POPE TO FAMILIES: STRENGTHEN THE FAITH IN YOUR HOMES

VATICAN CITY, 31 DEC 2011 (VIS) - The Holy Father has sent a message to Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela, archbishop of Madrid, Spain, for the Feast of the Holy Family. The message, dated 27 December, was read out yesterday at the beginning of a Mass for families celebrated by Cardinal Rouco Varela in Madrid's Plaza de Colon.

"I invite everyone to consider this celebration as a continuation of Christmas", the Pope writes. "Jesus became man in order to bring the world the goodness and love of God, and He did so in that place where human beings are most disposed to want the best for others, ready to do anything for them and to place love above all other interests. ... The family is, so to speak, the door by which the Saviour of humankind entered the world. At the same time it gives domestic love and communion the greatness of being a special reflection of the Trinitarian mystery of God.

"This greatness is also a splendid and decisive vocation for families", the Holy Father adds. "I encourage you ... to be aware that God is at your side and to invoke Him always so as to ensure He gives you the help you need to overcome your difficulties; this help is certain and has its foundation in the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage. Allow yourselves to be guided by the Church, which Christ entrusted with the mission of spreading the good news of salvation down the centuries, and do not surrender to the many worldly powers threatening the great treasure of the family, which you must protect day after day".

"It is in the family that we learn to live together, that faith is transmitted, values are strengthened and freedom is channelled to ensure that one day children will be fully aware of their own vocation and dignity, and that of others. The warmth of the home and domestic example can teach much more than words can say. This educational dimension of the family may receive particular encouragement in the Year of Faith, due to begin in a few months time. For this reason, I invite you to revitalise the faith in your homes and to become increasingly aware of the Creed we profess".

"I pray to God ... that (young people) may not cease to thank Him for the gift of the family, that they may be grateful to their parents and undertake to defend and promote the authentic dignity of this institution, so vital for society and the Church".

You can now schedule Divine Liturgies, read our Bulletin, make donations, read our Parish Guidelines for Membership, or follow our Children Education Blog; all from our Web Site, *www.Stjohnofthedesert.com***.**

Do not forget the hungry! (Collection Basket at the door)

JANUARY 29, 2012

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN

LK 18:10-14 **2 TIM 3:10-15** **TONE 8**

St. John of the Desert Calendar

Wednesday, February 1	*7:00 pm*	*Feast of the Encounter of our Lord Vespers/Divine Liturgy*
Sunday, February 5	*9:00 am*	*Children Education*
	10:20 am	*Doxolology*
	10:30 am	*Divine Liturgy followed by Social Hour*
		Paul Davis, (+) Gloria Herro, (+) Mrs. Carato Sr., (+) Sister Esther
Saturday, February 11	*5:00 pm*	*Saturday of the Dead Divine Liturgy Followed by the PPC Meeting*
		(Do not Forget to pray for your Dead)

Today's Intentions:

- For the Health and Salvation of Jeoffrey Rimmer on his Birthday by Dcn. Marion & Joyce Rimmer
- For the Health and Salvation of Paul Davis by Shirley Davis
- For the Health and Salvation of James Hart by Zyad & Jocelyn Abyad
- For the Repose of the Soul of Georgette Ghaby
- For the Repose of the Soul of Gloria Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of John Ronan by Joseph Davis
- For the Repose of the Soul of Sister Esther by Mary & Marti Herro
- For the Repose of the Soul of John Skaff by John & Evelyn Davis
- For a Special Intention

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eric Rimmer, Mary Kostisak, Andre and Osama Eid, Lynn Hume, Linda Herro, Kafa Dababneh, Camille Holt, Refga Sayegh, Bo Bolinaga, Pauline Hamra, Sue Bieber, Ray Weirick, Bill Estes, Samira Horan, Baylee Beamer and Nadia Demian.

HOUSE BLESSING - Just prepare a candle, icons and assemble your family for about an hour.

Please bring Peanut butter, Soups, Jelly, breakfast cereals (not the ones with lots of sugar, please), Canned meats and vegetables, disposable diapers & detergent, etc. Put your donations in the Narthex.

When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, "Give place to this man," and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, "Friend, go up higher." Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Lk 14:9-11).

There is a sign-up poster in the hall for different maintenance jobs that need to be done around the church. Unfortunately, very few of you signed-up and offered to help. We will have "Work Days" and you will be notified if you marked your name. Soon we will have a work day to remove the Christmas Decoration around the church and hall. I urge you to be involved in your church with a spirit of stewardship for the talents that God gave us. If you can help in any way, please sign your name on the poster in the hall today. Thank you.

EMAIL ADDRESS: We are in the process of updating our Email list. If you have a different email address or didn't give us your email yet, please do so now to be added to our Parish list for memo distribution and such.