

Reflections

REFLECTIONS
Winter/Spring 2005 Newsletter

Retreat House... Renew Thyself

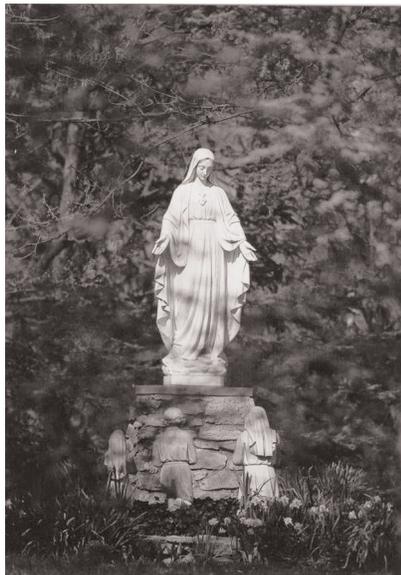
The brochures highlighting the upcoming retreats of Our Lady of Fatima call people to practice the art of renewal. Sometimes the thought of renewal can be intimidating. There is an undercurrent of the word 'change' running through the process of renewal...and we all know how the word 'change' can get the heart racing! While at times change may be prompted by renewal, it is not what drives renewal. In fact, renewal might very well solidify the status quo and confirm that all is well. If this turns out to be the case, the renewal process has not been in vain. The act of self-examination, which is at the core of the renewal process, can be a valuable tool.

Renewal, by definition, means "the act of making new or as if new again; restoration; the act of regaining or restoring the vigor of; revival." To believe that a person can undergo a total life transformation during the course of a one, two or three day retreat experience is naïve. Rather, what occurs is the 'renewal' of a belief or faith component that was already there...perhaps hidden, maybe dusty from lack of use, or possibly just dormant...but there nonetheless and waiting to be called to action. Retreats are the tools of renewal. They call us to self-examination and introspection. For some, it will be an affirmation of their faith and the course they are presently taking in life. For others, change may be a by-product of renewal...change their present course, re-focus their priorities and seek comfort in their heretofore dormant faith life.

So why write about this now? The topic is timely for a couple of reasons. First, the New Year is upon us. The freshness of the new year calls us to renew ourselves. We

are asking all who read this to commit themselves to yearly renewal through retreat, reflection and prayer.

Second, we've received many compliments from the community regarding the recent 'changes' at Our Lady of Fatima. While I appreciate a kind word when I can get it, that word 'change' makes me a bit uncomfortable. 'Change' conjures up images of "out-with-the-old-in-with-the-new" or "this was wrong, so we're making it right." Nothing could be further from the truth. Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House was blessed with incredible, visionary leadership in the past. Its mission and foundational strength were and are solid. What is happening instead is that we are simply practicing what we preach, "Retreat House...Renew Thyself." We are practicing the art of renewal! In a process of self-examination, we are asking ourselves the following questions:



- Are we staying true to our mission?
- Are we continually looking for ways to improve?
- How can we restore the energy and life that circumstances diminished?
- Are we acting as good stewards of the facility with which we have been blessed?
- Are we laying a solid financial foundation that will allow us to continue to carry out our mission well into the future?

Join with Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in making this a year of renewal. A renewal of spirit, of purpose and of faith.

Have a blessed 2005!

Rick Wagner
Director

Our Lady of Fatima Advisory Board and staff



Archbishop Buechlein, the Advisory Board and OLF staff wish everyone a very happy and blessed New Year!



Question and Answer with Advisory Board President Dan Hoyt

Q: What are your hopes for Our Lady of Fatima for the New Year?

A: I would like to continue to see an ever-expanding volunteer base. Also, many parishes, with the construction of parish life centers and meeting rooms, now host their own renewal programs...I would like us to develop relationships with these parishes that will allow us to support and expand upon their existing renewal programs. Of course, I would like to see Our Lady of Fatima maintain a balanced budget...pull our own weight so that the Archdiocese can redirect support funds to other needs within the diocese. And our building is over 40 years old...we need to pursue fundraising opportunities to upgrade the facilities and provide for our long-range future.

Q: What role will the Advisory Board play in

moving Our Lady of Fatima into the future?

A: The Advisory Board needs to address the hopes I just presented. We, along with our strong core of volunteers, are the ambassadors for Our Lady of Fatima. We need to spread the message that the facility is alive and well...and here to serve the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Q: What do you want to come to the minds of those who hear the name Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House?

A: Three things, really. They should know that Our Lady of Fatima is a place to learn. It is a place where they can come to nourish or develop a lively faith life. And most importantly, I would hope that Our Lady of Fatima is thought of as a center of enlightenment and renewal.

Twelve Step Testimonial

Each year after Labor Day, for the past 12 years or so, a group of men has met at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House to devote time and reflection to a shared problem. It is a problem which plagues our society today, and one which has invaded our own lives... the problem of drugs and alcohol. When these 80 men meet, the full range of success is represented...those who have conquered their addiction to alcohol and drugs, and those who still struggle terribly. At our last retreat, we had one individual who had been "clean" for over 30 years, and another who had experienced barely 48 hours of success against his addiction.

Putting the old-timers together with those who are new to the lives we lead is the goal of our retreat. Ironically, it is the newcomers who give those of us with several years of sobriety the strength and hope to carry on; for we believe that by carrying the message, we treat our illness most successfully.

Our Lady of Fatima has been a true blessing for us. Its quiet and serene environment and its beautiful surroundings (in the middle of Indianapolis' chaos!) are truly miraculous. We use the chapel for our principle speaker meetings and break into smaller rooms for discussions of special topics. I know from personal experience that many men, by participating in this intensive 3-day program, have recaptured their lives and have gone on to a life of sobriety and personal and spiritual success.

We are truly thankful that we have Our Lady of Fatima to look forward to each year. For many of us, our retreats there are among the highlights of our lives. The helpful staff, the excellent food and facilities, and the wonderful volunteers who assist us are really "icing on the cake." God bless all of them, and all of those who make Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House possible.

Vincent Schrader
12-Step Retreat Coordinator

Student Leadership Program

Forty-eight sophomores from 11 different high schools converged on Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House from October 31 thru November 2. The students, some coming from as far away as Frankfort, Madison and Clarksville, spent three days discussing such topics as "Christian Leadership," "Essentials of Leadership," and "Empowering Others." Administrators from several high schools, along with Our Lady of Fatima Director Rick Wagner, served as presenters for the program. The students worked hard, had fun, made 50 new friends, and were charged with returning to

their schools to make a positive impact. The participants were given a t-shirt with the SLP logo on front and the question, "Is anyone following me?" on the back. The group will have four follow-up sessions over the next two years.



(left) Students prepare for Halloween activities (right) Forty-eight students attended this year's leadership program



New Program Manager with husband, Mark

New Program Manager On Board

Cheryl McSweeney has joined the Our Lady of Fatima staff as its new Program Manager. Cheryl and husband Mark have been married for 14 years and have 3 children: Michael, 12, Kristin, 10, and Kerrigan, 5. She is currently attending Ball State University in pursuit of a degree in elementary education. She and Mark live in Fishers and have served as a presenter couple for Our Lady of Fatima's Tobit Marriage Preparation program for ten years. Cheryl replaces Mike Haigerty, who accepted a position at St. Mark Parish in Indianapolis. Mike remains at OLF as its Residence Manager.

Program Guide... January thru May, 2005

January 14 & 15

"A Creative Path to God"

A spirituality through art retreat experience presented by Sr. Ann Vonder Meulen, osf. Sessions will include meditation and prayer with the use of clay, watercolor, mandalas and other media. Participation in quiet art activities can help in the deeper appreciation of God's presence, compassion and power at work in our everyday lives.

7:00 pm Friday until 4:00 pm on Saturday

Registration fee of \$100.00 includes program and art supplies, meals and overnight accommodations

January 21-23 "Blessed Grieving: When A Loved One Dies"

A healing retreat presented by

Msgr. Paul Koetter and Dr. Margie Pike

Are you grieving the loss of someone dear to you? Are you seeking time and space to better understand your journey of grief? This retreat invites you to journey with others, listen to their stories and explore a common sorrow. The retreat will help deepen your understanding of the grieving process through the use of scripture.

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon

Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

January 28-30

Tobit Marriage Preparation weekend

February 4 & 5 "Yearning for God, the Desire of Our Heart"

A pre-Lenten retreat presented by

Sr. Kathleen Yeadon and Fr. Don Schmidlin

This retreat will strengthen our yearning for God through dialogue, silence and sacraments. Often people are unaware of God's desire burning in their hearts. For them, it is an undefined restlessness. This retreat will help to clarify and strengthen their understanding and their desire for God and will be based upon both the Rule of St. Benedict and Holy Scriptures.

7:00 pm Friday until 5:00 pm Saturday

Registration fee of \$75.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

February 11-13

"Power of the Cross"

Author Michael Dubruiel (*Power of the Cross, Praying the Rosary*) leads this retreat aimed at applying the passion of Christ to your everyday life. Learn God's unique purpose and mission for you, how to overcome the evil that you have suffered at the hands of others, to find God's presence in difficult times, and to discover the keys to unleashing the power of the cross in your life.

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon
Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

February 18-20

"Lent Puts My Life In Perspective"

Fr. Richard Buhler, SJ leads this silent retreat experience.

The retreat will use aspects of *The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius* to help us look at our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. The prayer suggestions will be based on the gospels, with particular emphasis on Christ's passion as a place for us to see our lives in perspective of His love and to draw strength for our lives from His saving grace.

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon

Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

February 25-27

"Women's Lenten Retreat"

Fr. Ben Hawley, SJ will lead this Lenten retreat for women.

Retreatants can expect five presentations, daily mass and time for private prayer and reflection.

Title and overall theme still in development – call for details.

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon

Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

February 27

"Power, Perseverance and Peace

–

Lessons from Mother Teresa"

A fundraising dinner with special guest, Channel 13's Anne Ryder. In her "Hope to Tell" style, Anne details her visits with Mother Teresa, shares personal stories and highlights other inspiring people.

Evening begins with dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by the guest speaker Cost: \$30.00 per person

March 2

"Do You Need Lent After the Age of 40?"

A day of reflection presented by the parish staff of St. Pius X:

Fr. Jerry Kirkhoff, Fr. Eric Johnson, Br. Joseph Umile, CSC

and Beth Reitz. A meditation on the season of Lent and its

implications for mature adults...perhaps with some humor.

'Sign in' and continental breakfast begin at 9:00 a.m. and

the program begins at 9:30 a.m. Program will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

Cost of \$30.00 per person includes program, continental breakfast, and buffet lunch



Winter/Spring 2005

March 11-13 "Responding to the Questions of Jesus"

A women's lenten retreat presented by Fr. Jim Farrell. Jesus asked over two hundred questions that are recorded in the gospels. Some of His questions are easily recognizable, such as "Who do you say that I am?" and "Were not all ten made whole...where are the other nine?" But other questions go relatively unnoticed such as: "What do you want me to do for you?" and "Do you want to become whole?" and "Does this offend you?" This retreat weekend will focus on a selection of questions that Jesus asks His disciples. How do these questions touch our lives? What can we uncover about our own spiritual journey by pondering these questions?

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00 pm Sunday afternoon
Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials, meals and overnight accommodations

April 8 - 10 Tobit Marriage Preparation weekend

April 15 Major OLF event! More details to follow!

April 22-24 Tobit Marriage Preparation weekend

April 26 - May 24 Contemporary Scripture series
Five consecutive Tuesday evenings. See back page for details!

May 7 Spring Cleaning Day!

Time to roll up our sleeves and tackle some big cleaning, painting, and fix-up jobs! Can you or your group help? Call Rosa at 545-7681 to let us know!

May 8 Mother's Day mass and brunch
Treat Mom to a special day at Our Lady of Fatima! Fr. Tom Stepanski celebrates mass at 10:00 am, followed by a brunch buffet.

Advance registration is required.

Cost: \$10.00 per person, \$75.00 per table of eight (children under 5 eat free). Feel free to walk the grounds or tour the facility after brunch!

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima feast day!

Celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima by joining us for mass at 9:00 a.m., followed by a morning reflection on Our Lady. Celebrant and presenter will be Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Thursday 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Registration fee of \$20.00 includes mass, program and lunch

May 13 - 15 Tobit Marriage Preparation weekend

May 20 - 22 "Joy, The Gigantic Secret of Roman Catholicism"

Fr. John Catoir presents this exploration of the spirituality of joy. The Church is always a port in the storm for those in need. It offers us a wonderful, untrembling center; namely, the joy brought to us by Jesus Christ.

7:00 pm Friday night until 1:00pm Sunday afternoon
Registration fee of \$145.00 includes program and materials,

CLIP AND MAIL

Call for a brochure for any of these offerings or register now!

Please Register me for the following events:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Name of Event: _____

Date of Event: _____ Cost: _____

Deposit of \$50.00 Per person per retreat: _____

(Must pay full amount for special events)

Additional donation to OLF: _____

Today's payment total: _____

Balance due at check-in: _____

Please mail to:

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

meals and overnight accommodations

2005 Monthly Senior Mass and Social

- (mass begins at 9:00 a.m.):
January 31
February 28
April 25
June 27
July 25
August 29
September 26
October 31
November 28

2005 Tobit Marriage Preparation weekends:

- January 28-30
April 8 -10
April 22 -24
May 13 -15
June 17 -19
July 8 -10
July 22 -24
September 16 -18
October 21-23
November 11 -13

Colts President Bill Polian a guest at Our Lady of Fatima

Team president Bill Polian delayed his arrival to the first day of the Indianapolis Colts' training camp to speak at a fundraising dinner at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. During "An Evening with Bill Polian" on August 1st, he shared both humorous and serious stories about faith, family, friends and football.

Now in his seventh season as president of the Indianapolis Colts, Polian oversees both the football and administrative aspects of the National Football League (NFL) team. He told the gathering that character counts with the Colts organization and is a primary factor in determining which players are selected in NFL drafts and acquired in trades.

Polian grew up in New York and was educated in Catholic schools. He and his wife, Eileen, have been married for 39 years and have four children and four grandchildren. His son, Chris, is an Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioner and assistant general manager of the Colts.

"I am an honorary Jesuit," Polian said. "I sent four kids through Jesuit colleges so I've paid tuition forever. I've got a seat in heaven right next to [St.] Ignatius Loyola [the founder of the Society of Jesus]."

Because of his career, the Polian family moved quite a few times over the years. "Whether we lived in Canada or in the United States," he said, "the Church for us was a rock in a changing world and was even more so for our children, not only for the discipline and the faith that a Catholic education brings but also for the community that it brings." "It's important that all of us continue to support the works that the Church does," Polian said, "particularly in this day and age when we have so many children in

inner cities that are very needy and who need that sense of discipline and faith and community that Catholic education brings."

Colts head coach Tony Dungy was conducting team meetings at training camp on Sunday night, Polian said, but as a faithful Catholic he could not refuse this opportunity to help Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House.

"I was born on Dec. 8, 1942," Polian said, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "I went to Our Lady of Mercy School in Bronx, New York," he said, "then I went to Mount St. Michael Academy, which is run by the Marist Brothers, who dedicate their lives to the Blessed Virgin. I couldn't very well turn down this invitation, could I?"

St. Pius X parishioner Bob McLain of Indianapolis, a longtime television meteorologist, introduced Polian and

jokingly offered a list of suggestions for him to consider before the season.

"The funds generated tonight will be used to further the mission of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House," McLain said. "This is a very special place and it performs an important ministry for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. To maintain such a facility and its beautiful 13 acres is, as you might expect, quite expensive." As a not-for-profit ministry, McLain said, the retreat center's "ability to move forward is dependent upon the kindness and generosity of people such as you. We certainly do appreciate your support." Polian thanked McLain for his "very nice introduction" and told him, "Just leave the suggestions on the table. I get them from everywhere so you might as well join the crowd."

Story and photo by Mary Ann Wyand, The Criterion



High Tea A Huge Success

A record-breaking crowd of 170+ ladies enjoyed 'High Tea' on October 14th. The room was beautiful, the food was incredible, and the speaker was delightful! There were nothing but positive comments from the participants! Congratulations to 'High Tea' co-chairs, Mary Jane Owens and Janet McNabb! The co-chairs extend a big thank you to the entire Our Lady of Fatima staff for their support efforts!



Just one of the many beautifully decorated tables at the High Tea

Project "Oscar"

On August 19, Oscar Swanigan, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House Maintenance Coordinator of 18 years, got some much-needed help organizing his 'space.' The entire staff, dressed in grubby clothes, spent the day cleaning, sweeping, sorting, hanging, condensing, throwing away and generally re-doing Oscar's work space. Oscar, nervous at first about people "touching his stuff," gradually got into the spirit of the day and loves his neat and organized new space!



Fall Fix-Up Weekend

On October 16 & 17, a mountain of mulch was spread on the trails of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. Eight hours, over fifty volunteers, a tractor, five wheelbarrows, countless rakes, shovels, pitchforks and gloves...and the trails look great! On Saturday, 34 Roncalli HS freshmen football players, along with Coach Bob Tully, began the work. On Sunday, members of the 8th grade Religious Education class of Holy Spirit Parish, along with their parents, completed the work. For the small price of hamburgers and pizzas, a tremendous amount of work was done! Thank you to all of our Fall Fix-Up Weekend helpers! Look for our Spring Cleaning Day on May 7th!



(left) "The mountain of mulch continues to grow smaller thanks to 34 Roncalli football players" (right) After four hours of hard work...time to eat!

OLF Staff Party

On September 26th, the Our Lady of Fatima staff gathered at the home of Director Rick Wagner for a staff cook-out. Fun, food and fellowship was the order of the day. After a great meal, the staff received staff shirts and discussed goals for the upcoming year.



Chef Kim Sunde (middle) finds something amusing at the September 26th staff party

Quotes From Past Retreats

"It instilled such a growing peace in my heart, mind and soul. It left me feeling blessed and graced."

about Fr. Ben Hawley's
2004 Lenten retreat

"Great start to a New Year! Meditation journey was awesome!"

about Fr. Jim Farrell's
2004 New Year's Retreat

"I feel renewed. I have a more peaceful awareness of God's presence."

about Br. Barry Donaghue's
September 2004 labyrinth workshop

"Excellent...awesome...a release from my burdens!"

about Joe Zarantonello's
September 2004 journaling retreat

"This was my first retreat. I will be thinking differently about the way I say the "Our Father."

about Jack Shea's
August 2004 "The Lords Prayer" retreat

Erica Returns From Maternity Leave

Office Manager Erica Shoop is back to work after her maternity leave. Erica and husband Eric are the proud parents of Jake, born July 26, 2004.



"Jacob Edward Shoop"

Advisory Board

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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

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

Adult Education: Contemporary Scripture Series



About the Presenter:

Jim Welter served for seven years as Pastoral Associate and Business Manager for St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. Jim has been married for more than thirty years and is the father of two sons. He has attended Bible study seminars presented by some of the

world's foremost Catholic scholars. In 1995, Jim received his B.A. in Religious Studies (Magna Cum Laude) from Indiana University.

For the past 20 years, Jim has presented his adult scripture program, **The Ascending View**, at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This program has also been featured on the campuses of Ball State University and Marian College.

He is also the author of *When Winter Comes*, a book of Scripture reflections for daily living.

Session I: "Preparing for the Journey"
Bible Basics
The Role of Myth in Scripture

Session II: "Our Story in the Desert"
A Journey Through the Old Testament
Contradictions in Scripture

Session III: "The Gospel Truth"
Principles of Interpretation
The Historical Jesus

Session IV: "New Light on the Gospels"
Why the Gospels Were Written
Purpose of a Gospel

Session V: "Out of Easter...The Gospels"
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
The Synoptic Gospels...A Study in Parallel

Adult Education: Contemporary Scripture Series

Dates (5 consecutive Tuesdays): April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2005

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm each evening

Cost: \$75.00

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