

CITI Ministries *NEWS*

CITI Ministries Inc. www.citiministries.org July 2013

Up and running!

Hopefully you have all explored the new website for CITI Ministries:

www.citiministries.org

I am very excited about the new look as I believe it better reflects the ministerial approach to our organization. I realize it will take time before it becomes second nature to everyone, but I do hope you will browse each page and become familiar with what we have and what we don't have at this point.

I hope to update either our News or Blog page weekly with links to articles of interest. If you have ideas or links for this page, please email me the information and I will try to post it.

We no longer have a page for a CITI store but we will find a spot to make the Ministries Supplies List available so you can order items. The form must be completed and faxed or mailed to the Bowie office. Please make payments online or by check.

I sent an email out to all the CITI priests announcing the new facebook page. Thanks to all who "liked" us and made comments. To make best use of the page we really need to acquire a large photo gallery. Please post photos of recent weddings, baptisms, home masses or Dignity events... whatever it is that you are doing in ministry. I highly encourage you to ask the people you work with to do the same. If the men and women we serve take a moment to post a positive comment about their experience with a CITI priest and share it with their facebook page, our name will be seen by hundreds in a short amount of time. Using social media effectively is the best way to serve the many disenfranchised and marginalized Catholics seeking non-judgmental ministry.

Treasurer Need

As you know the Board of Directors has a new opening. After ten years of service Steve Sabanos has resigned his position as Treasurer of CITI Ministries. Steve has been a dedicated board member and I extend my sincere appreciation to him for all of his years of service and in particular for the time of transition of leadership between Louise and myself. We have a plan in place for an interim period. Our current Board Secretary will fill the role as Treasurer with assistance from Richard Radhe, an accountant from my church community here in Maryland. I am pleased that these gentlemen are willing to help out for now but neither are in a position to commit to the role of Treasurer on the Board of Directors long term. Therefore we will continue our search for an accountant in the Maryland area since logistically that is the best case scenario. However, I again extend an invitation to join our Board as Treasurer to you and other friends or family members who have an interest in CITI and its mission and are experienced in finances. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer their skills and gifts to our organization please contact me so we can discuss the duties involved. Our Board meets for one annual

conference and otherwise we communicate by telecom every other month.

Finance Office

Please do not send payments or forms to the Strongsville, Ohio address any longer. Steve will be closing down that P.O. Box. All financial mail should be directed to the Bowie address at **P.O. Box 822 Bowie, MD 20718**. If you see the Ohio address on any forms please bring it to my attention. I know that if you have the old Rent a Priest brochures they will need to be updated with new address labels. Hopefully, the CITI Ministries brochures with new logo and correct finance address will be ordered soon. I will let you know when they become available.

Forums/Gatherings

I recently met with some MD CITI priests and their wives for a get together. It is always a pleasure to meet with these folks and really get an idea of what type of ministry is happening and how CITI is making a difference. Steve Stahley and Bob Fagan were sharing their experiences serving the LGBT Dignity Community in Washington, DC. They see this

community as a vision of what the Catholic Church could or should look like in the future... not because it's a marginalized group of people in need but rather a spirit-filled group of people sharing their faith and building community by opening their hearts and including the voices of all their members. Lay led and spirit driven, this is the church. Who are their spiritual leaders? CITI priests who are willing to listen, meet them where they are, and celebrate the life of Christ that they share in one another. Charlie Schmitt mentioned his growing wedding ministry stemming from a local hospital. One young med student was seeking a priest and found Charlie. By word of mouth he is now planning three more weddings from other students or professionals from that hospital. One couple was there because their daughter had asked Steve to officiate at their wedding. The dad happens to be a resigned married priest. Steve reached out and invited him and his wife to our gathering so the mother of the bride could have an opportunity to meet Steve before the wedding. Great couple, good stories, and it left me eager to follow up on two goals. **1.** To arrange small gatherings across the country so I can meet more of you and **2.** Plan Forums at local meeting places. We will advertise these events so the many folks out there who believe in a married priesthood could actually meet us, hear our stories, and be willing to join us as we strive to serve others and build community!

Wishing you a happy and safe summer!

Judy

The CITI Ministries Board of Directors thanks you for your prayers and support!

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