

The Occasional Newsletter

Summer 2011

www.ministriesoutreach.org

Glen Rose Retreat - April 2011



Some of the participants at Glen Rose Retreat 2011

From Barbara McAninch, Chair MOAB

Despite the high winds, surrounding wild fires, burn ban and logistics problems of moving back and forth between Still Water Lodge and the Reception Room at the main Glen Rose campus, the Glen Rose retreat was enjoyed by all.

Father Hector Medina and Liz Lopez presented a thought-provoking program on forgiveness and healing. Participants learned that we carry around a lot of rocks representing both the hurts others have inflicted on us and the hurts we have inflicted on others. At lunch we gathered a rock to represent those hurts. At the liturgy

Father Hector had us give up those rocks and place them in bowls of olive oil. After communion we were invited to take a rock from the bowl of olive oil and bless those around us with that rock. Past hurts turned into blessings for all.

Special thanks to Mike Horsch for putting together wonderful music for the retreat and liturgy and bringing together a great group of musicians.

Certificates of Participation in Partners in Ministry and Spirituality were presented to 47 attendees at the graduation ceremony. Congratulations to our new partners!!

At the retreat the Ministries Outreach Advisory Board (MOAB) asked for feedback from the participants about 3 possible retreat sites for 2012: Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose, Camp Copass Retreat Center in Denton, and the Renewal Center in Fort Worth. The responses from the informal survey were: Glen Rose 14, Copass 14 and the Renewal Center 24. The Board then gathered more information and went through a discernment process with questions and responses regarding each potential site. It was decided unanimously by the Board to hold the 2012 retreat at the Renewal Center in Fort Worth on April 28 and 29 (a Saturday and Sunday rather than our usual Friday night/Saturday schedule). The retreat will start on Saturday morning at 10:00 am and will end on Sunday around 3:00 pm. Those wishing to stay overnight at the Renewal Center on Saturday night may do so.

The Ministries Outreach Board is delighted to announce the return of Sister Miriam Therese for the April, 2012 Retreat. Below is a lovely prayer written by Sr. Miriam in response to what Paul is said to have spoken to the people in Athens concerning their temple to the "Unknown God". One of the people who was able to "hear" what St. Paul said was a woman named Damaris. Two centuries later, Sister Miriam Therese Winter wrote this prayer published in her honor, in a book called WOMAN WORD.

*O God of Many Names
We search for names
Knowing that no one name
Can ever reveal You
Or contain You
Or define You.*

*We know You in a million ways
Through all of Your creation,
Through Your Spirit gifts within us,
And yet we do not know You,
For you transcend definition
And You live beyond our grasp.*

*All-knowing God, Unknown God,
Give us wisdom as well as knowledge,
That we might come to know You well
Through Your indwelling
Deep within us
And Your never-failing love.
Amen*

We hope you enjoy this "Occasional Newsletter" as much as we enjoy putting it together for YOU. Some received the last issue electronically via E-mail and we are hoping to send it to a wider group of people in order to save on postage and printing cost. If you received this copy via regular mail and would like to receive it electronically in the future, please send your e-mail address to ministry643@yahoo.com and we will put you on the list. AND, of course you can view it anytime on our web-site www.ministriesoutreach.org Thanks, the MOAB committee.

50 Anniversary Watch

POPE JOHN XXIII'S ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

by Ray Szempruch

Rome, summer of 1961, preparations for the ecumenical council stew in the background. On the front burners, it is all politics. Pope John XXIII's energies are fully engaged, but not necessarily available to public scrutiny. Three examples:

1. April 11, 1961, was the 100th Anniversary of Italian Unification (aka suppression of the Papal States). Pope John celebrated this by receiving Italy's Prime Minister in audience, ending the 100 year war between Church and State in Italy! Pope John also, quietly, put the word out to Italian bishops to disengage from local partisan politics.

2. May 15, 1961, his encyclical *Mater and Magistra* was released and regarded as new papal political philosophy. The historian in John nuanced and polished it throughout the spring. It was the longest encyclical ever at 25,000 words. One word new to Catholic social teaching got all the attention: *socialization* (social process) awareness of the interdependence of all human beings. It sounded too much like *socialism* to his critics. Pope John was squarely on the side of a welfare state, a state, that is, that recognized its obligations for the interdependent common good. Summer reading, anyone?

3. In July, 1961, Pope John addressed a letter to *Pax Christi*, the international Catholic peace organization. His endorsement may seem bland now, but fueled criticism that John was soft on communism. "We try to be a man of peace in the deepest meaning of the word. And while we suffer from what is happening, we prefer to stress what unites and to walk along the road with anyone as far as possible." An entirely discreet back door approach to Soviet leadership through private intermediaries played itself out that summer. The Pope's objective was freedom for the bishops behind the Iron Curtain to attend the council.

May we walk in Wisdom as Blessed John did, as men and women of peace.

TUESDAY MORNING

Father Bob by Linda Huffines

Father Bob Thamer talked with the Tuesday Morning group this spring about his mission work in the mountains of Bolivia. This prayerful man of God believes in the dignity of every human being. He is totally dedicated to education and has made this a reality by building barracks for 300 students who live too far away to walk to school. Fr. Bob has also initiated many projects so adults could become self-sufficient, productive citizens. Some of his most poignant points were:

- God didn't make borders.
- We are all one world.
- Humble service is not ego-driven.
- The mission, not the institution is the important thing.
- Sharing vs. hoarding.
- Simple living is key to following Jesus.

Father Bob lives a simple life, his life is his mission.

Partners in Ministry & Spirituality by Christy Szempruch



Partners in Ministry & Spirituality 2010-2011

My pastor suggested 15 years ago that I go through classes offered by Sisters Pat Miller and Kay Kolb, SSND, to learn more about the sacraments. I was Sacrament Coordinator at my church then and wanted more in-depth knowledge to share with the parents of kids making their first communion. Once a month I traveled to various churches in the diocese (it wasn't housed at one place as it is now), and I found out more about my Catholic faith than I ever dreamed there was to know.

Little did I realize then that years later my husband Ray and I would be helping to facilitate this same program with the sisters. It has evolved from a two-day, once-a-

month class emphasizing the history of the sacraments to a shorter time frame (only six hours once a month). Its core is the same: sharing Catholic wisdom with people who want to learn more about the faith they love. The classes now focus more on scripture and the reflections of contemporary Catholic authors, and hence the name change to Partners in Ministry and Spirituality (PIMS).

Ever since I have been a part of PIMS, we have used Sr. Fran Ferder's *Words Made Flesh*, a book that looks at Jesus from both spiritual and psychological perspectives. Every year I discover something new to amaze me. Another wonderful book that is a source for PIMS is *Christianity Rediscovered* by Fr. Vince Donovan, who was a missionary in Africa and came to re-examine his own Catholic faith by working among the Masai tribe. The Bible and these books are the foundation of this nine-month program, along with various films, prayers, meditations, and excerpts from incredible writers. Perhaps the neatest aspect of all is the collective wisdom from each new group of men and women (we teachers learn just as much as first-timers!). I've come to value the journey, not just the destination, and I know each year when we begin another program, the Holy Spirit is in our midst. "Partners in Ministry and Spirituality" really means what its name states: We are all instrumental in spreading the Good News!

Partners in Ministry and Spirituality

at

Most Blessed Sacrament in Arlington

**Dates: Aug. 20, Sep. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, 2011
Jan. 7, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, 2012**

What's PARTNERS II ???

by Larry Peplinski



Well, the short answer is that Partners II is the next step. Partners in Ministry and Spirituality (PIMS) is meant to open the understanding of the followers of Jesus, the Christ, to what church and a life lived with God is all about. It broadens the participant's outlook and opens the window letting the fresh air of the Holy Spirit into their lives. Partners II continues that journey towards a better understanding of spirituality and religion and is available to any graduates of PIMS. Participants gather, in the precious fellowship of like minded souls, for a day, four times a year, to learn and openly share in a safe and loving environment. Generally there is a topic book which is used as a focal point. Last year's participants enjoyed tremendously the book, *Field of Compassion: How the*

New Cosmology is Transforming Spiritual Life by Judy Cannuto. Several chapters of this book will again be used when the new class starts September 10th. This is a special book that you get more and more out of each time you pick it up. Cannuto writes:

Compassion changes everything

Compassion heals.

Compassion mends the broken and restores what has been lost

Compassion draws together those who have been estranged or never even dreamed they were connected.

Compassion pulls us out of ourselves and into the heart of another, placing us on holy ground where we instinctively take off our shoes and walk in reverence.

Compassion springs out of vulnerability and triumphs in unity.

I think we can all relate to the need for compassion in ourselves and in the world, wouldn't you agree? Again this year, the Partners II program will be held at St. Andrew's in Fort Worth, from 9:00 to 4:00. The dates are September 10, November 5, January 14, and March 24. I would encourage you to come and allow your hearts and minds to be expanded so that a greater love of God may be yours. The tuition is still only \$10.00 per session. Books will be available. Let me close with one of Cannuto's beautiful prayers that end each chapter of her fantastic book.

Holy Unity, because of your gracious love, I share in the new consciousness that is emerging. What an awesome gift this is, that you have poured yourself out so generously. May I grow in all the capacities I have — in my self-transcendence, in autonomy, in communion, so that I may know who I am in you and who you are in me. And then, rooted in the knowledge of your love, may I walk freely and compassionately on earth. Amen.

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Continue your Faith Journey....

Partners in Ministry and Spirituality

Most Blessed Sacrament

2100 N. Davis, Arlington, Texas

One Saturday per month 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

STARTING: August 20, 2010

(Sep.17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan 7, 2012, Feb. 11, Mar. 10)

Partners II

St. Andrew Parish, Ft. Worth

September 10 – November 5 – January 14 (2012) – March 24

Tuesday Morning

10:00 to Noon - Starting August 16



