



SERVING CATHOLIC AND OTHER CHRISTIAN YOUTH
WITH A CHRIST CENTERED RETREAT FACILITY

EAGLE'S WINGS HAPPENINGS

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An Eye on the Eagles

Msgr. Elmer Holtman



On the way of getting my monthly fix of Cooper's barbecue in Llano, I get a chance to view one of nature's amazing wonders. The Texas Highway Department has paved about a quarter mile strip off the highway across the bar ditch so that one can safely stop to observe the wonders of a pair of American Eagle's shoring up and preparing their nest for the new hatch of chicks.

This pair of Eagles, having returned to the same nest over the years has repaired, added more sticks and redesigned it from the previous year. It's now about five

or six feet across and about four feet deep. It is estimated to weigh about four or five hundred pounds.

So why does the pair spend a couple weeks each year remodeling and strengthening their old nest to receive their new brood. Their commitment doesn't end with the original construction but continues with the pair's relationship, sometimes twenty to thirty years.

We here at Eagle's Wings have our own nest to care for. We just had a wonderful celebration marking ten years of service to parish and diocesan retreat groups. Like

the eagles, hundreds of people throughout central Texas have been bringing in more rocks, concrete and steel adding to the original structure. We now have a footprint of buildings covering about ten acres.

Right now the focus is not building a bigger nest but keeping in repair the one we already have. If you have recently been to Eagle's Wings, you no doubt discovered new rattles in your car when you turned in the gate. I'm almost sure you thought or said, "This road really needs work." So what would the eagles do?

Ten Years Ago...

Deacon Curt Haffner



Main Campus before buildings



Building the Front Gate

I always enjoyed the news reports that would end with “10 years ago today such and such took place and 50 years ago this date this happened and 100 years ago this day this happened”. Eagle’s Wings is a long way from the 50 and 100 year reminiscing but starting in December and throughout 2014 there will be many “10 years ago this happened”. 10 years ago in December we closed on the property that has become Eagle’s Wings. 10 years ago in December we incorporated Eagle’s Wings Retreat Center, Inc. as a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. 10 years ago in December Eagle’s Wings received its first 25 acre land donation. 10 years ago in December we celebrated the birth of Jesus and we celebrated the birth of God’s retreat center. We had no idea how it would develop or become what it should become. We only knew that God had a plan and that plan was now underway. I have kept on my desk these past 10 years a quote. I don’t know who said it but it was written on Sept 12, 1646. “My confidence is placed in God who does not need our help for accomplishing his designs. Our single endeavor should

be to give ourselves to the work and to be faithful to him, and not spoil his work by our shortcomings.” The quote has been one of many guideposts I use in trying to answer God’s call. We started the work on Eagle’s Wings with that quote as a compass. Simply trust God has a plan, know that He will provide as long as we do the work.

10 years later as I look back and see how God’s plan has unfolded, it all seems so logical but there were so many things that seemed impossible. 10 years ago the retreat center was just acres of beautiful land and a dream. Yet God’s plans were always bigger than our dreams. His thoughts always greater than ours and his love always filling us with wisdom when we did not know what to do or thought we could do no more. 10 years, a decade of time, has been completed in the history of Eagle’s Wings and a tremendous amount has been accomplished. However, it would be empty time if not for the relationship that so many have had with God here at Eagle’s Wings. Eagle’s Wings has always really been about people, young and old, meeting and having a visit with God.

Resting in him and being refreshed or as Katie likes to say; “being lifted up on the wings of Eagles”. Eagle’s Wings has wonderful facilities and they are here because of the “yes” of so many people who have given time, talent and treasure. These are the powerful gifts of love that gave life to the spirit of Eagle’s Wings and embody that spirit today and in the future.

Our focus has always been the people who come to Eagle’s Wings; volunteers, retreatants, staff, friends, and family and we love to share the “spirit” of Eagle’s Wings with everyone who comes. The hope and joy of the Christmas season is how we view the next 10 years. God’s retreat center has been an exciting adventure and we know His plan has plenty more excitement for the next 10 years. Thank you for your yes in the past, your yes for the present and your yes for the future. Remember ----we just have to do the work. He’ll take care of the rest! So if you’re in the area this Christmas, or any other time of the year, feel free to stop and visit. God really likes visitors!

Have a blessed and joyful Christmas!

In Gratitude & Praise For Your Gifts

Katie Haffner

The reason you are receiving this newsletter and reading it today is because God chose you to help build Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. God picked YOU for your talents and/or treasure. You had to make a choice & YOU said yes to God's call. I'm sure each of you had a personal reason for your yes. The result of your yes is 4 beautiful dorms, a gathering place for dining/meeting, a liturgical space, a home for the Blessed Sacrament, a residence for Msgr. Elmer Holtman and a recreational space for meeting & community building. In addition, we have our original retreat space in the Eagle's Nest area.

Thank you for sharing your gifts. Eagle's Wings would not be what it is today without your gifts. Like the prophets in Ezra's time (They con-

tinued to make progress in the building (Ezra 6:14), we have made progress in the building of Eagle's Wings. Some of you have offered your gift of electrical knowledge. Some of you have a talent for putting labels & dots on the newsletter. Some have planted trees. Some have cut down dead trees. Some have added beautiful art. Some have served on the Board of Directors and help to make decisions for the retreat center. Some have laid sewer lines. Some of you have cooked and served delicious meals. Others have built many useful activities. Some of you have donated your treasure. Some have washed windows. Most importantly, you all have prayed for the building of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. You have helped create a place of holiness for people young & old to

gather under God's protective wing. The result is a place people can come to and then go forth on the wings of eagles using their talents and spreading the Word of God.

Thank you for your gifts and building up God's Retreat Center.

Wish List

- Pressure tank - water system - \$8,163.00
- Water heater for bunkhouse - \$750.00
- 33 cup rice cooker - \$195.00
- Cambro pan carrier - \$1,300.00
- Commercial chain saw - \$395.00
- Pressure washer - \$399.00
- Loppers for cutting cedar - \$26.97
- Uninterruptible power supply - \$469.00
- Soccer Goals - \$309.00 each
- Backhoe hydraulic repairs - \$1,450.00

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