



Reflections

BELIEGIOUS
Fall 2005 Newsletter

State of the Retreat House

I recently completed my first year as Director of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. I wanted to take this opportunity to offer an informal "State of the Retreat House" message.

Support: I have had tremendous support at every turn.

The Archdiocese has been understanding of our needs, accommodating, and helpful. The Advisory Board is a passionate and dedicated group of people. The volunteers and members of the OLF community are phenomenal folks. Some have been involved with the retreat house for 30, 40 and 50 years! And I am blessed with a staff of caring and gifted individuals.

Facility: The facility is over forty years old and in need of work. Through the generosity of the Volunteer League and other donors, we have been able to accomplish several things this past year. The driveway was paved, new chairs were purchased for the conference room, a new copier was purchased, and all technology has been upgraded. As to the grounds, we had six trees removed, trees trimmed along 56th Street and some ready-to-fall branches taken down. A great deal of work has been done on the trails – mulching, weeding, raking and lining. The flower beds are as beautiful as ever thanks to the generosity and remarkable talent of long-time volunteer Jan Townsend. As I write, the hallways and common areas of the top two floors are being completely repainted and new lighting is being installed along the drive. With funds from the recent *Spirit-Driven Renewal* capital campaign, we hope to be able to do things such as install an elevator and add handicap rest-rooms, replace the boiler and the chiller, and renovate more of the guest rooms. We are encouraged by the progress to date.

The priest's house: We miss Fr. Al Ajamie living here on the grounds. What a gift he is! We know he is getting great care at St. Augustine's Home, but we miss having his unlimited smiles and hugs readily available here in the house. At the same time we are blessed by the presence of Fr. Don Schmidlin. He is a great addition to the staff and brings so much warmth and energy

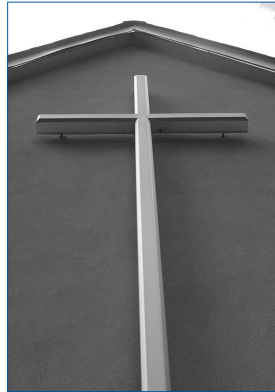
to OLF. It may say "retired" next to his name, but we are keeping him very busy!

What we tried to do this year: Most importantly, we wanted to clear the cloud of uncertainty that hung over us and get word out

that we are alive and well and open for business! So marketing ourselves was a major goal. We made efforts to re-connect with groups who had used the facility in the past but had not been back recently because of the aforementioned uncertainties. We worked on continuing and strengthening our proven programs. We asked many questions about what people wanted from us and how we could best serve them. And we tried some new things...for better or worse we were resolved to take the "nothing ventured, nothing gained" approach by offering some new programs and events.

So how are things going? We have had our share of ups and downs this year. On the revenue-generating side, we had some lean months, some "as expected months", and a couple of really great months. We did our very best to watch expenses, especially during the lean months. Continued repairs of old equipment and infrastructure are a constant financial drain, but we hope to rectify that situation over the next few years using our campaign funds. On the programming side, we unfortunately needed to cancel some retreats and events due to lack of registrations. A few were new programs with which we were "testing the waters" --- they sank. A couple were established programs that for whatever reason did not generate the same response as they have in the past. But we had our share of successes as well. Our Tobit Marriage Preparation weekends (we host ten per year) continue to fill the house. Fr. Jim Farrell continues his magic whenever he is here. Some new events such as the Anne Ryder dinner, the Mother's Day Mass and Brunch, and our celebration of Our Lady of Fatima's feast day with Msgr. Joseph Schaedel proved very popular.

(continued on next page)



Our Lady of Fatima welcomes Fr. Don Schmidlin

In late May, Fr. Don Schmidlin moved into the priest's house on the grounds of Our Lady of Fatima. Ordained on May 3, 1957, Fr. Don is an Archdiocesan priest who retired in 2001. He has served the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in many capacities over the years including 8 years as pastor of St. Matthew, 6 years as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 9 years as pastor of St. Joan of Arc and 13 years as director of Catholic Charities. Since retiring and prior to moving to Our Lady of Fatima, he lived at St. Paul Catholic Center on the Indiana University Bloomington campus.



Fr. Don Schmidlin

Q & A with Fr. Don

Q: How do you like your new house?

A: I like it very much. Fatima and several donors made it possible to have a fresh coat of paint, as well as new carpeting, appliances, sinks and vanities. It is comfortable and beautiful...the best accommodations I have ever had! The living room is arranged for spiritual direction and is very inviting.

Q: Is spiritual direction one of the things you will be doing at Our Lady of Fatima?

A: Yes, especially with religious women and priests and others who work for the church, such as DRE's and pastoral associates. I will also be helping with some

retreat masses and will be involved with the Tobit program. I feel called to minister to the engaged and married couples. I am also a member of the OLF Advisory Board and hope to help in a consultative role.

Q: What is the value of a place like Our Lady of Fatima?

A: Our Lady of Fatima is a powerful symbol that the archdiocese puts spirituality as the first goal in its mission statement. It is a center for reflection and prayer. It is conducive to slowing down long enough for God's voice to pierce the noise of daily life. People can experience hospitality and hear talks that make them feel that God not only loves them, but likes them and enjoys their company.

(continued from previous page)

What about the next year? We are very excited about the upcoming year and feel we are turning the corner. Our calendar is filling up nicely, particularly this fall. In fact, during two consecutive months (October and November), we have at least one group in the house every single day!

We are working on four primary goals this year:

- We want to offer more one-day events such as Days of Reflection, evening workshops, and programs in a series
- We want to have broader promotion of our weekend retreat offerings
- We want to attract more first-timers, particularly mothers of young children, men, young adults and youth groups
- We want to continue to improve our connection with Archdiocesan parishes and be responsive to their needs

And one more thing: You didn't think I was going to end without talking about needing money, did you? We need to improve our fund-raising efforts. We cannot continue to hope

people donate the difference needed to pay our bills. Archdiocesan monies are stretched thin --- there are many essential ministries across the diocese, all of which need financial support. So we need to ask the people who use our facility to help support our ministry. How? We will be having an annual fund-raising drive each spring. We will speak to retreat groups at the end of their retreats about ways they can help. Envelopes are inserted into each newsletter that goes out in the mail. We will continue to host one major fund-raiser and several smaller events each year to support the cause (they'll be fun --- you won't even know you're giving us money!)

Thank you!: The Our Lady of Fatima community is a loving and giving community. Thank you for keeping the retreat ministry alive and well through your support and prayers.

This past year has been, to say the least, very busy! The staff and Advisory Board look forward to many more busy years of spiritual renewal!



Genesis Fund needs your help!

The Genesis Fund was established years ago to help subsidize the cost of attending a retreat for those individuals who are unable to pay the full amount, but feel called to or feel the need for renewal. While donations to the fund have been steady over the years, requests for assistance have increased dramatically. We are nearing the point of needing to severely limit the amount available per request or turn down requests entirely.

We believe if we are to truly be a ministry of renewal, we should not turn away those thirsting for such renewal simply because they are unable to afford it.

Please consider making a donation to the Our Lady of Fatima Genesis Fund. You can do so by using the envelope enclosed with this newsletter or by dropping off a check the next time you visit. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Interior fix-up!

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House was the beneficiary of two bequests in the last several months. Major renovation work will be done with funds from our *Spirit-Driven Renewal* capital campaign, so some of the bequest money is being put toward some much-needed interior painting. All hallways, doors, and stairwells on the main and second floors are being painted, as well as the main lobby area. The bequests will also pay for new lighting along the main drive.



We need twin or double bed size blankets

New or gently used. You can drop them off at the main office or give us a call and we'll pick them up!

We need volunteers!

We are always looking to add to our volunteer team! Opportunities include serving meals, helping in the office, painting, working on the grounds and more.

Volunteer as an individual, as a husband and wife team or as a family or group! Great way for parents and high school students or athletic teams to work together on community service requirements! Let us know in advance when you'd like to come and we'll put you to work!

More Days of Reflection being offered!

Program evaluations consistently come back to us with requests for more one-day programming. We are pleased that we have been able to schedule several such events for this fall!

September 15	Fr. Larry Crawford
October 10	Fr. Bob Robeson and Fr. Jonathan Meyer
October 17	Fr. Jeff Godecker
November 14	Fr. William Munshower
November 23	Non-directed silent reflection
December 15	Fr. Bob Sims
December 20	Msgr. Paul Koetter

Details for these programs can be found on pages 4 & 5.

Program Guide... September thru, 2005

September 15

**“You and Your Spirituality:
Always in Transition”**

A Day of Reflection with **Fr. Larry Crawford**, pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis. Often people view spirituality as something you either have or you don't. Instead, it is a dynamic, ever-changing process. You are never completely 'there,' but always in transition.

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

September 16-18

Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend

September 19

Monthly prayer service

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

September 26

Senior Mass and Social

9:00 a.m.

October 6

High Tea

Fr. Jim Farrell will be the guest speaker for this annual event (details on page 6). We will also use this event to honor Fr. Jim on his 30 years of service to Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House!

October 10

“A Morning for Mom”

A morning of reflection with **Fr. Bob Robeson**, director of youth and young adult ministry and **Fr. Jonathan Meyer**, associate pastor of Our Lady of Greenwood Parish and associate director of youth and young adult ministries. Focus of the morning will be on keeping your faith as the anchor of your busy life and bringing that faith alive for your children to see and share.

Childcare will be provided at no additional charge!

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program will conclude after lunch, approximately 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

October 14

“Businessman's Luncheon”

Enjoy a nice lunch while listening to our special guest, former NFL player **Ray McElroy**, share the story of his own spiritual journey. Mr. McElroy is a very engaging speaker...invite the whole office!

Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. and our guest speaker will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person. All profits will go to our Genesis Fund to help subsidize those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of attending a retreat.

October 14-16

**“No Teacher Left Behind:
A Teacher's Retreat”**

An educator's weekend getaway! Down-to-earth national presenter **Loughlan Sofield** leads this energizing weekend for educators, discussing topics such as avoiding burnout and bringing back your enthusiasm, anger and forgiveness, spirituality and discerning gifts. But this is not all work and no play! Retreatants will have the opportunity for free time on Saturday afternoon and will be treated to Christian comedian **Scott Gregory** after a served dinner on Saturday night! An invigorating event for a very special group of people!

Check-in Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Program will conclude after Sunday brunch, approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150.00 per person includes program, accommodations, meals, and entertainment

October 15

Christian comedian Scott Gregory

See page 8 for info about this special event!

October 17

**“Touching Our Spirit:
Arts, Symbols and Metaphors”**

A Day of Reflection with **Fr. Jeff Godecker**, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. Fresh from a four-month sabbatical, Fr. Jeff will explore the relationship between writing and photography and spirituality and prayer. He spent time in Ireland, Scotland, New Mexico and Colorado and will bring his reflections and experiences to share this day.

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

October 17

Monthly prayer service

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

October 21-23

Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend

October 28-30

“Dreams: Our Spiritual Insights”

This weekend retreat is presented by **Sr. Olga Wittekind, osf**. Sr. Olga earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology and taught for 28 years at Marian College in Indianapolis. She will help us look at the intriguing messages and experience the psychological and spiritual insights of tapping into the rich landscape of our dreams. All, from beginner to expert dreamsmith, are invited to work, pray and play with dreams.

Check-in Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Program will conclude after Sunday brunch, approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150.00 per person includes program, accommodations, and meals

October 28-30

**“Saint Brigid's Lake of Beer:
Playing Host to the Saints
in Your Heart and Home”**

Nationally known artist and presenter **Brother Mickey McGrath** leads this weekend retreat experience. His work and ministry have been featured in Catholic newspapers around the country. Creator of five best-selling books on Mary and the saints, Br. Mickey will share his own paintings and stories, presenting the saints in a whole new light. With lots of laughter and a few tears, you will see your own stories of faith and love mirrored in the lives of saints, who are as human as you and I.

Check-in Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Program will conclude after Sunday brunch, approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150.00 per person includes program, accommodations, and meals

October 31

Senior Mass and Social

9:00 a.m.

November 11-13

Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend



Fall 2005

www.archindy.org/fatima

November 14

“Psalms of Passion”

Fr. William Munshower, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, leads this annual day of reflection on the psalms. He will explore chosen psalms that he finds to be personal, intensive and emotionally charged.

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

November 20-22

Student Leadership Program II

This three-day intensive Christian leadership program for high school sophomores is presented by Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House Director **Rick Wagner**. Information can be obtained by calling Rick at 545-7681.

November 21

Monthly prayer service

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

November 23

Day of Silence

8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This is a non-directed daylong silent retreat experience (no presentations). Retreatants will use the silence and the facility as they like for their own personal reflective time. Liturgy and Reconciliation will be available.

Cost: \$50.00 per person includes continental breakfast, light lunch, dinner and the use of a guestroom for the day.

November 28

Senior Mass and Social

9:00 a.m.

December 2-4

Annual Charismatic Retreat

Details are available by calling the OLF office at 545-7681.

December 15

“An Advent Day of Reflection”

Fr. Bob Sims, pastor of St. Simon Parish in Indianapolis, leads this Day of Reflection.

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

December 16-18

“The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me”

Fr. Ben Hawley, SJ will lead this silent retreat for men. Great opportunity for a father-son shared experience. God’s Spirit came upon Jesus of Nazareth dramatically in the Incarnation, in his Baptism, and in his Transfiguration. No less dramatically the Spirit made possible his teachings, healings, and miracles and above all, sustained him in his Passion and raised him in his Resurrection. God also sends his Spirit to us to give us life and a vocation, and God’s Spirit is with us in each moment of our lives, in the good and in the bad. In Advent the Spirit descends upon us who wait to give us hope and strength.

Check-in Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Program will conclude after Sunday brunch, approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150.00 per person includes program, accommodations, and meals

December 16-18

“Non-Directed Silent Retreat Weekend”

This is a non-directed weekend silent retreat experience (no presentations). Retreatants will use the silence and the facility as they like for their own personal reflective time. To be used as a guide and included in the cost is your choice of a guide book from the “A Retreat With…” or “Praying With…” series. Liturgy and Reconciliation will be available.

Cost: \$125.00 per person includes guide book, accommodations, and meals

December 20

“Finding a Thankful Heart”

Msgr. Paul Koetter, pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, leads this Day of Reflection. Gratitude is the safeguard of the heart. In the midst of the Christmas rush, can we live in peaceful gratitude? What enables gratitude? How does faith enter into it?

Check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Program concludes at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 per person includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy and lunch

December 31 – January 1

“New Year's Eve Retreat”

This annual event is still in the planning stages!
Call 545-7681 for details.

Cost: \$135.00 per person or \$250.00 per couple includes program, meals and accommodations

January 7-8

“Married Couples Retreat”

Brennan and Marie Hill, presenters of marriage retreats throughout the Midwest for over twenty-one years, offer this two-day retreat experience. Dr. Brennan Hill is a theology professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati and also teaches a Marriage and Family course there. Marie is a family mediator and counselor. We need to set things aside from time to time and really look at our relationships and what life together means. This type of renewal is needed by all marriages, whether they be old or new, first or second, same-faith or inter-faith. While the Hills will provide instruction, they are quick to mention that many of the insights regarding married life will come from the retreatants themselves.

Check-in and continental breakfast on Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
Program will conclude after Sunday brunch, approximately 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$250.00 per couple includes program, accommodations and meals

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

Registration form for all events can be found on page 7

What people are saying about Our Lady of Fatima

"I loved the opportunity to walk the grounds and pray amongst the flowers!"

—June retreat for women religious

"Fr. Farrell is such a gift from God and his 'Jesus-ness' shines through with his every action and word."

—Fr. Jim Farrell's Day of Reflection on Prayer

"Warm and inviting...wonderful...restful and relaxing... I will definitely return!"

—IPS School #64 staff retreat

"Excellent program! It never felt rushed...I will love mass even more!"

—Fr. Rick Ginther's "Liturgy 101"

"Fr. Mike was very down to earth in how we approach our relationship with God in everyday situations. Very rich material! A real blessing to attend this program."

—Fr. Mike McKinney's "Jesus Rush"

"The atmosphere of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House contributed to this being a very worthwhile day."

—Marian College staff retreat



Engaged couple on Tobit Weekend



CYO Grasshopper Day Camp at OLF from July 5-8

It's time for High Tea!

Date: Thursday, October 6, 2005

Time: Optional mass at 12:30, tea begins at 2:00

Special guest: Fr. Jim Farrell

Beautiful table settings, harp music, raffle prizes and so much more!

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Tickets or questions: Janet McNaab 770-1123

Tobit Weekends

September 16-18, 2005

October 21-23, 2005

November 11-13, 2005

January 13-15, 2006

January 27-29, 2006

February 24-26, 2006

April 21-23, 2006

May 19-21, 2006

June 16-18, 2006

July 21-23, 2006



Senior Mass and Social

September 26, 2005

October 31, 2005

November 28, 2005

January 30, 2006

February 27, 2006

March 27, 2006

April 24, 2006

June 26, 2006

July 31, 2006

August 28, 2006

Sneak Peek at Lent 2006

March 17-19 Fr. Jim Farrell

March 24-26 Sr. Romona Nowak

March 31- April 2 Fr. Keith Hosey

Look for full
details in our
Winter newsletter!



Fall 2005

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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
"You and Your Spirituality: Always in Transition"	September 15	\$30.00 per person	_____
"A Morning for Mom"	October 10	\$20.00 per person	_____
"Businessman's Luncheon"	October 14	\$20.00 per person	_____
"No Teacher Left Behind: A Teacher's Retreat"	October 14-16	\$150.00 per person	_____
Comedian Scott Gregory	October 15	\$30.00 per person	_____
"Touching Our Spirit: Arts, Symbols and Metaphors"	October 17	\$30.00 per person	_____
"Dreams: Our Spiritual Insights"	October 28-30	\$150.00 per person	_____
"Saint Brigid's Lake of Beer: Playing Host to the Saints in Your Heart and Home"	October 28-30	\$150.00 per person	_____
"Psalms of Passion"	November 14	\$30.00 per person	_____
"Day of Silence" (non-directed)	November 23	\$50.00 per person	_____
"An Advent Day of Reflection"	December 15	\$30.00 per person	_____
"The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me"	December 16-18	\$150.00 per person	_____
"Non-Directed Silent Retreat Weekend"	December 16-18	\$125.00 per person	_____
"Finding a Thankful Heart"	December 20	\$30.00 per person	_____
"New Year's Eve Retreat"	December 31- January 1	\$135.00 per person \$250.00 per couple	_____
"Married Couples Retreat"	January 7-8	\$250.00 per couple	_____

Total payment sent _____

Balance due _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City / Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

I need a first floor room _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Please mail to:

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

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Reflections is published three times per year by Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. Its main purpose is to offer information about programs and news of events to its advisory board, the Volunteer League, the many volunteers, and benefactors and friends of OLF.

Publisher.....Rick Wagner

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

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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

A Very Special Event!

Dinner and a show! Our Lady of Fatima welcomes Christian comedian Scott Gregory



Saturday, October 15, 2005

Dinner promptly at 6:30 PM, show will begin at approximately 7:15 PM
Cost is \$30.00 per person and includes served dinner and the show

Limited seating available...early registration suggested!

“Scott Gregory has the unique God-given ability to be insanely hilarious and then transition into a serious communication of God's love and grace toward him. He is a truly gifted man.”

—Brad Ladermann, Columbia, MO

“Scott's humor appeals to virtually any age audience and helps us to not take ourselves too seriously. I would recommend him to any audience.”

—Mark Gallagher, Terre Haute, IN