. May God hold each of you in the palm of his hand. Bette Jo Kirk and Becky Hicks, Boutique Co-Chairs

Another fun night at CCW...Wednesday, November 19th

The Story from Jamaica... Come and see how your generosity helped improve the lives of families in Jamaica. Ken Harris will show his photos and tell the story of his humanitarian mission earlier this year.

Got a favorite family recipe?? Whatever your nationality, is there a special dish that's a tradition in your family? Bring the dish and recipe to the November meeting to share with everyone there. We will have an International Feast!! See you there!

Happy Anniversary!
Happy Birthday!

**TO THOSE OF YOU CELEBRATING YOUR
SPECIAL DAY(S) IN NOVEMBER!**

Holiday Blessings Boutique

To Michelle Cowley, Lisa Fillmore, Rosa Salakauskas, Renee Bast, Robert Catlin, Shelly Edmonds, Lori Boland, Martha Felton, Dianne Dedrickson, Brad Gardner, Wayne & Bette Jo Kirk, and Steve & Becky Hicks - Thank you so much for the time and effort you put into making this year's boutique a success. We are very grateful for all the signs you put up and took down in the neighborhoods.
Ada Chukwukeme - Signs

I would like to extend a big thank you to the ladies on my decorating committee: Maureen Woodley, Terry Nielsen, Christine Tyrell & Sharon Phelps. Thanks also to the many helping hands in both set up and tear down: Clarence & Matthew Illario, Doug, Carson & Cullen Woodley, Kade & Nathan Tyrell, Lauren Phelps & Kiera Coyle. It couldn't have been done without the many hands and hours all of you put in. You're the best! Cheryl Illario - Decorating

A special thanks to all the men, women and their daughters who were such a tremendous help in the kitchen. I could not have done it without you. I hope you had some fun mixed in with all the hard work. May God bless you. Maureen Newman - Kitchen

To all those who contributed to the bake sale -- YOU ROCK!! We had a most stellar bake sale this year. Some items were sold as soon as they were brought in. Nothing like warm fresh bread...Mmmmm. The volunteers in the booth did a tremendous job in presentation. Many thanks to the chocoholics, breadaholics, and baklava-ics who visited the bake sale. Can't wait until next year! Michelle Beasley - Bake Sale

Open your home to the joy of the upcoming Advent season and bring your family's joy to the world!

- Commit to have an "attitude of gratitude" that lasts beyond Thanksgiving Day.
- Unearth your kids' favorite holiday-season books and gather to read one together each evening. (Tuck them away in a box post Christmas for a special treat only at this time of year.) My family loves The Tale of the Three Trees. The magazine also mentioned Mountain Miracle and The Miracle of St. Nicholas.
- Wear pink on the third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete Sunday (Latin for "Rejoice"). Even the boys can deal with it for a single day.
- Gather friends for some good, old fashioned Christmas caroling-in your home or through the neighborhood. Don't forget the hot cocoa.
- Repeat aloud these four words: "No school until January!"
- Learn to say "Merry Christmas" in other languages.
- For this year's holiday baking, let the kids pour and stir...and be not afraid of the flour blizzard!
- Draw names to match each family member with an "Advent Angel." Throughout Advent, the whole family will perform acts of charity in secret to keep the joy going all season long.
- Have a spirited family snowman-building contest. Give prizes for the biggest and the most creative creatures.
- Spread the joy. Give homemade cards to teachers, coaches, the mail carrier, etc. - whoever went "above and beyond" in caring for your family this year.
- Capture the season by taking a lot of smiling pictures....and get them out of the camera before next Christmas!
- Send joy-filled greeting cards to a local Children's hospital.
- Don't overspend your Christmas budget. It may bring fleeting joy now, but will make for a miserable January.
- Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus at high volume - before a single gift is unwrapped.

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Pray for your Secret Sis!

To My Secret Sis . . . Thank you so much for all the wonderful cards and gifts you have given me throughout this past year, I have enjoyed everything and know that you put a lot of thought and love into it all. Thanks again, Love, Mary Sawaya

To My Secret Sis . . . I sincerely appreciated being in your thoughts and prayers, as well as your cards and gifts this past year, you helped me more than you will ever know - with love, Becky Hicks

2008 CCW Officers

Co-Presidents, Maureen Newman,
572-1074 (H), maureen.newman@uaohn.org
& Michelle Beasley, 942-1582 (H)
mbeasley8@hotmail.com
Vice President, Kristina Causse
Secretary, Mary Sawaya
Treasurer, Jan Cundey

HOSPITALITY

Food: Everyone Brings Their Favorite Ethnic Dish

Hostess Gift: Renee Bast

Babysitter: Call Co-Presidents if needed

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Nov. 19 Meeting - Ethnic Food/Recipes
Dec. 17 Meeting - Christmas Party
Jan TBD Installation of New Officers/Gifts
Feb. 18 Meeting - TBD