

The Occasional Newsletter

Spring 2011

www.ministriesoutreach.org

Still Water Lodge



Glen Rose Retreat April 15-16

Healing and Forgiveness

This year features the incomparable “Father Hector and Sister Liz.” The topic is so very appropriate as we are meeting during lent, just before Palm Sunday. Still Water Lodge is where we will have our meals this year and 36 of our over-nighters will also stay there. The Still Water chef needs to know if anyone has dietary needs. Please mention these when you register. Other participants will be housed at the Marriage Ministry Center at Glen Lake Camp grounds, the “old place”. Conferences will be at Glen Lake Camp (again the “old place” to those who have been with us other years) in the Reception Room which is just to the right as you enter the cafeteria building.

IF YOU ARE COMING:

- Potluck on Friday night – it’s lent – bring portions for only 6, please. Very little refrigeration available. This will be in the Reception Room in the cafeteria building.
- Bring your flash light. Evening Prayer and Morning Prayer will be outside on the lawn (unless it rains) overlooking the Paluxy River at Still Water Lodge.
- Cost is \$80 for overnigheters (linens are provided), \$45 for commuters. Cost includes breakfast and lunch Saturday, as well as a stipend for the speakers.
- Register on line, by phone, or on the registration form you received earlier. Make SURE to let us know if circumstances keep you from coming to the retreat. Numbers are especially critical this year. Please register as soon as you can (and BEFORE March 30). Directions and room reservations will be forwarded to you before April 1.

*Thank you, everyone, for pulling us out of the “red” and putting us in the “black”
with your truly generous contributions this year, every year. Kay and Pat*

PIMS – Partners in Ministry & Spirituality by Fran Dornan



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Do you know Fran Ferder? Have you met Ray and Christi, Pat Miller, Kay Kolb, Alice Curran, Betty & Ed Houters, Fr. Warren Murphy & Larry Schieffer? Are you familiar with those guys and traditions we call Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Well those are just a few of the neat folks and prophets of old that we have encountered this year in PIMS.

Looking back, I particularly remember the burying and then the digging up of the loincloth, the TWO creation stories right there back-to-back in Genesis, our clay creations, the common spiritual readings connecting us throughout the month and the deeply moving and beautiful CD “I Am a God Nearby”.

Over the years I have participated in many PIM programs. This year, I was intrigued at the idea of a “new” PIM program with a new title, PIMS, that would emphasize prayer and spirituality but still be grounded in our Catholic traditions. This increased opportunity for reflection and prayer through scripture without a doubt helped me to experience the presence of God during our quiet moments as well as through the insights shared by others. Throughout history, God has spoken to humankind through prophets and my experience of the PIMS group this year is that God is alive and well and still communicating with us. As in the past, our guides on our rewarding, inspiring and challenging spiritual adventure, are Sisters Kay and Pat along with Christi and Ray Szempruch. And as always they created a trusting and safe environment for meaningful discussions, much questioning and the sharing of personal thoughts and concerns.

Once again we’ve proven that no matter if topics stay the same or change, it’s the uniqueness and gift of each and every PARTNER that always MAKES the “program”! My special thanks to you all for being there. Now onwards to the GLEN ROSE RETREAT and continuing with many past Partners, our spiritual journey together.

PIM - Partners in Ministry II by Ed and Betty Houters

The fourth year of the Ministry Outreach series of Partners in Ministry II will conclude on March 19, 2011 at St Michael’s Parish in Bedford. This series is designed to help those who wish to dismantle the box they have created around God while maintaining their Catholic faith and tradition as exemplified by Vatican II. We used the book Field of Compassion by Judy Cannato as a basis for discussion.



Cannato puts the "new cosmology"-the dialogue between the scientific and religious accounts of the universe-in plain language and links it to Christian theology. Cannato convincingly connects the so-called Universe Story-the scientific theories that say all life is connected and evolving toward a "new consciousness" of the oneness of all things-with the Christian story, especially the theology of Karl Rahner and Jesus' teaching about a this-worldly kingdom of God.

Prayer, singing and introductory remarks began each segment after which each table discussed a chapter and then summarized their findings for the larger group. Spirited discussion began with stories and questions and opinions of agreement and caution were offered. Experiences with family, parish work and education were shared. Larry Schieffer and Tom Kelly spoke of their experiences as practicing physiologists and about their seminary days. Ray Szempruch also talked about his seminary days in Rome at the time of Vatican II.

All of us who have attended this series have come away with a better understanding and appreciation of the faith we love and embrace. If you were not able to attend this series this time, watch for details of continuation of the program next year beginning in September.

Our 50th Anniversary Watch as Ritual by Ray Szempruch



I found extraordinary source material to support our on-going awareness and celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vatican Council 2 story. This material was originally published in 1966, and recently re-published, [Theological Highlights of Vatican II](#).

The Partner's newsletter celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 10-28-1958 election of John XXIII. Several times since, I have shared my marginal observer "*account of a personal journey through the landscape of [John's Papacy so as to]...invite the reader to reacquaint with the Council, moving through it again from its beginnings. ... to re-experience the step-by-step movement from the present to future rather than merely contemplate the end result from afar. This is no make-believe journey. The Council, as an event in the Church, is still a matter of unfinished business.*"

The words in italics were written by Joseph Ratzinger in his little book's introduction. "*The Council's statements are not a body of purely intellectual teaching... They are the product of a spiritual process. A process or movement can only be comprehended by participating in it, by gradual step-by-step, obedient involvement in it.*" pp. vii-viii.

The truth of those last several lines is compelling. Our Anniversary Watch can be regarded as ritual, as liturgy. The Old Testament Covenant understood ritual as *Zikaron*, as *Anamnesis*, as Memorial, as "*participating in*" the event commemorated, "*still a matter of unfinished business.*" The revelatory event that was John's Council in our salvation story is a paradigm of God's New Incarnational Covenant. We raise our voices in praise and thanks for what God has done, is doing, will do in the movement of God's People and all Creation toward the Freedom of the Children of God. This generation privileged to bridge the 20th and 21st centuries has a role to play yet.

Life and Times of Margie Bechard by Heather Bechard



Heather says: *I need to find a new hairstylist... and interior decorator, style consultant, storyteller, adventurous travel companion, cook, bargain hunter, dog groomer, landscape planner, dishwasher, seamstress, artist, accountant, counselor.*

Like everyone else, Margie Bechard was unique and uniquely talented. No one else could ever completely fill all her roles. And no one else can ever fill the hole she left in our hearts when she passed. Margie was born in Chicago, the eldest of four children. She grew up on the Southside, graduated from high school, and went on to study art at the Art Institute. She married, moved to Indiana and had three children. The family moved to the metroplex in 1980. During her life she held various positions as secretary, salesperson, floral designer, croupier, and help desk agent for travel agents. She worked well with people. Her effervescent personality never failed to cheer. Her humor, storytelling and empathetic ear won people over. Growing up, she never let us stay depressed or ruminate very long, but always found a way to lighten the mood and engage us (no matter how determined we were to be miserable). Her spontaneity and sensitivity to beauty, her enjoyment of life and wild imagination made her an adventurous spirit. She was always willing to travel or try something new. So, of course, well into her 60's, she was zip lining right along with the rest of us. Her body, unable to keep up with her indomitable spirit, succumbed on October 7, 2010.

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Partners in Ministry and Spirituality

has its last session for the year on March 12th at St. Andrew's Parish in Ft. Worth.

Partners II

has its last session for the spring on March 19th at St. Michael's in Bedford.

Tuesday Morning Seminar

has its last spring session on May 31 at the Renewal Center.

GLEN ROSE RETREAT

April 15th – 16th in Glen Rose

For more information: www.ministriesoutreach.org