

Thank you for being part of The Caring Circle! When you open this email, please click on the "Display Images" link above. It's our only way of knowing that you received our correspondence, and please be sure to add "help@mcccaringcircle.org" to your address book so we always land in your inbox. Also, please encourage your family and friends to join our ministry as we strive to make a difference in our community!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



## **The Milton Catholic Collaborative Caring Circle**

An innovative way to address the needs of our community, using a "neighbor to neighbor" approach in helping one another.

### **Our Mission Statement**

As representatives of a caring community, we challenge ourselves to be aware of our connection to one another, and to respond with compassion to the needs and concerns of the members of our community, as we are able.

## **Fall 2016 Newsletter**

**Greetings!**



**SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

We are tremendously grateful for the outstanding work of our wonderful volunteers. In the past year, you have driven ill and elderly residents to doctor's visits, donated clothing for

needy families, and graced our elders with your company. In all these ways, you are truly doing God's work, and, for all these services, we thank you.

You are all invited to gather with us for fellowship and sharing in St. Agatha's meeting room (lower church) on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to spend time with fellow volunteers and to explore new opportunities for sharing God's love with those in need.

You will meet the Caring Circle's leadership team, and we will also hear from Diane Ferrari from the Milton Residents Fund and Jill Carr from South Shore Elder Services. We will have information about our volunteer training initiative, hear about success stories of the Caring Circle, and share ways that you can get involved. We will have refreshments and even door prizes from local merchants!

Please come and celebrate your contributions to the community!!

## A Note from Paula McGrath

As the fall draws near, I think of my dear wonderful mother who passed away six years ago. I remember the phone call from my sister, informing me that our mother had been diagnosed with cancer and had but a few weeks to live.

I vividly recall the airplane journey home. Traveling with my youngest sister, we knew that this was going to be our last trip home to see Mam. Although this was a sad journey, it was a gift to be able to go home and make sure my mother had all she needed.

As I look back, I know how fortunate a family we were. Whilst it was a very sad time, it was also the most glorious time for this was the first time in twenty eight years that my mother and her eight children were all together. We spent an amazing three weeks sharing memories, crying, and laughing. The house was like a train station with people coming and going from morning to night.

One afternoon when the house had emptied, I sat by my mother's bedside enjoying the peace and quiet. My mother said, "*I am so blessed. What about all the people who have no one?*" Not for the first time, my mother taught me a life lesson that day. She was so right - there are so many people who have no one.

That's where you come in - our volunteers who make such a difference in the lives of the people we serve. Some of these residents have no one to turn to but us. Time and time again, you have answered their calls for help, and we truly appreciate all you do.

We are in need of additional drivers and visitation volunteers. If you or anyone you know can help, please email us at [help@mcccaringcircle.org](mailto:help@mcccaringcircle.org).



# Volunteer News and Outreach

*"Evangelization is having Jesus alive in your heart, carrying Him wherever you go, so that He can come alive in the hearts of others."*

~St. Teresa of Calcutta



## Making a Difference

We believe that no one should have to be alone, regardless of age or frailty. We are in the planning stages of a new initiative in which we hope to offer training sessions for our volunteers so they will be better prepared to work with elders. We will be working with staff from Friendship Works, a Boston-based volunteer care giving program that has been matching volunteers with elders since 1984.

Our Caring Circle hopes to match volunteers with elders and, through friendship, to enable people to live a fulfilled life. The most important quality in a visitor is to be a good listener: allow the person to share and listen thoughtfully to their concerns. We cannot solve all of their problems, but by listening, we validate their feelings and let them know that they are heard.

We have mentors who can go with you to visit a senior. Please pray and ask for God's guidance on this new initiative. There are *so many* calls that request visitations for seniors. We need YOU to think about this. It can be 1 hour every 3 weeks. The joy & peace you will receive will be such a gift. Many of our volunteers share that they receive more than they give. Once we have a date finalized for training, we will send out a notice to all on our email list. Please consider volunteering for this great opportunity. Pay it forward!

## My Recent Trip to Brazil

*A story of homecoming from Adriana Goodfellow, the Administrative Assistant of Religious Education at St. Mary of the Hills*

This summer I traveled to Brazil with my two children, Michaela and James. We visited my family in Sao Paulo, and then we traveled with my mother, Nair, to Rio de Janeiro, where the Olympic Games were taking place. This was not my mother's first time visiting Rio, but she lost her husband of 35 years last April, and I hoped that this mini-vacation would give her an emotional boost.



We had no idea what to expect during the Olympics celebrations in the city. Would we encounter huge crowds rushing through the streets, long lines, crime, or maybe even the dreaded Zika virus? Certainly there were crowds and long lines, but we didn't get sick or see any crime! What we did see was a city alive and teeming with people from every continent, race, and culture. There was excitement in the air along a feeling of international brotherhood and peace - a sharp contrast from the war-torn and violent world we so often hear about in the news. Ethnic, racial, religious, and

political differences were irrelevant. It was a happy gathering of the human family.

We didn't attend any Olympic events, but we did explore the city, including the famous Copacabana Beach and some outstanding museums. The highlight of our exploration was our ascent via trolley car to the enormous statue of Christ with His arms outstretched and overlooking the harbor and city below. This famous statue has become the symbol of Brazil and is evidence of the deep Catholic faith of the Brazilian people.

My mother, 66, enjoyed the city, and, even though my children don't speak Portuguese and my mother doesn't speak English, they still managed to communicate. She was so happy to be with us. Finally we returned to Sao Paulo to say our goodbyes to my large family, which is always painful because we love them and they love us.

Leaving your native country and all of your family behind to live your life in another country is challenging. I became a US citizen in 2007, and I have also retained my Brazilian citizenship. Becoming an American does not mean abandoning or rejecting your native country - far from it. What it means is that you now have two countries to cherish. While watching Olympic events on TV, I rooted for both the Brazilian athletes and the American athletes! But really, I cheered on ALL the athletes. I felt proud that my country was hosting the games, and I treasured the opportunity to share in the celebration with both my American and Brazilian families.

## THANK YOU!

Again we offer our heartfelt gratitude to the pastors of Saint Agatha of Milton and Quincy, Saint Elizabeth of Milton and Saint Mary of The Hills of Milton for their continuing support of our work. Their generosity of spirit and their own example of selfless devotion to their flock inspires all of us to strive to emulate their examples.

### Can you bake or buy a dessert for the homeless?

Hope Found, formerly the Shattuck Shelter, needs volunteers to supply desserts for their clients every Friday evening. Just place your offering in one of the two containers on the

## START OR JOIN AN IF TABLE

What is an IF Table? It's a place to gather women friends, share a simple meal, and share stories and Christ centered conversations. It is a time for reflection, questioning, laughter, and fellowship which becomes part of each participant's personal spiritual journey.

Those involved in the IF Table community host monthly dinners in their homes. They invite six women into their homes, and then the participants discuss four questions for the next two hours. By delving deeply into topics close to their hearts, they can experience a richer and deeper connection to God and their communities.

If you would like to know more or start an IF Table in your community, please visit <https://ifgathering.com/who-we-are> and think about the ministry you might begin at your own dining room table.

### Henry Nouwen Society Website

*Pastor Henry Nouwen was a priest and psychoanalyst who dedicated his life to the spiritual values of communion, community, and ministry. Please visit the Society's website, which includes daily meditations and wisdom.*

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*We become neighbours when we are willing to cross the road for one another. There is so much separation and segregation: between black people and white people, between gay people and straight people, between young people and old people, between sick people and healthy people, between prisoners and free people, between Jews and Gentiles, Muslims and Christians, Protestants and Catholics, Greek Catholics and Latin Catholics.*

*There is a lot of road crossing to do. We are all very busy in our own circles. We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of. But if we could cross the street once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might become neighbors."*

~Pastor Henry Nouwen

### OTHER RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

The Friends of Silence is a non-profit endeavor to facilitate others in reverencing silence, prayer, contemplation, the Divine Guest,

back porch of St. Mary's Rectory before 5 pm on Friday.

Please consider participating and donate a tasty treat to those who would really appreciate it. For more information, please email or call Sonia & Jed Doherty at 617-833-7063 or [jedlie@jedlie.com](mailto:jedlie@jedlie.com).

and the Oneness of all creation as well as to encourage the life-giving empowerment that derives from the Silence.

<http://www.friendsofsilence.net/page/welcome-friends-silence>

Vatican Radio - The Voice of the Pope and the Church in Dialogue with the World - offers streaming, podcasts, and on-demand opportunities to hear the Pope's daily homilies, masses, and special events.

<http://en.radiovaticana.va/>

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