

*“ It is easier for feeble straw to resist a mighty fire
than for the nature of sin to resist the power of love.
We must cultivate this love in our souls,
that we may take our place with all the saints,
for they were all pleasing unto God
through their love for their neighbor.
—Saint New Martyr
Elizabeth*

Love in Action



Loving & Serving God in Our Neighbor

Celebrating Family!

Saint Paul writes to the Church in Ephesus; “... I bow my knees to **the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...**” (Eph.3:14,15.)

In **Remember who you are**, in *Touchstone* magazine Jan/Feb 2008, Amanda Witt notes that “Saint Luke’s genealogy of Jesus Christ concludes with ‘Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.’ God is our Father in a way more literal than we can grasp...”

God, The Holy Trinity; Father Son and Holy Spirit, said “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...so God made man; in the image of God. He made him; male and female He made them.....God blessed them and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.... (Gen.1) “And the Lord God said; “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him”. And the Lord made woman. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.”(Gen.2.) God is Love. We are created to glorify, love and enjoy Him forever, and to love and enjoy each other. In the sacrament of marriage God joins husband and wife together. And Jesus says, **“What God has joined together, let no man separate. (Matt.19.6.)** Paul, likens the mystery of two becoming one in marriage to the mystery of the Church as the bride of Christ, becoming one with Him.(Eph.5:22-33)

We are created to love and be loved. But to love or not to love God and each other is our choice. Adam and Eve were free to enjoy the fruit of every tree in the Garden of Eden except one; the tree of the knowledge of good and

evil. Adam and Eve knew nothing about evil, fear or death, but once they had eaten of the tree it was too late. They could not return to the innocence of unknowing. Their disobedience brought separation from God and expulsion from the Garden lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever with the accumulating consequences of disobedience.

But God is Love and did not abandon His children. Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore

Cain, then Abel. Cain was jealous of his younger brother and killed him... ‘and went out from the presence of the Lord’ ... The line of Cain’s descendants ended with the flood. Noah, who descended from Adams third son Seth, built the ark in obedience to God and survived with his family. His descendant was Abraham who obeyed when God said, “Get out of your country, your kindred and from your father’s house, to a land I will show you..... **I will bless you andin you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**” (Gen.12; 1-3)

In the fullness of time, God the Son, begotten of the Father before all worlds, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man, born two thousand years ago in the land God showed her forefather Abraham. **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,”** wrote Saint John in his gospel, “ and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”... **“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

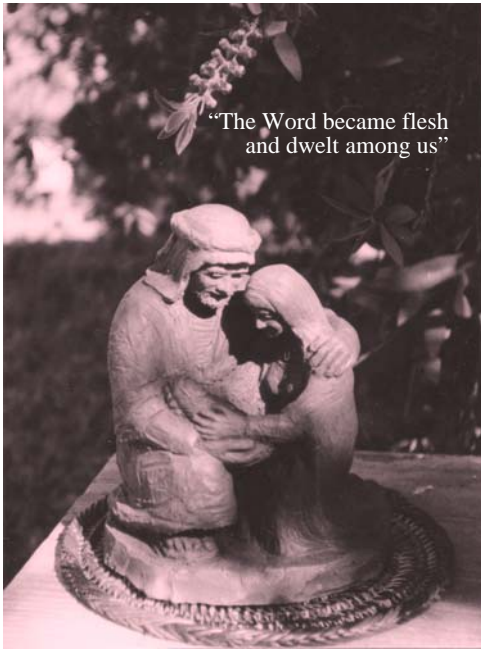
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Adoptive Family Mick, Britt and brother Alex welcomes baby sister Summer Anne

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We are the children of God, by adoption, wrote Paul to the Romans: "...you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,(which means Papa) Father." We belong to the family of God. Our brothers and sisters are of every tribe and color. **God designed us each to be conceived by the seed of a man in the womb of a woman.** For nine months we would be safe and snug there - protected and nurtured while our mother was protected and provided for by her husband and extended family. Then we, by God's design, were born so helpless that we must be fed, clothed and cared for by our parents - our mother equipped to nourish us with her milk when all we can do is open our mouth and suck.



By God's design the foundation of family is marriage, a lifelong covenant between husband and wife joined by God in the sacrament of marriage. On that solid foundation - families can grow and survive. **The fabric of society is woven by families. When families are whole, the fabric holds together. When families are broken, the fabric unravels. It is the children, who can not survive on their own, who suffer.**

The last fifty years have seen a tsunami of broken marriages, broken families and broken lives. Symptoms of decay show up in schools, domestic violence, growing prison populations, drug and alcohol abuse, abortion, child abuse, out of wedlock births, single parenting and cohabiting in preference to marriage. Births to unmarried women aged 20 - 24 rose from 5% in 1960 to 53% in 2004! Eighty percent of the prison population are raised by single mothers!

"Schools cannot compensate for the disintegration of families and hence communities - the primary transmitters of social capital," wrote columnist George Will in April this year. The occasion was the 25th anniversary of the report "A Nation at Risk". When the report was first published in 1983, many knew that families play a crucial role in education. This is no longer the case. Today perhaps the majority of families are handicapped by their own problems. About fifty percent of marriages

nationwide end in divorce. Children from broken families are twice as likely to repeat a grade and five times likelier to be suspended or expelled from school as children from intact families. Problems of the family affect student achievement and behavior. "No reform can enable schools to cope with 36.9% of all children - and 69.9% of black children today born out of wedlock," wrote Will. About 70% of children live in fractured families today.

Our society has become as in the days of Noah - 'corrupt and filled with unrighteousness'. We are sons and daughters of our Father who have claimed our inheritance in advance, as did the Prodigal son - and we have spent it. We have bought houses and cars, clothes and gadgets on credit - money we didn't have. We are deep in debt, and now there is famine in our land - foreclosures and bankruptcies, as our house of credit-cards collapse. **We have made our own rules for marriage, for divorce, for conception, contraception and ending the lives of our unborn children in the womb. We are not obeying God's command to multiply and fill the earth.** Instead of growing populations, we have aging and shrinking populations in the richest countries of the world.

The Prodigal son, when the consequences of his choices finally brought him to the pigsty - 'came to himself'. He remembered who he was and who his father was. He came home and his father 'ran to meet him and embraced him.' The son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight and am no longer worthy to be called your son! But his father killed the fatted calf and called for a celebration, "for this my son was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found". (Luke 15; 11-24)

We too can come to ourselves and remember who we are. The birth mothers who choose to come to Martha and Mary House are courageously facing the consequences of their earlier choices. Rather than having an abortion to hide their pregnancy, they choose life and an adoptive family for their unborn child, with father and mother committed to God, each other and their children through the sacrament of marriage. **We encourage our 'daughters' to remember who they are as God's children, unique and precious, and to seek His will for their future - develop their special talents and abilities. Our Scholarship program helps them continue their education and realize their dream.**

♥ Wish List ♥

- ♥ School Supplies (binders, notebooks, etc.) ♥ Microsoft Publisher for Windows XP (Newsletter making)
- ♥ Inkjet printer for study computers for our daughters ♥ Small Trashcans w/ lids ♥ Book & Video shelves
- ♥ Paper products ♥ Modest maternity and women's clothes
- ♥ Laundry soap ♥ Shampoo & Conditioner ♥ Picture albums ♥ Groceries & Canned goods

- For the updated wish list, please contact us. -

Our House News:

Sanctity of Life Sunday in January marked the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize a mother's choice to abort her unborn child, and the death of over 40 million unborn babies in America. Martha and Mary House was featured in interviews by Kevin Allen on **The Illumined Heart Program** on Ancient Faith Radio and Father Chris on **Come Receive the Light** on Orthodox Christian News. Both on the topic of Abortion, it's aftermath and healing, and the work of Martha and Mary House. In March Clark Gorder of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Department of Mission and Evangelism began filming the DVD **"The Martha and Mary House Story."** In April Housemother, with a 'Martha and Mary House Daughter' and a volunteer, visited **St. Luke's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Garden Grove** with an update on the House. St. Luke's has been a faithful supporter from our early beginnings. In May, thanks again to St. Luke's and generous parishioners, our much awaited **Lennox air-conditioning** was installed by Excel Air. Just in time for the first heat wave of the year.

Neighbor Gary Jannise built a chain-link fence around our vegetable garden and we planted castor-bean bushes around the perimeter to fence out gophers! We are getting ready for volunteers to plant a **winter garden safe from dogs and gophers!**



Our "Daughters"

The first 2008 Martha and Mary House baby was born in February. Her mother, a student, found our website and wrote us: "What must I do to come to Martha and Mary House?" Her family wanted an abortion, to hide the pregnancy. Instead she came here and found 'the perfect family' for her daughter. She said, "The adoptive mom is exactly the kind of mother I hope to become one day." The adoptive family was there at the birth. Our 'daughter' remained at Martha and Mary House for a month of recuperating with frequent visits from her new family. Now she is back home and keeps in touch with her daughter's family via their web-site. She hopes to return on vacation some day.

Our second baby was born in July, also from an out-of-state birth-mother who came here to keep her pregnancy secret. The adoptive family; father, mother and big brother, was present at the birth. **The third baby is due in early October.** The expectant adoptive parents visited from out-of-state in July and viewed their unborn son on ultrasound. They will be back for the birth. **A fourth baby is due in late October.**

Our first adopted Martha and Mary House baby turned 5 in February. Marianne and Jeremy Haugh brought their son Jeremiah from Georgia for a visit in June. They came to adopt his seven month old sister Mary Anya and visit with birth mother 'Bonnie' and Mary Anya's birth father at Martha and Mary House.



Greetings from 'Photini' in Texas; She gave birth to Emmett in April 2006 and placed him in his adoptive family in North Carolina. This year the family flew 'Photini' and her two older children Dillon and Daisy to North-Carolina for an extended-family re-union, at the family farm, and four days in a condo at Myrtle Beach. "We had a great time," says 'Photini'. "Emmett is so happy with his older brother Hayden, their parents and his grandmother. We're all like family and plan to get together annually. It was so hard to place him for adoption, but I knew it was best and now I see it couldn't have been better for all of us. I thank God!"

Congratulations to 'Annette' and 'Glenn' On their Second Anniversary. God Grant you Many Years!

'Annette' was 15 when she came to Martha and Mary House in 2006. 'Glenn' was 18. They were in love and wanted to raise their baby. 'Glenn's parents would support them if they chose to marry. 'Annette' and 'Glenn' received marriage counseling from their pastor. Annette turned 16 and we attended their wedding in July 2006. Their son was born in November. 'Annette' was a stay-at-home Mom while Glenn struggled to provide for his little family. Marriage was not easy, but they had learned that love is not romantic feelings, but commitment. This July they visited Martha and Mary House with their son, and spoke of the challenges of married life; "We remember the story you told, that marriage is like a lilac bush!" said Glenn, and Annette nodded smiling. "It



looks dead in winter. You snap a twig and there is no sign of sap or life. It looks ugly and, and if you don't know about lilacs, you'll throw it away and get a new one in spring." They laughed and looked at each other." You told us we would just end up with a series of little lilac bushes. But when you know about lilacs, you know it is during winter, when it is dormant, that the roots grow unseen underground, and if you are patient and wait, and cultivate and care for the bush, it will grow bigger, with more branches, leaves and flowers each year. When we got married we were so much in love we didn't think we would ever feel any different. Now we know the story of the lilac is true. We have experienced it, and know there will be more winters when you don't feel anything and don't even like each other. It is hard." They smiled. "But we don't want to give up, because now we know it is really true, that the relationship is richer and more beautiful after you have stuck through a 'winter-time' You said that a thirty year old lilac is magnificent, with the fragrance of blooms filling the garden. That is what we want, and hope that with God's help we will get there!"

MEMORY ETERNAL! *God is our Father -“of the family in heaven and on earth.”*



God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...” Instead, abortion and infanticide have been practiced throughout the world for thousands of years, although it is seen as a sin by God’s people. For the past 40 years our family in Heaven has grown annually by nearly 50 million unborn babies, Holy Innocent Martyrs who died in their mother’s womb! Their Memory is Eternal, but the consequence of our choices is a world wide change in demographics; aging populations, fewer young people joining the work-force, and especially in Europe, a great influx of Muslims to maintain economic stability. (Muslims don’t have abortions!) In Russia, China and many Eastern European countries, abortions outnumber live births. Abortion ends a human life on earth, but the

silent holocaust of the unborn leaves lifelong scars in the hearts and lives of the survivors - mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of the aborted babies. After 40 years evidence is growing that **post abortion stress syndrome** is affecting the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health of the survivors. At the heart of the syndrome is the unacknowledged and un-grieved loss of a child who died by the choice of the mother - sometimes with the urging of father and family, sometimes without their knowledge. Characteristic of repressed or unacknowledged grief is anger - turned outward or inward in destructive ways. We see increased violence, drug-use, and abuse in families and society. According to Planned Parenthood, 78% of abortions take place in the Christian community, perhaps to hide the scandal of a pregnancy. 56% take place in the African American community, although they are only 12% of our population! Some African American Christian leaders are beginning to sound the alarm; abortion amounts to Black Genocide, and may be fueling the anger of young blacks who fight each other in gangs or fill our prisons!

Thank God our aborted children are praying for us! And as we acknowledge our grief and receive God’s and our children’s forgiveness, forgive each other, and ourselves, we can love our children in Heaven by remembering them! There is healing and new life after abortion. It is not an easy journey or quick fix, but it is necessary to heal our grieving heart and become whole. At Martha and Mary House women come to choose life for their unborn child and open adoption as an alternative to abortion. Those who already are abortion survivors work through post abortion grief and reconciliation in a 12 step Abortion Survivors Anonymous group meeting at the House. A 12 step work book is available by contacting us.

Martha and Mary House

An Orthodox Christian

Maternity Home

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An abortion survivor who recently acknowledged her grief over an abortion 39 years ago, sent us a poem she wrote at Planned Parenthood in San Francisco in 1969, as she faced a two day saline abortion.

*“Dead is purity’s childhood
Dead is innocence blush
Dead is yesterday’s wonderment,
Dead is love’s tender touch.*

*Dead are the eyes that saw stars
Dead is the brightest day
Dead are the many hopes and dreams
That used to pass our way.*

*Dead is the freshness of light summer rains
Dead is winter’s brisk air
Alive are the sorrows of needing
Things no longer there.*

*Dead is the song of the forest
Dead is the flowers’ sweet smell
Someone told me Satan won
And took them all to Hell.*

*September 8, 1969,
Planned Parenthood, San Francisco.*

House Mother Assistant Needed! *Live-in with room and board and a small stipend. With a calling as “co-struggler in Christ” to provide spiritual and practical support for women who face difficult life choices for themselves and their unborn children.*



Martha and Mary House

An Orthodox Christian Maternity Home

The Orthodox Church of America,

The Diocese of the West

P. O. Box 1680, Escondido, CA 92033



**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue,
but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)**