

It is my wish that the light of the star that guided the wisemen to the stable will also guide us along the path of our earthly journey. Sunday, January 7 we will celebrate the Epiphany. The above prayer is from the Collect for Epiphany Sunday. The theme, "Magnify Our Lord... With Beauty and Truth", for our February 16-17 Symposium at Our Lady of Good Counsel also points to the beauty of Christ. I'm excited to share with you some highlights that are in place for this very special time we will have together. The anticipated registration time for Friday is at 6:30 p.m. which will be followed by a time of prayer, adoration, and worship before the Most Holy Eucharist. Sister Amy Marie, a Marian Sister, (Donna Havlat's daughter) will provide praise & worship music and share a message of inspiration with us. Confessions will be available. Friday evening will conclude with time to relax, enjoy, and catch up with, or make new friends while sipping a glass of wine or juice along with a variety of appetizers.

Saturday morning, we will gather in the chapel after registration for a time of morning prayer including the over 300-year-old devotion to "Mary Undoer of Knots". At this time, we can turn to the Blessed Mother with any "knot" in our lives as Mary's faith unties the knot of sin. Each will be given a beautiful "Mary Undoer of Knots" prayer card and an explanation of the symbolism of the original 1700's painting.

Among our speakers are Charlie Williams, Assistant Director, Women's Care Center Foundation, and Paul Yates, Executive Director, I've Got a Name, and Sarina Stokes, Outreach and Ministry Coordinator, Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. The mission of the **Women's Care Center** is to help pregnant women choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, and become better parents... with support from cradle to kindergarten. Recently I was fortunate to walk with Charlie from room to room at the Lincoln Center as he explained each step of assistance the expectant mom receives at the center. It was quite an informative and enlightening tour. They have a room set aside with an attractive display of books. Clothes for newborn babies through toddler stage were neatly displayed on racks by size, just as you would find in the finest store. As a part of our work of service to the people of our diocese it is our custom to bring items to donate to a specific need when we come to the Symposium. *This year I ask you to bring new/new like books and infant through toddler clothing with the tags from the store still on them.* This will be our contribution to the Women's Care Center, helping many mothers in need.

The mission of **I've Got A Name**, is to "ultimately protect the most vulnerable in our communities by helping the public identify sex trafficking and become engaged to fight it". On their website they state, "We believe each person, uniquely created by God, in His own image, was given a name, and has a unique purpose in life. You are His workmanship, His masterpiece." All the proceeds from the baskets and the raffle at our Convention on April 26 – 27 will go towards this mission of, I've Got A name, supporting their efforts to stop human trafficking. Sarina Stokes will share with us her journey to be the **Outreach and Ministry Coordinator** at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Before lunch we will celebrate mass with Bishop Conley.

Remember to watch for the registration which will be sent out in a few days. If you want to attend but are concerned about winter weather conditions, go ahead and register and then if that dreaded storm comes call the retreat house at 402-617-1321 to tell them you can't attend so a meal won't be prepared for you.

I hope you are as excited as I am to unfold all that our guests have to share with us. Let's give it our best to attend with open hearts and to discover where the Holy Spirit will lead us as sisters in Christ.