

August 1, 2011

Happy 4th Anniversary to everyone!

What a joy to be celebrating our fourth anniversary as a community! When we began meeting for Liturgy in August of 2007 I had great hope (but no expectation) that we would form and grow a Vatican II community that would welcome all the dreamers, and the disheartened, to its strong and tender heart. I knew there were many “abandoned” Catholics who needed encouragement and nourishment for the bumpy journey we’re on, as well as others searching for a breath of Spirit amid the continual hype of “woes” spooned out by public media everywhere. And look what we’ve accomplished together! We have completed four fruitful years and are moving into our fifth! In the pastoral update below you will see some of the things we’re working on that will anchor our roots even deeper in the soil of our values and expand our outreach into the vast airwaves of our dreams. We have so much to celebrate, so much to be thankful for, and so much to give out of the wealth of faith, joy, steadfastness and purpose characterizing our mission as Sophia Christi. We move into our fifth year with the joyful celebration of Liturgies in Eugene and Portland just two weeks from now. Please plan to be there and celebrate what we have accomplished together through the inspiration and guidance of holy Sophia and the pastoral shepherding of Christ.

Mass Schedule This Month

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR PORTLAND

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **August 13**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. This is now our new church home! There is a parking lot behind the church with a ramp going down to the kitchen and another going up to the Sanctuary. Both are at the east end of the parking lot. You may also park on the side street (N. Atlantic) and enter the church through the front doors. Salads, vegetable dishes and desserts will be most welcome at our celebratory meal.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **August 14**, at First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd, at **4:00pm**. Bring your special vegetable dishes, salads and desserts for our anniversary potluck after the Liturgy. If you would like to be involved as a lector, Eucharistic minister or musician at this Mass, please contact Kathy or Carol.

Community Leadership Update

The Leadership Team met again in Salem Sunday morning to complete its work on the By-laws for our community. Sophia Christi was incorporated as a not-for-profit religious organization in the State of Oregon on April 11 of this year and we are now putting the final touches on paperwork for the IRS. If all goes well we should receive notice of our tax-exempt status before the end of 2011. At yesterday’s meeting the leadership team officially became Sophia Christi’s Board of Directors. Dianne Turner (Eugene) was

elected President, Judith Manning (Eugene) was elected to serve as Secretary, and Leanne Kerner (Portland) will be our Treasurer. Two other members of the Board are Carol Zolkoske (Eugene), and Joy Wallace (Portland), with your pastor serving as an Ex-officio member. You will be hearing more about all of this in the coming months, but rest assured that “the Board” is still the leadership team, and its purpose is to help implement the goals we’ve outlined at community meetings and to further the mission of Sophia Christi. If you have questions, ideas or concerns you want your leadership team/board to know about, please let me know or feel free to speak to one of them directly. You will also be hearing more from this group as time goes on.

Pastoral Update

On July 14, twenty-two members of the Portland community met with Pastor Bill

Van Nostran and five members of Northminster Presbyterian Church to discuss the possibility of **Northminster** becoming our new church home in Portland. After touring the facility, experiencing the wonderful welcome, joyful invitation and generous offer from the Northminster congregation, members of Sophia Christi unanimously decided to move. After posing the question of “when,” the answer was unanimous and immediate. Everyone in the room wanted to celebrate our 4th anniversary in our new home. You will find the address for Northminster above under “Mass Schedule for this Month.” Please feel free to come early and look around. Pastor Bill has told me repeatedly that this is now our HOME, so do wander around, become familiar with the kitchen, the dining room/fellowship hall, the Sanctuary and Sophia Christi’s own library/meeting room/sacristy just off the fellowship hall. Everything will be open when we meet there for our anniversary celebration on the 13th. This move provides possibilities for expansion on a number of different levels. Let yourself dream...

Work on our **website** is becoming very exciting. We have several pages partially created with a small team working on overall design, copy for each page, selection and placement of photos and clear presentation of who we are as Sophia Christi. I’m still confident we will be able to launch the site by or before Labor Day, so we will begin our fifth year with our Non-profit Board of Directors in place, our website up and running and our tax-exempt status on the horizon! Pretty exciting, isn’t it!

This is a reminder that the date for our **Fall retreat** has been set for Saturday, **October 29**, from 10am to 6pm. Cost of the retreat will be just \$15.00 per person. Please save this date on your calendars and plan now to participate in this spiritually rich community experience. More information will be available in the September newsletter.

If you are aware of pastoral needs not yet being addressed please don’t hesitate to let me know. You have my email address in this mailing, and my phone number is 503-286-3584.

Food for the St. Andrew’s Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone for continuing to bring food and personal hygiene items for the St. Andrew Food Pantry each month. In July we brought in 66 pounds of food. **Look for the basket next to the entrance of the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please continue to be as generous as possible.**

This newsletter provides just a glimpse of who we are and what we're about as a community. As we move into our fifth year I'm reminded of a quote from Robert Browning. Substituting inclusive language he says: "ah, but one's reach should exceed one's grasp, or what's a heaven for?" As we create the legal structure in which to anchor our dreams and build the foundation that provides a solid floor for Sophia Christi activities in this physical world, we also continue to weave our hopes and values into a unified vision for our community. Our mission and goals carry us forward, always exceeding our grasp, but moving us along a path that is uniquely ours to follow.

Happy Anniversary, Sophia Christi Catholic Community.

May the Wisdom of Christ fill each heart and guide each life in the months to come,

Toni