12-9-2012

The Faithful Flyer, 12-09-2012 to 01-13-2013

University of Dayton. Campus Ministry
“AND THAT’S WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CHARLIE BROWN!”

A Charlie Brown Christmas is a profound Advent reflection. Its messages not only challenge the secularization of Christmas, but can also help each of us to truly “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Each of the Peanuts characters prepares for Christmas in a different way. The question to ask this Advent is: which Peanuts character am I most like today?

Am I most like Snoopy, scurrying around quickly to make sure I have the best decorations on my house so that I can win the contest? There is something deep and symbolic about lights during this darkening time of the year, as we await with hope the coming of the “Light of the World.” And there is something powerful about having special decorations to provide reminders of this special time of the year. Yet I know I can easily fall into the trap of putting so much time and energy into the decorating that I forget to ponder the meaning of the lights, the colors, the trees, the wreaths.

Even worse, I know that I can become a bit competitive about having a Clark Griswold-esque display on my house. Maybe that’s not quite the right approach to celebrate this poor child born in a stable and placed in a feeding trough for a crib.

Or am I most like Charlie Brown’s sister, Sally, whose biggest concern is her letter to Santa asking for “tens and twenties?” My first instinct is to laugh at the silliness of this because I don’t think I’ve cared about getting Christmas gifts since I was a kid. But what about my major concern to buy presents, thinking that that just the right gift will really make the receiver happy? It’s a more subtle kind of consumerism that often gets in the way of a good season of preparation.

Sometimes I’m more like Lucy, the one who needs to be in control and make sure that everything turns out to be “perfect.” The chestnuts need to be roasting on the open fire, yuletide carols must be sung in perfect harmony, and Charlie Brown ought to have the holiday spirit. So, she gets him involved, putting him in charge of the Christmas pageant. That will do it...until he is clearly not perfect for the task! He’s making things worse! Look at that tree! Argh! Lucy’s style of micro-managing perfectionism can be a huge obstacle to allowing this outrageously radical God (who is willing to take on all the messiness of becoming human) to really come more deeply into my heart.

Some days I’m most like Charlie Brown, frustrated about not feeling the Christmas spirit. Do I really need an emotional high for Christmas to have meaning?

I wish I were more like Linus, the friend who patiently listens, sympathizes, walks with, and then gives a wise answer to Charlie Brown. Being this kind of character takes time. It takes preparation. It takes prayer. It takes knowledge of Scripture. Linus is a great Advent figure. Linus’ wise answer to Charlie Brown’s question about the true meaning of Christmas is to announce the coming of the Messiah. He calmly, patiently recites Luke 2:8-14. This is what really prepares the way of the Lord.

Nick Cardilino, Associate Director Campus Ministry Center for Social Concern

Sunday Worship Times
See Worship Schedule

Weekday Mass Schedule
See Worship Schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation
There will be no reconciliation at 11am from December 18 through January 11

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday - Thursday 5:30pm-9pm Alumni Hall Chapel

Join in the Christmas decorating festivities with other members of the UD community by staying after the 10am Mass on Sunday, December 23 to help decorate the Immaculate Conception Chapel for Christmas. This also includes enjoying a sweet treat...or two!
Beyond the Doors

Campus Ministry Calendar

December
14
24
December 14 Baccalaureate Mass 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Mass Carols at 10pm;
Mass at 10:30pm

January
4-13 Winter Break Outs
10
Mass in honor of Mother Adele
18-20 MLK Retreat
21 Martin Luther King Day March
22 Father Chaminade Feast Day
24-26 March for Life
25-27 Couples Retreat

The UD Sandy Claus Project
Campus Ministry and Pax Christi are collecting and shipping donations of Christmas gifts to be distributed to those whose homes have been damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Many are currently living in shelters or the homes of family and friends while their own homes are cleaned up. If you would like to donate, please drop off gifts by Dec. 9. Guidelines and drop-off locations can be found at http://tinyurl.com/udsandyclaus

Thank you!!!
Because of the generosity of many within the UD community, including individuals as well as departments, we were able to provide Thanksgiving dinner to 570 families in the Dayton area. For one day out of their struggling lives, families were able to celebrate an American tradition with dignity. The incredible community of love and support has brought Christ into the world for many people. We are grateful to Kroger and Dorothy Lane Market for their partnership with the Center for Social Concern in making all of this happen. Our Dayton community is still in great need, and as we enter into the holy season of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of the child born in Bethlehem calling each of us to continue to bring His message of hope and love to our world.

2013 UD Miryam Award
Nominations are now being accepted. This award recognizes the efforts of people on our campus to change the atmosphere and the potential for women’s achievements at the University of Dayton. Nominations may include individuals or groups of UD faculty, staff, or students. Forms are on CSC website and are due Friday, January 25.

March for Life
January 24-26, 2013
Make your voice heard for the dignity of human life! Join UD Students for Life on the bus trip to the March for Life. Details and registration are online at the Campus Ministry website. Cost is only $70. You must sign up before Christmas Break.

UDSAP 2013!!!
All students interested in this summer service program can pick up an application packet at the Center for Social Concern in Liberty Hall RM 107. UDSAP applications will be due on Tuesday, January 22 at noon. For more information go to the Center for Social Concern website.

Couples Retreat
January 25-27, 2013
Take time to celebrate, learn, and share in your relationship. The retreat provides a chance to spend quality time together and for both of you to grow spiritually. There is also plenty of time for fun and relaxation. Couples in all stages of their relationship are encouraged to attend. Only one member of the couple must be a UD student. Cost $80 per couple ($40 per person). Scholarships are available. Registration online.

MLK Retreat: Inspiring Justice Oriented Citizens
January 18-20
Join other UD students in reflecting on and learning about the journey to become people who inspire and create just changes in our world. Be inspired by the principles of Martin Luther King Jr. (racial and class equality and non-violent action) and create a community with fellow students to be advocates on campus and in your future. Registration online. Registration due by December 14.

Exam Prayer
Author Unknown

Lord, calm my fear at exam time.
Do not allow what remains undone
to undermine my courage.
And help me to make the best of my knowledge.
You have a loving plan for my whole life
and whatever the outcome,
exams are a part of this plan.
Help me to see beyond this time and relish
the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing break.
Amen.

For more details and applications on all of the above, go to www.udayton.edu/ministry or call Campus Ministry at 229-3339 or the Center for Social Concern at 937-229-2524.