

Reflections

Volume 15:2

NEWSLETTER

Listening to God in the Silence

by Mike Haigerty

I've lived here at Fatima now for more than four years as the "caretaker"—being here to help the guests after hours. People have asked "What's it like living there? Aren't you afraid to be there by yourself in that big building?" Others, who have had the blessing of making retreats here for many years, are almost jealous. As one man told me, "There are a lot of people who would love to live where you live" and I think he was referring to himself. The truth is, at times being here by myself is lonely and can lead to feelings of isolation, though it's gotten easier. I don't lock up the building at night with my police flashlight in my hand as I did when I first moved in here, expecting ghosts around the next corner. It's also true that I'm richly blessed with the company of dedicated staff and volunteers, beautiful grounds to walk on and care for, a saintly retired priest as a neighbor and counselor, and a peaceful chapel and the Presence of Christ within it just down the hall. Now I can't say that it's all easy. My sleep schedule follows that of the retreatants, so if the house is full of joy-filled retreatants, praising God and enjoying fellowship at 2 a.m., then I'm up with them, though I'm probably in my room praying that they'll get tired and go to sleep!

I truly thank God for all the blessings of Fatima, but there is one more important benefit that I've received: God has been (and still is) trying to teach me many things about myself, about life, and about God over these years, things I needed to be here to learn. Because by being here I have had the opportunity to

live in a crucible of sorts—the crucible of silence, solitude, and prayer, three disciplines Henri Nouwen beautifully describes in his book *The Way of the Heart*.

As he says, it is only by separating ourselves from worldly distractions, quieting our minds, and being open to God's voice in our hearts—listening to God—that we can distinguish between our true and false selves, begin to see who God really is, and allow God to transform us into what we were created to be—lovers of God above all else. As Nouwen says, this is the ancient wisdom of the desert fathers and mothers, who did not go into the desert to run away, but rather to enter into the "furnace of transformation."

Like most retreatants, being at Fatima has given me many opportunities to experience both the warmth and the pain of this "furnace" of transformation, and I must say at times I have not taken advantage of them—nor have I wanted to, unfortunately. Many times I have run away, causing pain to others and myself. It can be quite scary to see very clearly the ways one needs to change and the steps involved in changing. But that's



Photo by Kevin DePrey

the point of the Christian life: to be made more like Christ, who often described the difficulties in being his disciple. But I continue to be blessed with the option of experiencing God's transforming love in the silence, solitude, and spaces for prayer. I hope many of you have benefited as I have from the gift this place is, even if you only "live here" for a few days on occasion. One way you can continue to benefit, even after leaving, is to remember that though it is easier to have opportunities for spiritual practices at a retreat center, it is not impossible to practice these disciplines after leaving. To make space and time for God and God alone each day is a challenge yes, but none more important to take up. Each of us—whether living alone in a retreat center or in a house full of people—is called to deepen our relationship with God by entering into that "desert place" that we create where God can transform our minds, hearts, and lives.

Look inside for your Retreat Schedule!

by Kevin DePrey

Coming in on Sunday morning following a Lenten retreat is a life-giving experience for me. Even after sixteen years as Director of this house of renewal, I'm still amazed at the stories our guests tell me about how they experienced God through our gifted retreat presenters, an encounter with nature and sharing the stories of every day life with others who believe. Every significant experience that happens here is new each time.

In an effort to tell the story of what happens here at Fatima, I turned to the document, *Serving Life & Faith* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It names eight characteristics in Adult Religious Formation that I believe describe the retreat experience:

1) Relational

To walk with Jesus, we are called to walk the journey of faith in relationship with others. Most retreatants come to focus and work on their own relationship with God, yet their experience is graced in many ways by others on the weekend. They unwittingly become part of a community of retreatants who share a similar journey. Our staff and volunteers strive to provide hospitality that recognizes the splendor of God in each person. In turn, they grace us with the joy of recognizing Christ in each one.

2) Life Centered

Good retreats relate to participants' lives by giving them the opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of their faith, and apply Christ's teachings to the realities of their daily lives. It is here that the best of parish life can be spread to other parishes.

3) Empowering

Retreats help people to know and discover themselves as well as what they learn about God. This information empowers and builds self-esteem. Our guests recognize the role they can play in other's lives by sharing their own faith experiences; and their zeal often propels them into meaningful volunteer activities.

4) Communal

Retreats, even silent ones, should be an experience of the



Photo by Rich Clark

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Photo by Kevin DePrey

Church as a Community. Praying with and for those sharing a retreat experience creates unique and rich bonds.

5) Liberating

The Good News of Jesus Christ, the story of his death and resurrection, is a story of liberating us from what binds us. Retreats allow us the time to discover the very things we need to be freed from. It is not uncommon for retreatants to be surprised in the answers they discover and to begin the process of making changes.

6) Developmental

Our Faith formation is a lifelong process. Along the way our Lord encourages us to move to deeper levels of faith, understanding and commitment. Retreats can be a critical aid to this formation and development. Jesus modeled the value of stepping away from our daily responsibilities to replenish our resources. Valuing it as a practice, rather than a one-time experience pays dividends in clarity, focus and balance.

7) Integrative

Retreats should seek to provide a holistic and integrated approach to faith formation. Typically, each of us are comfortable in some areas and uncomfortable in others. The spiritual life is a call to balance, and an awareness of the sacred in every moment of our lives.

8) Transcending

Retreats transcend one's own personal needs and interest by encouraging an even wider view of God and our world. Our guests tell us they arrive believing they are doing something good for themselves, but they see they are better spouses, parents, parishioners, friends and workers as a result of their retreat experience.

Retreats are spiritually renewing experiences. Connecting these characteristics of adult religious formation might help us all explain to others how and why retreats are richly rewarding. Come, practice the art of spiritual renewal!

Program Guide: June to December 2003



"Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as done for the Lord..."

—Colossians 3:23

May 30-June 1, 2003

26th annual “Charlie Martin” Men’s Serenity retreat

Setting Aside Old Ideas

Fr. V. and Mike L.

For men whose lives have been affected by alcohol. Spend a weekend with other men who have experience, strength and hope to share. Call Fatima for a flyer and more information (317) 545-7681.

Registration fee of \$135/individual includes program, meals, and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$60/person.

Monday, June 2, 2003 9:00am-4:00pm

Annual Reflection Day

Fr. Jim Farrell

Prayer

Prayer is an essential ingredient to one's life with God. Defined in a thousand different ways, each year Father Jim offers insight and anecdotes about various styles of prayer. These tools, to get to the "heart" of God from where you are in your life, require practice and commitment. Join us for a day that will renew that commitment to pray, put your spiritual life in a new perspective, and deepen your friendship with God. The day will include several prayer exercises and an opportunity to enjoy a good lunch with new and old friends. Though the title remains the same each year—most if not all of the material is new. At your request, the length of the day has been extended; those who need to leave at 2:00pm will have the opportunity to do so without disrupting the program.

Fr. Jim Farrell is an engaging storyteller and gifted retreat leader who serves as pastor of St. Barnabas parish in Indianapolis.

Registration fee of \$30 per person includes program and lunch. This program will be repeated on June 26.

Thursday, June 26 9:00am-4:00pm

Annual Reflection Day

Fr. Jim Farrell

Prayer

This is a repeat of the program described on June 2.

September 7-12, 2003

Worker's Retreat

Fr. Jim Farrell

Spirituality in the Workplace: adjusting the focus of our everyday lives

Many of us struggle with how to make our beliefs work in our everyday life. This week-long retreat experience is specifically geared for the worker who can't afford to take time away from work for prayer, quiet, rest and renewal. The retreat begins on Sunday night after 4:00pm and ends on Friday morning. Each morning retreatants will rise for breakfast and morning prayer before leaving for work, and then return to Fatima each evening for dinner, mass, a spiritual conference and quiet time for personal prayer and reading and rest. There will be opportunity for individual conferences with the retreat director and the sacrament of reconciliation. The retreat will provide an opportunity to be renewed in our personal prayer life, recommitted to a spirituality that works at home and at the office, and freed from the concerns of daily life for a few hours each day to lower our stress quotient.

Fr. Jim Farrell is a priest of 25+ years. He is an engaging storyteller and gifted retreat leader who serves as pastor of St. Barnabas parish in Indianapolis.

Registration fee of \$225/individual (a mere \$45 per day); \$325/married couple includes program, breakfast and dinner each day, and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$70/person.

October 10-12, 2003

Scripture retreat

Fr. Patrick Keith Hosey and Sr. Maureen Mangen, CPPS

Praying the Scriptures

Being able to pray the scriptures more intentionally is a way of connecting with the blessings of being a Christian. This retreat, based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius, will help you focus as you listen to Jesus' words and discern what they mean for you today. You will have the opportunity to share with other participants or reflect quietly in private as you respond to the Scriptures.

Fr. Hosey is Co-Director of John XXIII center in Hartford City with Sr. Maureen "Mo" Mangen, a Sister of the Precious Blood. Registration fee of \$145/individual; \$270/married couple includes program, meals, and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$45/person.

Program Guide: June to December 2003

Tuesday, October 7 9:00am to 2:00pm

Fr. Al Ajamie

In his document *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (The Rosary of the Virgin Mary), released in October 2002, Pope John Paul II added five new mysteries about Jesus' public life. For the first time since the mid-sixteenth century, we have new mysteries to ponder as we pray this beautiful and powerful prayer. These mysteries are drawn from the Gospel of John. A theologian, the details in John's Gospel are full of rich meaning. As the "Year of the Rosary" comes to a close, spend some time with these new mysteries so that you may have a deeper understanding of the stories behind them and use them more effectively for your personal prayer. We will pray these mysteries together as part of our day. This program will be repeated October 20 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Fr. Al Ajamie is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who is active in many renewal programs including Christ Renews, and the Charismatic movement. He is a priest of 50+ years who prays the rosary regularly.

Registration fee of \$30 per person includes program and lunch.

Reflection Day

The Rosary's new Mysteries of Light

October 10-12, 2003

Rich Clark, Kevin DePrey, Greg Lucas, Gary Potts

There are many parallels between the spiritual life and photography: becoming "awake" to what's around you, participating fully in the present moment, and the value of practicing perseverance, patience and pausing. This hands-on retreat workshop will explore the connection between spirituality and photography; the pace will be slower and more reflective than a typical photography workshop. Schedule includes prayer, field work, small group sessions and time for one-on-one work with the retreat team. Photographers of all skill levels are welcome, but you must bring your own equipment.

The retreat team of Clark, DePrey, Lucas and Potts represents a rare friendship and years of photographic experience.

Registration fee of \$145/individual; \$270/married couple includes program, meals, and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$45/person.

Photography Retreat

The Spiritual Practice of Photography

Monday, October 20, 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Fr. Al Ajamie

This is a repeat of the program on October 7. Due to time constraints, the program will include talks by Fr. Ajamie and a reflective group experience of praying the rosary, but Mass will not be included.

Registration fee of \$25 includes program and a light dinner.

Evening of Reflection

The Rosary's new Mysteries of Light

November 7-9, 2003

Fr. Tom Widner, SJ

Spirit and Place retreat

November 14-16, 2003

Fr. Dan Davis and team

Retreat for Separated & Divorced Catholics

Many divorced and separated Catholics feel isolated and abandoned by the Church when their parish staff may not even know of their painful situation. In a safe and confidential environment, persons in transition are invited to come together for information and support. Presented in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Office of Family Life and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana's Office of Family Life, and various local support groups.

Fr. Dan Davis, a Dominican priest, is Chaplin for the Lafayette diocese Divorce Ministry. He serves as Pastor of St Thomas Aquinas parish in West Lafayette, Purdue University's Neuman Center. Prior to joining the Dominicans and becoming a priest at age 46, Fr. Davis was President of a High School in Oak Park, Illinois.

Registration fee of \$145/individual includes program, meals, and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$45/person.

December 6-8, 2003

Charismatic Retreat

December 12-14, 2003

Jack Shea

Advent Retreat

Renewing Our Spirits: the Images and Stories of Advent and Christmas

Retreat, Reflect, Renew

For more information contact: Fatima Retreat House

(317) 545-7681

fatima@archindy.org

www.archindy.org/fatima

5353 East 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226

Remember—keep this guide as your reference!

Carnevale 2003

Thanks to more than fifty volunteers who made this ninth annual event possible, especially Co-Chairs Sarah Potts and Susan DeLisle, and Teri Hecht, Event Decorations. We're also particularly grateful to Professor Jim Bennett and IUPUI Event Catering Management Class and Fatima's League of Volunteers.



*I to r: Susan DeLisle, Sarah Potts,
Kevin DePrey and Teri Hecht*

*The first course was served during the reception,
as guests decided which prizes they wanted to be
eligible for with their free raffle tickets.*



*I to r: Debbie Perkins, Karen Carmichael and
Theresa Warner of St. Barnabas*



*Jan Bauman, who will serve
with Susan DeLisle as co-chair
of the 2004 event.*

*"A place where
God's love is
lived and it
shows."*

*(Christ the Savior
Lutheran Church 2/03)*



Fr. Jim Bonke and Jeanne Atkins

GOOD NEWS

*"If I were asked why should
the ordinary Catholic make a
retreat, my first response would
be: 'Because that's where we pay
attention to what God is telling
us in our life—and most of us
have to go aside to do that
because of the hectic lives we lead.'"*

—Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.,
Archbishop of Indianapolis



Fr. Ted Haag, ofm

*"It is a place of love,
comfort and joy.
The Holy Spirit meets
you at the door.
There is always a smile."*

(Frankie Morton Ministries 1/03)

OTHER INFORMATION:

DEPOSITS: Your per person non-refundable deposit holds a space for you at the retreat; balance is due upon arrival. See program listing for deposit amount. If you prefer to pay the full amount in advance and must cancel, your registration will be refunded, minus the deposit. Reflection day registration must be paid at the time of registration.

GENESIS FUND: Those who are unable to meet the cost of a weekend retreat may receive assistance from the Genesis Fund. Inquire with registrar.

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE: (317) 545-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima

Sign Me Up!

CLIP AND MAIL REGISTRATION

Name _____ D phone (_____) _____

Address _____ E phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retreat _____ Date _____

Special diet request _____ Parish _____

Need first floor room _____ Suitemate requested _____

E-mail address @ .

Non-refundable deposit \$ _____ enclosed. or Full payment enclosed \$ _____

“Reflection is the way we ‘own’ the significant experiences of our lives. If they don’t enter into who we are, we won’t gain wisdom comparable to our experience... We are meant to be a spiral of action and reflection, action and reflection.”

—author Jack Shea



Photo by Rich Clark

Adjusting the focus of our everyday lives

Many of us struggle with how to make our beliefs work in our everyday life. We resolve to live our faith on Sunday but come mid-week we wonder if it is possible to live it in the workplace. Affected by the culture in which we work, the people who surround us day after day, we find it difficult to stay focused on who we are and how we want to be.

This September 7-12 Fatima will launch its first Worker’s Retreat, so named because it is specifically geared for the worker who can’t afford to take time away from work for prayer, quiet, rest and renewal.

The retreat invites workers to come away for a while and rest. It does so while recognizing that life goes on, and for some, work demands do not cease. So here is an invitation to come away to Fatima and find refreshment, light and peace for you as you continue meeting the challenges of work.

The retreat begins on Sunday night September 7, retreatants arrive at Fatima and settle in after 4:00 p.m. Each morning retreatants will rise for breakfast and morning prayer before leaving for work and then return to Fatima each evening for dinner, mass, a spiritual conference and quiet time for

personal prayer and reading and rest. There will be opportunity for individual conferences with the retreat director and the sacrament of reconciliation. The retreat ends on Friday morning.

The theme of the retreat is “Spirituality in the Workplace, adjusting the focus of our everyday lives.” The retreat will provide an opportunity to be renewed in our personal prayer life, recommitted to a spirituality that works at home and at the office, and freed from the concerns of daily life for a few hours each day to lower our stress quotient. The Worker’s Retreat offers a new avenue for spiritual renewal. All at Fatima are excited about what this new retreat format offers to our many retreatants who have asked for something that helps brings spirituality out of the weekend and into their lives.

—Fr. Jim Farrell



Fr. Jim Farrell

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Reflections is published quarterly by Fatima Retreat House. Its main purpose is to offer information about programs and news of events for the board of directors, the members of the league, the many volunteers, and benefactors and friends of Fatima.

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Editor Colette Fike

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fatima@archindy.org

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*"Because of your choice
to assist me [with
Genesis Fund] I was
able to..leave the world
behind...As a non-
traditional full time student,
I was given an extraordinary
opportunity to collect
myself...and recharge my
spiritual batteries."*

—anonymous

Genesis Fund

The Genesis Fund was started in 1987 to help individuals overcome financial obstacles to experiencing a retreat. Funding is available depending upon need; privacy will be respected. Donations are always welcome. We do our best to stretch these limited funds in order to help as many as possible. This year it looks as though we may have twice the number of guests using the Genesis Fund as we did three years ago. Won't you consider helping someone meet the gap between the cost of the retreat and what they can afford? Donations of any amount are appreciated.

*"I was able to be still and united with God in a very quiet and powerful way...without the benefit
of the Genesis Fund I would never have found this powerful prayerful method to be open to God's
presence in my life."*

—anonymous

I wish to make a donation of \$_____ to Fatima. Genesis Fund Endowment Memorial Gift

I plan to include Fatima in my will.

Please tell us how we can serve you better: _____

Please mail to: Fatima Retreat House, 5353 East 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226-1486. Thank You.