

A Monthly Ministry Bulletin

TO THE FATHER Journey

My personal experiences with God the Father began many years ago, after the death of my father - John Iatesta and later Anna's dad - Dan DiBona. Dan a.k.a. ("Pops") had been my father-figure for a long time, after my father died when I was only 28 years old.

Following "Pops" death, I felt a real sense of loneliness and abandonment - like an orphan. As this feeling intensified, I cried out to God - "I NEED A FATHER!" That prayer was answered through later contact with my paternal grandfather's family.

My grandfather Giovanni Iatesta, had a very hard life as an Italian immigrant and a

widower in Philadelphia around 1900, losing his young wife in child birth with my father. He met Jesus through a travelling Italian evangelist. Giovanni prayed for my father and me every day, even though we had very little contact. I know he is a primary intercessor for me and my family. Through his deep suffering and conversion he knew the power of God's love.

Since my human experiences of fatherhood were not strong, I really needed to know the love and care of God the Father. This search and what Anna and I have experienced in marriage, family and ministry are what drew us to ask for God's help,

February 2010

leading us to this new experience of personal prayer, family spirituality and a tender touch of God the Father's love. "Journey to the Father" is the fruit of prayer, and the assistance of wonderful priest friends.

We are all on a journey of life and of faith. Our journey begins with God the Father and will end with Him. There are places along the way, where we need special help, as we face bridges we need to cross. Jesus is the "Living Bridge," with Mary as our companion. Also, our angels and saints are messengers of God and helpers for us.

Why is this necessary now?

There is growing insecurity in both the Church and society. People are looking for answers in the wrong places. There is a fear of the future. Yet God says: "Fear not, I will help you." (Is 41:13) Amid rampant technology - a child-like simplicity is needed to enjoy life and other gifts of God the Father.

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act." (Ps 37:5)

This simple, inexpensive and mobile experience is meant to bring Catholics a fresh anointing of God's fire into the ordinary lives of individuals and families. By extension, this fire of the Holy Spirit will help to renew and refresh neighborhoods and the local church. The Journey Retreat is open to all practicing Catholic adults; it is part of the action of God the Father - reaching to *His children - calling us to "build a civilization of love."* (Venerable John Paul the Great)

This parish-based retreat begins Friday evening with Mass and continues through the day Saturday - ending in celebration of the Eucharist, with the local parish

community. The schedule includes witness, teaching, Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer which sets us along "THE WAY" (Jesus), which leads to God the Father.

Our first Journey retreat will be held at ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH on the feast of St. Joseph - Protector of families and

the Church. The team for this retreat will be Fr. Chris Rogers, Bob and Anna Iatesta. Music will be provided by Marty Rotella.

"We want to announce to this world that the secret of rebirth is to open our hearts to that marvelous Father who waits for each of us as His most precious child."

(Mother Elvira, Founder of Comunita Cenacolo)

The Journey Retreat can help us:

- MAKE CONTACT WITH GOD THE FATHER, THE SOURCE OF TRUE LOVE**
- DEVELOP SIMPLE WAYS TO CONTINUE THAT CONTACT IN OUR DAILY LIVES.**
- HELP US DISCERN THE FATHER'S LOVING WILL IN OUR LIFE CHOICES.**

QUO VADIS DAYS

Where are you going?

"...only when a young man has had a personal experience of Christ can he truly understand the Lord's will and consequently his own vocation. The better you know Jesus the more his mystery attracts you. The more you discover him, the more you are moved to seek him."

-Pope Benedict XVI



Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

www.HeedtheCall.org

Summer Camp for boys
May 28th-31st, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Ladies Lenten Retreat Day March 22

Anna Iatesta and Marty Rotella
MARY, MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER PARISH
in North Wales. Call 215-362-7400

Camp Guadalupe 2010 Locations:

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH—*June 21-25*
MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE—*July 26-30*

Vocation Overnights

ST. CHARLES SEMINARY
May (7, 8) (14, 15)

Quo Vadis Days Summer Camp

May 28-31 (See above for details.)

Reflections 2
by Anna



Reflections 2 is receiving wonderful comments.
This could be a great Easter gift for friends and family.
Contact our office for details and ordering.