

What is CRHP? Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) is a renewal weekend that runs from Saturday morning through Saturday evening, resuming Sunday morning, and concluding in the early evening. It is an opportunity to grow in your faith, spend time in prayer, reflect, and connect with other women in the parish. Here's what a few women had to say after their experience:

"I did not know what to expect when I attended the first women's CHRP in 2015. But upon entering the church hall, I witnessed a warm, relaxed setting and was greeted by loving people who fully understood my anticipations.

This proved to be the beginning of the most rewarding experience I have encountered since becoming a member of St Mary's. It has provided me with a better understanding of my faith. The positive experience prompted me to be a member of the "giving team" for the 2016 CHRP weekend.

My CHRP experiences resulted in meeting people I had often seen at church, but didn't know their name. I now have formed loving relationships with my "CHRP sisters in Christ." To this day, we still periodically get together because we so enjoy each others company.

I will always cherish the loving friendships I have formed on my CHRP weekend."

Jesus I Trust in You
Kathy Bahnaman

"I feel really blessed that I was able to attend CRHP! It was a great way to meet and connect with other women in the parish that I probably never would have had the opportunity to meet before! I made a lot of new friends over the weekend, some of whom I've become very close to! My life wouldn't be the same without having them in it now! I highly recommend CRHP to anyone in the parish, whether you just joined or have been a parishioner for years! All of your meals/snacks are provided for you, so you can just sit back, relax & take in the weekend. It's a great way to learn about other peoples' faith journeys and you don't have to share about your own journey unless you want to. I loved the talks by the Giving team. I really appreciated their candidness. I know a couple women

had life-changing experiences, so I would say go if you are able to! You never know, maybe your life will change too!! God Bless you.” -Anonymous

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

I made a Christ Renews His Parish weekend back in 1990 in my previous parish, so when the opportunity came to St. Mary three years ago, I was thrilled. I took these two days to step back from my busy life to deepen my relationship with God. We all need to this from time to time. I'm asking you to consider this for yourself. It is also a great way to meet new friends in the parish, and to feel more part of our Catholic Community here at St. Marys! During those two days you come to realize the importance of God in your everyday life. The added bonuses are that the food is fabulous, the friendships formed are great, and it's so much fun, and it's free! I really hope you can make it to the next weekend. You deserve it.

Sincerely and with God's love,

Marge Mallo

“I decided to attend CRHP two years ago because I heard so many positive things about it from my mother, mother-in-law, and other family members. I was intrigued and interested to find out more. Initially I was placed on a waiting list because I waited too long to call and the spots had filled up. I chastised myself for not calling sooner but I took the attitude that if it was meant to be, I would get in, but if not, then it was not my time. So when the church did call to let me know there was an opening, I knew it was a sign that I was meant to be there!

The two-day event was an amazing experience that I will not forget. It was definitely a "spa for the soul" as one CRHP attendee described it. I was truly humbled by the stories of incredible sacrifice, love and true suffering that the witnesses shared with total strangers. I was overwhelmed with compassion for their pain but also inspired by their strength and powerful faith. I enjoyed getting to know a community of very diverse, loving, intelligent, courageous, inspiring and sincere women. Many of these women were faces that

I had seen many times at Mass and during other parish events, so it was great to put a face to a name!

The benefits increased tenfold when I decided to join the giving team and prepare for the same experience for a new group of women (This is not required of attendees, but definitely worth it to give back!). At first I wasn't sure if I could commit to the meeting schedule, but the more meetings I attended, the more I realized that I truly wanted to be there and became increasingly more invested in the planning and preparation. I found myself looking forward to the monthly gatherings, sharing thoughts, perspectives and experiences with a group that I enjoyed being around. By sharing our life stories, challenges and rewards, I really got to know a wonderful family of women that are united by our common bond of faith.” -Karen Dilger

“My CRHP experience was a combination of community, worship, self-awareness and sharing. We prayed the rosary, went to adoration, Mass and reconciliation, and several women shared their stories. We were free to participate as much or as little as we wished. It was a real opportunity for me to get to know other women who wanted to learn and share our faith. I would encourage everyone to go!”

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24-25
-Phyllis Stanton

“I appreciate that they accommodated my special dietary needs during meals and snacks with plenty of gluten-free choices. I made some connections with other women in the parish which lead me to Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through Mary that has positively impacted my spiritual life.” - Tami B.

“Participating in Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) weekend last October truly touched my life. Throughout the entire weekend I felt love and community. It’s difficult to explain how such deep kinship could be felt with ladies that I just met. The experience was deeply moving and powerful, having a profound effect on me; often bringing me to tears. The witnessing of how God had touched the hearts and souls of these ladies re-energized me, brought me intense joy and made me feel so loved and part of St. Mary community. The weekend was a catalyst in growing deeper in relationship with Christ and in my desire to serve him more. It was nothing short of amazing.” -Marcia Frank

“I recently moved into the area and joined St. Mary parish. From the first day, I felt God’s presence here and started getting involved in various activities including CRHP. My experience was amazing. The women I met welcomed me and shared their stories in an honest and open way that touched my heart. Now I have many sisters and I am no longer feel lonely. I look forward to Mass everyday and spending time with my friends at St. Mary Parish. My faith in Jesus has come alive. I know that I am being called to share my faith with others by participating on the giving team. Romans 8:14 says, ‘Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.’” -Barb P.

“When I decided to participate in the CRHP weekend I was looking for a bit of time away from my everyday life, with the hope of a peaceful time to reconnect with God, my faith, and my general perspective. It was so much more! The Giving Team did an exceptional job creating an atmosphere of faith and peace in which to disconnect from the world around me. The food was unbelievably good and beautifully presented; and the items received to reinforce our faith understanding and practice were very generous and special. The whole thing was much “bigger” (the only word I can think of right now!) than I expected. The stories shared by the Giving Team were truly examples of how they trusted in God and let Him be the leader, comforter, and strengthener in their lives. The opportunity for Mass, Adoration, and Reconciliation were the perfect compliment to the whole experience. I recommend this weekend for anyone!” -Mary S.

“I have experienced CRHP a few times and each experience has been unique. That is how it is. God calls each participant to CRHP for His purpose for that particular person at that time. In a very general sense, I think God called me to CRHP to form friendships with authentic women that I never new I wanted or

needed before. Through these relationships God has given me healing, joy, peace, and love to many more amazing blessings to count.” -Anonymous

“One of the best things about my CRHP experience was meeting a group of ladies who shared a common thread. Although they all live busy lives, they nonetheless answered the call to deepen, enhance and renew their relationship with God by participating in a CRHP weekend.

A year and a half after my CRHP weekend, this is how that experience has strengthened my relationship with God:

- It gave me a much deeper appreciation of the Eucharist. I knew that Holy Communion was the Body and Blood of Christ, but somehow through the years, I lost the ‘wonder and awe’ of what that really meant. Through testimonies of my CRHP friends and the example of one particular friend, I experienced a slow reawakening in my heart, which enabled me to once again look upon the Eucharist as a precious gift.
- I honestly thought I knew pretty much all there was to know about my faith after twelve years of Catholic education, teaching R.E., and attending adult faith classes through the years; but soon discovered there was much I didn’t know and a lot that I wanted to learn. CRHP inspired me to join the Bible studies offered at St. Mary, which helped me to see Jesus and the Blessed Mother in so many different ways. It is amazing to me that the words of Jesus, written so many centuries ago, still apply and give meaning to our daily lives.
- It made me realize the importance of daily prayer and I became more aware of how God is part of every moment in my life. Before CRHP, I prayed everyday, but sometimes it was haphazard. Now, I make time for quality prayer each day and take advantage of the many prayer opportunities offered at St. Mary’s-Adoration, First Saturday Mass with rosary/chaplet afterwards, attending Mass during the week, more frequent confession, etc.
- It also made me aware of the importance of reading Scripture. I’m getting so proficient now that I no longer have to flip through the entire Bible to find a certain book! I’ve incorporated Scripture into my daily prayer life.
- I have made so many dear friends through CRHP and the difference between them and my regular friends is that I can feel God’s presence with us and He becomes a part of our conversations, which is a wonderful blessing!

So, if you've been thinking that your faith journey could use a jolt and your spirit would benefit from a faith infusion, please register for the CRHP weekend scheduled for October 27 & 28, 2018. It will change your life!"

-Anonymous

"CHRP gave me the opportunity to hear the struggles and challenges that women overcame by faith in God and the support of the Church community which were very inspiring. CHRP reconfirmed the importance of my faith and prayer in my life." -Cookie Halaby

