

The Occasional Newsletter

Spring 2002

Ministries Outreach

No. 2

Registration ongoing for February retreat

Jesus, Our Aramaic Brother

By Kathy Smythe-LaMorte
Futures Committee

Brother Joseph Kilikevics, O.P., will return to our area to lead us in a retreat on February 22 – 24, 2002 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street.

Brother Joe is a friar of the Central Province of USA Dominicans. He is known both nationally and internationally for his ministry in interfaith retreats, in the creation spirituality tradition.

Brother Joe is the founder of SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality.

SHEM Center is rooted in the mandate of the Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church, to end the hostilities caused by religious differences that have for so long deeply wounded the world. SHEM is an Aramaic word expressing the radiance, splendor and beauty of the Creator, found in all people and in all of creation.

Brother Joe has studied with Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz, a man who has spent much of his life pursuing what may have been the original

see Brother Joe, page 3



Photo by Pat Dorman

DAY OF PRAYER: Partners in Ministry participants come together for the 2001 December Day of Prayer.

Ministry Program prepares to celebrate 25 years of service

By Kay Kolb and Pat Miller
PIM Facilitators

On Sunday, June 23, all alumni and friends of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Program and Partners in Ministry are invited to a Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration at the Catholic Center, 800 W. Loop 820 South in Fort Worth.

The Ministry Program began in October of 1977, and as a group of hundreds, we have grown in our spirituality, and been of service to many. Since we are ALWAYS looking for a chance to celebrate, we seize this wonderful opportunity!

Members of the "Planning Team" are beginning to do a variety of things to prepare. Please help if you can:

-By saving the day, and helping in the Hoorah!
-By sending photos from the many years of classes, retreats,



etc. to be put into a video. Technological Experts will have a video picture going that will be a "visual memory trip" for all of us;

-By bringing your photos arranged on poster board to be hung about the hall;

-By offering your talents to the Planning Team. (Contact Ed Houters at ebhouters@aol.com);

-By bringing a snack to share.

We will celebrate Eucharist about 2 p.m., and spend the afternoon enjoying being together. More information will be sent you as it develops.

PASSED INTO GOD

Four of our active Lay Ministers have been called by God to a New Way of Life. As we mourn with their families and close friends, always struggling to restructure their lives without the visible presence of their husbands, fathers, friends—we believe that they are still with us, inspiring us from a different place.

Please pray for, to, with:

Chuck Laue, who with his wife Loretta brought their adult family through Partners in Ministry.

Peter Henz, husband of Bernie Henz who went ahead to "prepare a place for him," and dear friend of so many.

Andres Luna, who with his wife, Margarita, were former "commissioners" in the Program, and later pursued a vocation to the diaconate, serving selflessly for years.

Bullitt Lowry, who with his wife, Sharon, were "commissioners" in the Program; Bullitt was fondly called "Sister Budgitt" because of his work to balance our budget.

If we've missed anyone, please let us know.

Keep in Touch

If you have comments or questions about Partners in Ministry, please contact us at us at:

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Visit us online at:

www.ministriesoutreach.org
Pictures of this year's Partners in Ministry have arrived there -- along with other "fast-breaking news."

We want to know how you've been. Let us know who you are and what you are up to by filling out the information below. Also, you can always use the form to send in a donation.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Church You Attend _____

Mail this information to:

Ministries Outreach
2115 Crestwood Place
Denton, TX 76209

The Ocassional Newsletter

Ministries Outreach
2115 Crestwood Place
Denton, TX 76209



A word on Ecumenism

By Kathleen Easler
Ecumenism/Grants
Committees

The Catholic Church entered the ecumenical arena at the Second Vatican Council, with its document on Ecumenism. Several brave pioneers had paved the way for this entry by working with other Christian Churches who had been interested in Ecumenism since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Ecumenism is actually a gift to the Catholic Church from its Christian Brothers and Sisters, who were following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for nearly 60 years before we began.

In 1995, Pope John Paul II issued his encyclical on Ecumenism, titled "Ut Unum Sint" (We Are One). In it he says: Christ calls all his disciples to unity. No one is unaware of the challenge which all this poses to believers. We must do everything possible to break down the walls of division and distrust, to overcome obstacles and prejudices. Interconfessional dialogues at the theological level have produced positive and tangible results (but we) cannot underestimate the burden of long standing misgivings...and mutual misunderstandings.

Consequently, the commitment to ecumenism must be based upon conversion of hearts and upon prayer.

At the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church committed herself irrevocably to the ecumenical venture....While dialogue continues....a new task lies before us: that of receiving the results already achieved.

(They) must become the common heritage of the whole people of God."

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPU) states that it is the responsibility of each person to make his or her own contribution to the work of unity....the whole church, faithful and clergy alike.

Therefore, in the March segment of Partners in Ministry, we will have a period to learn about ecumenism, and how participants may contribute to the ecumenical effort.

Keep in mind that ecumenism is not "horse-trading." It is also not a melting pot, eliminating the distinctive gifts of each denomination, while producing a bland Minimal Christianity. Neither is it a demand that Christians return to an old Church or faith, since all faiths have moved from where they were in the 16th Century.

Rather, it is more like a Mosaic, with each piece of the picture contributing depth, light, shading, color to achieve a work of beauty and accuracy. When any part is missing, it is a damaged picture.

The intent of Ecumenism is to recover a full biblical and patristic understanding of the faith that provides clarity and understanding and full dimensional reality to all sides.

It does this while avoiding the emotional terms of the past that were a source of dispute. In examining our faith through these theological dialogues, we have discovered that all of our traditions are enriched and our understanding of the truths is expanded.

Annual appeal reaps great results

Thanks to EVERYBODY who responded so generously to the appeal. These donations cover Kay and Pat's salary, rent, insurance and retirement, and once again, we have met our goal.

Thanks, too, to all of you who donate on a regular basis to keep it all going. Even though the contributions in October, November and December more than double the input from any other three months, the project would not work without those regular checks coming in. Truly it is a marvel that, after 12 years, the laity of this diocese continue to keep the Ministries Outreach Programs running.

UNSpoken HUNGER

In our annual Glen Rose Gathering, April 19-20, we welcome this year Father Jim Conlon, the director of Sophia Center, Holy Names College in Oakland, Calif. The Sophia Center offers programs in the areas of culture and spirituality, which encourage creativity and personal transformation.

Father Conlon has entitled the retreat Unspoken Hunger: the Quest for Sacredness and Depth. Our times, says Father Conlon, are "an invitation to experience a new sense of belonging that is planetary, global and cosmic...to unite our new cosmic solidarity with the call to love and justice and an enduring belief in the possibilities of tomorrow."

Among other things, we will experience the "Cosmic Spiral Walk" in the context of the Eucharist.

Times: Friday, April 19 (6 p.m. with potluck supper) through Saturday, April 20 (about 4 pm). The opening session will begin about 7 p.m. The retreat will close with a "Sending Ceremony" for those who have completed Partners in Ministry 2001-2002.

Cost: \$50 for overnight accommodations and breakfast and lunch on Saturday, plus transportation and stipend for our retreat director. (If you are "strapped for funds" partial and full funding may be available. If you are "blessed with funds," help the scholarship fund grow!)

We hope you will be able to "gift yourself" with time for prayer and reflection with Father Jim and all of us on April 19, 20, 2002. Brochure/registration forms will be sent out in March.

Father Conlon's latest books, *SACRED IMPULSE* and *PONDERINGS FROM THE PRECIPICE* are available from the CRC Bookstore [817-429-2920], and will be available at the retreat.

--Kay and Pat

Brother Joe expected to offer insight into Jesus as a man

continued from page 1.

words of Jesus and of his disciples, in Aramaic. The translation from Aramaic into English offers wonderfully new, multi-faceted meanings for prayer and reflection.

Jesus's native language was Aramaic. Brother Joe prayerfully shares the deep, rich meanings of the words of Jesus, using the ancient Aramaic texts that recorded them, and translations from these texts. Previously available only to scholars of the language that Jesus spoke, the melodic sound of these sacred phrases provide an ever deepening experience of the wisdom, tradition and love found in the preaching ministry of Jesus. Understanding Aramaic words and phrases provides new insight and a fuller, more enriched understanding of the man called Rabbi

Yeshua (Jesus).

The Aramaic pronunciations of Jesus's prayers, chant and sacred movement will be gently taught and reflected upon. Restful silence, and the "Prayer of Gazing with Holy Icons", common in the Byzantine and Orthodox Christian traditions, as well as other spiritual practices, will also be part of this retreat.

Retreat participants will be offered an opportunity to experience more deeply the compassion of Jesus, and who he was yesterday, today and forever. Meanwhile, participants will be expanding their own spiritual growth.

LOGISTICS

Where: Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, next to Nolan High School in Fort Worth.

| REGISTRATION FORM | |
|---|-----------|
| Jesus, Our Aramaic Brother Retreat | |
| February 22 – 24, 2002 | |
| Brother Joseph Kilikevce, O.P. Catholic Renewal Center | |
| Name _____ | |
| Address _____ | |
| city/state _____ | zip _____ |
| Phone _____ | |
| e-mail _____ | |
| Registration Deposit \$25 enclosed _____ | |
| Checks payable to: Ministries Outreach | |
| Send to: 2115 Crestwood, Denton 76209 | |
| Questions: Call Ruth (817)295-1209 or Kathy (817)483-0524. | |

Times: Friday, February 22 at 6 p.m. for soup supper through Sunday, February 24 about noon.

Cost: \$85 per person, \$150 per couple. Meals and overnight accommodations are included in this fee, as well as the stipend and

transportation for the retreat director.

Register early because there is limited overnight space at the Renewal Center (about 40), and no more than 50 persons can be accommodated comfortably in the prayer/dance space.

Shared Reflections

Teilhard de Chardin

One might say that a hitherto unknown form of religion--one that no one could as yet have imagined or described, for a lack of a universe large enough and organic enough to contain it, is burgeoning in the heart of modern man, from a seed sown by the idea of evolution...Far from being shaken in my faith by such a revolution, it is with irrepressible hope that I welcome the irresistible rise of this new mysticism and anticipate its equally inevitable triumph.

Jewish Grace

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of life, wonder beyond words, our awareness of Soul, the light

within, the world around us so filled with beauty, and the richness of the Earth, which day by day sustains us. For all these gifts and more, we thank and bless you, the Source of All.

John Muir

The grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dry at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continent and island, each in its turn as the round earth rolls.

From Father Jim Conlon's *PONDERINGS FROM THE PRECIPICE*.

Ministries Outreach Advisory Board (MOAB's)

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Kathy Smythe-LaMorte

Kay Kolb and Pat Miller, SSND