

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

April 24 - 26, 2017

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted.... Luke 4:18

We have been asked to pick one woman from the Bible that was inspired by God's calling that can be demonstrated in the work we do in the Christian Family Life Conveniorship and how it relates to our theme of "Inspired by the Spirit – women responding to God's Call." I have chosen Dorcus, or Tabitha.

Little is known of Dorcus except that she was a Christian Disciple, noted for her charitable works and generous giving in service to the Lord (Acts 9:36) James wrote in his Epistle, "*Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.*" (James 2:17) Dorcas' faith was made perfect through her works.

Dorcas demonstrated her love and devotion for her Lord through such unselfish acts as sewing clothes and giving financially to the needs of the poor and widows. Death could not stop such a Christ-like compassion. Peter was touched by the loss of Dorcas as the widows recounted her great contribution to humanity. He prayed and exercised the Power given to him by Jesus, he presented her alive to her mourners. (Act 9:42)

Christian Family Life Chairpersons are inspired by the spirit to promote the values and love of God to our families. What can two loving people gain with the love of God - the union with Jesus and themselves to be one. The family is the basic cell of society.

We encourage our young people to share their gifts in ministry with their peers. We teach them chastity as a way of life, nourish their spiritual growth and support them in programs that will enrich them as they grow to become adults.

We are inspired by the Spirit to help the seniors by involving them in prayer groups, praying for them in their homes, visiting them in their homes or in nursing homes. Seniors have so much knowledge that they can pass onto us by relating interesting stories of their lives. My grandson always asked me to tell him stories of the "old days".

Sanctity of life is “the condition of being considered sacred or holy, and therefore entitled to respect and reverence”. The Christian Family Life chairpersons are inspired by the Spirit to initiate and encourage members to support pro-life walks; to educate and keep them informed of the church’s teaching on pro-life issues. The second part of Dignity for Life is palliative care. We encourage our members to continue the fight against assisted suicide/euthanasia and continue fight for what God has given us ... LIFE! This can be done by e-petitions and writing to our members of parliament.

Dorcus devoted her life to serving the poor, the disabled, the widowed, the separated and the divorced. She felt the Spirit calling her to help these people. We are inspired to do the same. We can invite the disabled people to take part in liturgical celebrations, assist them in living on their own, provide transportation when needed and support and initiate shelters/programs for abused disabled. For the widowed, separated and divorced, we can ask them to join us in functions, be available if they need to confide in someone and be a good listener. Be supportive to them.

When Dorcus was raised from the dead by Peter she continued to serve others. She dedicated herself to God. The Christian Family Chairpersons are inspired by the spirit to pray and support vocations. We can encourage families to discuss vocations with children, grandchildren and friends. We can promote the parish to use the vocational cross to pray for vocations.

As Christian Family Life Chairperson, we have used the theme of Inspired by the Spirit – women responding to God’s Call” in many ways that have helped many people. We have given them hope, love and assistance.

**Madame President, this ends my report. May our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide you, my Sisters in the League and pray for you as you do His work for others.
God Bless**

Thank you.

Kathy Levesque