



Reflections

Volume 14:2

N E W S L E T T E R

Ordinary Prayer

by Colette S. Fike

*At morn – at noon – at twilight dim,
 Maria! thou hast heard my hymn!
 In joy and woe – in good and ill –
 Mother of God, be with me still!
 When the Hours flew brightly by,
 And not a cloud obscured the sky,
 My soul, lest it should truant be,
 Thy grace did guide to thine and thee.
 Now, when storms of fate o’ercast
 Darkly my Present and my Past,
 Let my Future radiant shine
 With sweet hopes of thee and thine.*

— HYMN by Edgar Allen Poe

When my watch alarm goes off at three o’clock each day, I silently join my husband in prayer. Early in our relationship, I was leaving town for a camping vacation, so we agreed to meet in prayer at the same time every day. That very first day my watch alarm rang while I was taking a picture of fog rolling across a valley in West Virginia, bringing us together across the miles.

We now have a string of similarly beautiful memories; we continued our regular prayer time when I returned home. We found that pausing to raise our thoughts to God at these moments gives them a whole new dimension, enriching both our lives and our relationship.

Bells calling us to prayer has a long history in the Roman Catholic Church;

its roots are in the monastic tradition of the Liturgy of the Hours, a collection of prayers recited daily to keep the Church in perpetual prayer. Though not a Catholic, Edgar Allen Poe wrote the above poem about the *Angelus*, another simpler series of regular daily prayers announced by the church bells.

Unlike the prayers we recite the rest of the day, the evening prayer at our house allows us time for reflection, silence and petitions. This was awkward for me when we started praying together, but now I find this deep sharing moves our relationship forward, spurs my personal growth and allows me to fall more deeply in love every day. I persisted because I believe the power of my prayer is magnified when another joins in my petition. “Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19 -20)

It’s not surprising that married couples find this type of prayer hard, even when they share a common religious tradition. I used to believe prayer was meant for God alone, so it felt uncomfortably revealing to talk to God aloud in front of my husband.



Photo by Colette Fike

If families are called to be the domestic church, isn’t “the community” enriched by the intimacy of shared prayer?

A couple I know takes daily walks and talks about how they experienced God that day. When we have the opportunity to copy that practice, a simple observation that might have seemed too insignificant for *normal* conversation sparks a deep and meaningful discussion. It gives us an opportunity to be attentive to each other and to learn something new about God.

When we are in relationship with others, we also have opportunities to pray without words: the small sacrifices we make, the way we approach our daily responsibilities, and the way we keep our commitment to spend time together.

In silence, service, and words shared with sacred intent, our recognition of God’s hand in these holy moments rings out, joining the pealing ‘round the world at morn, three and twilight dim.

Look inside for your Retreat Schedule!

A Pope with Great Vision

by Kevin DePrey

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

At the close of the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II published an apostolic letter entitled, "At the Beginning of the New Millennium." In it, I can see a great vision for Fatima Retreat House and what we should be focusing on in the future.

Pope John Paul II wrote, "...the men and women of our own day – often perhaps unconsciously – ask believers not only to 'speak' of Christ, but in a certain sense to 'show' him to them...Our witness, however, would be hopelessly inadequate if we ourselves had not first contemplated his face."

Fatima's mission is to provide people with an invitation and opportunity for such contemplation. It is the purpose of a retreat and why retreats have been valued in our Catholic tradition. A retreat provides opportunities to learn, understand and ponder the life of Christ (in a myriad of ways,) and then to see how the face of Christ can enrich, enliven and renew our own life. Because retreatants open themselves up to a deeper experience of spirituality, they become enabled to 'show' Christ to others through the actions in their daily lives.

The Pope went on say, "It is also clear however that the paths to holiness are personal and call for a genuine training in holiness adapted to people's needs." My personal experience is that people often feel uncomfortable associating themselves with the word holiness. People do not like to regard themselves as saintly or feel unworthy to be associated with the likes of a holy person like Mother Teresa.

Fatima and the retreat experience invites people to answer their own personal call to holiness. As the Pope rightly pointed out, we must do this while adapting to people's ever-changing needs. To be effective, Fatima must even find other words for "holiness" that speak to people who are not yet able to see themselves that way. The wonderful variety of saint stories in our Catholic tradition shows us there are countless ways of being holy. Retreat experiences can help each of us find our own way.

The Holy Father went on to say that education in prayer is essential. Renewing prayer life is one purpose of a retreat; this happens when one experiences new opportunities of prayer and ways to get reestablished in old practices of prayer that can be helpful in new ways. Special emphasis is given on retreat to make prayer meaningful, and therefore more likely to happen, in daily life.

A key element whose importance is sometimes overlooked by retreatants, is the value of what the Pope calls, "a spirituality of communion." During a retreat, Fatima guests are challenged to recognize the mystery of the Trinity dwelling in themselves and in others, bearing each other's burdens in charity and compassion. It is in the bearing each of other's burdens that the spirituality of communion happens. In my experience, I have found that many retreatants prefer to focus their own relationship with God while on retreat. However, when they contemplate the face of Christ, they find they cannot avoid this "spirituality of communion" the Pope describes.

Not unlike his entire papacy, Pope John Paul II has set forth a vision for us all that is quite challenging. I see in it the lived reality of making a retreat, because of the challenges that come with discovering the face of Christ and being Christ to others. I see in it a vision of what Fatima Retreat House offers the people of Central Indiana as a place to learn about prayer, personal holiness and our need to be part of the body of Christ.

I hope you challenge Fatima Retreat House to live out the vision Pope John Paul II describes. Fatima Retreat House intends to challenge each of you to live out this vision as we invite each of you to make an annual retreat. Come, practice the art of renewal.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Bishop Robert Morneau



The Annunciation by Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1898

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Bishop Robert Morneau

Pennies from Heaven:

If you love art and literature and you were not able to make Bishop Morneau's retreat at Fatima in August, you can purchase a professional recording of the retreat by calling Alba House at (800) 533-2522. Cost is \$34.95 for the 3-CD set and \$30.95 for the cassette series, plus \$5.95 shipping and handling. We also have a few copies in our bookstore. Even though I attended the retreat and enjoyed it immensely, different aspects of his talks drew my attention when I listened to the recording. (Ed.)

Good News

(pulled directly from recent program surveys)

“I have been coming on this retreat for many years and they have been wonderful, but this one has made a distinct change in my inner being.”

[\(Charismatic retreat on Compassion with Fr. Noël Mueller, 12/02\)](#)

“Your soul must be healed in order for your body to be healed.”

[\(Reflection Day on Healing with Fr. Jim Farrell 12/02\)](#)

“Fr. Munshower’s last statement about a baby learning to talk by listening and repeating words...will help me be more patient in letting the psalms speak to me.”

[\(Reflection day with Fr. Munshower 12/02\)](#)

“Fr. Hensell was extremely knowledgeable and an excellent teacher. I learned so much!”

[\(Scripture retreat with Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB 10/02\)](#)

“I will make retreats here in the future as a gift to myself.”

[\(Reflection Day on Healing with Fr. Jim Farrell 12/02\)](#)

“[I gained] appreciation for the blessings that come from belonging, commitment to be more reverent in relationships.”

[\(New Year’s Eve retreat with Fr. Patrick Beidelman 12/02\)](#)

“You all are one of the best assets of the archdiocese.”

[\(Reflection Day on Healing with Fr. Jim Farrell 12/02\)](#)

“[Liked] Fr. Jim’s sincerity and compassion towards all. He takes time to listen to you and makes you feel you really are worth something.”

[\(Reflection Day on Healing with Fr. Jim Farrell 12/02\)](#)

“A unique place to listen to God.”

[\(St. Joan of Arc parish retreat 11/02\)](#)

“..being silent, I was able to notice and appreciate the beauty and sounds around me...I didn’t know if I could quit talking for 2 1/2 days; now it isn’t long enough.”

[\(Silent retreat with Fr. Jim Farrell 11/02\)](#)

On Sunday, November 10, 2002 our labyrinth was blessed and dedicated by Fr. Jim Farrell and a group of nearly one hundred people, including many who were involved in the construction process.

After Fr. Jim blessed the labyrinth with holy water, it started to rain (God blessing all of us!) so we adjourned to the chapel where each participant was given a peace candle as a reminder of the occasion.

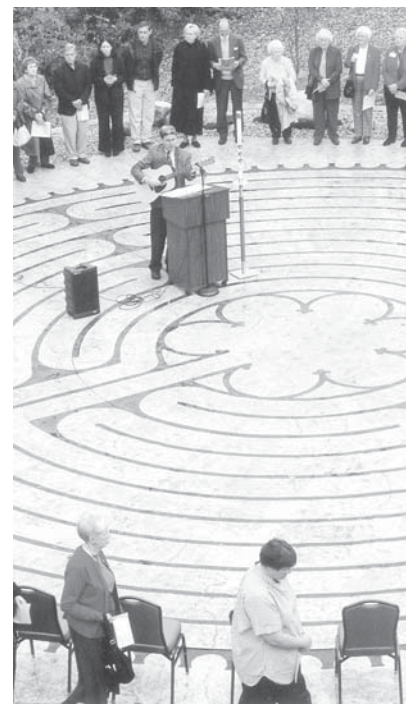


Photo by Gary Potts



Members of our Board of Directors and twenty additional guests were invited to an evening of brainstorming about Fatima’s future in early December. A professional facilitator led the group through a series of exercises and idea sessions about our mission, our service, the facility and marketing of our programs. The entire evening was underwritten by a generous volunteer who wants to make sure Fatima continues to renew itself for another fifty years of service to the community.



“Can you drink the cup that I drink?”

—Mark 10:38

Sunday, February 2, 2003

5:30pm to 8:30pm

Celebrate this pre-Lenten event with a six-course Northern Italian gourmet dinner, and select which raffle prizes you wish to be eligible for—such as dinner for ten delivered to your home.

Tickets are \$100 per person. Call us for an invitation that will provide more details (317) 545-7681.

9th Annual Carnevale fundraiser

March 7- 9

Fr. Richard O. Buhler, SJ

Men’s Lent

A Lenten Perspective on Life

If you are looking for a meaningful way to participate in Lent or would like to deepen your prayer life, this retreat is for you. This retreat will focus on how to be men who respond to God’s plan in our lives. Conferences will be about prayer and the Sacraments, and a handout will be given at each talk. There will be periods of silence.

Fr. Richard Buhler is a Jesuit priest who serves as Director of White House Retreat House in St. Louis; his specialty is the Holy Land at the time of the Lord. Fr. Buhler presented Fatima’s Lenten Silent retreat last year.

Registration fee of \$135/individual includes program, meals and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$40/person.

March 14-16

Fr. Ben Hawley, SJ

Lent retreat for women

Called by God

Every Christian is called to do the will of God, regardless of our job or responsibilities. Our first task is to be in relationship with God, who is the source of our energy. When we use our talents in service to others, we participate in God’s ongoing creation...leading to holiness in the world. You will have the opportunity for daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and individual confession.

Fr. Ben Hawley is a Jesuit priest who came to his vocation later in life after converting to Catholicism. He entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1991, was ordained a priest in 2000, and presently serves as President of Brebeuf Jesuit High School in Indianapolis.

Registration fee of \$135/individual includes program, meals and accommodations.

March 21-23

Presenter: Sr. Norma Rocklage, OSF

Lent retreat for women

Living the Be-Attitudes

This retreat will focus on practical and contemplative ways of living the Beatitudes in a complex, stress-filled world and the fostering of simplicity of life, which leads to authentic caring and loving. You will have time for quiet prayer, guided meditations and optional group sharing, as well as Mass on Saturday and Sunday. A regular Lenten retreat presenter at Fatima for many years, Sr. Norma has a gift for helping people see the holiness in everyday living.

Sr. Norma is the Senior Vice President for Planning and Mission Effectiveness at Marian College. She is a Sister of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, and has experience as an educator, administrator, lecturer, and retreat and spiritual director.

Registration fee of \$135/individual includes program, meals and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$40/person.

March 28-30

Fr. Ted Haag OFM

Silent retreat for Women & Men

The Art of a Balanced Life

“..do not extinguish the spirit of holy prayer and devotion.” St. Francis’ understanding of devotion is the desire and eagerness with which we approach our work. From the perspective of Franciscan priest, you will learn of St. Francis’ own struggle to find a balance between contemplation and action. Fr. Ted Haag, a gifted retreat leader, will offer five presentations, morning and evening prayer, and Mass Saturday and Sunday. Participants are silent throughout the weekend, including meals. You will have the opportunity for individual confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This experience of quiet contemplation is an opportunity for you to reconnect with the source and energy of your life’s work.

Fr. Ted Haag has worked in retreat ministry for over twenty years and currently carries out his ministry at Padua Franciscan High School in Ohio. He holds a Masters in Social Work and has served on the Board of Directors for Retreats International. Fr. Ted’s beautiful singing voice and calm demeanor, combined with his experience in Adult Education and Liturgy will make this a prayerful and rejuvenating weekend.

Registration fee of \$135/individual; \$255/married couple includes program, meals and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$40/person.

Program Guide: January 2003 to June 2003

April 4-6

Fr. Jim Farrell

As we grow spiritually, we deepen our appreciation for the lessons life has taught us, and we grow in our awareness of how God has always been present to us. Pausing occasionally for reflection on the pieces of our lives and the places we have been, helps us gain perspective. This retreat will help you reflect on your life experiences to see how they have shaped your present identity and to look forward with hope and faith. In order to help your reflection, Saturday will be a silent day for participants.

An engaging storyteller known for his ability to challenge and inspire, Fr. Jim Farrell is a priest of 25+ years and a native of Indianapolis. He is pastor of St. Barnabas parish in Indianapolis and serves on Fatima's Board of Directors. Fr. Jim is an ardent reader and believer in personal renewal who has a sincere respect for silence, believing it is vital to a meaningful life. He is a gifted and experienced retreat leader, and his retreats fill quickly, so don't delay.

Registration fee of \$135/individual includes program, meals and overnight accommodations. Deposit \$40/person.

Lent retreat for women
Signposts on the Journey

May 30-June 1, 2003

For men whose lives have been affected by alcohol. Call us for more information (317) 545-7681.

Men's Serenity retreat

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

Fr. Jim Farrell

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. Join us for a day that will renew your 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 experienced and gifted retreat leader who serves as pastor of St. Barnabas parish in Indianapolis. An engaging storyteller known for his ability to challenge and inspire, he is a priest of 25+ years and a native of Indianapolis.

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

Annual Reflection Day
Prayer

June 15-20, 2003

Fr. Eric Kahn, OFM

The ears with which one hears the message of the Gospel are hidden in the human heart. These ears do not hear anything, unless they are formed with interior solitude. The relaxed schedule of this quiet retreat will include: sharing Eucharist in our intimate chapel, walking the labyrinth, participating in a silent group meditation, and learning about the healing ministry of Sabrina Falls, a Quaker musician who will play the Celtic harp during your healing service with Fr. Eric.

Fr. Eric Kahn has given many preached and directed retreats for religious in the Midwest, and across the country. A Franciscan of 55 years, he recently moved to Indianapolis from Missouri to serve as Director of Cordiafonte House of Prayer. He is an avid reader whose interests include contemplation, social justice and Eastern practices of meditation.

Registration fee of \$300/individual includes program, meals and accommodations. Deposit of \$100 per person.

Retreat for Women Religious
Invitation to Intimacy with God

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

Fr. Jim Farrell

Annual Reflection Day on Prayer
This is a repeat of the program described on June 2.

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!



In Memoriam

Fatima's second director, Msgr. Kenny C. Sweeney, died in October; may he rest in peace. Msgr. Sweeney had returned to Indianapolis from Arizona in November of 2000 to speak at Fatima's 50th Anniversary celebration. He shared memories of his days at Fatima between 1967 and 1976 and visited with many friends. We are grateful for that opportunity to share one last laugh with him, and we are grateful to all who made donations in Msgr. Sweeney's name to Fatima.

In addition, please remember Chuck O'Donnell, Board member, who also died this Fall.

Retreat — What does it mean?

by J.L. Thorne, Holy Spirit parish promoter

Retreat. We have seen and heard the word often, especially as we read our Parish bulletins, and the weekly Criterion. But to those people who have not yet experienced a Retreat - it is a somewhat vague, unfamiliar term.

A Retreat is to our spirit what food and drink are to the body. Yet many of us have not partaken of this spiritual nourishment!

A Retreat means that you go away for a period of time, usually to a special place that offers tranquility and seclusion to pray, reflect, and in many cases, you will be guided in your prayers and other activities by a Retreat Director.

By going to a place of Retreat, you will not answer the telephone or the front door, prepare meals, watch the evening news, work in the garden and run errands. This is the time to break away from the normal routine and breathe some fresh life into your spirit.

"Going on a Retreat" does not mean a costly trip, to a far away location. Spiritual enrichment and the Retreat experience is only a few minutes and a few dollars away. For a day, or for a weekend. Come to FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE. Bring your comfy clothes, your walking shoes. We are surrounded by a lovely woods for peaceful strolls. We are informal, home-like and serene. We offer what your spirit is thirsty for: rest, prayer, inspiration.

Call us for information, a calendar of upcoming Retreats and events, or stop by. We are here, waiting to serve you.

COME TO FATIMA.

Though written nearly fourteen years ago, this parish promoter's enthusiastic appeal is still inviting. Today, we might invite you to experience praying with our labyrinth, check the enclosed calendar for a program that meets your needs or e-mail us with questions at fatima@archindy.org, but the invitation is still open.

Come, practice the art of renewal...



A personal invitation is the single most effective way to help someone find their way to their first retreat. In thirty-nine Indiana parishes, that personal invitation often comes from one of Fatima's dedicated retreat promoters, who distribute information, listen for opportunities to suggest retreats and answer questions.

Seventeen of those retreat promoters gathered in October for dinner and an evening of information sharing, highlighted by a talk from Fr. Jim Farrell about the values of retreats to an individual's life.

We still have several parishes that do not have retreat promoters; if you would like to learn more about what promoters do, please call Colette Fike at (317) 545-7681 or e-mail cfike@archindy.org.

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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.

Publisher Kevin DePrey
Editor Colette Fike

Send changes of address and ideas or comments to The Editor, Fatima Retreat House, 5353 East 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226-1486.
fatima@archindy.org



A New Concept in Retreats:

Escape the daily grind! Fr. Jim Farrell will lead a retreat for Workers, Sunday, September 7 through Friday, September 12, 2003. Prayer and presentations will be scheduled in the morning and evening to allow attendees to go to work through the day. This retreat is still being formed; if you have comments or questions about it, please e-mail cfike@archindy.org.

Registration fee of \$225/individual (a mere \$45 per day); \$325/married couple includes program, daily breakfast and dinner, and overnight accommodations. Please send deposit of \$70/person to hold your place.

Come, practice the Art of renewal...

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.