

Fiat Lux

November December 2008



Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center News

From Fr. Joe



No Excuses Please!

A person's life is full of invitations. They come in many different forms. Advertisers and the media are bombarding us with come ons by the thousands every day. Each invitation requires some kind of response. Even no response is a response. The stories of our lives may be told in terms of invitations we accepted and those we have rejected. When we decline we sometimes make excuses, especially if the invitation is from someone we know well.

Jesus told a parable about some people who made excuses. A wealthy man planned a party and sent his servant to call on the invitees with invitations. Each person invited, however, sent regrets. One had bought a piece of land and had to inspect it. Another had bought five yoke of oxen and needed to test them. Still another had recently married and used this as an excuse. The host was furious with his alleged friends. He sent his servant to invite the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame to his party. He vowed never to invite again those who had excused themselves.

The story seems to be a bit humorous, but Jesus was making a serious point. Opportunity knocks only occasionally. If we routinely makes excuses, we will run out of these opportunities. Some invitations are opportunities for deepening a relationship or being helpful to a friend. Some, we will realize later, are once-in-a lifetime opportunities. Especially when we have an invitation from God -- an opportunity to serve, an encouragement to trust, a possibility to learn or to grow -- excuses are simply unacceptable.

Last but certainly not least, I wish you and your families Christ's peace during this holy season and a New Year filled with God's choicest blessings.

Fr. Joseph Bruemmer

From the Director

Here it comes! Christmas, and shortly thereafter, the end of the year; didn't I just say that last week?

The August 31st celebration was very beautiful and gratifying again this year. I was at a fundraising dinner the beginning of October and happened to sit next to the organist/ cantor who played and sang our midnight Mass. This gentleman attends a minimum of 11 masses per week not counting weddings and funerals. He said the mass was without a doubt one of the most beautiful he'd ever attended. Our Lady's house is a special place to celebrate, isn't it?

Thanks to two very special donors, we're embarking on another gargantuan project, replacing the roof that should have been replaced about five years ago. It was another of those times that I had no idea how we would accomplish such a huge undertaking. We spoke of doing small areas at a time, using volunteer labor, begging materials, the whole ball of wax. None of the options seemed to be the right way or in fact a good way. So I did what I always do when things seem impossible. I went to the chapel (good thing it's only 20 or so feet from my office, I need it a lot). Every time I go there in humble faith, I always get the answer to my prayers. This time it happened to be a very generous husband and wife. Thank you very much!

One of the reasons I dwelt on prayer and answered prayers this time is the current financial situation. I'm sure that there are many, if not all of you, suffering from these less than perfect economic times. I know I'm preaching to the choir but don't forget, the Lord always answers prayers and is always with us.

May the peace of the season remain with you through the rest of this year and throughout the next year.

Tom Leibel

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bambi Merz



Legacy of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center

On the wall outside Fr. Smith Hall is a *bas-relief* of the Lord with six men. The men are in long robes, but it is clear from the vessels they carry that they are not identical. The sculpture was made *in situ* in the fall of 1962 after the completion of the new library wing. The young men represent what were the Holy Orders of the Church in those days--the steps that led to the priesthood.

The first figure to the left of Jesus is wearing a diagonal stole; he is clearly the deacon. The deacon had the privilege of distributing Holy Communion at Mass and bringing Holy Communion to the sick, as well as baptizing and preaching. The other figure on the left is the sub-deacon. In the Cincinnati Archdiocese, he was only a month or two away from ordination to the diaconate. His position was notable for the obligations he assumed: to recite the Divine Office everyday and to live a life of celibacy.

The four figures to the right of Jesus are the minor orders. Their office was mostly symbolic, even before Vatican II. Their titles were porter, lector, exorcist and acolyte. The porter was the doorkeeper. His duty was to open and lock the doors of the church and to ring the bells. The lector was the keeper of the sacred books and the reader at Mass.

The exorcist had the authority to drive out demons, although, in most places, this duty was performed by an elderly priest when necessary. The acolyte was the candle bearer and server at Mass.

Fr. Dale Peterka

From the Development Office

Stewardship - What does it mean?

It can mean increasing your financial contribution, but it can also mean participating in Eucharistic Adoration, teaching a child to pray, reading scripture, making a retreat or taking a religious education class. All are ways to live out stewardship in your life.

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center makes stewardship easy. All the things listed above and many more are being offered here right now. By contributing or increasing your gift to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center we can continue to offer 24/7 Eucharistic Adoration, Sr. Lawrence can continue to teach children to pray, you can come to our library to read scripture and we can continue to offer educational classes and retreats for all.

Please continue to support Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center so that together we can serve our Lord and our Lady.

Julie Nerl, Development



The Latin inscription translates "You are a priest forever"



From the Events Office

The Center was buzzing for the annual Our Lady of Light celebration. New activities included a bus tour to the Farm and St. Joseph's in Cold Spring, a series of talks given by Bob Gruber on the Apparitions, Brother Joe Spehar on Prayer and Father Kyle Schnippel on Reconciliation, and a concelebrated Midnight Mass. The Retreat Center was full with overnight Pilgrims. The two days were well attended.

Carmelo Cortez was here for his annual September Healing Service. So many people were blessed with a gift of an imprint on a rose petal! The Center hosted The Call of the King conference for the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to encourage the St. Michael Prayer Warrior Group, a lay apostolate to pray for our priests. A Generational Healing Service nearly filled the Chapel. Jack Elsaesser spoke and Father Chabot conducted the Service.

OLHSC would like to thank Larry Sendelbach and his friends for supplying the crosses for the August 31, Our Lady of Light, 16th Anniversary Celebration, Days of Prayer and Mercy. Thanks also to the American Heritage girls and their volunteers, including some Boy Scouts, for placing the pro life crosses and taking them down. The crosses represent the number of innocent lives taken each day by abortion.

Linda Tracy, Events



Crosses being prepared for display along Montgomery Road. Above left, shows families working on the project.

Again, we have been greatly blessed with an abundance of groups enjoying our retreat facility. We are so excited that so many high schools and area youth have already booked with us for the coming year. With so many faces gracing our Center, it is time to utilize some special recreational space for our retreatants. Young people need a place to unwind away from the beautiful chapels where adorers and pilgrims will not be disturbed.

Please consider using our beautiful Center for your next meeting.

Christie M. Shannon, Retreat Director

You are cordially invited to attend the 3rd annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 5, at 6:45 p.m.. The ceremony will be held at the Montgomery Road entrance. It will include a blessing of the trees, lighting of the trees and caroling. Mass will follow at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome!

It Is Really I

I keep looking for you to come and visit me for Eucharistic Adoration in this Holy Place. Come to me and I will give you rest. "I am the living bread, come to me, you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you."

I, Jesus, am here to be adored.

I, Jesus, am here to listen to you, speak to you, heal you, share your sorrow and give you grace to carry your cross with joy.

I, Jesus, am here to hear you say "thank you" to me.

I, Jesus, am here to teach you, bless and strengthen you on your way.

Remember my words. "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened." In Baptism, you received my gifts of faith, hope and love. God's grace will nurture these gifts. Our Mother, Mary, the model of virtue, will help you. God chose her to be His Mother and gifted humankind with her at the foot of the Cross. She will teach you joyful faithfulness.

Can you not spend an hour with me?

Sister Mary Evelyn, RSM

This doesn't happen every day!

During John Cardinal Foley's recent visit to the Center, he gave Fr. Bruemmer a special Pontifical blessing in honor of Fr. Bruemmer's 60th Anniversary celebration. Congratulations Fr. Bruemmer!

Mark your Calendars

Nov 5 - The Faith Unplugged
Nov 7 - Noon First Friday Mass
Nov 21 - Noon Right to Life Mass
Nov 22 - Apologetics Series
Nov 28 - Noon Mass for Priests
Dec 5 - Noon First Friday Mass
Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec 10 - The Faith Unplugged
Dec 13 - Apologetics Series
Dec 19 - Noon Right to Life Mass

Adorers

Anyone interested in a one hour commitment to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, please contact Keith Merz at 513.574.4522

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center

Income/Expense Statement
January 1 - August 30, 2008

Total Revenues:	\$350,135
Total Expenses:	\$424,578
Profit [Loss]:	(\$74,443)

Cord Rosary Lessons

Anyone interested in learning to make cord rosaries, please join us on Nov. 20 from 10 - 11:30 AM in Room 113. Materials supplied. Parts are needed and can be brought to the Center. Contact: Ruth Ann 513.922.5756

Board of Trustees:

Fr. Joseph A. Bruemmer, President
Fr. Michael Cordier, Secretary
Mr. Ken Hinchey, Treasurer
Fr. Andrew Athapilly, CMI
Fr. Eric Bowman, Mr. Sean Callan
Mr. Robert Dwyer, Sr. Mary Evelyn Hillebrand, Mr. Dan Holland
Fr. Thomas King, Mr. Bill Levitt,
Mrs. Bambi Merz, Fr. James Reutter,
Fr. Leo Schmidt, Fr. Kyle Schnippel,
Fr. Mark Watkins, Mrs. Claire Wilger
Mgr. Director: Thomas R. Leibel

CONTACTS:

OLHSC Hours: Telephone/Info. Office
Mon.-Fri. 9am - 4pm, Sat. 10am-2pm
513.351.9800

To schedule an Activity/Event Ext. 335
or email events@olhsc.org. **Retreats** ext.
305 or email retreats@olhsc.org

The Catholic Shop and Library Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 10am-5pm. **Library** till 4pm.
Fri. 10am-7pm, Sat. 10am to 2pm.

Our Lady of Light Foundation: for Books
contact Ken Hinchey 859.341.5232; for
Our Lady of Light Prayer Cards and
Medals, call 859.331.9393

Our Lady's Prayer Line: 513.793.3829
or for requests for prayer to Melody
Osbourne, 7020 Fowler Ave., Cincinnati,
OH 45243 or email: prayers@olhsc.org

Development/Donations: Julie Nerl
Ext.334, Mon.-Thurs. 9am-3pm. email:
Julie@olhsc.org

Mission Statement

The purpose of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center is to foster a deeper faith in God and love for Him and for our neighbor through the Holy Spirit and the Hearts of Jesus and Mary with obedience to the Magisterium of the Church under the authority of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.



Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center

5440 Moeller Avenue
Norwood, Ohio 45212
Tel: 513.351.9800 or 513.731.Mary
Fax: 513.351.9885
www.olhsc.org Email: info@olhsc.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No.989

Mass Schedule:

Sorrowful Mother Chapel

Mon. - Fri. 8:30AM
Mon. - Thurs. 7:15PM

Holy Rosary Chapel

Friday Evening Services
Rosary: 6:30 PM
Mass: 7:15PM
1st Sat. Mass: 9:30AM

Confessions:

Mon. and Tues. 3- 4PM
1st and 3rd Fri. 6:15-7:45PM

Rosary:

Every Tuesday
11:30AM-12:00 noon
Weekdays 6:20 pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:

Weekdays at 3PM