



Reflections

Volume 15:3

N E W S L E T T E R

God in the Moment

by Sharon Wagner

I have read a few books and several articles about finding God in and throughout the moments of the day....not just in prayer, when you really concentrate, but also in those less focused times. We often look to, or look for God when we or someone we know has a struggle, or a cross to bear. We usually recognize God in those joyful times of marriage, birth, and great accomplishments, but are we open to seeing God in all moments of our lives?

For many years I drove about 30 minutes to and from work each day. I took the most scenic route each morning and used the time and the beauty to reflect and talk to God. This time was special to me and a very calming time. After a hectic beginning of preparing my son for his day, and taking him to a babysitter, or to school in the later years, and pulling myself together for work, I enjoyed the solitude of my drive. This time helped me begin my day at work with a more open and accepting attitude. My work place consisted of many unhappy people, with less than positive attitudes. When employees experienced problems with any portion of his or her job, they normally brought those issues to my office. The aura I brought with me at 7:30 AM was diminished by noon! I can admit that my drive home was



Photo by Kevin DePrey

not near as pleasant as my drive in each day! This is similar to what some people experience after attending a retreat. They are so pumped up with grace and enthusiasm as they leave, but much of this wears away as they re-enter the ordinary aspects of their life.

For the past six and a half years I have worked here at Fatima Retreat House. My mornings aren't as hectic because my son is older and can take care of himself. My drive to work is much shorter and also less scenic. I still encounter problems but the attitudes are better. There is still an aura but it isn't mine. The aura belongs to the place, the employees, and the volunteers and guests who enter and exit our doors. I find my

peace, my passions, and my God inside this place and its people. I look out my window and see God's creations and I walk through the building and encounter God's blessings. I am surrounded by love, respect, compassion, peace and nature. I am now even more aware of God in all the moments of my day.

Many people who come to Fatima on retreat are able to replenish their spiritual resources and experience God in the moments. This is easier to do in a "holy" place such as Fatima, yet the greater goal is to take the experience, the feeling of peace, with them as they leave so they can share God's gifts and be God's beauty for others.

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Look inside for your Retreat Schedule!



Brian Doyle

Welcome Brian Doyle

Life is a series of hellos and goodbyes. As we say farewell to former Director Kevin DePrey, and prepare to say goodbye to Associate Director Sharon Wagner who is transitioning to a new job, we are happy to welcome Brian Doyle. Brian was appointed Director of Fatima by Archbishop Buechlein in October. He brings a wealth of experience in spiritual education and renewal, a background in guest hospitality, and a warm smile for everyone he meets.

Brian is presently the Director of School and Agency Services in the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development. He has worked for the Archdiocese in a number of capacities since 1992, serving as executive assistant to the archbishop and as the coordinator of the Jubilee 2000 celebration. From 2001 to 2003, he worked as a project specialist in the education department of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Brian also has also had experience in catering and conference work at the Marriott Hotel East in Indianapolis and at St. Meinrad Seminary. He was the co-director of retreat programs for Marymount International High School in Rome, Italy, and taught in the catechetical certification program for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Next spring, he will receive his Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. He will assume his new responsibilities on November 17, 2003.

Farewell and thanks also to:

Don Baker

Sean Crone

Dana Danberry



The practice of Thanksgiving:

Susan and her family spend the Thanksgiving holiday writing notes of gratitude to people whose daily kindness and joy makes their lives a little more pleasant.

God in the Moment... Continued from page 1

Those of us who work at Fatima have had the daily blessing of a relationship with a man who exudes God's gifts and beauty. Kevin DePrey has spent the last 16 1/2 years supporting the mission of renewal, enhancing the beauty, and empowering the staff, to help to create the environment that so many people experience when they spend time here. The volunteers, the donors, the retreatants, the archdiocese, and Fatima's past and present staff have all benefited from their association with Kevin. He never ran out of hugs, smiles, kind words, ideas, or challenges. He was always ready to listen (and to talk and talk and talk!) to a friend or stranger. Fatima improved tremendously under Kevin's tutelage. We, who encountered him, improved also. We came away with a better sense of ourselves and a greater awareness of God's activity in all of our daily moments.

Kevin has moved on to a new job here in town and a new challenge. Those of us who remain to carry out what he taught us will be sad that he is no longer a daily encounter, but we will be forever grateful that he helped us to recognize all our blessings and to experience them on a regular basis. No books or articles will ever teach me to find God in the moment as Kevin has taught me. Kevin has been a special gift to me which I will continue to open over and over again.

"One great means of preserving a constant peace and tranquility of heart is to receive all things as coming from the hands of God, whatever they may be, and in whatever way they may come." Saint Dorotheus

An Example of Hospitality

by Mike Haigerty

When was the last time you walked into a fast food restaurant or department store and actually felt like you were important? By that I mean the person serving you looked at you as if interested in helping you, greeted you with a smile, and worked to make sure you had a positive shopping or dining experience? In other words, you felt welcomed and were treated with hospitality? Unfortunately, these moments are becoming increasingly rare in our society. Why? Is it because being hospitable - *welcoming guests with warmth and generosity*, according to my dictionary - requires hard work, dedication, and self-sacrifice, as well as true concern for the well being of others? This is not an easy task, and maybe one that many people, sadly, are not willing to undertake.

In the rule of St. Benedict, the saint advises his brother monks: "All guests to the monastery should be welcomed as Christ, because He will say, 'I was a stranger and you took me in' (Matt. 25:35)." Welcoming the stranger and taking care of his or her needs is not merely good customer service, but a command of Jesus, and for a Christian, it is not optional.

For the past seventeen years, Kevin DePrey has been a great example of hospitality to all who have been guests or staff at Fatima Retreat House. No, he is not perfect, but with rare exception, the people who have walked through these doors for retreats, days of reflection, or conferences have been welcomed and cared for either directly by Kevin or indirectly by someone on the staff following Kevin's example. But let's give credit where credit is due. It is not really "Kevin's example" at all, but simply the example set by

OTHER INFORMATION:

DEPOSITS: Your per person non-refundable deposit holds a space for you at the retreat; balance is due upon arrival. See program listing for deposit amount. If you prefer to pay the full amount in advance and must cancel, your registration will be refunded, minus the deposit. Reflection day registration must be paid at the time of registration.

GENESIS FUND: Those who are unable to meet the cost of a weekend retreat may receive assistance from the Genesis Fund. Inquire with registrar.

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE: (317) 545-7681
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Kevin DePrey

Jesus that Kevin worked hard to follow for all these years. It would be hard to quantify just how many people in this Archdiocese and beyond have been

positively affected by the welcoming Spirit of Christ through Kevin's smile, kind words, hugs, and positive energy, as well as his leadership of this ministry of hospitality that is Fatima Retreat House. He deserves a great deal of thanks for all he has done. God, thank you for the gift he has been and continues to be.

Sadly for us, Kevin has moved on to another challenge in his professional life, but one in which he will continue to share the Spirit of Christ with others. He will be missed and Fatima will not be the same without him. But he is not entirely gone. He leaves behind a legacy of hospitality that will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of all those who were blessed to have been a part of this place for the last seventeen years. God bless you Kevin. Please pray that as long as Fatima Retreat House exists, may it be a place where "all are welcomed as Christ."

Change A Life!

The single most effective way to get someone to their first retreat is to invite them to join you, especially if you are willing to share how you benefit from the practice of making retreats.

Fatima Retreat House sells gift certificates in any amount that are good for two years from the date of purchase. Invite someone you care about into a deeper relationship with God by giving them the gift of renewal.

Gift certificates can also be used for the TOBIT marriage preparation program, and are a great engagement gift!

Your purchase includes a complimentary greeting card of *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*, the oil painting that hangs in our lobby, for the presentation of your gift. Call us with questions (317) 545-7681 or e-mail fatima@archindy.org.

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A New Moment of Grace

In May 2003, a review of capital assets prompted the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to explore the possibility of turning ownership of Fatima Retreat House over to a religious order who would continue to offer spiritual retreats.

After nearly six months of consultation, analysis, discussion and prayer, Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis, announced October 21 that the Archdiocese will retain ownership of Fatima. In a meeting with Fatima's Board of Directors, Archbishop Daniel said, "Support for keeping Fatima is extraordinarily strong." The news was received with joy by the many friends, volunteers, donors and guests of Fatima Retreat House.

Although some fundraising challenges lie ahead, the Archbishop said he envisions the best possible facility, recognizing that some improvements will need to take place right away while others will have to wait.

When asked about the future for Fatima Retreat House, Archbishop Daniel said he is committed to the mission and ministry of Fatima for the archdiocese and has had wonderful retreat experiences there himself. In response to the financial challenges ahead, he stated, "I will do my best, and added, "I have a personal connection here; there are stained glass windows in the chapel dedicated to my mother and father." Archbishop concluded by saying he did a lot of praying to St. Joseph, and sees Fatima as sharing in a "new moment of grace."

