

The Mission of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is to serve Catholic and other Christian Youth

Eagle's Wings

And to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment.

Volume 3

Issue 2

www.eagleswingsretreatcenter.org

June 2007

From the Desk of Joe Noonan President



We just had a wonderful spring. We had retreats almost every weekend, Godstock in April and beautiful flowers everywhere. You could just feel the presence of God at Eagle's Wings. We've also had some major weather events. We went from a drought to more rain than we needed and in late March had record floodwaters that came down the creek. We had damage to roads, bridges and fences. We were blessed by volunteers who came to help put Eagle's Wings back together. We also learned some things we can do to better protect the Retreat Center from flash flooding in the future.

One of the things, that myself and others who are out here working all the time experience, is the overwhelming thought that we need to continually be doing something to make EW successful. In March, my CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) brothers from St. Thomas More were having a retreat at EW and it was very good for me to spend some spiritual time instead of work time. That evening out by the campfire one of my CRHP brothers looked up at the stars in the sky and said "You can just feel the presence of God all around us". That thought rang true as to why we are building EW to begin with. We have had many teens tell us this in their comments but sometimes you just have to experience and feel it yourself.

Nature is a universal language and God's creation is an expression of his love. All of us see nature and it is a tangible way to feel God's love for us. I want each of you to know that you are welcome to come out and experience it for yourself. Come by yourself, with your family, have a picnic and be at peace with God at Eagle's Wings.

Have a great and wonderful summer!

Joe Noonan

Unity in Our CommUNITY

By Johnnie DeLeon

Godstock 2007 proved to be an awesome event portraying the spiritual unity within our Catholic community in the Austin diocese. The theme this year, **Here is our King**, was celebrated by almost 500 Catholic teens representing 31 parishes from around the diocese. What an incredible testimony of hope for our church family's present and future!

Planning began months earlier for any event of this magnitude. Preparation in the weeks immediately prior saw numerous volunteers racing around Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. They were mowing, painting, hammering, moving—you name it. They were doing whatever it took to have everything ready.

Sometimes, though, God uses special events to teach us to trust Him. One late afternoon, with less than two weeks to complete the final preparations, Eagle's Wings experienced a torrential rain resulting in a historical flash flood. More water flowed through the creek that afternoon and evening than even the old time residents had ever seen. The water's force was so powerful it washed away the bridge to the Marian grotto, washed out roads and tore down fences!



Tangled bridge wreckage after the floods came down the creek

Did that cause the volunteers to lose hope? No way! After a few prayers, everyone renewed their commitment and moved forward. By the time our teens arrived, the only evidence of "the great flood of Eagle's Wings" was the soggy ground. God is faithful!

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GODSTOCK 2007: Here Is Our King



Pictures are worth a thousand words. It truly was a fun filled spiritual event.



Teens and their Youth Directors began arriving early in the afternoon of April 21, 2007. Eagle's Wings Retreat Center volunteers helped them unload from vehicles and climb aboard a tractor-driven hayride to their designated camp-site.



Once in the campsite, teens began pitching tents, unpacking food, and planning the events they wished to attend.



Choices included Mass, Stations of the Cross, Meditation Mountain, Rosary-making and other service projects, sand volleyball, and a host of other activities all in a Catholic environment surrounded by symbols of our Catholic faith.



In addition to these activities, teens attended rallies filled with praise and worship, including a keynote talk by Deacon Ralph Poyo and a Mass with Bishop Gregory Aymond presiding.



All of the activities at Godstock 2007 provided them with an opportunity to share their faith in a community setting with hundreds of other teens and adults and helped them to refocus on the message for the weekend: **Here Is Our King!**

A teen visiting for a service project at EW after Godstock said she had returned to the Catholic faith because of her spiritual experience during Adoration at Godstock.

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Don't Wait

By Don Comedy

When Joel placed the round plastic disk in my hand I had never seen anything like it. It was about the size of a half dollar and had the same four letters on each side. The letters didn't make a word and at that time in about 1967, acronyms weren't nearly as popular as today. My mind went into overdrive, well maybe a small acceleration, trying to meet the challenge and solve the mystery of the four letters without having to ask.

Joel was a public relations executive and during the years that I had known him, he had worked for several large firms and was well respected in his profession. He always seemed to have some simple gimmick that really made a point.

So, here I was holding a small disk and in surrender I said, Okay what does T U I T stand for? Joel smiled and I knew I had done EXACTLY what he wanted me to. He then asked me if someone had ever asked me to do something and I had replied that I would be happy to as soon as I got around to it. I said, "Sure, we've all said that". Again he smiled and pointed at the disk in my hand and said, "Well THAT is a Round TUIT. Keep it handy and whenever something comes up that you know you need to do, don't wait. Now that you've got a round tuit, go ahead and do it."

Through the years I managed to misplace that round tuit, but I still remember the point. Some things are too important to wait until I get around to it.

My challenge to you today is not to wait until you get "A Round TUIT": 1. Take positive steps to make or renew the decision about where you will spend eternity; 2. Make a decision to do the things you've put off that you know you need to do; and 3. Make or renew your commitment to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center.

Good things are happening at Eagle's Wings and you can make them better.

Have a great summer.

Don Comedy

Notable Quotes

The Diocese of Austin has asked all Youth Ministers to take a course in Basic Training in Catholic YM. From the first book, 'Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry' by *Thomas East*

"When it comes to retreats, extended trips, and service camps, many people would question whether they are worth the time and money. The research suggests that these program elements are so powerful in changing lives and providing young people with significant faith experiences that you must find the time and money to offer them."

If you are interested in learning more about this course the Diocese is offering, please contact Art Canales, the Diocesan YM Director at art-canales@austindiocese.org

A note found on the door at Eagle's Nest:

"Thank you for creating such a wonderful retreat center."

Signed, Sacred Heart, Elgin Retreat Team

Future Retreatants Donate to Eagle's Wings

The Sunday School Children of St. Thomas More donated \$500 to Eagle's Wings this spring. These 3, 4 & 5 year olds raised the money as a Lenten Stewardship Project. Danielle White, Sunday school coordinator, writes, "*These children will be the future youth who will benefit from this wonderful retreat center. We are truly blessed to be a part of it*". Thanks St. Thomas More Sunday School!



St. Thomas More Families in Faith completed a service project at Eagle's Wings in March.

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Retreats/Events Schedule

June 18-20 Girl Scouts Day Camp
June 23 Women's Day Retreat (Led by Pat Stankus and Cheryl Maxwell)
June 25-29 Hill Country Bible Church, Georgetown
July 13-15 Diocese of Austin Vocation Retreat
August 17-18 Emmaus Catholic Church
Sept. 22 Women's Day Retreat (Led by Pat Stankus and Cheryl Maxwell)
Oct. 6-7 Keysis Retreat, St. Luke, Temple
Oct. 13-14 Confirmation Retreat, Assumption, West
Oct. 19-21 Men's Retreat, St. Luke, Temple
Oct. 25-27 Dental Business Meeting
Nov. 4 Western Deanery Youth Rally

To hold your next retreat at Eagle's Wings, contact Curt or Katie Haffner. Phone: 512-715-0017 or email: katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org.

Donations

Your donations are tax deductible to Eagle's Wings a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Convenient ways for you to make donations are:

1. Checks sent to Eagle's Wings
2. Credit Card (contact us at 512-715-0017)
3. Pay Pal on the website
4. Automatic Payments from your account (we need to send you the forms)



Eagle's Wings Retreat Center
PO Box 248
Burnet, TX 78611

WISH LIST

Small Items

- Park Benches for the outdoor stations of the cross
- Tree Loppers, gas powered weed whips, heavy duty wire cutters, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, hammers
- Picnic Tables (plastic) available at Sam's

Larger Items

- Hay Wagon
- Trailer for construction site
- We are looking for a parish or group that would like to build the deck for the seating area at the outdoor chapel. **(This is a neat parish project!)**
- We got the money for the 16 foot cross, would anyone like to take on the project to install it?
- Covered BBQ & grilling deck (concrete pad or pavers)

Newsletter Editors: Alison Koederitz & Joe Noonan

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