

Life Notes

COLD CASES

In law enforcement, the term “cold case” refers to a long-unsolved crime that has been filed away and largely forgotten. In social work, the term takes on an even more ominous meaning. Here the “cold cases” are those of children who spend years in foster care without finding a permanent home.

In 2010, the Georgia Cold Case Project examined the records of 214 children in state foster care. The typical “cold case” child was 14 years old, had been in state custody for six years, and had at least one identified disability. Over 80% of the children had experienced “ongoing or profound trauma,” including one in three who had been sexually abused. After moving through an average of nine different foster placements, most of the children were living in group homes or institutions rather than with families. Often the only adults consistently involved in their lives were paid case workers and lawyers.

FAITHFUL VISITORS

To connect these neglected children with caring adults in the community, local attorneys in juvenile practice have been working for several years with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to organize a Faithful Visitors Program. Lourdes member Beatrice Soubllet was a pioneer in the effort. Until her young friend transitioned to long-term care in south Georgia, Beatrice made monthly visits with a teen in a local treatment facility, where she would read to the child, play cards with her, and offer her short outings. Beatrice found the visits so satisfying that in 2011, she began recruiting other Lourdes members to become involved. Several Lourdes parishioners joined volunteers from St. Luke’s Episcopal Church to undergo training.

AT LONG LAST, A GREEN LIGHT

Unfortunately, as the young people labeled “cold cases” know only too well, the wheels of the child welfare bureaucracy in Georgia grind very slowly. While a training program was developed to ensure the safety of the children, the Faithful Visitors program had to be put on hold. But this year, the plan finally received a green light from the state.

Not only that, but the requirements for participants are clear and sensible. Volunteers will complete a criminal background check and undertake about four hours of free web-based training to familiarize themselves with DFCS policies and procedures and with strategies for successful interaction with the children. Once they are approved, they will commit to visiting with their young friends once a month for at least two years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: May 24th, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Interested in bringing warmth to the life of a “cold case” child? On Sunday May 24th after the 10 a.m. mass, attorney Kathleen Dumitrescu from St. Luke’s, Executive Director of the Faithful Visitors Program, will meet with interested Lourdes members in the Parish Hall. She will share details about both the young people and the training required to serve them. But be warned: her enthusiasm for the “cold case” kids is truly contagious!

Want to hear more ahead of time about what it's like to be a Faithful Visitor? Contact Beatrice Soubllet by email (beelady20@bellsouth.net) . . . or corner her at church.

Our Lady of Lourdes Monthly Calendar

MAY 2015

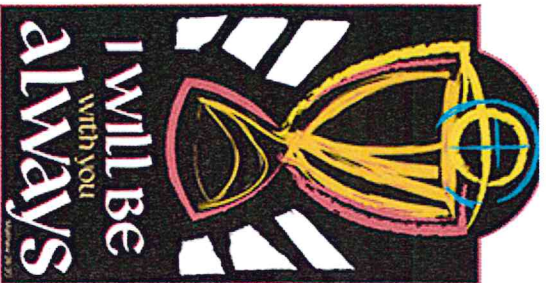
Happy Mother's Day

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>YAG Meeting</i> 7:30PM	2 KPC Concession Stand 1st Communion 11A Dance by Kenya 10A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
3 <i>Sunday School Last Day</i> RCIA 9:30A Sunday School 8:30A/Last Day Teen Ministry 10:15A/Last Day Parenting Class 9:30A/Last Day Women's Council 10:00A Social Action 11:30A	4 Stephens Ministry 6:30PM Zumba Class 7:15P	5 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P Baptismal Class 7P Lector Prep 7P	6 Zumba Class 6:30P <i>AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</i> <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308	7 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir & AGLD Rehearsal 7:00P	8 <i>Kouecheu & Tzoumpe</i> <i>Wedding 5P</i>	9 Lector Prep 10:30A KPC Concession Stand Pastoral Care Team 10A Eracism 11A Dance by Kenya 10A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Breakfast served after the services</i> <i>Amazing Grace</i> <i>Mother's Day Concert</i> <i>Center Stage ~ 3P</i>	11 Stand up for Kids 4P Pastoral Council 7P Zumba Class 7:15P	12 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P Confirmation Mass 7:00PM @ The Shrine	13 Zumba Class 6:30P <i>AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</i> <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308	14 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir & AGLD Rehearsal 7:00P	15 <i>YAG Meeting</i> 7:30PM <i>Men's Ministry</i> <i>Movie Night for Edgewood</i> 7:30P	16 KPC Concession Stand Dance by Kenya 10A Life Issues 4P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist RCIA Reception 6:30PM
17 RCIA 8:30A St. Vincent de Paul 12N Haiti Ministry Meeting 12N KPC/KPCLA Meeting 12N Jr. Daughters 1:30P Lay Dominicans Meeting 2P St. Vincent de Paul 12N	18 Stephens Ministry 6:30PM Men's Ministry 7P Zumba Class 7:15P <i>Taize Prayer Group</i> <i>8:00PM</i>	19 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P	20 Zumba Class 6:30P <i>AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</i> <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308	21 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir & AGLD Rehearsal 7:00P	22	23 T-Shirt Day KPC Concession Stand Eracism 11A Dance by Kenya 10A Life Issues 4:00PM Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Bookstore & Beignets
24 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> T-Shirt Sunday RCIA 8:30A Bookstore open Health Promotions 11:30A	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:00P	27 Zumba Class 6:30P <i>AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</i> <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308	28 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P	29	30 KPC Concession Stand Dance by Kenya 10A Blanford & Kleiner Wedding 1P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
31 RCIA 8:30A St. Vincent de Paul 12N						

Save the Date

May 23/24 ~ Lourdes T-Shirt Weekend

June 7 ~ Sunday School Parent Meeting, 1:30P ~ Parish Hall



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

NOTE: We prefer that volunteers register on-line by visiting <http://congress.archatl.com/volunteers/> and clicking on the blue Volunteer Here link. However, if you do not have access to the internet, please complete this paper form and return as noted below.

****Please Print****

Name: _____

Preferred Contact Number: _____

Address: _____

Current Parish/School Affiliation: _____

Parish/School/Event for which you were Safe Environment cleared to volunteer? _____

Archdiocesan/Parish Employee? Yes No Location? _____

Archdiocesan Deacon? Yes No Location? _____

E-Mail (please write clearly): _____

T-Shirt Size (please select one): Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large

I am interested in volunteering as follows:

Friday, June 5, 2015

- ____ Set Up (10 am – 1 pm)
- ____ REVIVE! Young Adult Track – 18 years +
- ____ Francophone Track
- ____ Usher – Opening Mass & Healing Service
- ____ Retail Sales (T-shirts, Speaker Merchandise, etc.)
- ____ Confession Area
- ____ Other _____
- ____ Place me where there is the most need

Saturday, June 6, 2015

- ____ Kids Track, ADORE!
- ____ Retail Sales (T-shirts, Speaker Merchandise, etc.)
- ____ Confession Area
- ____ Usher - General Track
- ____ Spanish Track
- ____ Vietnamese Track
- ____ Other _____
- ____ Place me where there is the most need

More detailed information about training will be sent to the e-mail or mailing address provided above as we move closer to the date of the event.

Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

Return form to the Office of Child and Youth Protection by May 15, 2015:

E-mail: ocyp@archatl.com

Fax: 404-920-7551

Mail: Archdiocese of Atlanta, 2401 Lake Park Dr., S.E. Smyrna, GA 30080

General Invitation to attend the Eucharistic Congress:

Each year the Eucharistic Congress brings together Catholics from across the Archdiocese and the country to celebrate the visible, living presence of Jesus. Archbishop Gregory, along with Bishop Talley and Bishop Zarama, ask that you join them for this year's **20TH ANNIVERSARY Eucharistic Congress** at the Georgia International Convention Center, June 5th and 6th. The theme of the 2015 Eucharistic Congress comes from the Gospel of Matthew 28:20 "I will be with you always". Take this opportunity to reconnect with friends, spend quiet time in prayer and listen to powerful testimonials from Fr. Robert Barron, Alan Ames, Teresa Tomeo, and Lino Rulli.

Invitation to Volunteer:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Eucharistic Congress 2015: "I will be with you always". The 20th Anniversary Eucharistic Congress is Friday and Saturday, June 5th-6th at the Georgia International Convention Center. **Please prayerfully consider giving time as a volunteer..your generosity will be much appreciated.** Volunteer registration closes as of May 15th so that plans may be made according to the number of volunteers committed at that time. More information and volunteer registration forms are available **(your particular parish/school information here)** or register on-line using the link at <http://congress.archatl.com/volunteers/>.