



# Christ Child Society Of Pittsburgh

March, 2009

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a non-profit Catholic association of lay volunteers embracing members of all denominations, expressing its members' love of the Christ Child through service to God's children regardless of race, color or creed.

## OFFICERS

President

Judy Kern

Vice President

Joyce Orr

Recording Secretary

Marian Flowers

Corresponding Secretary

Margie DiDomenico

Treasurer

Marilyn Dabkowski

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Fitzgibbon

Barbara Fredette

Mary Jo Kelly

Pat Maida

Ellen O'Brien

Advisor:

Cheryl George

## Mass and Lunch with Bishop Zubik

Bishop David Zubik will celebrate Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Father Kevin Poecking, Spiritual Advisor for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Christ Child Society, will be a concelebrant. The Mass is in recognition of the Society's continued support to the newborn and disadvantaged children of Pittsburgh and the metropolitan area. In the past year, the Society has donated over 700 new winter coats, hats and gloves to needy children. Throughout the past year, the Christ Child Society has also assembled and distributed over 200 newborn layettes to area hospitals and Catholic Charities. In addition, the Society continues to work with boys at Holy Family Institute, as well as offering support to the Roselia Center.

There will be a luncheon immediately following Mass at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Bishop Zubik will be the guest speaker. Tickets for the luncheon are \$30 per person. All Christ Child members, their spouses, and any other guests are welcome to attend. Reservations can be made by calling 412.835.1692 before April 12, 2009.

## ANNUAL CHRIST CHILD RETREAT

On Wednesday, March 18, 2009, our spiritual advisor, Father Kevin Poecking led our annual retreat at the Kearns Spirituality Center. Father began with the Rosary, and then gave seven short meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ. These meditations grew out of his research in a book written by Adrienne von Speyer entitled *The Cross, Word and Sacrament*. In this text, Ms. von Speyer likened each of the Seven Last Words to one of the Sacraments. We were directed to the humanity of Jesus, as He suffered on the Cross, and also to the gifts of the Sacraments left to His Church. Each of us who were able to attend the retreat were enriched and inspired by Father's meditations. Following lunch, Father led our group in the Stations of the Cross, and the day was concluded with Mass in the beautiful chapel of the Center. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have had some very inspirational, thoughtful and challenging retreat leaders. This year was no exception. Each of us left with much to ponder, and are quite enriched with the ideas Father presented.



Angels Closet News....  
Angels Closet News....

Molly Kelley reports that during the past two months her committee has tried to increase the inventory with the great sales that took place in the local stores. They traveled far and wide looking for bargains and found some. Our present inventory includes approximately 300 coats. They are looking forward to finding more bargains in the fall to add again to our present inventory. We have received a very nice note of thanks from the Cloverleaf Area Ecumenical Assistance Program as well as from the Hill House Health Center thanking the Christ Child Society for Angel's Closet winter coat distribution. With the current economic climate, we are again anticipating a banner year for Angels' Closet coat distribution. Through the generosity of several donors over the 2008 Christmas holiday, we are confident we can meet the demand.

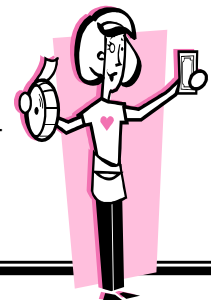
HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

News from Cheryl George. . .

The Christmas party at Pizza Roma was a huge success and truly enjoyed by all. I passed out \$25 gift cards to Target at the party. The boys and staff gave me a beautiful Christmas sweater and sweatshirt. I will be playing Bingo on December 29 and January 6 and then I am leaving for Florida for 3 months. I will return before Easter. It has been a wonderful 2008 at Holy Family for me and I hope for all the young men I come in contact with. I am planning a picnic in May at Avalon Park and, as always, I need beanie babies or other small stuffed animals. Please hold them until I return in April. I wish you all a healthy, Happy New Year and God's Blessings on everyone in the Christ Child Society!

Chairperson/s Needed For 2009 Red Wagon Fare

TO DATE WE HAVE NO CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2009 RED WAGON FARE. Last year's Committee confirmed Saturday, October 10, at the Pittsburgh Field Club for the 2009 Red Wagon. If you are willing to chair or co-chair this event, please call Judy Kern as soon as possible.



..... ROSELIA.....

Patti Smith reports that Roselia currently has 4 girls. Beth, the Roselia director, requested that we give the girls a gift card sometime during the year other than at Christmas or Easter, since many donations come at this time. It would be better for the girls to get something during a lull in activity. A suggestion would be between \$25 and \$50. They greatly appreciated our gift cards earmarked for diapers and formula.

JANUARY CHRIST CHILD MEETING CANCELLED

The January 15, Christ Child General Meeting was cancelled due to very cold weather. The next regular meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, APRIL 16, at Our Lady of the Angels Auditorium. Reminders will be sent to each member prior to that date. Since we have not met for a regular meeting in over three months, please make every effort to attend the April meeting. We have a lot to discuss! Also, PLEASE mark on your calendar — Tuesday, May 12. Anyone with Newsletter data and all Committee heads, are asked to email or call in articles of information to Judy Kern on or before that date. This should insure the publication of our May Christ Child Newsletter in a timely fashion. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

# ★ Layette ★

Members of the Layette Committee met the end of January to assemble layettes for distribution. Phyllis Dombrowski, Doris Delserone and Marilyn Dabkowski packed 61 layettes which were then distributed to the local hospitals by Marian Flowers and Marianne Gonot. A special thanks to Rose Casciotta for ordering and delivering the diapers used for all layettes! A board meeting will be planned for early Spring to review the contents of our current layette package to see if any new or additional supplies can be added.

## CHILD DIRECTORY FOR 2009-2010

We are not planning a new 2009 publication of our current member directory. We will, however, be sending an addendum to all members, indicating the changes that should be noted in your 2008 directory. This addendum will be prepared after all MEMBERSHIP DUES FORMS are mailed and returned. Please be sure to read over and fill in legibly your Membership Dues Form. The forms will be mailed sometime this Spring.

## IT WAS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is grateful for the very generous support of our donors who contributed in excess of \$11,500 over the 2008 Christmas Season. In addition to several generous individual donations, contributions were also received from the "Bethlehem Basket" Program of St. Stephen Church and the "Angel Tree" Program from St.

Athanasius Church, both in Pittsburgh. With the dedication and personal service of our faithful members, as well as the generosity and support of our donors, we look forward to continuing our mission to help local children in need.

Many Thanks to . . .  
**Diane Reich. . .**

. . . for planning a wonderful holiday get-together for our Christ Child members. (Please see insert for pictures of the event!) The party took place on Thursday, December 4 at the PAA Club in Oakland. Diane made and donated all the beautiful Christmas table centerpieces. They were used as door prizes along with other gifts she donated. The luncheon was a wonderful start to the holiday season!

## CHRIST CHILD SPIRITUAL ADVISOR RECEIVES PASTORAL ASSIGNMENT

Bishop Zubik recently announced that Father Kevin Poecking has been named pastor of St. Peter Parish, Slippery Rock, for a term of six years, and director of the Newman Center at Slippery Rock University, effective Monday, April 20, 2009. Father was the parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish, Washington, PA., prior to his new assignment. He has served as the Spiritual Advisor of the Christ Child Society since last May. Father Kevin, (as he likes to be called) will continue as our Spiritual Advisor until notified otherwise. Our congratulations to Father Kevin!!



## Happy Birthday Wishes. . . . . (belated and upcoming)

March 6	Syble Shadle
March 8	Rose Plutnicki
March 10	Pat Maida
March 10	Margie DiDomenico
March 13	Connie Kunz
March 30	Mary Jane Diamantopulos
April 1	Pinky King
April 2	Peg Holl
April 3	Maria Gelormino
May 4	Joyce Orr
May 15	Judy Kern
May 15	Judy Bonino
May 23	Suzette Venturini
May 27	Sandra DaCosta

Dear Lord --

So far today,  
I've done all right.  
Haven't lost my temper,  
haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish,  
Or over-indulgent.  
I'm very thankful for that.  
But in a few minutes, God,  
I'm going to get out of bed.  
And from then on  
I'm probably going to need a lot more help!

Amen

# Dates to Remember

- April 19 - Mass and Lunch with Bishop Zubik
- September 25-26 - NCCS 2009 Conference, Bethesda, Maryland
- October 10 - 2009 Red Wagon

## NOTEWORTHY:

- PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS,

Louise Zido, who passed away on March 10,  
Robert George, husband of Cheryl, who passed away on March 18, and  
Joan Young, who is currently at Passavant Hospital recovering from pneumonia.

Because of the close timing to the printing of this publication, more details will be included in the May Newsletter.

- I would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages, Masses and donations in honor of my Mom, Jennie. Your expressions of sympathy offered much support and comfort for me during such a difficult time. Please know I am very grateful for your kindness ~ Judy Kern.
- Father Poecking has sent a note of thanks for our prayers, support, and for his Christmas offering.
- The next GENERAL MEETING of our Christ Child Society is planned for THURSDAY, APRIL 16, at Our Lady of the Angels Auditorium, Lawrenceville. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by our meeting at 12:15 p.m. Please make every effort to attend! Lunch Coordinators are Margie DiDomenico and Syble Shadle.
- Please submit all articles for the May Newsletter on or before Tuesday, May 12.

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324





# Christ Child Christmas Party. . . .



. . . and a  
**GOOD TIME**  
was had by all !

December 4, 2008

