



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

## WORDS OF HOPE

APRIL 2014

### ADVANCING DAWN

Dear Friends of Sanctuary of Hope,

Welcome to the **50 days of the Easter Season**, Wow and Praise the Lord! Having my thumb and arm in a splint for five weeks, I can easily say “thumbs up” to the victory of love that **Jesus has for us all**, whoever we are! I have learned that this love comes at a price, but with such joy when we know how much support and care there is for us out there in our deepest agonies and pain.

I have been so touched by the example of others from the world stage to some very moving moments in my own life. I can name a few of them **Pope Francis**, **Queen Elizabeth II**, **Arseniy Yatsenyuk**, Prime Minister of the Ukraine, **Madeleine Albright**, former Secretary of State, and **Christiane Amanpour**, CNN correspondent. **Sr. Antoinette Markiewicz**, OSB, died this year, sister to Bernadine Asher and Sr. Josephine. Her motto was always personally caring for others and justice in the market place for the poor. She loved me like a brother. I received a card from a very dear friend I met in Axtell, KS, when I was serving my first pastorate. Her name is **Vivina Strathman**, and she had just moved out of her home in Seneca, KS, where she relocated after her husband Ves died; now she is living in a nursing home in Seneca, having given up her home and her beautiful flowers. Her card on the outside said simply, “A Prayer for You and A Prayer for Me.”

**First, I give thanks to my God Through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world. God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in proclaiming the gospel of his Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God’s will I may at last find my way clear to come to you. Romans 1: 8-10**

**Jeff Stock** has literally been my **right hand man** thru all my accident and recovery. **Julie Elwell** has been my left hand, so to speak, as my secretary and our SOH retreat coordinator. Jeff has been there when I most needed someone to help me get thru the day, not to mention all the appointments with the doctors and physical therapists. When I said good morning to him the other day, he said back to me and a **glorious morning** to you as well. My thanks to my two older brothers, **Sonny and Ralph**, who have always been there for me, even though I am the tallest! Thanks to SOH Live-ins, my physicians, physical therapists and all who have helped me! In all these people I see such deep faith in God, such care for others and creation. I see “Christ” in them and so many others when I celebrate the Eucharist and hear Confessions. I see “Christ” not only in the Word and the Sacraments, but in each face I behold from the altar or when I lift my hand to absolve sin and pour out the mercies of Christ to all. Sometimes I am so overcome by such **presence** that I begin to cry and then an **indescribable joy** comes to my heart, soul and body...I can hardly get the words out of my mouth. Thanks to all of you reading this article for your presence, love, prayers, cards, phone calls, emails, and great generosity to me and our SOH Mission!

So let us take time to do just what the Father tells us when we hear the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus in Mt. 17:1-9: “this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, listen to him.” One of the goals of Sanctuary of Hope is: “you can **listen** a soul into existence”. Wow! So let us listen well, good people, to all that unfolds each day. Let us be present to each moment and still before God as the eagles (Exodus 19:4) hover over us, the new grass grows and we smell the witch hazel blossoms, we savor the **hidden Savior** in our midst!

**Thumbs up!**

Love, prayers and gratitude,

Fr. Dennis Wait, your brother always

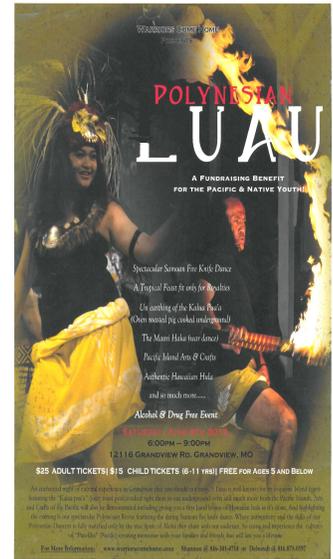


**MOTHERS' DAY BREAKFAST EVENT  
HONOR THEY MOTHER**

This year we are truly blessed to be able to present the "Warriors Come Home Youth Ministry" from the Samoan Islands for the Mothers' Day Breakfast Event. They have performed here in the United States, South America, overseas, and are going to Europe this summer. They minister to youth all over the world, and we are very fortunate to have them perform for this event. They are a tropical delight as

they perform dances from the Hawaiian Islands, such as the authentic Hawaiian Hula, the Morai Haka (war dance), Samoan Fire Knife dance and many more, with beautiful costumes from their native country. Hope to see you at the Mothers' Day event May 10, at the Hilton Garden Inn at 520 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The cost for

adults is \$25, \$15 for children under 12 years old. It includes a full breakfast and drawings for gifts, plus corsages for the first 25 mothers. Space is limited, the deadline for prepaid reservations is May 5. Please call 913-321-4673 or e-mail [julie@sanctuaryofhope.org](mailto:julie@sanctuaryofhope.org) for reservations.



**A TESTIMONIAL FROM A GUEST AT SOH**

I had to drop y'all a note and let you know how absolutely perfect and amazing my retreat was. I found this quote a couple of weeks ago: "May you have a wholly holy, no-holds-barred Lenten season." I'm pretty sure that's what I got at my retreat. From the minute I left my house for SOH on Friday morning, I could sense God's presence. That was both new and very encouraging. I hadn't really felt His pres-

ence in nearly a decade. On Friday afternoon, I walked the trails and had the best alone time with the Lord I've had in many years. I prayed through my assigned Psalm a few times, and also a few other prayers, including a new one with my prayer beads. I was singing out songs I didn't know I even remembered. Then, I spent some time in the wonderful library in the day room. Great

resources! I felt the love of God for me in a way I'd never felt. There was a passion in my heart that I'd never experienced. There aren't words to convey the depth of the emotion and gratitude in this. I'm completely humbled and amazed at His love for me. I sensed a new, strong bonding of my heart to Jesus that weekend. **I cannot wait to come back!**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 27--Hope to Shalom Walk
  - May 10--Mothers' Day Breakfast
  - June 14--15th Annual 5K Race
  - Associates' Meeting--4th Fridays @ 6pm
  - Work Day --2nd Saturdays @ 8 am
- Please visit our website for additional information.

**WISH LIST**

**We are in dire need of adult and student volunteers for our Saturday, May 10 work day. We need assistance with clearing and mulching trails in preparation for our 15th Annual Run the Good Race. If you can help, please call us at 913-321-4673 or e-mail [julie@sanctuaryofhope.org](mailto:julie@sanctuaryofhope.org)**

**SOH is looking for new live-in members. Please go to our website for a job description.**

**Easy way to donate stocks for SOH**

SOH has established a brokerage account with US Bank to receive stock donations easily. The account number is 13531546 and DTC #is 0280. Any questions- call SOH at 913-321-4673 and ask for Lou Finocchiaro or Julie Elwell. SOH is very grateful for the generous stock donations made by caring supporters.

The Holy Grounds Books and Gifts Shop found a new location in 2013 and has enjoyed being close to the dining room and the elevator. We continue our mission of supporting Sanctuary of Hope and thank all who supported us in our growth last year.

This year brings some new artists and items to our shop. Sherry McCune, a St. Agnes parishioner and local artist, is selling some beautiful hand-made rosaries. These rosaries feature glorious colors and

each one is individually crafted for a unique purchase. She also has designed some rosary bracelets which make a very thoughtful gift.

Ann Hatch has expanded her line to offer small portable devotional altars. They hold a cup for a candle or prayer scroll and each one is themed for your inspiration. These are simple gifts that can be placed in your home or office

and remind us of our many blessings.

We look forward to your support in 2014 and please remember us as you look for books and gifts. The gift shop is opened Tuesday through Sunday. A staff member would be happy to assist you.

Thank you.



Sponsor a Healthy Eating Dinner Anyone?

On February 15<sup>th</sup> Patty Wernel sponsored a Healthy Eating Dinner, inviting friends she knew to have a Sanctuary of Hope Healthy Dinner at Finocchario's home. SOH benefited from a total of \$250 donations. The evening involved food preparation explanation, the meal, and review of

a short DVD of the groups' choosing.

If the above appeals to you as a way to help SOH and enjoy a "healthy eating" evening, you are welcome to call SOH 321-4673 to sponsor one for you and your friends/relatives.

Interested in the next SOH Healthy Eating Session?

Many who have attended these sessions have made significant improvements. Call 913-321-4673 if you are interested in attending the next session on Sept 25 from 8:45 am-3 pm.



THANKS! – THANKS! – THANKS!

We appreciate all of our volunteers so much. The Mardi Gras was a first for Sanctuary of Hope. Although the weather did not cooperate, our volunteers did. Thanks to Kathy Hirt and her crew for all their work. We have two new receptionists: Lisa Jacobson for Friday afternoons and Krystal Thomason for Saturday mornings. A large retreat in February called for extra help in our

kitchen and thanks goes to Diana Hamel, Therese Fosdick and Lisa Jacobson for assisting. Bishop Ward High School students assisted in both our March and April Work Days. They have been so helpful in several areas both indoors and outdoors. Thanks! It was a last minute call to Bishop Ward the last week in March; the following students: Luis Zamora, Ravonna Griffin, Kevin Tuttle and Ashley

Krause assisted in that special project. In April, we participated in the Ethnic Festival at the Kansas City Kansas Community College. Thanks to Joe Cook, Ed Deane, Ann Nepstad and Jerry Altman for helping that day. What else can I say – Peace, Love, Joy and another **Thanks!**

Colleen Cook





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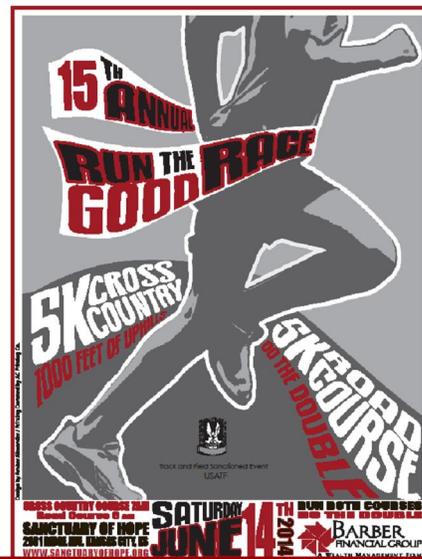
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## 15TH ANNUAL RUN THE GOOD RACE 5K

The **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Run the Good Race and Pancake Breakfast** is Saturday June 14, 2014, the day before Father's Day. **Run the Good Race** is an anticipated and well respected event in Greater Kansas City. The cross-country challenge course and "Do the Double" provide a unique option for runners. And, the pancake breakfast is still the best in KCK! With your help **Run the Good Race** continues to grow and work to serve our local community.

For more information or to register, please go to our website--[www.sanctuaryofhope.org](http://www.sanctuaryofhope.org)



We need your help as a sponsor of our annual **Run the Good Race**. This effort allows us to make this peaceful place available to hundreds of people each year. Your support is vital as Sanctuary of Hope faces the same financial challenges as those we serve. Please continue to sponsor **Run the Good Race** in your charitable gifts by donating to the 2014 effort. Thank you.