

# *The Christhouse Newsletter*

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*For Friends and Family*

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## **PENTECOST - CELEBRATION OF GOD'S POWER TO CHANGE US**

God is described as coming to Moses hiding in the cleft of the rock by silence. God showed Moses that God was not to be confused with the power of nature.

God is described as coming to the disciples on the first Pentecost as tongues of fire and a loud wind, because they were to realize that God was a God of change, of newness, of creating all things new.

What an traumatic experience for the few new disciples to realize that the messiah was not an earthly ruler who was going to restore the power of the Jewish kingdom, that the kingdom he did preach was interior and open to all

Their values were turned upside down, for Jesus showed them that suffering was not the punishment for sin.

The great lesson for us is that we must always be ready for change, that God's creation is not static, and that we can expect to find change more than a little unsettling. It is so human to want to hang on to the past, to cling to what we think is solid and not subject to change

## **COMINGS and GOINGS: GOD AT WORK IN CHRIST HOUSE.**

Samuel came to us from .a family with refugee status that had no room for him in their tiny apartment after he turned eighteen and more children arrived. He was attending high school and came to us with a big smile. He is a good worker whose main talent seemed to be in mathematics, and he wanted to study accounting, so we applied to Job Corps here in the Bronx. After many interviews and a long wait, he was accepted and has left us to pursue his future. He knows he is welcome to visit and come for the holiday meals.



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Is it not exciting, though, to view each day as something new; to remember that God is constant creating anew, and we are part of that creation!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Residents, continued



Mamadou Diallo joined us only a few weeks ago. He fled his native Guinea because his father, a political activist, was jailed and the usual thing was to jail also the oldest son; Diallo has completed two years of college work in Guinea, taught himself English while in detention for three months, and is studying now for a GED hoping to finish college.

He has no relatives here in the USA, so he, like most of the men, spends a lot of time on the computers doing email to their friends and family back home

The other men presently here are from Chechnya, Roumania, Zaire, and Ethiopia. Some recent residents still come around for mail (safer to have it delivered here) and to say hello to their friends.

### CHANGES TO COME - HOPEFULLY

Our building dates from the 1860's so it needs some work! One stair case is very decrepit, the plumbing needs some modification, and the fence on the sidewalk has to be replaced. We are looking for grants and appreciated all that you can do to help fund this.

Christ House could not function without a board of directors, and we are extremely grateful to the men and women who have given their time and talent to this board over the years.

The present board is:

Bishop Gerald Walsh, who has graced us with his presence for the last ten years or so.. He is presently the rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers.

Bro. James V. Hanney, a member from the beginning and still our treasurer. He is the director of information systems at Ozanam Hall in Bayside, Queens.

Mr. Scott Robb, Esq., an attorney living and working in Manhattan. Previously he has dealt in selling/buying of radio stations, business ventures in Russia, and now works more with developing trade with China.

Mr. John DeRaffele, another long time member, he has his own real estate firm in New Rochelle and is most helpful when he have any problems relating to repairs and renovations.

Mr John Chermack, is the Assistant Administrator for *Hospice of New York* John is the most recent addition to the board and brings to it both his great compassion and expertise. Also a fluent Spanish speaker, which is a plus.

Bro. Thomas P Draney, who has been the chairperson since 1981 and now feels it is time for a change .

*We all wish on you the blessings of the Spirit, the Holy and Everchanging.*