



“Do Whatever He Tells You.”

As a child of 18 months, my Mom having been stricken with polio was left handicapped, but she never let that hold her down. She was very social and loved to have parties. Being an only child, it was left to me to pick up the slack and to take on whatever she was unable to accomplish in order to prepare for the many parties she hosted. I would say " Mom not another party! "

Boy God has a sense of humor!

By Joanne Repasky

In the late 70's my husband and I with our family moved from Irvington to Point Pleasant. There we became parishioners of Saint Martha Church. One Sunday while attending Mass we were introduced to the new Parish Priest Fr. Vince. The first homily I heard him preach was on an apparition of the Blessed Mother. I was really moved by it. I couldn't stop thinking about it. A few weeks later it was announced in the bulletin that he would be offering a weekly program on the many apparitions of the Blessed Mother. I just knew that I had to attend.

At these sessions there would always be coffee, tea and cake offered. I was fairly new to the parish and as a result didn't personally know anyone, but, after attending a couple of times I did something that I would never have imagined myself doing in a hundred years, I got up off my chair, walked over to one of the coffee pots, made my way into the kitchen and proceeded to wash it. This became a weekly practice. Then in December I received a phone call from Fr. Vince. He was having a Christmas party for some members of the church who were involved in ministry. He said, he noticed me helping and would like me to attend, I accepted. After this I was officially part of the Hospitality Ministry. The coordinator of hospitality decided to retire, and I was offered the position, which I took on. Saint Martha's was a very active parish and Fr. Mike our pastor loved to entertain. There I was again in the party mode.

Boy God has a sense of humor!

At the request of Fr. Mike, Mary Ann Collett brought Catholic Women of Zion into the parish in 2007 and I became their Hospitality Coordinator. If you have attended a Catholic Women's function you know my YES, has lasted for over 13 years and I am still there.

As the ministry has expanded into 3 chapters I am now the Outreach Director. So, I went from washing a coffee pot to serving the Lord in a women's healing ministry. I truly believe that the Blessed Mother took me by the hand that night with the coffee pot and not only led me into the kitchen but also to her Son Jesus.

It was the beginning of my spiritual journey. It reminds me of the Scripture John 2:1-11, when Jesus's Mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs (Jesus changed Water into Wine) through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in Him.

I pray that if Our Mother reaches out and takes you by the hand that you will allow her to lead you to her Son too. It's a wonderful journey. As my present pastor Fr. Tom has said, if you're not ready to meet Him at the foot of the cross, go to the cave in Bethlehem. It's very easy to embrace a baby!

Thank you, Mom, for teaching me the skills that allowed me to take this journey!



Joanne Repasky is the Director of Outreach Ministry of Catholic Women of Zion. She is Certified in Pastoral Care, Certified Listening Lab I & II Team Member, Certified Minister of Consolation and Certified Intensive Training for Parish Evangelization for the Diocese of Trenton. After working as a Licensed Hairdresser for several years, she married and became a full-time housewife, caregiver, mother of two married daughters and grandmother of two granddaughters. Joanne returned to work as a Secretary at Saint Martha Church after becoming a widow. She serves on the Parish Counsel, Faith in the Future Team, at St. William the Abbot Church. She is truly a Servant of the Lord, a person of faith and prayer, actively participating as a volunteer for many ministries within her parish.