

JULY 2022

Tambuli

A PUBLICATION OF THE FAMILY OF FAITH
COMMUNITY (NJ USA)

Reflecting on our Theme for 2022

Be courageous. Expand your tent
and your descendants will possess
nations.

**"Times of tribulation are coming upon the earth
and days when my people will have to more
seriously count the cost of following and serving
Me. And at those times shallow relationships with
Me shall not sustain you. And the fellowship with
Me that you now have, good though it may be, will
not enable you to endure and be faithful".**



Community Conference June 18 – St. Elizabeth

TALK#1 - REFLECTION ON 2022 THEME
NILO NATURAL

Our Call A Community of Disciples on Mission

We are now halfway through the year and we need to dig deeper into how we respond individually and corporately as a community to what the Lord said to us through these words:

Be courageous. Expand your tent and your descendants will possess nations.

As I was praying about this and asking myself how I can respond and how the community can respond to be courageous and to expand our tent, I thought that we need to go back to 'Our Call'.

We need to understand and embrace our identity.
We need to understand and embrace our purpose.
We need to understand and embrace that we are
A Community of Disciples on Mission.

Our Call - A Community of Disciples on Mission

In every age the Lord calls men and women to follow Him, to put aside concern for their own lives, and, trusting fully in His grace, to give themselves generously in His service.

We have heard the call of God, a call to serve Him and His people in this time, a time of trial and challenge for the Christian people, a time when He is pouring out His Spirit to renew, restore, and unify His people.

We are to be covenanted to Himself and to one another in local communities and in an international community of communities so that we might fulfill the mission He has given us.



**He has addressed us
as “the Sword of the
Spirit,” a name
signifying our role as
a missionary body
witnessing to and
proclaiming the word
of God in this age of
spiritual warfare.**



Our theme is both a call to expand our own hearts and to invite others to experience the love of God.

Talk#1 - Reflection on 2022 Theme Key Prophecies

May, 1975. At the 1975 International Conference in Rome; given by Ralph Martin - "Because I love you, I want to show you what I am doing in the world today. I want to prepare you for what is to come. Days of darkness are coming to the world, days of tribulation. Buildings that are now standing will not be standing. Supports that are there for my people now will not be there. I want you to be prepared, my people, to know only me and to cling to me and to have me in a way deeper than ever before. I will lead you into the desert...I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so you depend just on ME.

A time of darkness is coming to the world, but a time of glory is coming for my church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will pour out on you all the gifts of my Spirit. I will prepare you for spiritual combat; I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has never seen...And when you have nothing but me, you will have everything: land, fields, homes, and brothers and sisters and love and joy and peace more than ever before. Be ready, my people, I want to prepare you."

Brothers and sisters, in order for us to respond to what the Lord is saying to us, we need to understand our call, we need the Holy Spirit to re-awaken the things that are dead and make it alive. Just like the soldiers going into war, we need to understand our purpose, we need to understand our mission. Then, we need to have humility and obedience to follow.

Another key initial prophecy:

"Times of tribulation are coming upon the earth and days when my people will have to more seriously count the cost of following and serving me. And at those times, shallow relationships with Me shall not sustain you. And the fellowship with me that you now have, good though it may be, will not enable you to endure and be faithful".

These words were really asking us to our core what it really means to follow and serve the Lord. Do we really understand the cost of following and serving Him?



Isaiah 54:2 "Enlarge the site of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, DO NOT HOLD BACK. Lengthen your ropes and drive your stakes deep."

Talk#1 - Reflection on 2022 theme

Earlier this year, I was praying and reflecting on our theme. The Lord showed me the image of the tent but as I was praying about it more, the image that the Lord showed was actually focused on the different parts of the tent, the tent itself, the poles, the ropes, and the stakes.

I remembered when I joined the Boy Scouts, the first thing that the instructor did was not to teach us immediately how to build the tent but to explain to us the different parts of the tent and how each part work and their importance.

The tent represents individually our hearts, and corporately as our community. It should be a place of refuge, a place that will be welcoming, where we can share the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord.

The poles which are the primary support for the tent represent our relationship with the Lord, as individuals and as a community. They need to be strong and foundational in nature, without them, the tent will not hold.

The ropes/cords represent our time, talent, and treasure. In order for the tent to be strong, they need to be stretched. The Lord is asking us to not HOLD BACK.

Finally, the stakes represent our conviction, our covenant. We need to be a people who will plant our roots in the community. We need to be a people who will drive our stakes deep. Our commitment to the Lord and to one another should not be shallow. We need to be convicted of our way of life, especially for those of us who are publicly committed members of the community.

When the Lord is asking us to expand our tent, He is asking us to make room for God to move, in our hearts and in our community. We are being asked to expand our capacity, to be stretched, in order to make room for the Lord and invite others into the Lord's tent.

Imagine for a second brothers and sisters that we are going through a journey and each one of us built our own tents, then the Lord going to each of the tent and checking how we built our tents.

Are the poles of our tent strong and secure?

Are the ropes/cords of our tent stretched out?

Are the stakes of our tent, driven deep and rooted?

Brothers and sisters, do we have enough room for God to move in our hearts and in our community?

To God be the glory!

Men's Breakfast May 7 - Beltran's Residence



Women's Tea Time June 11 - Plainsboro Preserve



Daddy-Daughter Filipino Fiesta



It was an outdoor activity last June 4, 2022 at St. Cecilia's parking lot attended by dads and daughters from FOF together with invited friends.

Dads and daughters came to participate in different Filipino games like: "patintero" and "sipa". They had fun learning the "Tinikling" Dance by taking turns in stepping over in between bamboo poles to the beat of the music.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious Pinoy street food like fish balls, fried lumpia, turon, bbq, and melon drinks.

They had the opportunity to spend time and bond with other dads and daughters as well.

Thank you to the CFP Team and to all the brothers and sisters who helped in the preparations, logistics, registration, set-up, etc.

Looking forward to the next Daddy-Daughter event. May we all continue to cherish the beautiful relationships we have with them.



ABOUNDING IN LOVE

by Angelica Natural



Congratulations on your new home!

Such a mix of emotions comes with buying a house and moving. Excitement, fear, joy, anxiety, and anticipation. When Meeko and I began the process of buying our home, you (brothers and sisters) were there praying for us, that God would make His will known. All throughout the buying process, you prayed for us, celebrated the joys and encouraged us in the challenges. When we needed boxes, you were there to provide them. When we needed AC units you were there to help us. I already felt the love of God through you at that time, but I had no idea what was in store. From the moment we closed on the house, you brothers and sisters were there, both to celebrate and to get done all the things that needed to be done.

Groups came to the house each day with cleaning supplies and food in tow. Others came to help deep clean before we started the move. We are talking about multiple days of hard work, trying to get every inch of the house clean, but your help didn't stop there. When you saw that the cabinets needed attention, you spackled and painted them until they were unrecognizable, simply because you knew it would bring me joy. You did anything and everything you could to make the house feel like a home for us. Even on days where I could not devote time to the house due to my work, packing at the apartment or staying with our son Ezran, you were there continuing the work. I was already satisfied, but you continued to go above and beyond to make it perfect for us. By the time you were done, I could barely recognize the house. All of my anxieties were eased through your loving service and I was full of joy and gratitude for your great love for us.

When the time came to move out, I was so overwhelmed. SO MANY BOXES! I was worried that they wouldn't fit in the truck or that we wouldn't finish on time. I was so wrong. The men played a 3D version of Tetris and made all of our things fit perfectly in the truck.

More than 20 people came to help load the truck and it was done in about an hour! My heart was already so full. When we packed up to head to the new house to unload, I was told "we will stay back to clean up here so you won't have to." A group stayed back to spackle, paint and clean the apartment so we could be at the house to direct where things would go. Another huge job and weight was completely lifted off our shoulders.

When we unloaded the truck quickly, I was amazed! Everything had gone smoother than I could have imagined. Then came the food! Several people brought tons of delicious food and drinks for all those who were helping. We shared a meal together and I counted my blessings again. Laughter could be heard from every corner of the house and so much life had already been lived in our new house that it felt like home.

When I thought my heart couldn't be any fuller, you brothers and sisters did MORE. You unpacked ALL of our boxes with us and set up the whole house how we wanted it, from the kitchen, to the bedrooms, even down to Ezran's toys. Each room was set up with love and care. By the time everyone left, no one could even tell we had just moved in. We were blown away. Each time I entered a new room, I felt the love of our friends and family reflected back at me and I was brought nearly to tears thinking of how blessed we are. What would have taken us months to complete was done in less than two weeks with everyone's help. We praise and thank God for the gift that community is to our family and the many ways He manifests His love to us through them.

Thank you brothers and sisters for all of your loving acts of service to our family. We love you!

Congratulations to our Graduates!

If there's one principal value that the Family of Faith demonstrates, it's the value of a faith community – a community of people who share a commitment to living their faith in God, and encourage each other in that pursuit. And if there's one dominant worry Catholic parents have about their adolescent children, it's that they will lose their faith in college, most of which are today dominated by secular ideologies and are more likely to be hostile to Catholicism than friendly to it.

So I thank God that after four years of undergraduate study, I've finally graduated, having not only kept my faith, but (if I do say so myself) having it enriched as well. One might say “of course” – I went to a Catholic Jesuit school after all, Boston College. But that's no guarantee of religious fervor, as many schools labeled “Catholic” don't nurture that faith under which they claim to teach. So how did I manage to make my escape?

Boston College is an interesting case. It's divided between its administration, which does maintain a commitment to Catholic values, and its student body, which has no such obligation and thus encompasses many different belief systems, many of them secular. The faculty are somewhere in between. The result of all this is that despite the eclectic nature of the university as a whole, there were resources for someone who wanted to keep his roots in his faith – like me. Mass and Confession were held every day. Clubs like the St. Thomas More Society and the Sons of St. Patrick revolved around learning and growing one's faith. And certain faculty were some of the best champions of the Catholic faith today. In particular, I had the pleasure of taking a class with professor Peter Kreeft, who is every bit as formidable a mind as his reputation may suggest.

But even this wealth of resources has limits. Club meetings last an hour at most, as does weekend Mass. Classes get tiresome, even those as fascinating as Kreeft's C.S. Lewis class. Even at a school that's as Catholic-inspired as BC, you can't surround yourself in that atmosphere forever. Eventually you go outside. You eat lunch. And you go back to your dorm. At each point, you're once again surrounded by people who aren't like you, who don't share your faith. What decides how you turn out is with whom you decide to surround yourself.

So I thank God, once again, that I was surrounded by some of the nicest people imaginable. But if I said I made a conscious decision to handpick only the best and nicest people to be my friends, I'd be lying. Well, except for one. I had a classmate of mine from high school that went to BC at the same time as me. We'd gotten to know each other somewhat in senior year, but even as we graduated from high school, we weren't entirely close. Still, we were going to the same university, and he seemed like a decent guy. We got in touch and agreed to room together for freshman year.

It was the best college decision I ever made – and I wasn't even in college yet. My new roommate wasn't just decent; he was kind, considerate, patient, and understanding. Not only that, but we shared similar interests as well. We quickly became good friends – good enough to keep us rooming together for four years. And honestly, I made the rest of my best friends through the people he knew.



These friends were not Catholics. My roommate was baptized, having come from the same Jesuit high school as me, but he was no longer practicing. So none of them shared the Catholic faith, though they knew I did. But this was not a source of conflict. Knowing who I was, they still treated me as a friend. They didn't harass me about my faith. We didn't talk about my faith often, but when we did, they didn't challenge it in a way that sought to take it down, but rather helped me to engage with it more mindfully, more consciously, before affirming what I already believed. They also didn't force me to do anything I wasn't comfortable with – and they themselves didn't participate in the hallmark activities we attribute to the “culture of death.” We respected each others' differences in a way that didn't compromise our own beliefs. We were like ships, all intersecting in crossing paths; yet, without deviating from our respective courses, we never collided.

I believe this was nothing less than Providence. I didn't deliberately meet all of these people, nor did I know how our relationship would look beforehand. I could have easily found myself surrounded by people hostile to me by virtue of my faith, or carousers who forced me into uncomfortable situations. Instead, I met generous and understanding people who either shared my temperament or respected where I was different. And this wasn't only true of my closest friends; most of my acquaintances, whether from class or my scholarship program, were similar. I really think that God put me on a path to meeting them.

When I was deciding what college to go to, I had my doubts about the necessity of going to a Catholic school. I had spent all my life surrounded by Catholicism; did I really need four years more? In fact, wouldn't it be more prudent to live in a secular environment, so that I might be better prepared to live in the “real world?” On the other hand, I was weighing the argument that my mother put forth; the dangers that young Catholics faced in college were real, and only a passionately Catholic school could prevent me from being led astray.

In hindsight, I believe that God put me on a path to the best of both worlds. At BC, I had every opportunity to feel Christ's presence and grow in faith and understanding – those resources were there. But I was also surrounded by people with different beliefs, and I had to learn how to navigate that. And in particular, I affirmed a fact that ought to be obvious, but isn't to some. Most people who aren't Catholics or Christians have hearts that yearn to do good, and have minds oriented toward doing the right thing. With a little care and respect, they are far more likely to be our friends than our enemies. I left BC convicted that my mother and I were both right. It is still critical for Catholic college students to live in an environment that nurtures their faith; they're not too old or too mature for that. But, if it can be managed without sacrificing the former, it is also immensely valuable to be with those who aren't like you. Fellowship can create lasting bonds, and even their challenges can refine your faith. And yes, you will practice living in the “real world.” You will have to learn how to be a “light of the world.” I hope that in four years of college, my light was neither too dim nor too strong. That my friends stay in touch with me indicates – I hope – that for my part, I did something right too.

- Angelo Villadolid

Congratulations to our Graduates!



From Gia Guevarra

Most of you may know this already, but college was a very long, tiring, and complicated journey for me. To name a few things, I didn't end up going to the school I wanted to go to, or graduate as early as I wanted to, but as I surrendered my own plans to the Lord, He showed me how faithful He was to His plans for me.

Throughout the academic and personal challenges I faced in all my years of school, the Lord reminded me that I was never alone.

I want to thank all of you for being a witness of God's grace to me during those times. Thank you for your financial support that helped my family and I pay for my tuition, thank you for letting me live in your homes, thank you for giving me rides to and from school, and thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement.

Thank you so, SO much. I am the graduate I am today because of all of you, so I celebrate this achievement with all of you! I am so grateful that in the plans God has for me, He has given me all of you. I love you all! God bless always ♥



*Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

PROVERBS 16:3



From Danielle de Jesus

This past June 24th, I was extremely blessed to finally graduate high school! I graduated from South Brunswick High School after being there for 4 years; two and a half of those years were in-person, and one and a half were virtual.

Just like everyone else, I experienced many difficult times dealing with tests and homework, but overall, I loved my time at SBHS. While reflecting on my high school years, I noticed that a lot of students didn't have someone they could constantly rely on. High school can cause a lot of stress, and I've seen it take a toll on my friends who weren't taught how to deal with it properly. It's really unhealthy to be super overwhelmed all the time and have no one to talk to about all of it and I feel like a lot of high school students experience this. I think every highschooler has gone through this, including myself, and I can't imagine how I would have survived if I didn't know God or have my friends and family by my side.

Seeing this made me realize how blessed I am to grow up in the environment that I was raised in and to be surrounded by people that I know are always praying for me. I also realized how grateful I should be for the close friends that I've made in school and the friends and family that I have in our community.

Even though school felt extremely hard at times, I'm so thankful for the opportunities I was given throughout high school and for what I have going into college. Thank you for all your prayers and please continue to pray for me as I enter this new chapter of my life. Thank you!!



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Glicerio "Dade" Bernaldez

May 13, 1934 - May 7, 2022



Honoring from Miguel Natural

My Lolo was many things. A provider and a protector. Proud of his family, yet humble about himself. Joyful no matter the circumstances. Probably a world-class, over 85-year old athlete. But above all, he was a caring and loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Family came first for Lolo. He always prioritized his family, both with his time and with his mindset. He protected spending time together as a family and relished in getting everyone exactly what they wanted, even without an occasion to celebrate. Lolo constantly found ways to serve his family and surprise them with gifts. He was a hard worker with a mind for business, whose love for his family drove his desire to become successful enough to support them regardless of the sacrifice. Lolo was generous with not just his family, but everyone he knew. He truly embodied the belief that the bonds of family are not limited by blood.

Lolo was filled with wise words but one that stands out is this: "There will always be someone taller than you, faster, smarter or better than you. Unless you accept that, you will be miserable." It is because of a mindset like this that he lived life humbly, content to rejoice in the success of others most especially his family. When you had a conversation with him, his thoughts would always lead to his pride for his family. He would often explain to us what an amazing woman my Lola is or how accomplished Mama and her siblings are. Also because of this mindset, Lolo neither judged nor was envious of others. He saw everyone as somebody worth reaching out to.

Lolo was never without joy and often found it in simplicity. He loved to just spend time with others - talking, eating, or making them laugh. Recently, any chance he'd get, he would sit in the room with us reading quietly simply because he wanted to be in the same room with his great-grandson. For him, being with the ones he loved was innately joyful. For the past number of years, Lolo actually began the task of writing down his life story. I don't think he wrote it just because he had an interesting story to tell; which, trust me, he does. I think he wrote it because he was genuinely happy with his life.

If we are to learn anything from the life of my grandfather, let it be this.
Cherish family. Live humbly. Be joyful.



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Glicerio "Dade" Bernaldez

May 13, 1934 - May 7, 2022



Honoring from Teya David

Dade, while watching the memorial Mass for you, I cry with so much sadness for I will no longer see you nor speak to you and listen to those words of wisdom which you alone can impart. Delivered with your big smile and indelible countenance, undoubtedly coming from a no holds barred albeit pure and sincere heart. I miss you already.

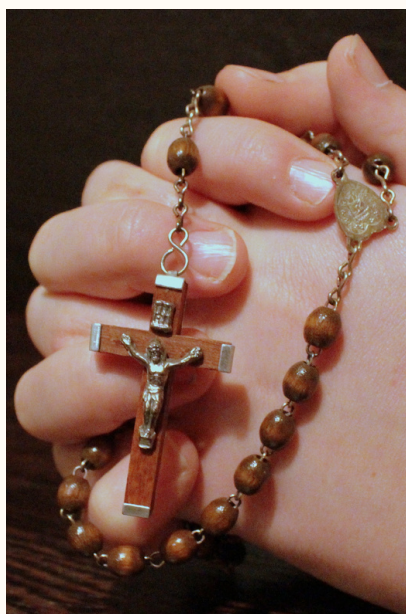
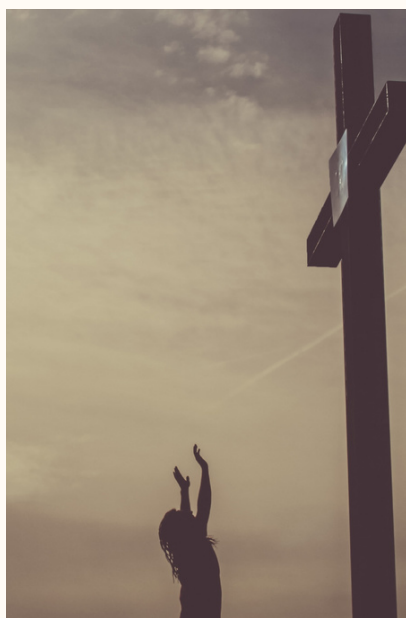
Say "hello" to my beloved husband and "honey". Lito had immortalized you with a watercolor portrait, which I can surely say could be the best that he has recently done. He was probably so amused while painting you. Oh how he captured the real you, wearing your signature attire, bonnet and all. Most of all donning that smirky smile. Lucky you, as he does this only for a selected few.

Dade, as you have said recently while consoling me with Lito's passing, I should not be sad because we're all gonna die. And as such, we will all meet happily again someday. Little did I know that those words would resound in my ears again when you left just three months after.

Both of you, rest peacefully in the Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon you. Meanwhile, my tears are no more. I sigh as I bid you farewell for now. Pray for us then, as we pray for you.



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



WORD GIFTS

Prophetic Words from our Community Gatherings

1

Remain in My Love (John 15:9)

"My people, now more than ever, I command you to remain in my love! I will empower you and pour out my grace so you can do so..."

I am a jealous God and will tolerate no rivalry in your hearts. Let nothing dare to compete to take my seat in your hearts. I alone desire to reside in you so that you can remain in my love.

It is my love that will allow you to go through this darkness that surrounds you; it is my love that will allow you to lay down your life for my people; it is my love that will allow you to forgive those who have wronged you; it is my love that will allow you to conquer the fears that plague you — now more than ever, my people, REMAIN IN MY LOVE!!

2

How much are you willing to give up for me? What can you do for me to spread the love that I have given to you? Only one thing I ask of you: Love one another. Then only then will they know that you are my disciples.

3

A reading from John 14 1-3.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to Myself, so that where I am, you also may be."

Isaiah 11: 12

"He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel;

He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."

And God furthers says, "I love you. Do not be afraid, Keep your faith strong, because wherever I am, you also may be. I love you. Do not be afraid. Where I am, you also may be."

4

Oh My people, today I know you. I know your challenges; I know the crosses you bear; I know the sorrows you have, and I am with you in them. But this day I tell you, that today I come to dwell within you. Though I may not take those sufferings and crosses away from you, you will experience them in a good way; you will have an overlay of My Spirit on you; you will experience My joy; you will experience My peace; you will experience My grace and My strength, as We fall upon you today, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to dwell within you, you will have a new life, a new change to the challenges you have; you will be a new person and a new people.

5

There are no blank pages here. They are pretty full of the Holy Spirit and His work. The emphasis was right now, today, God wants to do something. He wants to burn our hearts; He wants to free us mostly from fear; He wants to give us peace, love and joy. He wants to do that so we can build up His kingdom, proclaim His kingdom and to be a bulwark. So let's pray. Holy Spirit, come right now, right this moment. Come and be with us. Dwell with us. Come, Spirit of the Living God. Come, Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit.

LET'S CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS!

EMIL - 7/1
EVELYN W - 7/2
OLIVIA A - 7/5
PAM P - 7/5
ALVIN A - 7/11
CHELLE - 7/14
MAME - 7/14
CASSANDRA E - 7/15
CHRISTINA - 7/16
CARMi - 7/16
PIER B - 7/19
PATRICK - 7/19
RONNIE - 7/21
CAITLIN A - 7/21
BEKAH - 7/23

HENDRICK - 8/2
CHINO B - 8/6
JOSEPH A - 8/13
CORA - 8/13
KITCHIE - 8/13
MICHELLE - 8/18
JON - 8/19
NITZ - 8/20
THERESA A - 8/22
CHERRY - 8/23
CYMON E - 8/26
ATE IRMA - 8/27
MEDEL - 8/27
LYLA B - 8/30



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HORENCE/IRMA - 7/9
ALVIN/MELINNA - 7/23
NOEL/FLORS - 7/28
JON/MARITA - 8/9



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

CHLOE P - 7/4
DANNA P - 7/15
PHOEBE P - 7/26
OLIVIA A - 7/29
PAM P - 8/24
AVA A - 8/27

Theme for 2022

Be courageous. Expand your tent
and your descendants will possess
nations.

About Us

The Family of Faith (FOF) is a Catholic Charismatic Community based in New Jersey, USA. We are a community of lay people (married couples, singles, youth and children) that seeks and actively participates in the Church's mission to the world.

We stand and work for: Conversion to Christ and Christian maturity, love and worship of God, Christian personal relationships and Community, daily life in Christian character, commitment to Evangelization, promotion of Christian unity, and defense of the Gospel.

Through a life of prayer, worship, service and mutual support, we seek to bring the light of Christ to the world.

FOF is a member community of Christ the King Association (Association of Catholic Communities) and Sword of the Spirit - swordofthespirit.net (Ecumenical Association of Christian Communities)

The Family of Faith is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. To know more about us and our various activities, visit our website: <http://fofnj.org>

Our Mission and Vision

OUR **MISSION** IS TO LIVE A LIFE OF PRAYER AND HOLINESS, TAKE ON THE WAYS OF GOD AND BECOME WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER AND THE GREATER CHURCH.

OUR **VISION** IS TO BE A CATHOLIC COVENANT COMMUNITY WITH A COMMON WAY OF LIFE THAT EXPRESSES GOD'S TRUTH AND WORD IN ACTION.



OUR **LOGO** IS A PICTURE OF WHAT WE ARE AS COMMUNITY:
A FAMILY EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD.

OUR **NAME** WAS INSPIRED BY ST. PAUL'S WORDS IN GALATIANS 6:10:

"SO THEN, WHILE WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL, BUT ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF THE FAITH."