

October 7, 2012

A glorious Fall greeting to all of you,

On October 11 we celebrate the opening of the Second Vatican Council 50 years ago! For those of us who lived through those astoundingly hope-filled days from 1962 to 1965 it is a bittersweet reminder of how excruciatingly difficult it can be to transform an ancient structure imbedded in an even more ancient world-view. In 1962 we were still ten years away from Apollo 17's transmission of the "blue marble" photo of earth which gave us our first glimpse of "home" from regions beyond earth's orbit and changed our perspective of life on this planet, and indeed our global paradigm, forever. Our minds were blown wide open on multiple psychological and spiritual levels in those days and many of us believed we had entered a new age of global connection with foundation stones being set in place for world-wide transformation. Our youthful expectation of real, dramatic, and immediate change was, and possibly still is, our one major stumbling block to remaining in sync with God's timeline of change.

The Church of John XXIII and Vatican II was a church on the brink of self-renewal so deep and so profound that religious leaders from every point on the spectrum began taking notice. In fact, many of them had been invited to participate in Council proceedings as observers. The Spirit was moving through the old Roman Church, and through the many churches of the Reformation by extension. A fresh and holy air was removing cobwebs as well as barriers, shaking structures to their foundations. We were re-discovering our ancient roots in Jewish spirituality and culture as well as excavating Gospel-filled building blocks that held the promise of becoming cornerstones of a renewed and revitalized Christianity.

It hasn't been easy to let go of the heady idealism of youth. The loss of hope has morphed into a kind of cynicism for some, despair for others, apathy for many and a heart-full of un-named, unclaimed and unspoken grief for, perhaps, a vast majority of those who witnessed the erosion of the promise and potential of Vatican II. But this is where the role of "prophet" takes form. This is where the task of fire-tending is left to those with patience, hope and faith, who are able to keep embers glowing until the Spirit can re-ignite the fires of transformation, pastoral care and compassion at the heart of Church vision and governance. We who tend the embers lend our voices to the Prophet's call for accountability in leadership, inclusivity in practice, openness of mind and heart in all human discourse, and compassion for all God's people everywhere. This is our privileged mission as Sophia Christi. We are part of a prophetic circle of linked hearts and hands, forming an earth-grid for Spirit's continuing development of theology, ecclesiology, moral and ethical evolution of human consciousness around the globe. We may not see even one outcome of this effort in our lifetime, but prophets seldom do. We keep faith in Spirit's work, hold onto hope, support one another and simply and courageously carry on.

Our readings for October Liturgies: September 13 & 14 – Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30. September 28 – Jer 31:7-9; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52.

Mass Schedule This Month

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **October 13**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Potluck meal follows. Please bring your favorite entrees, vegetable dishes, salads and desserts. Choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be **October 14**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd**, at **4:00pm**. Please bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck afterwards: entrees, veggies, salads, and desserts. Please come at 3:00 for rehearsal if you are interested in being part of the choir as a musician or singer.

On Sunday, **October 28**, at **10:30am** we will celebrate Mass in **Battleground**. The address is 26605 NE 96th Ct., Battle Ground, WA. For further information or directions call Helen at 360-687-7475 or email her at umphrey@ipns.com.

Parish Council Meeting in September –Report from Council President

The Sophia Christi Parish Council met September 15th in Salem for our quarterly meeting and I'd like to share a few items of note:

- ❖ As a new council we are sincerely asking that you consider joining us on our journey to assist Sophia Christi to live our mission. We meet quarterly for 2 hours in Salem (usually a Sunday afternoon) and try to have fun as well as conduct business. Please consider becoming a Council member and turn in your nomination form at the October Mass or by October 20th.
- ❖ We are doing well in reaching our budget expectations for 2012. Thanks you all for your pledges. We are heartened that Toni is now receiving a modest stipend for all her pastoral activities.
- ❖ Our annual Council meeting and elections will coincide with the December 1st gathering that will be facilitated by Carmel once again for which we are grateful and excited. The location and specifics are still to be determined but mark your calendar for the date.
- ❖ We were pleased to review our outreach activities for the past year and have seen an increase in community interest in both Eugene and Portland. Thanks to all involved in our many outreach activities. We are always looking for more activities so please share your ideas with Toni or the members of the Parish Council.

We will be sharing news from the Parish Council at least quarterly and remember that anyone is invited to attend if you'd like to be part of the discussion. –Dianne Turner

Parish Council Nominations

We are continuing to solicit nominations for the Parish Council at Masses next weekend. Nominations need to be received by October 20. Please carefully and prayerfully consider

whether you feel called to help lead Sophia Christi toward a deeper fulfillment of its mission to the marginalized and abandoned within our Church, as well as toward the renewal of the Church in the spirit of Vatican II. Nominate yourself or someone else by filling out the form (also below) at Mass or by sending it to me tjtortor@aol.com or Dianne Turner diannepd@hotmail.com. The Parish Council is seeking to fill two positions, each for a two-year term beginning January 2013 and ending December 2014. Feel free to talk with any of the current members about their experience serving on the Council this past year. They are: Dianne Turner: Council President; Leanne Kerner: Council Treasurer; Judith Manning: Council Secretary; Carol Zolkoske: Council member; Joy Wallace: Council member. Elections will be held in the fall at the annual Sophia Christi retreat (Date TBA). If you would like to submit your nomination via email, please fill out, copy and paste the following into a Word document, then send it to me or Dianne Turner at one of the email addresses above.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please take a few minutes to tell us why you or the person you are nominating would be a good fit and what skills, gifts and talents you/they would bring to the Council.

(use as much space as you need)

Pastoral Update

If you haven't already filled out a **registration/ministry form** please remember to do so when you come to Mass this weekend. You may also receive and return this form, as well as pledge cards, via email. Let me know if you prefer this method and I'll be happy to send one or both to you. Both are also available at all Masses.

Community Picnic—Great fun for all

Our first community-wide picnic was held last Sunday, September 30th, at the home of Carol, one of our Eugene parish council members. Carol lives in Stayton, which is about midway between Eugene and Portland. The weather was glorious, the food delicious and the hospitality extraordinary. Carol's husband, Gary, took us on a tour of the farm and mini-forest of towering pines he planted over 40 years ago. Our Eugene pianist, Dianne, brought her guitar and we sang and laughed after dinner until the sun began its decline and the drive home to Portland or Eugene beckoned us to our cars. The picnic was such a success it may become an annual Sophia Christi summer or fall event!

From the Treasurer

Sophia Christi members are generous! I'm happy to report that we're ahead of our estimated contributions for the year, which allows us to not only pay our bills - like rent - but also to take

advantage of outreach opportunities as they present themselves - like Pride Week booths, Eugene Celebration and special holiday advertising. A special BIG thank you to all you faithful pledgers. You help give Sophia Christi the predictability and stability it needs to be a viable and GROWING community. Keep up the good work!

All contributors will receive an acknowledgement of their 2012 donations for tax purposes. If you have a question regarding your contributions to date, your pledge amount or any other treasury-related matter, please give me a call on

503-281-5405. --Leanne Kerner

Website Update—www.sophiachristi.org

Have you taken an opportunity to look at the website lately? John Coutu and Bill Urban have been doing a lot of work to upgrade our web presence over the last couple of months. John added a number of new photos to the photo gallery, all categorized by event and date. These include photos of every anniversary, two liturgies at Marlise's studio in Battleground with labyrinth in full view, a photo of our booth at Portland Pride this past June, as well as many others. Unfortunately, we have very few photos of our Eugene community yet, and so I'm asking anyone with a camera and/or photographic skills to step forward and begin documenting our activities there! Clearly there is more work to do, and your input is very much wanted. If you have ideas to offer, suggestions about improving our web presence, or photos to contribute, please send them to John jcoutu1969@gmail.com and Bill realdealurban@gmail.com. Since John is about to leave for Florida mid-month, he is asking that anything you send him you also send to Bill. They are taking co-responsibility for the website, though Bill will be doing the lion's share of work while John is away. Members in Eugene are interested in creating and developing the social media arm of our internet communication options, and they are also working with John and Bill in this effort. As this portion of our outreach becomes more solid, details will be provided so those interested in helping to develop, monitor and maintain our interactive capabilities can be drawn into the project. At this point, if you would like to help with website or social media development contact John and Bill at the email addresses above.

Save the Date—December 1, Community Gathering and Annual Meeting

Dianne mentioned in her update of the September parish council meeting (above) that we will gather the entire community for our annual meeting (legally required of all non-profits) on the first of December. Many of you remember the spiritually rich community gatherings in which Carmel led us through a process of discernment allowing us to flesh out our vision for Sophia Christi and our goals for the community. Eventually she led us through the writing of our mission statement within a contemplative and interactive environment that nourished our individual spirits and community connectedness. This is the kind of setting we envision once again as we look forward to Carmel's leadership in weaving spiritual formation and nourishment with community development to enrich each of us personally and to enhance the life of Sophia Christi. She will take us through the next step of the process she helped us begin nearly 5 years ago. I'm hoping that all of you will put this date on your calendars and make every effort to come. More information will be provided in the November newsletter, including location and time.

A pastoral reminder--if you or someone you know has a pastoral need that isn't being met, please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have my email address in this mailing, and my office phone number is 503-286-3584. Feel free to use either one. You can contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, sacraments of reconciliation or anointing, home Masses, weddings, funerals, memorial services or other pastoral care needs.

Food for the St. Andrew Episcopal Food Pantry

This month we received the following message from Kathleen Green, Director of the St. Andrew Food Bank:

We want to thank you and God for the wonderful donations. So many wonderful items filled our shelves. You sent us tuna, peanut butter, soups, meals in a box, spices, rice, and so much more. We also received the much needed bar soap, toothpaste, razors and toilet paper. We were all out of soap, toothpaste and toilet paper. Weekly we feed 60 to 75 families and your donations are so needed. You are filled with the grace of kind giving and you are all in my hearts. --Kathleen

Please remember to bring food and personal hygiene donations for the Food Pantry when you come to Mass next weekend. **Look for the basket at the entrance to the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please be as generous as possible.**

We have so much to be thankful for and so much to re-learn and remember from the Spirit-filled events, inspiring stories and radically transformative documents of the Second Vatican Council. I urge all of you to take time this month to read the articles being published in the National Catholic Reporter, as well as supplemental materials being released on this 50th anniversary of the Council's opening. As resources become available online, we will post them on the website so everyone has access. Most importantly, remember you are prophets carrying the embers of renewal and transformation for the Spirit to use in God's own time. Keep the faith. Maintain hope and move forward with courage. Holy Wisdom is alive and God is living and active in the hearts and minds of people everywhere.

Peace in this time of ferment and growth we know as the post-modern age, and happy autumn to all,

Toni