

WOMEN OF BETHANY

A Catholic Ministry of Women

Spring 2011

“Behold Your Mother”

John 19:27

As Jesus was refreshed by visiting Bethany, we would like to invite you to enjoy a Bethany experience as we celebrate our 18th Women of Bethany Retreat, November 11-13, 2011.

Please join us, to be renewed in your spirit, body, mind, and soul.

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Did You Know:

- Registration for the Retreat is limited to 220 applicants.
- See Page 3 for details of our new Early-bird registration rates!
- We welcome women aged 18 to 118!

This Year's Retreat Outline

- On Friday evening, let go of the burdens that have weighed you down...
Joyful Mysteries: Experience the Joy of Christ even during times of stress
- On Saturday morning, discover how important you are...
Luminous Mysteries: Growing in the mission of Christ
- On Saturday afternoon, find healing and renewed strength...
Sorrowful Mysteries: Communion with Jesus means becoming Eucharist
- On Sunday, open yourself to new joys and go home victorious...
Glorious Mysteries: Blossoming in the Empowered Life



Word from our Coordinator



*The Women of Bethany have a love of Mary, the mother of Jesus,
as our model of faithfulness to God's will ... Blessed is she who believed*

Blessings to all the Women of Bethany,

As the first flowers of spring bloom in Ottawa, we celebrate the resurrection of Easter and look forward to new beginnings. This year the Women of Bethany Annual Retreat will embark on a new relationship with a new hotel. We have had many wonderful years at the lovely Château Cartier Hotel in Aylmer and we are sorry to leave such a peaceful setting. However, over the years there have been several comments from our participants that we needed to address. One of the most common concerns has been the noise level in the hallway outside the chapel during our retreat. This, combined with other issues, led the Core Team to undertake the task of researching and evaluating other locations in the Ottawa area.

We are happy to announce that our November 2011 retreat will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel. We have done everything possible to ensure that your Women of Bethany retreat remains a place of hope, refreshment and renewal while still being affordable. Although the cost of the retreat has risen slightly this year, the increase is not due to the change of location. We look forward to building relationships with the staff at the Marriott and we eagerly await your comments after the retreat.

This year our theme is "Behold Your Mother" John 19:27. Among Jesus' last words, he not only made sure his mother had a home, but installed Mary as the mother of us all. G.K. Chesterton wrote "*The Blessed Virgin Mary is born to be Mother. The supreme consolation that Our Lady receives at the foot of the cross of her Son is the assurance that her vocation as Mother does not end with Christ's death. The Lord commands the world, 'Behold your Mother.' The resurrection begins for Mary - and for us - with these words.*" This year, we will have a chance to get to know our blessed mother Mary a little better, knowing that Mary always leads us to her Son. To help us on this journey, our guest speaker will be Terry Modica from Good News Ministries.

Whether you already have a strong devotion to Mary, want to deepen your devotion, or don't yet have an understanding of Mary's role, our upcoming retreat is for you. I look forward to seeing you in November. Until then, please continue to pray for the Core Team and all the volunteers who serve this ministry so faithfully.



Your Servant in Christ, Lorie O'Reilly



Our 18th annual Women of Bethany retreat will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel in downtown Ottawa, Nov. 11-13.

The retreat's theme will be: John 19:27 "Behold Your Mother." We are glad to announce that our spiritual director is Fr. Roger Vandenakker and the speaker will be Mrs. Terry Modica.

Terry is a Catholic book author, Executive Director of Good News Ministries, Lay Associate of the Paulist Fathers, and international speaker.



Terry converted to the Roman Catholic Church in 1977, drawn in by the Eucharist. After years of struggling to trust the Blessed Virgin Mary's role in the faith, Jesus gave her a personal relationship

with His Mother in a miraculous way. Eventually, a visit by the Blessed Mother turned her ministry toward a new direction, which became the founding of Good News Ministries. Soon afterward, Jesus led her through her personal Way of the Cross, which proved that after every crucifixion comes a resurrection. Come hear her stories!

She has a Theology Degree and certification in Lay Pastoral Ministry. Married for 36 years and the mother of two, she has served the Church in a wide variety of parish and diocesan ministries.

Visit her online ministry at www.gnm.org and subscribe to her free emails of Good News Reflections on the readings from Catholic Mass.



NEW This year we are offering a lower price for early registration so we encourage you to register early and take advantage of the savings.

Regular Retreat Prices:

- Single Occupancy - \$450.00 per person
- Double Occupancy - \$325.00 per person
- Triple Occupancy - \$300.00 per person

Early Registration Prices: (Registration and payment received by Sept. 1, 2011)

- Single Occupancy - \$425.00 per person
- Double Occupancy - \$300.00 per person
- Triple Occupancy - \$275.00 per person

You are encouraged to send in your registration form and payment as soon as possible to secure your place on the retreat.

Key Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 1, 2011: EARLY Registration Deadline
- Oct. 1, 2011: FINAL Registration Deadline (Registrations beyond Oct. 1 can only be accepted subject to hotel availability)

Cancellation/Refund:

No refunds can be given for cancellations after Oct. 1, 2011 (unless the spot can be filled). Refunds will be given for cancellations prior to Oct. 1, 2011. You may pay at the time that you send in your registration form, or post-date your cheque to the dates outlined above (Sept 1 / Oct 1).

* Cancellations at any time are subject to a \$25.00 administrative fee, if that cancellation results in us having to issue a refund cheque.

A Word from our Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Dear Women of Bethany : To prepare for our retreat, I believe Our Lady is inviting all of us to say prayerfully (daily if possible) the following:

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Mother Mary, so full of love for Your Children, I come to consecrate myself to Your Immaculate Heart. I entrust to You my whole life, my mind and my will. May You dispose of me according to Jesus' plan for my salvation. Impress in my heart a true love for Jesus, Your Son, and for You, my dear Mother. Keep me humble of heart as You showed us by Your shining example. Give me a renewed spirit of prayer and penance, a fervent love for the Church and the Holy Eucharist, and the fervor to spread the message of Jesus to all those I meet. May you cover me with Your holy mantle, in order to preserve me from every sin and to help me practice the Christian virtues especially purity.

Help me, dearest Mother, to do the will of the Father every day. Amen

Jesus loves you. I love you. Receive the blessing and the love of Jesus. ✠ ♥ Gemma O'Sullivan



Update on Fr. Mahugu Kinuthia

It was indeed a great delight to have Fr. Mahugu Kinuthia with us last year on our annual retreat. It was easy to see Christ in this holy priest through his sharing, his gentle ways and his wonderful sense of humour. He shared with the core team how inspired and encouraged he was as a result of being at the retreat and meeting with so many of you wonderful Women of Bethany. He has assured us of his continued prayers for this Ministry.

Fr. Mahugu underwent his second back surgery in January and we are pleased to tell you that the surgery went very well, and Fr. Mahugu is definitely on the road to recovery. Please keep him in your prayers.

A Call to Prayer...

Please unite with us in prayer for our priests. We invite you also to request Masses to be offered for our priests. The holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the supreme prayer, our most powerful way of supporting these holy men who give their lives in service of our Lord and His Church.

We also invite you to pray for the Women of Bethany Ministry. If you feel so moved, we invite you also to offer holy Mass for the Ministry.

We Need A New

Webmaster! Please email Lorie if you feel called to help this Ministry by maintaining our website.

Contact Information for Core Team:

Coordinator:	Lorie O'Reilly	core@womenofbethany.ca
Registration:	Ann McDougall	registration@womenofbethany.ca
Prayer Ministry:	Gemma O'Sullivan	prayer@womenofbethany.ca
Treasurer:	Shannon McGruer	treasurer@womenofbethany.ca
Newsletter:	Cheryl Thompson	newsletter@womenofbethany.ca

2010 Retreat ... I Have Called You By Name!

"I Have Called You By Name, You Are Mine." Isaiah 43:1

At last year's retreat, our keynote speaker shared her story with us. Here's an update from her: "May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be yours today and forever. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve the daughters of the Most High God gathered together for the Women of Bethany Retreat. The weekend ministered to me deeply and I was spiritually enriched by the experience. Truly I was among women of grace! May God continue to bless your efforts and may the fruit of your labors multiply toward eternity.

With love in the heart of Jesus and Mary, Johnnette Benkovic"



2010 Retreat Feedback:

"Inspired me to work harder in my faith to draw closer to God."

"Prayer ministry felt like I was brought into Christ's presence."

"Music was beautiful, inspirational, reverent, well-chosen, wonderful, prayerful!"

"Johnnette led us to holiness and to becoming evangelists."

"It's wonderful to experience Bethany."

Update from Past Speaker

Some of you may remember Sr. Rosalind Moss, who was our guest speaker in 2003.

Since she shared with us 8 years ago, she has founded the religious order of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope. They are a new contemplative-active, teaching and evangelistic community of women who desire to reach out to every soul — young and old, rich and poor — with the love of God and the truths of our glorious Church.

Sr. Moss is newly arrived in Tulsa to look for land on which to build or renovate a building for a convent. Sr. Moss writes: "My love and gratitude to you all, in the God of all creation, who sent His Son — through a Woman, in the fullness of time — that we might have life, all of life, in Him — now and forever!"

You can find more information on her website at: www.motherofourhope.org

Did you know?

You can donate to Women of Bethany (or any registered Canadian charity) using your workplace's charitable donation campaign, such as the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign.

WoB's charitable # is: 872436951 RR0001

Happy Baby News! Those who attended 2008's retreat will fondly remember our Guest Speaker, the lovely Laura O'Reilly. We are happy to share with you that her family recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl! Isabelle Grace was born April 8th (7 lbs 10 oz). Thanks be to God!

WOMEN OF BETHANY

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2011 — OTTAWA MARRIOTT HOTEL 100 Kent St. · Ottawa, ON K1P 5R7

Please mail this registration form to: **Women of Bethany** c/o Ann McDougall
45 Cherry Drive, Stittsville, ON K2S 1J5
(613) 831-1989 (calls 9 am - 9 pm only please)

Name: _____

Age: 18-25___ 26-35___ 36-45___ 46-55___ 56-65___ 66+___

Address: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

____ Check here if you do not want to receive the Newsletter by email

Roomate(s): _____



Circle your choice:

Single Occupancy \$450 Double Occupancy \$325 Triple Occupancy \$300

Early Registration: (Registration and payment received by Sept. 1, 2011)

Single Occupancy \$425 Double Occupancy \$300 Triple Occupancy \$275

Subsidy Requested: _____ (please indicate amount)

Donation: _____ (thank you)

Your gracious donation is much appreciated to help us cover all our subsidy requests.

Registration is confirmed upon payment received. Confirmation letters will be sent after October 1st. Cheques are payable to "Women of Bethany" and you may post-date your cheque to the date outlined above (September 1st or October 1st). All infants 6 months of age or younger are welcome. Please let us know if you are bringing an infant.

Special room requests:

Special dietary needs:
