Unrealized Potential, Part II
by Rick Wagner, Director

In the Fall 2006 issue of our Reflections newsletter, I wrote an article about the obstacles human beings place in front of themselves which keep them from reaching their potential. I indicated that my “obstacle of choice” was to make excuses for why I was not improving myself --- excuses such as “I don’t have time,” “It’s just not possible” and “Why does it matter to me?” I then recounted the story of my recent weight loss to illustrate how, once I removed those obstacles (addressed my excuses), I was able to take steps toward improving myself.

While I used weight loss as my example, my intent was to challenge you to identify your own obstacles. What was keeping you from reaching your potential?

I was overwhelmed with the number of you who responded to that article --- writing me e-mails, dropping me a note or pulling me aside to respond personally. And I was pleased to hear that you had not read it as a simple weight loss story, but read through to the real question of the obstacles which impede us.

I came to realize, however, that I had painted myself into a corner. Because in challenging you to identify your obstacles, I also challenged myself to apply my new-found realization to something of real importance. Not something as seemingly superficial as weight loss, but something more substantial --- my faith life.

Allow me to share a bit of my ongoing faith journey. One of my ‘faith goals’ has been to spend more time reading scripture. With my “I don’t have time” excuse gone, I simply let my Bible fall open where it might and began reading. It opened to the Gospel of Luke. I read slowly and deliberately, opening myself up to whatever passage or passages might speak to me. Over a few months, I read Luke’s gospel several times.

With each reading there were two particular passages, for reasons unknown, that had a powerful impact on me. The first was Luke 8:16-18, the parable of the lamp. The second was Luke 12:35-40, in which Jesus speaks of the role of the watchful servant. I found myself drawn to these two passages --- sharing them with my family, referencing them in a talk I gave at a parish Stewardship Fair and later using them in a high school retreat presentation. As attached as I was becoming to the two passages, I was bothered that I didn’t know why. What did they mean? What message was hidden in those passages for me?

In early October, I attended a Retreats International meeting at St. Meinrad. It was a wonderful experience and I took full advantage of the time away to reflect and join the Benedictine monks in praying the Liturgy of the Hours and attending daily mass. On the very first day I arrived, I attended evening Vespers. When it came time for the reading, the monk assigned to read opened to Luke 8:16-18 and read the parable of the lamp. I had chills as the passage, this tale of putting out your light for all to see rather than hiding it under a bowl, was once again presenting itself to me.

Three weeks later, the Our Lady of Fatima staff went to Ferdinand to participate in a staff retreat. The retreat center sits on the grounds of a Benedictine monastery, so I once again had the opportunity to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and attending daily mass, this time with the Benedictine Sisters of Ferdinand. At morning prayer on the first day, I listened as one of the sisters opened to Luke 12:35-40 and read Jesus’ description of the watchful servant, the second of the two passages which seemed to be following me everywhere. My heart raced.
I did not sleep much that night as I continued to struggle with why these two passages continued to impact my life. Was I lighting my lamp and hiding it? Was I not allowing my light to shine for all to see? Was I the watchful servant? Or maybe I was the not-so-watchful servant, missing my cue to serve. It bothered me that I did not have a clear understanding of the message that God was obviously sending me.

Finally, I attended a simplicity workshop two weeks later. The priest presenting the workshop suggested using scripture as a way to make things you may be struggling with come into focus more clearly. I laughed to myself, as my experience had been that scripture confused me even further. He walked us through the basic steps of reading scripture for deeper meaning (lectio divina). He wanted us to practice our new skill, and indicated that we should open our Bibles to the Gospel of Luke. The hair on my arms stood up and I thought that it might just push me over the edge if he told us to turn to the parable of the lamp or the story of the watchful servant.

He did not. Instead, he sent us to Luke 12:22-28, verses found between my two “personal” passages. It was here that I read about putting trust in God --- giving up the need to control things and leaving it in God’s hands. The light bulb came on for me at that moment.

I discovered two things that morning: First, I should not be reading scripture to find specific answers to my questions, but instead to open myself up to what is possible. And second, yet another obstacle to the pursuit of reaching my potential had been exposed. I am someone who wants (needs?) control. The thought of trusting God enough to turn all control over to Him is very frightening for me. The focus of my prayer life has been changed forever. I now find myself praying for the courage to give up control. Once I am able to remove that obstacle, everything else will fall into place.

(Note: Rick Wagner will be exploring this topic further by facilitating an overnight retreat on March 3 & 4, 2007 entitled Unrealized Potential. Details can be found on page 5)
What are my hopes for Our Lady of Fatima? We are but a small part of a much larger picture and if I simply turn to the scriptures, I am reminded of our place in God's plan:

Mark 10: 27 - Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.”

I continually pray that people will feel called to a deeper relationship with God. I have seen the faces of people that come to Our Lady of Fatima on a Friday evening, weary from a long week, not sure as to why they signed up for a weekend retreat. They are tired and looking for comfort. When I return on Sunday to thank them for coming, it is as though they have all been replaced by completely different people. They have taken at least one step on their ongoing spiritual journey. They are renewed and, as a result, we are all renewed. We provide the time and the place. God provides the hope.

After being on staff for over two years, you would think I would come to expect this transformation, but I continue to be filled with grace and awe during those moments. My hope for our guests is that they see Christ in us and in others with whom they share their retreat experiences, and that they continue to be filled with the same awe and wonder each time. Peace be with you.

Cheryl McSweeney, Program Manager

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As you read in Rick's article, we were on retreat as a staff at the end of October. One of the exercises we were asked to complete was a personal mandala, a drawing that began with a circle divided into four quadrants. In this particular mandala, three of the quadrants were to represent something specific about ourselves with relationship to our work. In the fourth quadrant we were asked to think about what our life motto is or what it would be if we had one.

As I thought about this the answer came quickly: Be thankful to God every day. There are so many things in my life for which to be thankful and there always have been. But I have tried, especially these past twenty or so years, to find something in each day for which I am specifically thankful. As I sit writing this today, I am thankful for being able to share the gratitude I feel for the many good people I encounter in my position at Our Lady of Fatima and would like to take this opportunity to share my hopes for 2007.

The number of people, both Catholic and those of many other faith traditions and backgrounds, who enter our doors has been rising over the past several years and it looks like we might reach an all-time high in our current fiscal year.

I hope that we will continue to introduce the community to the jewel that is Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. Our tremendously talented and supportive staff will continue to work on being the best we can be in the area of hospitality—to be welcoming to all those who visit, always. If we truly want to be a place of renewal for all people, we must focus on the way we welcome our guests --- it is so important to how they begin their time here.

Another hope for the new year is that you know how truly grateful we are for your support --- your prayers, your presence, your volunteerism and your financial help. Please take the time to visit us in 2007! We are here for your renewal any time you need us. God bless you all.

Sandy Pasotti, Guest Services Manager

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High Tea a Success!

The 2006 edition of the High Tea was again a big hit! Nearly 200 ladies enjoyed the beautifully decorated tables, Fr. Jim Farrell, lots of door prizes, fabulous food and social time. In addition, nearly $4,700 was raised for the Volunteer League, which will in turn benefit the retreat house and its mission.
February 1, 2007
"Morning for Moms: Moms and Prayer"
Fr. Jim Farrell, pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis

‘Come away and rest awhile,’ as Jesus said to his disciples, so he says to you. Break away from your daily routine for some spiritual nourishment and inspiration. Get a new perspective on your prayer life or simply remind yourself of the value of daily conversation with the ONE who loves you more than words can say. Fr. Jim is a tremendously gifted presenter and one of our most popular retreat leaders. This is a great chance for a new generation to experience the power of his words!

Program begins with check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 am and concludes at 1:00 pm. Cost is $25.00 per person and includes continental breakfast, program, liturgy, lunch...and babysitting!

(Baby-sitters can accommodate up to 50 children only...register early!)

February 6, 2007
“Together Forever”
Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, Associate Pastor of St. Luke Parish and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Marriage is an image of our relationship with God. How can we as Catholics more fully live our faith at Mass, in daily prayer, through service and with our family? We explore these questions with a new look at our spiritual lives.

Program begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at approximately 2:30 pm. Cost is $50.00 per couple and includes continental breakfast, mass, program and lunch.

If one spouse is unable to attend, the other is welcome to attend at a cost of $25.00.

February 8, 2006
"Theology of the Body for Parents and Teens"
Rev. Jonathan P. Meyer, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Back by popular demand! This is a repeat of his presentation of August 31, 2006!

The family is the cell and the building block of society. If the family is weak, so is society. In a world that seems to be saturated with a negative message about family and the gift of human sexuality lived out in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, we must stand strong. The Theology of the Body, a gift of our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II, allows us to come to a deeper understanding of God’s gift and plan for the family, marriage and sex. This presentation will give us the opportunity to explore the theology and strive to live it at home and in our schools.

Program begins at 6:30 p.m. and concludes at 9:00 pm. There is no cost for this program, but good will offerings are appreciated.

Although there is no cost to attend this program, to help us prepare please register by calling (317) 545-7681 or e-mailing rwagner@archindy.org or filling out the form on page 7.

February 11, 2007
“Lent 101”
Presenter to be announced

“Lent is a privileged time of interior pilgrimage towards Him Who is the fount of mercy. It is a pilgrimage in which He Himself accompanies us through the desert of our poverty, sustaining us on our way towards the intense joy of Easter.” Pope Benedict XVI.

Another in our monthly ‘Sunday Night 101’ series, we look at the basic questions of Lent: What is the significance of 40 days? Why is fasting, abstinence and penance so important to the season? What are ways we can fulfill our Lenten obligations as an individual, as a family and as a church community?

Program begins at 7:00 p.m. and concludes at approximately 9:00 p.m. There is no cost for this program, but good will offerings are appreciated.

Although there is no cost to attend this program, to help us prepare please register by calling (317) 545-7681 or e-mailing rwagner@archindy.org or filling out the form on page 7.

February 17, 2007
"Lectio Divina: Seeking Intimate Communion with God"
Gwen Goas, Director of Adult Religious Formation, St. Louis de Monfort Parish, Fishers

Gwen holds a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality and has been involved in the teaching of prayer and spirituality for over twenty years.

“Read under the eye of God until your heart is touched then give yourself up to love.” It has long been a traditional practice of the church to stress the value of seeking intimate communion with God through persistent dwelling with and in the Word of God. This process of prayer is referred to as Lectio Divina, or Praying with Scripture. Lectio Divina is more than spiritual reading. It is reading with the divine, inner eye. It is reading with the eye of God, under the eye of God. It is reading with the desire to enter into a relationship with God, to be totally transformed by the Word of God, rather than just to acquire facts about God. In this workshop, participants will: learn how to pray the Scriptures using Lectio Divina, become familiar with the four movements of this prayer (reading, reflecting, responding, resting), and practice this process of prayer.

Breakfast and sign-in begin at 8:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:00. The day will end with a 4:00 p.m. mass in the chapel. Cost is $35.00 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and program.

February 23-25, 2007
“What Is God’s Dream for You?”
Matthew Kelly, highly sought-after international speaker and author

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’
• ‘Learning to Forgive, Learning to be Forgiven’
• ‘What Is God’s Dream for You?’
• ‘Is Catholicism Still Relevant?’
• ‘The Art of Making and Keeping Resolutions’
Registration form on page 7

Overflow crowds come to hear Matthew Kelly speak just once! Here is your opportunity to hear him present five times on these five timely topics!

Program begins with check-in at 7:00 pm on Friday night, with the first conference set to begin at 8:00 pm. The evening will conclude with prayer at approximately 9:30 pm. Saturday will include three conferences, three meals, Mass, opportunity for Reconciliation, an optional Labyrinth Workshop and free time. Sunday will include coffee and danish, a final conference, Mass and brunch. Weekend will conclude after brunch at approximately 12:30 pm. Cost is $300.00 per person. A commuter rate of $250.00 per person will be available. **Only limited space still available!** Registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis until program is full.

You can read more about Matthew Kelly and his ministry by going to his website at www.matthewkelly.org

**February 28, 2007**

“Faith: It’s Not Just for Sundays Anymore”

*Fr. Phil Bowers, Pastor, Holy Spirit at Geist Parish*

Fr. Phil leads discussion on living your faith at home, at work and throughout the parish community. We look at finding Christ in everyone --- even the difficult folks! And finally, living your faith requires doing your homework --- living out the Gospel in your everyday life.

Check-in and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Program begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at approximately 2:30 pm. Cost is $35.00 per person and includes continental breakfast, Mass, program and lunch.

**March 3 & 4, 2007**

“Unrealized Potential”

*Facilitated by Rick Wagner, Director of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House*

No one has reached his or her full potential. Many of us have a long way to go! In this Lenten season of penance, we need to ask ourselves some difficult questions. What is keeping me from realizing my potential --- from being the best person, Catholic, Christian, mother, father, spouse, etc. that I could be? What limitations am I imposing on myself? What obstacles am I putting in my path? Lent is a great time to expose and cut through the excuses we make for not realizing our potential.

This unique retreat will include conferences, ‘homework’ assignments including Scripture reflection, and small group discussion. Mass will be celebrated each day and Reconciliation will be available on Saturday afternoon. An optional labyrinth mini-workshop will also be available.

Program begins with check-in and breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and concludes after brunch on Sunday, at approximately 12:30 p.m. Cost is $90.00 per person. A commuter rate of $75.00 per person is available.

**March 16-18, 2007**

“To Turn, To Turn, ’Twill Be Our Delight”

*Fr. Noel Mueller, OSB from the monastery at St. Meinrad*

This line from the famous Shaker hymn “Tis A Gift To Be Simple describes the delightful ongoing conversion in the life of the Christian. Such conversion is a life-long goal: to be re-made totally into the image of Christ Jesus. Lent is a most appropriate time for pursuing such conversion. This retreat will focus on how we can daily convert our lives and personalities for a greater union with the Lord. Audio and visual presentations will enhance the insights offered in the conferences and liturgies.

Program begins with check-in at 7:00 pm on Friday night, with the first conference set to begin at 8:00 pm. Weekend will conclude after lunch on Sunday at approximately 1:00 pm. Cost is $150.00 per person or $280 per married couple.

**March 23-25, 2007**

“Let Go, Make Room, Be Fed”

*Richard W. Smith, depth educator and spiritual retreat leader*

Lent is a time of emptying, letting go and making room. It is a time to choose, to take on challenges and renew. During this Lenten renewal retreat, participants will be invited to explore, empty and make room in order to choose to be fed by a number of spiritual tap roots. These tap roots include periods of silence – letting go of noise and making room for the Holy Spirit, periods of reflection – exploring and taking on matters of the heart and soul, periods of conversation – letting go of sound bite chatter and taking on conversations with depth, and periods of prayer – letting go of begging and deal-making and making room for connection and relationship with God, self and others.

Program begins with check-in at 7:00 pm on Friday night, with the first conference set to begin at 8:00 pm. Weekend will conclude after lunch on Sunday at approximately 1:00 pm. Cost is $150.00 per person or $280 per married couple.

**March 28, 2007**

“Lenten Day of Reflection with Archbishop Daniel”

*Most Reverend Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, Archbishop of Indianapolis*

Theme for the day still in development. Please call retreat house for details!

Tentative schedule: Program will begin with check-in and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. with the first conference set to begin at 9:00 a.m. Day will conclude at approximately 2:30 pm. Cost is $35.00 per person.

**March 30-31, 2007**

“Can You Drink This Cup?”

*Fr. Keith Hosey, retired priest of the Lafayette Diocese and long-time retreat presenter*

The theme for this overnight retreat comes from Henri Nouwen’s book, Can You Drink This Cup? Jesus asked this question of his disciples. May we, as His disciples, consider this question ourselves during this Lenten season.

Program begins with check-in, social time and hors d’oeuvres from 6:30 - 8:00 pm on Friday night, with the first conference set to begin at 8:00 pm. Program will conclude after mass and dinner on Saturday evening. Cost is $125.00 per person or $235.00 per married couple.

**April 1, 2007**

“Walk the Outdoor Stations of the Cross”

*Led by Fr. Keith Hosey*

On this Palm Sunday, walk the Stations of the Cross through the wooded trails of Our Lady of Fatima.

We will begin in the chapel at 5:00 p.m. with a brief prayer and reflection before heading outside. In the case of inclement weather, we will use the Stations of the Cross in the chapel. There is no cost for this event. Donations are welcome.

www.archindy.org/fatima
What people are saying about Our Lady of Fatima

“Everything was very nice and comfortable. The appearance of the facility is very warm and inviting. Great improvements!”
–December 2006 Charismatic Renewal retreat

“I will especially take home the message that the Psalms are really God speaking to us --- they are His inspired message to us”
–Fr. Munshower’s Day of Reflection on the Psalms

“The guided one-on-one time was awesome for our relationship!”
–Tobit Marriage Preparation weekend

“What a wonderful place! Staff is so friendly and the food is fabulous!”
–St. John’s Parish retreat

“Everyone at Fatima went above board to make us feel comfortable and welcome!”
–Trader’s Point Christian Church

“I arrived with a few reservations because I am a non-Catholic – however, I felt like nothing but another mother and woman who loves God. That speaks volumes!”
–Morning for Moms program

God's peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)

Save This Date!
May 3, 2007 is the date for “A Marian Feast!” This is Our Lady of Fatima’s primary fund-raising event. Named for our Blessed Mother and held in her month of May, Our Lady of Fatima invites you to attend this evening of fun, food and friendship!

Date: May 3, 2007

Time: Cocktails and silent auction at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m.
Program at 8:15 p.m.
Concludes by 9:30 p.m.

Place: Marian, Inc.
1011 E. St. Clair Street

What: Great food, door prizes, silent auction,
Spirit-Driven Renewal Awards and more!

Why: To support the ministry of spirit-driven renewal

Special in 2007: Our special guest will be Anne Ryder, Emmy Award-winning anchor and TV reporter, columnist and speaker

May 3, 2007 also commemorates the 50th anniversary of Fr. Don Schmidlin’s ordination to the priesthood. We will be including this special anniversary celebration as part of our evening!

No need to do anything at this time --- just mark your calendars for this event! Invitations will be sent out in February!

Winter/Spring 2007 www.archindy.org/fatima
Our Lady of Fatima Event Registration Form

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>February 1</td>
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Our website is updated weekly! Check it regularly to see new events as they are added!

Full fee required for all programs costing $100 or less.
A deposit of $50 required for all programs costing more than $100.
Exception: full fee required for the Matthew Kelly retreat on February 23-25.

Call 545-7681 with questions!

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

“Doing Things The Right Way”

A cooperative effort between Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House and the Catholic Youth Organization, with proceeds to benefit CYO programs.

Thursday, April 19, 2007 at Our Lady of Fatima

Featured speakers:
Toby McClamroch: Attorney, civic leader and friend of the Catholic Youth Organization and the entire Catholic community

Jean Kesterson: Head Volleyball Coach at Cathedral High School and winner of five state titles, including the 4A title in 2006, and three runner-up titles

Dick Dullaghan: Indiana Football Hall of Fame inductee and former head coach at Bishop Chatard, Carmel and Ben Davis High Schools, where he guided teams to a record eight state titles

Emcee for the evening:
Pat Sullivan of Sullivan Hardware & Garden and WIBC radio

6:30 pm Check-In and social
7:00 pm Welcome and dinner
7:45 pm Program begins
9:00 pm Evening concludes

Cost is $40.00 per person or a table of 8 for $300.00.
You may register by calling Rick Wagner at 545-7681 or you may contact him via e-mail at rwagner@archindy.org

Register early! Seating is limited!