



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Wilmington

For 180 years - A legacy of caring service

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 180TH ANNIVERSARY MARYDALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE PRAYER SERVICE

INTRODUCTION:

Leader: Marydale Retirement Village joined the Catholic Charities family of services in 2009. Marydale provides decent, safe, affordable and sanitary housing to the extremely low- and very low-income seniors and disabled persons in Newark, Delaware. The property receives rental assistance from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The compound provides many activities and information sessions for its residents, such as health screenings, communal meals, a food cooperative program, Mass and other interfaith services, and local trips.

The concept of human dignity is the starting point and central concern of Catholic thinking about human rights. Other Catholic social teachings draw their inspiration from that concept. The Catholic Church believes that each person is created in the image and likeness of God, and is therefore equal in dignity and has equal rights. Human dignity is inalienable: a person does not lose their dignity through any means whether it be disability, age, lack of success, poverty, religion, race, or gender.

Reader 1

A reading from the Book of Psalms

My mouth shall be filled with your praise, shall sing your glory every day.
Do not cast me aside in my old age; as my strength fails, do not forsake me.
God, do not stand far from me; my God, hasten to help me.
I will always hope in you and add to all your praise.
God, you have taught me from my youth; to this day, I proclaim your wondrous deeds.
Now that I am old and gray, do not forsake me, God, that I may proclaim your might to all generations yet to come, Your power and justice, God, to the highest heaven.
You have done great things, O God, who is your equal?
You have sent me many bitter afflictions, but once more revive me.
From the watery depths of the earth, once more raise me up.
Restore my honor; turn and comfort me.

Psalm 71

Leader: Our response will be “Lord, bless them and keep them.”

Leader: Father, we lift up the residents of Marydale to You. Those who are feeble, weak, struggling, forgotten. Father, help us to see them and care for them.

All: “Lord, bless them and keep them.”

Leader: Bless them and comfort them Lord, and hold them close. Draw them close to You all their days, and bless them with the peace that comes from knowing You.

All: “Lord, bless them and keep them.”

Leader: Grant that they may have the loving support of their relatives and friends, that in good health they may be cheerful, and in poor health not lose hope.

All: “Lord, bless them and keep them.”

All: Remember Your people, O Lord, especially the residents of Marydale to whom You have given the gift of long life. Reward them for the good they have accomplished in the past; forgive them for their failings. Make their days happy, and give them Your grace that they may continue to grow through the challenges of their later years. We ask this in confidence. Amen.

Reader 2:

God's Quilt by Gloria Small

Of pieces that make up my life,
from many fabrics torn,
some are new and beautiful,
some are old and worn.

Here a thread of silver
there a few of gold.
And there are grays and blues and
blacks among the bright and bold.
Some fabrics wear the jewels of joy,
others scarred with pain.
Fabrics here are traced with loss,
others wreathed with gain.

Seen apart and separate, they
show no purpose clear.
You see, the pattern set of them
cannot be viewed from here.
He Who does the quilting
sets the pieces from above.
Carefully, He chooses them
and binds all with His Love.

He has thus designed for me
the fabric of His Grace.
Quilted, every piece is fitted
lovingly in place.
And patterned by His Mercy,
my life for e'er shall be,
assembled with His Masterpiece
for all eternity.

Leader: All-powerful and living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank You and praise You for the residents of Marydale. Bless them and encourage them today. Fill their latter years with multiplied blessings, increased far beyond anything they have every known in their lives to this point. Give them laughter as a strong medicine, and heal any hurts that are in their hearts or their bodies.

Our mentors, those that have gone before and broken the ground for the harvest we enjoy in our lives, are precious. We honor them. Let them know that they are cherished and not forgotten. Affirm them and remind them that they are loved and of great value to so many. We pray for them in Jesus' name.

All: Amen