



Reflections

BELIEGIOUS

Summer 2006 Newsletter

Does the Archdiocese Really Need A Retreat House?

I recently attended a Retreats International regional meeting. The group meets twice a year, hosted by a different retreat house each time. In May we were at Mt. St. Francis near Louisville, KY. It is a nice facility sitting on hundreds of acres of beautiful land. As a matter of fact, each facility I've been to has been peaceful and comfortable with beautiful, well-maintained grounds.

Over the course of the three days, there is a chance to dialog with other retreat house directors about common issues — what is working, what is not, staffing, marketing, etc. Invariably, the talk turns to financial concerns — lower retreat numbers, higher insurance and utility costs, buildings in need of repair and the uncomfortable reality of needing to constantly look for ways to fund what we believe to be a vital spiritual ministry.

Retreat houses all over the country are closing their doors. Independent houses struggle to make it on their own and houses subsidized by a religious order or a Catholic diocese (such as OLF) may struggle as dollars are stretched thin to help the many other ministries being subsidized stay afloat as well.

Our Lady of Fatima is fortunate in that, after several years of financial concern and many difficult questions needing to be considered, the decision was made to keep the retreat house operating as an agency of the archdiocese. Things have stabilized, numbers of retreatants are on the rise, support systems are in place and the future appears secure. But with an always-tight budget and a constant need for marketing and promotional efforts to help maintain the facility and keep retreatants coming, one might wonder, "Does the archdiocese really need a retreat house?" or re-stated, "Is it really worth it?"

Those questions are answered on page six of every newsletter we send out. There you will find a half-page of quotes from retreatants about their powerful experiences, or their new perspectives, or the gift of solitude and time for discernment they were given.

Those questions are answered every time a volunteer shows up to work — here to give back to a place that has impacted his or her life.

Those questions are answered every Monday through Friday at around 6:15 a.m. It is at that time each morning that the same white car pulls into our driveway and parks near the sidewalk leading to the shrine of Our Lady. A man in a suit gets out, walks up the sidewalk to the shrine, spends ten or fifteen quiet minutes — sometimes standing, sometimes sitting on the bench — before returning to his car and heading to work. He can now start his day.



Those questions were answered by the family I watched walk the labyrinth together on a cold Sunday afternoon in January.

Those questions are answered each time I see an engaged couple on a Tobit weekend sitting and talking about their future together.

Those questions were answered on April 2nd when forty-eight people of all ages showed up to walk the outside Stations of the Cross together --- through the woods, in the rain. At the conclusion, when I apologized to these folks that we had to walk in the rain, a woman touched my arm and said, "Oh no...the rain made it perfect."

Those questions were answered when an inner-city high school group joined us for a day of leadership training back in March. When we went out to the wooded trails for one of the day's activities, disposable cameras came out of several pockets. This is not unusual for youth groups, so I waited for them to snap pictures of their friends in silly poses or swinging from tree branches. But that is not what happened. They began to take pictures of trees, of the cardinal perched on the rail of the bridge, of the creek bed, of the sunlight breaking through the treetops --- of nature. Then it dawned on me that for these kids coming from their concrete world, this was a tourist spot. This was a memory in the making. And I cannot even express the absolute look of awe on the faces of these kids when just a few minutes later, as the students wound their way along the trails, two deer made an appearance --- stepping suddenly onto the path up ahead, pausing for a moment in front of us, and then just as suddenly darting through the woods to safety. A moment --- a snapshot --- that perhaps will never be experienced by these kids again. At the end of the day one student thanked me for allowing her to come to this "holy place."

continued on page 2

And finally, those questions were answered poignantly in a letter I recently received.

I drove three hours to be at your retreat house because of the speaker who was presenting the day of reflection. I ended up getting so much more out of my time there. On July 8, 2004, my daughter died suddenly from a blood clot in her leg that broke loose and went to her heart. My other daughter was beginning her senior year of high school and I focused all of my energy on her. I put my grieving on hold, as well as my anger. I blamed God for taking my daughter so suddenly and without cause.

While there I spoke with Fr. Don and was able to release some of that anger and grief that was bottled up inside. I came away not only renewed in spirit and prayer, but also with a new self-respect and self-confidence. I plan on making a journey to your wonderful place as part of my future Lenten seasons --- even with a three hour drive!

“Does the archdiocese really need a retreat house?” “Is it really worth it?” I could write an entire book full of examples of how individuals have experienced spirit-driven renewal. If but one person comes closer to God, finds peace and consolation, re-discovers faith, is given clarity or simply begins to ask the important questions of life, then the answer to those questions is a resounding “Yes!”

Rick Wagner
Director

Thank you to all of the contributors to the 2005 Our Lady of Fatima Annual Appeal!

Your generosity allows us to continue our important ministry of spirit-driven renewal!

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(\$1,000+)**

Jim and Barb Curtis
Dorothy Demuth
Craig and Lee Doyle

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(\$500-\$999)**

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A Marian Feast is a big hit!

A Marian Feast, a first annual fund-raising event held on May 4th, was a huge success!

A major fund-raising dinner like *A Marian Feast* has not been held on behalf of Our Lady of Fatima since the popular *Carnivale* event was last held in 2003. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into this event to make sure we picked up where *Carnivale* left off.

To that end, last summer a group of thirty people met to discuss what type of fund-raising event Our Lady of Fatima should have. Included in the group were staff members, volunteers, representatives from the archdiocese, professional fund-raisers and others from the Catholic community. The result was a May (the month of Our Lady) event which included a wonderful served dinner, door prizes, silent auction items, beautiful music performed by Tony Avellana, a short reflection by Fr. Jim Farrell, and the presentation of our first *Spirit-Driven Renewal Awards*.

With the support of the OLF community, the generosity of many donors and the hard work of staff and volunteers, the evening came off beautifully and was received very positively by all in attendance. Just over 200 folks joined us at Marian, Inc. for the inaugural event. There was a real energy in the room and a true sense of community. People *wanted* to be there --- not only to catch up with friends and enjoy the festivities of the evening, but also because they truly care about Our Lady of Fatima and her mission.

We are happy to announce the first *A Marian Feast* raised over \$21,000.00 (after expenses)! It was a great start to an annual event we are confident will continue to grow each year. **Thank you** to the countless number of people involved in the planning and organizing of the event, the many donors of door prizes and silent auction items, the Witchger family



and Marian, Inc., the financial supporters, and of course the 200+ people who attended the event. We appreciate your support!


And finally, we would like to acknowledge the recipients of the first-ever *Spirit-Driven Renewal Awards*.

The 2006 award winners included:

Fr. Jim Farrell
Dan Hoyt
Boots Kervan

A very deserving group --- **congratulations!**

The event is already on the books for next year --- May 3, 2007. If you attended this year, we hope to see you again --- and bring a friend! If you did not attend, we missed you! Please join us in 2007!



2006 Tobit Weekends

June 16-18
July 21-23
September 15-17
October 20-22
November 3-5

**Seniors, Volunteers
and Friends Monthly
Mass and Social**

June 26
July 31
August 28
no mass in September
October 30
November 27
no mass in December

9:00 a.m. each date

Sunday Night "101" Series

June 25 "Centering Prayer 101"
July 30 "Parables 101"
August 27 "Religious Orders 101"
September 10 "Church History 101"
October 8 "Retreats 101"
November 5 "Liturgy 201"
December 3 "Vocations 101"

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. each date

Program Guide, June 13 thru August 28, 2006

June 13, 2006

“The Final Choice”

Sr. Diane Carollo, author and Director of the Office for Pro-Life Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Sr. Diane uses her first novel, *The Final Choice*, as the foundation for this evening program. With all of the temptations of today's culture, there is a need to highlight the necessity of faith, prayer and trust in God for every individual. The evening is appropriate for adults as well as high school age children.

Program begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Cost is just \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. All proceeds will go to our Genesis Fund, which is used to help subsidize the cost of weekend retreats for those who may not be able to afford the full fee.

June 16-18, 2006

“Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend”

A communication retreat for engaged couples or couples considering engagement. Registration form available on-line at www.archindy.org/fatima

June 18-23, 2006

“Attitude of Gratitude: Religious Life Refreshed”

Sr. Romona Nowak, OP, Pastoral Associate at St. Barnabas Parish and certified spiritual director leads this retreat for women religious

An attitude of gratitude doesn't imply being in a constant state of exuberance. It involves focusing on what is already in our lives instead of what is missing. Topics for the retreat include: wonder, partnership with God, serendipity, the miracle in the mirror, daily riches, service, affirmation, perspective and silver linings.

Check-in begins on Sunday evening at 4:00 p.m. and the program concludes on Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

Cost is \$300.00 per person

June 25, 2006

“Centering Prayer 101”

Gwen Goss, Director of Adult Faith Formation for St. Louis de Monfort Parish in Fishers and certified spiritual director

One of the greatest contributions to Christianity is the conviction and experiential knowledge that God is available to us. Even more, that God seeks us out. Our search for God is merely a response to God's pursuit of us. We are desired! Centering prayer is a way to consciously make ourselves available to this God who pursues us. This evening program will take a cursory look at the basic elements of centering prayer: prayer as a relationship, the method of centering prayer, use of the sacred word and dealing with thoughts, and centering prayer as mission.

Program begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Cost is just \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. All proceeds will go to our Genesis Fund, which is used to help subsidize the cost of weekend retreats for those who may not be able to afford the full fee.

June 26, 2006

Seniors, Volunteers and Friends monthly mass and social

Fr. Tom Stepanski celebrates mass beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Note to regular attendees: Continental breakfast will be served before mass (at 8:30 a.m.) on this date rather than after.

June 26, 2006

“Retirement: Opportunity or Disappointment?”

Fr. Tom Stepanski, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Growing older and embracing retirement means we need to understand our role more fully. This program will explore ways to do this. This period of our lives can indeed be both a blessing and a joy.

Check-in and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Program will conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$30.00 per person and includes continental breakfast, mass, program and lunch.

Current volunteers check your April *Volunteer Newsletter* for special pricing!

July 10-14, 2006

CYO Grasshopper Day Camp

Day Camp for children ages 5-8. Half-day or full-day options.

Sorry! This program is sold out!

July 21-23, 2006

“Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend”

A communication retreat for engaged couples or couples considering engagement. Registration form available on-line at www.archindy.org/fatima

July 25, 2006

“Sharing Your Faith Journey”

Fr. Larry Crawford, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis

Catholics are frequently hesitant to tell others about our faith. The evangelical religions are the fastest growing religions in the U.S. today. How can we break out of our comfort zone, tell others about our faith and invite them to join us? How do we answer the call that was issued by Pope Paul VI in his encyclical “On Evangelization?” How do you answer the Gospel call: “Go and tell your brothers what you have seen and heard.” Fr. Larry will lead the participants through scripture reflection, will share stories of his experience in ministry and and invite you to share our lived experience. Go tell the Good News!

Check-in and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Program will conclude at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Cost is \$30.00 per person and includes continental breakfast, mass, program and lunch.

July 30, 2006

“Parables 101: Paradoxes, Not Problems”

Richard W. Smith, educator and international presenter

Are you curious? Are you searching and seeking? Do you learn by listening, reflecting, writing and conversing? Do you love stories? If so, please join us for 'Parables 101: Paradoxes, Not Problems.' During our time together we will explore the purpose, power and paradox of parables.

Program begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Cost is just \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. All proceeds will go to our Genesis Fund, which is used to help subsidize the cost of weekend retreats for those who may not be able to afford the full fee.

July 31, 2006

Seniors, Volunteers and Friends monthly mass and social

Fr. Don Schmidlin celebrates mass beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by continental breakfast and social time



Summer 2006

www.archindy.org/fatima

August 27, 2006

“Religious Orders 101”

Brother Joseph Umile, C.S.C., President of Bishop Chatard High School and Holy Cross Brother

Holy Cross, Franciscan, Benedictine, Jesuit and many others --- all communities with a foundation in the Catholic faith. What are the commonalities of the religious orders? What are the differences between them? What type of person chooses the life of a religious? Once they have chosen this life, what is expected of them? What career choices are available to them?

Using personal experience and his theological background, Br. Joe sorts through the various religious orders to help us gain a clearer understanding of the basic beliefs of each order and of the men and women who choose to be a part of a religious community.

Cost is just \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. All proceeds will go to our Genesis Fund, which is used to help subsidize the cost of weekend retreats for those who may not be able to afford the full fee.

August 28, 2006

Seniors, Volunteers and Friends monthly mass and social

Fr. Don Schmidlin celebrates mass beginning at 9:00 a.m. followed by continental breakfast and social time

Future programs at a glance:

September 22, 2006

“The Immaculate Conception and the Dignity of Man”

Tim Staples, nationally acclaimed Catholic apologist, speaks to women only at this special evening event. Tim gives the biblical and reasonable evidence for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and shows us why this doctrine is crucial for us to understand. Not

only does Mary lead us to her Son and to the Blessed Trinity, but she also teaches us who we are as Christians. To understand the Immaculate Conception reveals to us our own dignity as sons and daughters of God.

Tim Staples will be a featured speaker at the Indiana Catholic Men's Conference at the Indianapolis Convention Center on September 23rd.

Program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. Cost will be just \$10.00 per person.

October 5, 2006

Annual Volunteer League “High Tea”

December 14, 2006

Dinner and Christmas Concert with Tony Avellana

January 6

“A Table for Three”

Fr. Troy Overton, OFM leads this retreat for married couples. As the title indicates, married couples need to continue to look for ways to make room for Jesus at their table. This unique one-day retreat will focus on how to invite Jesus deeper into your relationship. Program includes presentations and time to reflect both alone and together as a couple. The evening will end with a candlelight dinner, closing vespers, a renewal of vows and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Cost will be \$125.00 per couple. For 'get-away' time, couples may opt to spend the night at the retreat house on Friday evening for an additional \$35.00, but no meals or formal program will be available.

February 23-25, 2007

Matthew Kelly comes to OLF!

See page 8 for full details and registration form for this special event!

Our website is updated weekly! Check it regularly to see new events as they are added!

CLIP AND MAIL

Our Lady of Fatima Event Registration Form

All events detailed on pages 4-5

Call 545-7681 with questions!

Please register me for the following event(s):

Event	Date	Cost	Amount enclosed
“The Final Choice”	June 13	\$10 per person \$25 per family	_____
“Attitude of Gratitude: Religious Life Refreshed”	June 18-23	\$300 per person for women religious only	_____
“Centering Prayer 101”	June 25	\$10 per person \$25 per family	_____
“Retirement: Opportunity or Disappointment?”	June 26	\$30 per person	_____
“Sharing Your Faith Journey”	July 25	\$30 per person	_____
“Parables 101: Paradoxes, Not Problems”	July 30	\$10 per person \$25 per family	_____
“Religious Orders 101”	August 27	\$10 per person \$25 per family	_____

Name: _____ Additional donation to OLF _____

Address: _____ City / Zip: _____ Total amount due _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____ Total amount paid _____

I need a first floor room _____ Balance due _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Please mail to: Our Lady Of Fatima Retreat House
5353 E.56th Street ▪ Indianapolis, IN 46226

What people are saying about Our Lady of Fatima

“How simple can it be...to just fall in love with God!”

–Fr. Mike McKinney’s Day of Reflection on ‘Simplicity’

“Our Lady of Fatima is a beautiful place to get away from the distractions of daily life and focus on my life with Christ.”

–Fr. Mike McKinney’s Day of Reflection on ‘Simplicity’

“I gained a way to bring peace and joy back into my life.”

–Sr. Romona Nowak’s Lenten weekend retreat

“I was looking to find peace after losing my wife of 50 years to cancer...and I found it.”

–Fr. Jim Farrell’s Lenten weekend retreat

“What a weekend! I experienced a deep, deep presence of God and felt his intense love for me.”

–Fr. Jim Farrell’s Lenten weekend retreat

“This weekend brought my partner and I closer spiritually and I don’t think that closeness would have been achieved otherwise.”

–February Tobit marriage preparation weekend

“Beautiful! This is a jewel of a place that surprised me --- being so close and yet I’d never been here before!”

–St. Matthew Women’s Retreat



Archbishop Daniel Buechlein leads a Day of Reflection for over sixty retreatants

“The Lord is close to everyone who prays to him, to all who truly pray to him.”

Psalm 145:18

The labyrinth as a prayer tool

As promised in the last newsletter, with this issue we begin a series of brief articles on walking the labyrinth. Rather than focus on the history behind the labyrinth, we will instead look at how the labyrinth can be used as a personal prayer tool.

The 40' x 40' maze-like structure that is the labyrinth can be somewhat intimidating. Surely there is a right way and a wrong way to walk the labyrinth --- surely there is training needed. The fact is there is no right way and wrong way. As a matter of fact, the beauty of the labyrinth is that it is personal. Individuals make their labyrinth walk their own in the purpose, speed and prayerful manner with which they walk it. So the first step in walking the labyrinth is to relax, comfortable in the idea that you are not 'doing it wrong.'

Next, while the labyrinth was referred to as a maze-like structure, it is not a maze at all --- quite the opposite. A maze has multiple entrances, exits and dead-ends and is intended to confuse. A labyrinth has one way in, one way out, no dead-ends and is intended to give clarity. It is a path.

Some say walking the labyrinth is a threefold path bringing about a deeper union with God:

The walk from the entrance to its center represents a purging or letting go of the things that block communication with God.



Our Lady of Fatima's full-size labyrinth sits behind the chapel on the west side of the building

The second stage may be found in the center of the labyrinth itself. It is here that the walker receives illumination or simply rests in whatever the experience offers.

The walk out, re-tracing one's steps to exit the labyrinth, is thought to provide an opportunity to integrate any insights gained into one's daily life.

Those are the basic nuts and bolts. In the next newsletter, we will look at the physical walk itself and some examples of how you can make it your own.



Have you been out to Our Lady of Fatima lately?

If you have not been out to Our Lady of Fatima in the past year or so, you have missed out on quite a few changes. Through the generosity of many special people, we have been able to accomplish the following:

- All hallways and common areas have been re-painted
- Guest rooms have all new bedspreads, pillows and towels
- New dining room tables, as well as new tablecloths, glass tabletops, and lazy susans

What is still to come?:

- All new blankets for the guest rooms
- Re-painting of the guest rooms
- New laptop computer and LCD projector
- More cabinets in dining room to match existing ones

These items are in addition to the work we hope to begin soon thanks to our capital campaign. That work will include an elevator and handicap restrooms facilities, new heating and cooling systems, and continued upgrade of our guest rooms.

Some items we would like to purchase should more funds come our way:

- Lighting of the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
- More outdoor seating --- benches, etc.
- Portable sound system

The retreat house is going through *spirit-driven renewal* itself! If you see something on this last list you would like to pay for, contact Rick at 545-7681 or rwagner@archindy.org to discuss it.

Thank you to all who have helped make all of these upgrades possible!

Our Lady of Fatima in pictures!



Cindy and Tom Mattingly take a break from volunteering to smile for the camera



Oscar and Mike help workers from St. Vincent de Paul take away the old dining room tables for use at their facility



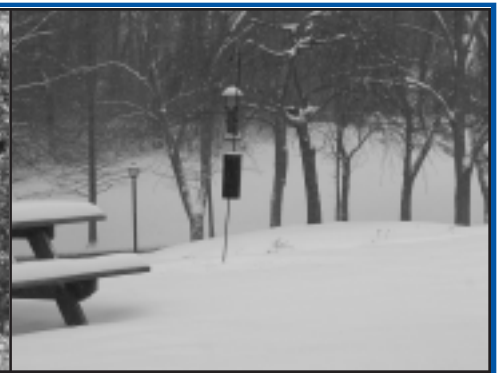
Oscar in a tie? Wife Ellen forces him to dress up for A Marian Feast



Archbishop Daniel Buechlein filled the room for his May 1st day of reflection



An engaged couple enjoying a Tobit moment



Fatima is even beautiful in the winter time!

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Spirit-Driven Renewal

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Publisher.....Rick Wagner
Send changes of address, ideas or comments via telephone, US Mail or e-mail to rwagner@archindy.org

Are you willing to help us cut costs by receiving this news letter via e-mail?
If so let us know. E-mail Rick at rwagner@archindy.org



**Matthew Kelly
is coming to Our Lady of Fatima!**

International speaker and author Matthew Kelly will be leading a weekend retreat at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House on **February 23-25, 2007**

Over the past ten years more than two million people in fifty countries have attended his talks, seminars and retreats. His books, including *The Seven Levels of Intimacy*, *The Rhythm of Life*, *Living Everyday Life with Passion and Purpose*, *The Book of Courage*, *Building Better Families*, *Rediscovering Catholicism* and others have touched the lives of millions more. It is certain that he will continue to be, with increasing influence, one of the most sought-after and enduring spiritual voices of our time.

Over the course of the Friday night to Sunday afternoon program, hear talks on the themes of
“Living Everyday Life with Passion and Purpose” “Do Catholics Worship Mary?” “What Is God’s Dream for You?”
“Learning to Forgive, Learning to be Forgiven” “The Art of Making and Keeping Resolutions”

We fully expect this program to sell out! Take advantage of this early announcement to get your reservations in **now!**

Please register me for the Matthew Kelly weekend retreat for February 23-25, 2007
Cost is \$300.00 per person. Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis until full.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

___ I need a first floor room

Full \$300 fee due with this registration form. Mail with check made payable to:

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House ■ 5353 E. 56th Street ■ Indianapolis, IN 46226