

Words of Hope
December 2016
Volume 20 Number 3



Advancing Dawn

Dear Friend of Sanctuary of Hope,

Welcome to the Season of **Advent into Christmas**, as we hear in the 60th chapter of the prophet Isaiah: "Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you...then you shall be radiant at what you see." As we come to the end of the Jubilee of Mercy, we do ask for forgiveness and the Christmas gift of God to see how beautiful we all are inside and out. Speaking of beauty, we are so grateful to have **Fr. Joseph Arsenault, SSA**, as our new **Spiritual Director** of Sanctuary of Hope. Fr. Joseph is our Christmas gift, he has a heart open to help others grow in their friendship with the good Lord, and share this friendship with others.

I will continue to help out here at ole SOH, and hopefully before Christmas move to the **House of Peace**, which is located on the very NW corner of our sacred 33 acres. Instead of turning into our main drive way, you just stay on Ridge straight west; up and down the road and you will be at the House of Peace. My **mailing** address will remain 2601 Ridge Ave, Kansas City, Ks 66102. Please welcome Fr. Joseph with an open heart. Jeff will remain living at SOH, along with Fr. Joseph.

Sister Antonella, Bayer, CSJ has decided to leave her formal ministry at Sanctuary of Hope. Sister would like to now minister within her own community of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita Kansas. This federation of their sisters includes 7 communities that have come together as one. Sister Antonella will be doing workshops and presentations, traveling as well, to support this **unification and formation of life** for her sisters. She will also be free to help her sisters in the area of their health needs and minister to neighbors that border their community houses. Sister has a compassionate heart for all, and she is tops in her administrative abilities. She is always welcome here at ole SOH. We will miss her, and her musical and liturgical ministries so well shared with all of us. Please **keep her in your prayers**, as she has kept so many of us, and so many others, in her heart and prayers too.

Just know that we will continue with our weekly Tuesday prayer group at 10 AM, followed by lunch, and our Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 AM, all our welcome to join with us. Oh yes, we are always in need of **volunteers to help** with the maintenance and gardening, serving retreat groups, and other projects to keep this place up and going. To volunteer just call Julie Elwell or Colleen Cook at 913-321-4673.

So with Fr. Joseph, Sr. Antonella, Julie, Colleen, Lou, Jeff, Shirline, Tom, Sue Arnold, Joyce, Sue Ryan, Trisha, Bernadette, and our Board of Trustees: Eugene, Pastor Steve and Rev. Dr. Lynette, Mary Ann, John, David, Pastor Sandeep, Frank and Dawn, **we wish you a merry Christmas** and a Happy New Year of 2017, Alleluia and Praise the Lord!

Love, prayers and gratitude,

Fr. Dennis Wait

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Dennis Wait, Director Emeritus





Praise the Lord!

As most, if not all, of you have heard by now Fr. Dennis has retired as the Director of Sanctuary of Hope, and Archbishop Joseph Naumann has appointed me the new Director. I am delighted and very excited about this new appointment. While I will be continuing with my work in Canon Law for the Archdiocese as well as being the Ecumenical Officer for the Archdiocese, I look forward, with great joy, to being present at Sanctuary of Hope.

From the very first time I set foot on the property of Sanctuary of Hope, the words of the psalmist - "Be still and know that I am God" - came alive. For being in the midst of the city, it is a very still and prayerful place. It is truly a holy place where we can encounter the living God. I am sure that I do not need to tell you this. I am sure that you have come to know this long before me, but I want you to know that I am aware of how special Sanctuary of Hope is and the great mission that it has. It is my prayer and hope that my directorship will continue to foster and help grow Sanctuary of Hope.

I look forward, over the months and years to come, to get to know you and share the journey with you. I pray that together we may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Be assured of my prayers and of my warm welcome that awaits you when you come to Sanctuary of Hope!

Blessings,

Fr. Joseph M Arsenault, S.S.A.

Director

Dear Friends—I wish to share with you my decision to leave Sanctuary of Hope, a difficult decision to make. You are an incredible community of faith-filled persons who seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in your lives. From the first years when I began as liturgical musician, retreat attendant, retreat director, and dishwasher, until when I have been chapel coordinator, prayer group facilitator, hospitality chair and have served in other roles such as the Spiritual Life Committee, the Facilities Committee, the Logistics Committee, the Pastoral Council, and Hope Benefit, I have grown so much. Thank you for inspiring me and allowing me to do the same for you. The teams, projects and services to which I contributed all make for heartfelt reminiscing.

I'll be more deeply engaged in my Congregation's initiatives to bring about systemic change locally, nationally and worldwide. The mission of Jesus leaves us with open borders of commitment. Too, I'll continue to explore the evolution of technology in our daily lives and ministry. If I could leave you with a thought, remember that "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is gift. That is why we call it the PRESENT." Adversity in our lives brings about opportunities, and Emmanuel, "God with us," is ever present.

Perhaps our paths will cross again. If you ever want to get in touch, my contact information is below. I am just an email or a phone call away.

My gratitude, love and prayerful wishes,

Sister Antonella Bayer, CSJ

abayer@sbcglobal.net

816-453-6023





ANNUAL GUARDIANS OF HOPE APPEAL

On behalf of Fr. Dennis, thank you for your support; you are a Guardian of Hope. As many of you know, Fr. Dennis Wait has retired as the Director of SOH. Fr. Joseph Arsenault, our new Director, and the Board of Trustees have established the Fr. Dennis Wait Mission Fund to continue the great work started by Fr. Dennis. Fr. Joseph and Fr. Dennis invite you to support SOH through this fund.

**Thank you for your generous support.
Any amount contributed is graciously appreciated.**

Gratefully,

Rev. Steven Barnes, President of the Board of Trustees and Louis Finocchiaro--Business Manager

**If you have already donated to Fr. Dennis' Mission Fund this year,
thank you so much for your generosity.**

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FORM:

Would you consider making a one time or pledge contribution and return this form in the enclosed envelope?

Please accept my support in the amount of \$_____.

This is a _____ One time gift or _____ monthly or _____ quarterly Pledge during 2017.

Name_____

Address_____

e-mail_____ (to receive notice of special programs offered by SOH)

____ I (We) commit to regular prayer (i.e. Weekly) for Sanctuary of Hope's ministry.

The SOH Board invites supporters to **say a prayer at 7:00 PM daily** for the well-being of SOH. Thank you.

____PRAYER REQUEST

Feel free to share a prayer request and place it in the enclosed envelope. Thank you

My (our) request is:



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P.O. Box 172018
Kansas City, KS 66117-1018
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www.sanctuaryofhope.org



Return Service Requested

Save the Date

Sunday, February 12,
2:00-3:00 p.m.

FAITH HOPE CHARITY & SERENITY

Celebrating diversity without adversity

Sanctuary of Hope's

20th Annual

Music, Movement &
Meditation Concert



Rajean Buffa
pianist and song stylist
ONE WOMAN SHOW!!



*The staff of Sanctuary of Hope
wishes you a very blessed
Christmas Season and a wonderful
New Year!*