



Future with Hope Women

October 20-21, 2017

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

www.futurewithhopewomen.com

Welcome!

The four of us have been praying for each of you since January, when the Lord asked that we organize a second Future with Hope conference for Catholic women over forty.

Again this year, we are truly appreciative of our two sponsors, the Arlington Diocese Council of Catholic Women and Joyful Spirit Gifts. We also are especially grateful to our advisory board, without whom this event would not be as rich in spirit. Like the four of us, they paid their own conference registration and donated untold hours of service. You'll meet them later in this booklet, along with all of our wonderful exhibitors and door prize donors. We hope you enjoy our speakers. We hope you find the discussion groups thought provoking and soul stirring. We hope you consider a new ministry through an exhibitor or the free materials in your bag. We hope you do a little shopping. We hope you win a door prize.

But most of all, we pray that you find this a warm, safe place to draw closer to women in the same situation – and to God. He *does* have a future with hope for you. We guarantee it.

In Christ,

Monica McBrady, Paula Hummel, Melanie Rigney, Colleen Duffy Kiko (clockwise from front)



Schedule at a Glance: Friday

FRIDAY

- **5-7 p.m.:** Registration open; icebreaker ongoing
- **5-7:30 p.m.:** Exhibitors open; dinner on your own
- **6-7 p.m.:** Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (optional)
- **6:30-10 p.m.:** Reception; bar opens (2 drinks; cash bar following; light hors d'oeuvres at 7 p.m.)
- **7:30 p.m.:** Welcome
- **7:50 p.m.:** Opening prayer
- **8:00 p.m.:** Mary Lenaburg speaks
- **8:40 p.m.:** Night prayer. *Note: The bar and room will remain open until 10 p.m.*

Special thanks to...

The five priests who conferred the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation:

- The Rev. Paul Berghout
- The Rev. Edward Bresnahan
- The Rev. Christopher Hayes
- The Rev. Paul Scalia
- The Rev. Charles Smith

Schedule at a Glance: Saturday

SATURDAY

- **8-9 a.m.:** Registration resumes; meeting room and exhibitors open; continental breakfast available
- **8:50 a.m.:** Divine Mercy Chaplet
- **9:05 a.m.:** Opening prayer
- **9:15 a.m.:** Mary Beth Bonacci speaks
- **9:55 a.m.:** Special event
- **10:10 a.m.:** Explain Discussion Groups
- **10:20 a.m.:** Break
- **10:35 a.m.:** Discussion Groups I
- **11:35 a.m.:** Break
- **11:55 a.m.:** Light spiritual activity
- **12:15 p.m.:** Prayer; lunch
- **1:05 p.m.:** Pat Gohn speaks
- **1:45 p.m.:** Break
- **2:35 p.m.:** Discussion Groups II
- **3:45 p.m.:** Sending Forth
- **4:00 p.m.:** Closing prayer

Mary Lenaburg



Mary Lenaburg is a writer, speaker, wife and mother. She has served her local parish in many roles, including liturgy coordinator, youth ministry, and confirmation preparation instructor. Now she travels the country and speaks to groups of all ages about God's redeeming love and that faith is the courage to want what God wants for us, even if we cannot see where the path leads. Learn more about Mary at www.marylenaburg.com.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

2. Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

[Leader] Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

[ALL] Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

[Leader] Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

[ALL] Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostle's Creed

[Leader] I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[ALL] I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father (*continued on the next page*)

[Leader] Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

[ALL] in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the Ten Small Beads of each Decade

[Leader] For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,

[ALL] have mercy on us and on the whole world. (10x)

8. Repeat for the Remaining Decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (#6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (#7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with the Holy God (repeat 3 times)

[ALL] Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. [3x]

10. Closing Prayer

[ALL] Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Faustina Kowalska was an uneducated nun in Poland in 1933 when Jesus appeared to her clad in a white robe with rays emanating from His heart and asked that the image and the words "Jesus, I trust in You" be shared throughout the world. (The original image, painted under Faustina's guidance, appears below.) Jesus also directed that Divine Mercy Sunday would be observed the Sunday after Easter. Later, Faustina received the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Faustina died in 1938 and was canonized in 2000, the same year the Sunday of the Divine Mercy was officially designated. There is an effort under way requesting that she be named a Doctor of the Church. For more information, visit www.thedivinemercy.org.



Mary Beth Bonacci



Mary Beth is an internationally known author and speaker whose books include *We're on a Mission from God* and *Real Love*. She is a columnist for the *Arlington Catholic Herald*. Mary Beth is single and lives in the Denver area. She will speak on vocations: How they change post-40 and how God comforts and supports us. Learn more about Mary Beth at www.reallove.net.

Small-Group Discussions

Table discussions will be about the questions below. The discussion is about *you* and sharing and learning from each other. There will be 11 tables at each of the two sessions. Stanchions indicate the topic. You are welcome to sit in on the same session each time, or a different session each time.

We named the tables for titles of Mary, our Blessed Mother. We have chosen titles we felt had something in common with us to help with the challenges we face today. It's all right if you don't know much about the titles. The brief description here just gives you an idea of how you might find some inspiration for your discussion. Let the Holy Spirit guide the conversation; it's all right if you go in a different direction.



We should not be afraid that our attention to Mary would detract from our adoration of the Holy Trinity. St. Louis de Montfort said Mary must be better known now than ever for the deeper understanding and greater glory of the Holy Trinity.

“Undoer of Knots” and “Mother of Good Counsel” were the most popular topics based on a pre-conference survey of attendees, and each will be up for discussion at two tables in each session.

We do ask that if ten women are already seated at the table that you move on to another selection for that session

Questions? Ask one of the facilitators or organizers.

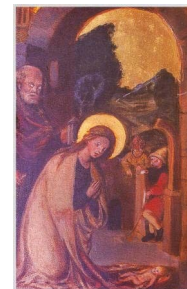
1. **Our Lady Undoer of Knots** – Our Lady intercedes for us to help us with our difficulties just as she did at the Wedding Feast of Cana. How do we deal with the knots in our lives? How can our faith help us? (*two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon*)



2. **Our Lady of Good Counsel** – Do we ask for help to find our way when we have a decision to make? How do we know God’s will for us? (*two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon*)



3. **Our Lady of Victory** – Mary is the mother of Christ who is victorious over sin and death. How do we learn to recognize and celebrate our victories big and small? (*morning and afternoon sessions*)



4. **Cause of Our Joy** – Jesus resurrected is the source of true joy and Mary brings His joy to us. What is joy? How can our lives bring joy to a sometimes stressful world? How do we maintain our joy in the midst of difficulties? (*morning session*)



5. **Mother of God** – At the wedding feast at Cana, Mary said, “Do whatever He tells you.” What helps us clear out the noise to listen to the Word of God? What happens when we forget to listen? (*morning and afternoon sessions*)



6. **Mother of the Church** – Mary and Joseph found young Jesus in the Temple after having lost Him for three days. What has helped us reconnect with God when we feel we have lost Him? (*morning session*)
(*continued on the next page*)



7. **Mother of Mercy** – Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our Life, our Sweetness and our Hope. To her do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. Do we turn to Mary as our model of strength when our strength has run out? (*afternoon session*)



8. **Mother of Grace** – By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary dispenses God's graces to us and our families. How can we raise faith-filled families? (*afternoon session*)



9. **Our Lady of the Annunciation** – The Archangel said to Mary: "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God." Are we able to trust God's plan in frightening or uncertain situations? (*morning and afternoon sessions*)



10. **Our Lady of the Visitation** – "Elizabeth said to Mary, "At the sound of your voice, the child leapt for joy in my womb." How can our presence bring Jesus to all our relationships, especially difficult ones? (*morning session*)



11. **Mother of Sorrows** – Mary shared in her Son's passion and stood at the foot of her Son's cross. How does staying close to God help us in our sadness and loss? (*morning and afternoon sessions*)



12. **Mary of the Assumption** – Mary was assumed body and soul to Heaven. Do we struggle with our relationship with our body? How do we treat our bodies respectfully as temples of the Holy Spirit? (*afternoon session*)



Pat Gohn



Pat is a retreat leader, speaker, catechist, and author of the award-winning *Blessed, Beautiful, and Bodacious: Celebrating the Gift of Catholic Womanhood* and *All In: Why Belonging to the Catholic Church Matters*. She is the host of the Among Women podcast and editor of *Catechist* magazine. Pat lives in North Andover, Massachusetts. She will speak on faith: How it sustains us amid the changes of midlife and beyond. Learn more about Pat at www.patgohn.net.

Our Sponsors



Joyful Spirit Gifts in Arlington has the most comprehensive selection of family-oriented conservative Catholic materials in the DC area.

Arlington Diocese Council of Catholic Women's task is to bring the Gospel of Jesus to women throughout the Diocese.

Our Exhibitors

In addition to our sponsors, we hope you'll visit the tables of these fine folks (listed in alphabetical order) during the conference.

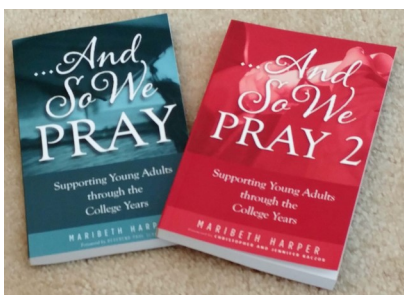
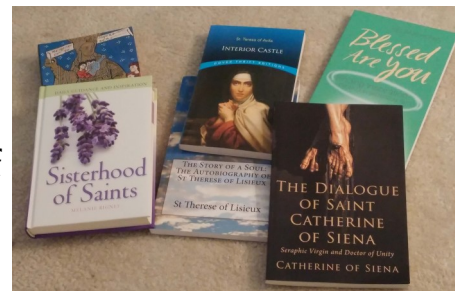
- **Arlington Cursillo**, part of an international lay Catholic movement, spiritually supported by the Diocese, that aims to help people deepen their relationship with Christ and the Christian community.
- **Benedictine Sisters of Virginia**, a vibrant monastic community that serves the public through activities at its pastoral center in Bristow.
- **Christian Bling**, with consultant **Tammy Hoover**, offers jewelry and gifts that combine meaningful messages with appealing artisan designs using natural and man-made materials.
- **Colette Kalvesmaki** is the founder and director of the **Center for Byzantine Material Arts**, which includes a gallery of icons as well as a studio offering private lessons and lectures on iconography.
- **doTerra**, with wellness advocate **Michelle Dunne**, offers pure essential oils that help families manage their health.
- **Leaving a Legacy**, which helps people pass on to future generations the stories of their personal faith journeys, and **Living Advent**, which offers workshops, resources and events to Christians who wish to more fully celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- **My Life Journey** with life coach **Jeanette Engel** provides life, career, adoption, and spiritual journey coaching.
- **Our Lady of Bethesda** in Bethesda, MD, offers one-day and weekend spiritual retreats and invites you to encounter Christ in a personal and life-changing way through its programs.
- **Soli Deo Gloria Sacred Art** strives to meld traditional artistic techniques with advanced technology to create richly engraved and accented adaptations of traditional religious artwork in wood and other natural media.
- **WMET 1160-AM**, the Catholic radio station for the Washington, DC area.

Door Prizes

Thanks to everyone who donated great door prizes totaling more than \$1,250.

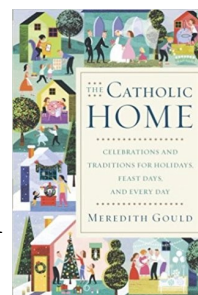
Books

ALL YOU HOLY WOMEN, PRAY FOR US: SIX BOOKS BY OR ABOUT WOMEN SAINTS This package includes writings from each of the four women Doctors of the Catholic Church (Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Therese of Lisieux, and Hildegard of Bingen) along with a women saints daily devotional and study of the Beatitudes with women saints, both by Arlington's own Melanie Rigney (signed copies!). **\$63 value**



AND SO WE PRAY: SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH THE COLLEGE YEARS (2 VOLUMES) These two volumes are filled with encouragement, sound Catholic teaching, and real-life stories shared by women who have experienced the transition from hectic family life to empty nesting and everything in between. From Praying College Moms. **\$22 value; two sets of two donated!**

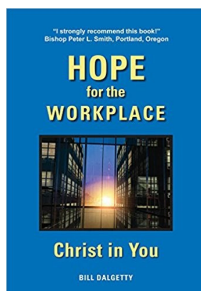
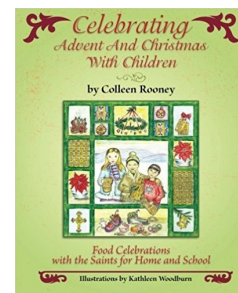
THE CATHOLIC HOME: CELEBRATIONS AND TRADITIONS FOR HOLIDAYS, FEAST DAYS, AND EVERY DAY For centuries, the Catholic Church has offered an abundance of splendid traditions that extend religious and spiritual practice into daily life. Now, Meredith Gould reintroduces these customs and rituals to today's Catholics. Signed copy! **\$14 value**



CATHOLIC PHILOSOPHER CHICK, BOOKS 1 AND 2 In these novels from Front Royal's own Regina Doman (signed copies!) and Rebecca Bratten Weiss, former New York fashion writer Catelyn Frank travels to Texas to start a doctorate in Catholic Thomistic philosophy and search for Truth, Beauty, and the Perfect Guy. **\$42 value**

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CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH CHILDREN-- AND TREATS Learn how to introduce your children and grandchildren to traditions and customs drawn from many cultures in this book from Dale City's own Colleen Rooney (signed copy!) and munch on some samples. **\$35 value**

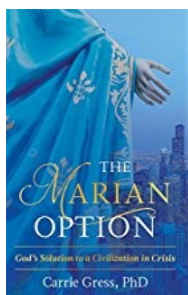


HOPE FOR THE WORKPLACE: CHRIST IN YOU Relying on Scripture, Church teaching, the writings of both Catholic and Protestant leaders, and fifty real-life stories of people in the workplace, God's solutions to common workplace issues are set forth in a straightforward, conversational style by author Bill Dalgetty (signed copy!). **\$15 value**

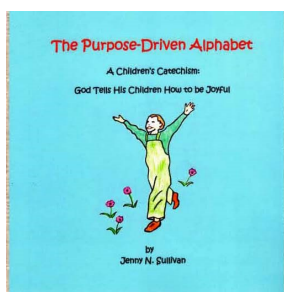
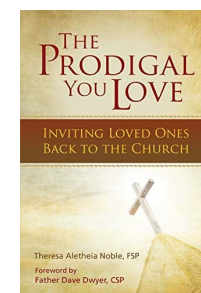
MAKING HEALTH CARE WHOLE: INTEGRATING SPIRITUALITY INTO PATIENT CARE This book reflects the thoughts of more than forty spiritual and palliative care experts on incorporating spirituality into clinical practice. By Dr. Christina M. Puchalski (signed copy!) and Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD. **\$35 value**



THE MARIAN OPTION: GOD'S SOLUTION TO A CIVILIZATION IN CRISIS Fredericksburg's own Dr. Carrie Gress (signed copy!) provides a thoroughly researched bird's-eye view of the significant cultural and military events mediated through Mary on behalf of her spiritual children. There is hope! **\$28 value**



THE PRODIGAL YOU LOVE Using the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Sister Theresa Noble, a former fallen-away Catholic, gently covers ways to approach those who have left the Church. She encourages you to meet them where they are while emphasizing the importance of our faith (signed copy!). **\$13 value**



PURPOSE-DRIVEN ALPHABET: A CHILDREN'S CATECHISM This book by Arlington's Jenny Sullivan (signed copy!) is based on the opening of the old *Baltimore Catechism* and aims to help children learn just how loving and affectionate God is. **\$10 value** (continued on the next page)

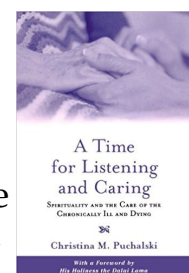
REAL-LIFE PATIENCE (AUDIOBOOK) This handy collection of 23 blog posts on patience by Rose Folsom will make you laugh and ponder the glorious possibilities of growing more patient. So many situations call for patience: patience with our family, with our co-workers, with strangers, with God, and especially with ourselves in our grief or discouragement in what seems like a lack of spiritual progress or lack of perfection. **\$20 value**



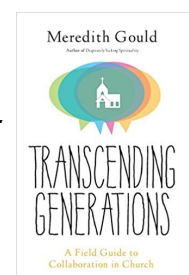
TAKE UP AND READ: 2 VOLUMES Take Up & Read, founded by northern Virginia's Elizabeth Foss, is a gathering space for women committed to reading, pondering, and responding to God's word every day. The venture's first two offerings are *Stories of Grace* and *Consider the Lilies*. **\$42 value**



A TIME FOR LISTENING AND CARING: SPIRITUALITY AND THE CARE OF THE CHRONICALLY ILL AND DYING A thoughtful, informative, and practical guide. Research and anecdotal evidence all indicate that spirituality is central to the care of the chronically ill and dying. Edited by Dr. Christina M. Puchalski (signed copy!), director of the George Washington Institute of Spirituality and Health; foreword by the Dalai Lama. **\$59 value**



TRANSCENDING GENERATIONS: A FIELD GUIDE TO COLLABORATION IN CHURCH *Transcending Generations* is a guide for church leaders seeking to communicate and collaborate with adults of all ages. Includes questions for individual inquiry and group discussion. By Meredith Gould (signed copy!), a leading expert on social media and ministry. **\$17 value**

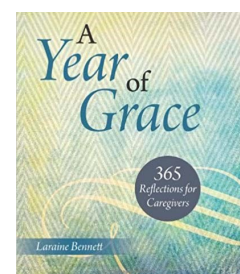


ULTIMATE MAKEOVER: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF MOTHERHOOD Motherhood is difficult, but the challenges mothers face don't have to be in vain. Dr. Carrie Gress (mother of four young children) (signed copy!) sees daily life as an opportunity to grow gracefully as a woman, mother, wife, and friend. Foreword by Project Rachel founder Vicki Thorn. **\$25 value**



A YEAR OF GRACE: 365 REFLECTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS This daily devotional for northern Virginia's own Laraine Bennett, a nationally known speaker and author, offers daily respite for the weary caregiver. **\$17 value**

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Jewelry

BENEDICTINE BLESSING BRACELET This lovely rosary bracelet, in navy with mixed metals, features St. Benedict medals and was donated by Joyful Spirit Gifts. **\$30 value**



INSPIRATIONAL BRACELET This beautiful silver bracelet from Herndon's Julie O'Donnell includes St. Catherina of Siena's quote "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." **\$24 value**

ST. MARTHA BRONZE PENDANT AND CHAIN This beautiful necklace, depicting the conference's patron saint, is handcrafted by Tonya K, who lives in Israel and owns the ElDotti Etsy shop. **\$23 value**



Cards & Journals



CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION This set includes 18 Marian valentine cards, eight Immaculate Heart notecards, and four Rosary Beads note cards from Salutare Stationery. **\$25 value**

HANDCRAFTED ST. MARTHA JOURNAL As seen in the *Arlington Catholic Herald*! The artist, Carmen Briceno, is a Manassas resident and consecrated virgin who designs each journal with great love and prayer. **\$20 value**

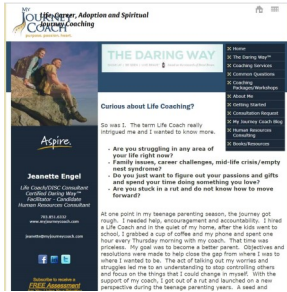


ICON CARDS This beautiful package includes ten cards, designed by Colette M. Kalvesmaki, printed on high-quality stock. **\$15 value**

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More Cool Stuff

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGE This box from Praying College Moms is chock-full of snacks, sweets, school supplies, love, prayers, and thoughtful messages for college students. **\$27 value.** *Note: Praying College Moms will have only a few boxes available for order after Oct. 20.*



CREDIT TOWARD A LIFE COACHING PACKAGE Work with My Journey Coach Jeanette Engel, a conference exhibitor, at a special price. **\$20 value**

doTERRA ESSENTIAL OILS INTRODUCTORY KIT Includes 5 ml bottles of doTerra's lavender, lemon, and peppermint essential oils. A great starting point for those new to essential oils! From conference exhibitor Michelle Dunne. **\$27 value**



FAITHBOOKING KIT A Faithbook speaks to your personal relationship with God and how He has touched your life, using words, images, and more. Conference exhibitor Leaving a Legacy is offering a complete kit. **\$100 value**

FIVE CD-SET OF INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC FROM MARK FORREST, IRISH TENOR Be ready for the holidays and every day with "Celtic Tales: Classic Irish Songs;" "Through the Eyes of His Mother;" "Thank God for Life;" "Memories of Ireland;" and "O Holy Night" from Purcellville's Mark Forrest. **\$80 value**



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FRAMED PRINT A beautiful art print, framed, from Arlington Diocese member and Hello Blessings owner Kristin Bryant. **\$40 value**

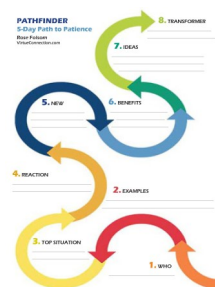


HAND-KNIT PRAYER SHAWL A "portable hug" that carries with it 30 hours of prayers for grace, strength and joy. Made by Erin Benbennick. **\$150 value**

HOW TO BE CONFIDENT WE'RE DOING GOD'S WILL AND AVOID 3 COMMON MISTAKES THAT UNDERMINE OUR GOOD INTENTIONS Interactive presentation for your women's group or parish. Packed with memorable stories, small-group sharing, laughter, prayer, and plenty of tips to supercharge your spiritual life, courtesy of Rose Folsom. **Value varies with venue.**



PATH TO PATIENCE VIDEOS In less than an hour (that's five 10-minute videos and a fun worksheet) you'll breeze through this online course that will make you more patient -- guaranteed. Students are raving -- calling it life-changing. Have what they're having! Courtesy of Rose Folsom. **\$97 value**



SILVER DINER GIFT CARD Use this card at any of the diner's locations, including those in Virginia and Maryland. Donated by Strategic Encouragement. **\$25 value**

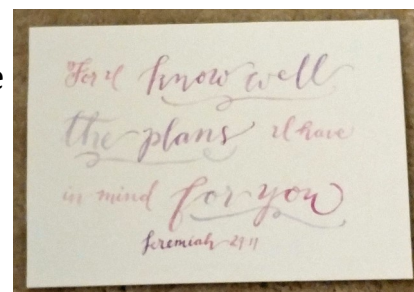
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TRADITIONAL DEVOTIONAL ART WOOD ENGRAVING This 4x6-inch maple on rosewood block features the Blessed Virgin Mary on the front and a prayer and scripture verse on the back. From conference exhibitor Soli Deo Gloria Sacred Art, which is also providing a small piece for each attendee. **\$65 value**



TRINITY HOUSE CAFÉ GIFT CARD Use this card at Leesburg's Trinity House Café, an outreach of the John Paul II Fellowship, a Christian non-profit dedicated to renewing community and culture. **\$20 value**

VERSE CALLIGRAPHY "For I know well" ... and if you are at the conference, you know the rest from Jeremiah 29:11. Lovingly created by Alexandria's Anna Blackmore. **\$12 value**



We Also Thank...

- The four trained spiritual directors who donated an hour each for one-on-one direction time with drawing winners. They are:
 - Trudy Harlow Dervan of Arlington, who is with us as an attendee
 - Pat Durkin of Haymarket
 - Mary Lou McGonigle of Fredericksburg
 - Jean Noon of Alexandria
- Lisa Julia of Lisa Julia Photography, for being a pleasure to work with
- *Living Faith*, the leading Catholic devotional publication, for donating copies for each attendee
- The many ministries, organizations, and individuals who provided information about assistance, volunteer opportunities, getaways, and more
- The exhibitors, parishes, clergy, women religious, organizations, and so many others who believe in this little ministry and shared conference information with others
- All of *you*, for volunteering your time and talent in leading conference prayers; shepherding attendees and priests; praying for us; and for coming to the conference
- The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, to whom we attempted – sometimes successfully – to surrender every fear and concern in organizing this weekend.

Advisory Board

Please give these folks a special thanks when you see them. Future with Hope wouldn't have come together nearly so beautifully without their time and talents!

The Rev. Charles Smith, vicar of St. Raymond of Penafort in Springfield, and *Joan Sheppard*, director of faith formation at Good Shepherd in Alexandria, coordinated liturgical elements, including confession, prayers, resources, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



Rose Folsom of St. Andrew Apostle in Silver Spring and *Carol Monaco* of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda developed the small-group discussions, from concept to survey to coordinating facilitators.



Erin Benbennick of St. Mark in Vienna and *Joan Romett* of St. John the Beloved of McLean worked on gift bags, name tags, and all the other little things that made your experience here so welcoming.



Karen Audant of St. Ann in Arlington developed the lunchtime spiritual activity.



Emily Borman of Our Lady of Hope in Potomac Falls worked with our exhibitors.



Martha, Our Patron Saint



We chose St. Martha as the conference patron saint because we could see ourselves in her story. Maybe you can too.

Martha got cranky. She invited Jesus into her family's home and, while she was bustling about getting everything perfect, her sister Mary just sat and listened to their guest. Who wouldn't be a little upset? But when she complained to Jesus, the answer was unexpected: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42 NRSVCE)

Martha had unshakable faith amid crisis. Her brother was dead and she knew, if their friend had been there, Lazarus would still be alive. She told Jesus that. Still, when Jesus said Lazarus would rise again, she did not expect Jesus to bring him back immediately, but rather on the last day. When Jesus probed her statement, she answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." (John 11:27 NRSVCE)

Thanks for coming! Please don't forget to turn in your surveys... and to mark your calendars for a tentative Marian Day of Reflection during Lent at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA!

Blessings and safe travels, Paula Hummel, Colleen Duffy Kiko, Monica McBrady, and Melanie Rigney