

**October 12, 2008 - "A Day of Discovery"**

# *A Fall Family Festival*

In our history, October 12 represents a day of discovery. It was that day in 1492 that Christopher Columbus landed in the new world. This October 12 will also be a day of discovery for those adventurous souls willing to make the trip to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, 2805 RR 2341, Burnet, TX. The

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## **GAMES**

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day has been named "A Sunday in the Country, our Family Fall Festival" and promises to be both entertaining and enlightening.

There is no admission (donations accepted) and highlights of the afternoon include, food, games, entertainment, hayrides, live and silent auctions, and rock climbing as well as tours of the retreat center with special emphasis on recent construction.

Activities will begin with lunch served from noon to 2 pm featuring a wide variety of food for young and old. Preliminary plans include

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## **FOOD**

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fried catfish with trimmings and hamburgers and hotdogs. Featured entertainment for the day will be John Arthur Martinez and his band



***Eagle quilt made by Melinda Noonan to be auctioned***

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playing a variety of country, swing and contemporary music. Robert Oermann wrote recently about John Arthur "The process began in 2003 when millions of country-music fans were first exposed to his music. John Arthur Martinez finished second on the USA Network's national talent competition Nashville Star." Since that time, Martinez is a regular performer in the Hill Country as well as locations such as: The Grand Ole Opry; Craponne, France; Grindelwald, Switzerland;

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## **ENTERTAINMENT**

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Country Music Hall of Fame; and

Oousterhout, Holland.

A rock-climbing wall will be available for the more adventurous while hayrides and face painting will provide calmer entertainment. A wide variety of games will also be available for young and old.

All activities will be located at the site of the new main campus and guests will be able to see first hand all of the new construction and the sites, plans and drawings of future buildings. Already complete is the maintenance building and most of the infrastructure.

There will be a short live auction and a silent auction. The auctions will feature a wide variety

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## **AUCTION**

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of items such as a custom eagle quilt (pictured in this newsletter), two shotguns (a Ruger 12 ga. O/U and Browning 20 ga. auto); a weekend at a Lake LBJ lakehouse; framed Hill Country Photographs; patio gliders; custom teeth whitening; jewelry; cooking classes; king size quilt and pillow shams; and a gourmet dinner prepared by John Clark of Marble Falls promises to be a favorite auction item. Clark is well known in the Marble Falls area as an excellent cook.



**Maintenance Building - Almost Completed**



**St. Thomas More Service Project**



**Emmaus Retreat**



**Alex Dolan - Eagle Scout Project**



**Quilting Retreat**



**Emmaus Retreat**



**Brownie Troop 19 - Cedar Park**



**St. Theresa's - 20 Somethings**



**20 Somethings**

# Sometimes We Just Need A Very Gentle "PUSH"

By Joe Noonan  
EWRC President

About 15 years ago, during one of our Religious Education Teachers' retreats, I was quietly reflecting in a beautiful Texas Hill Country setting when God stuck a thought in my head. He said, "We need to build a youth retreat center in the Austin area." As I pondered the message I mentally compared the job other religions do of making great camps for their youth with what Catholics in the Central Texas area are doing for ours. My conclusion led me to prepare proposals and plans. After a short time, I admitted failure at trying to get the retreat center off the ground on my own.

That failure began to change when our parish, St. Thomas More in Austin planned a Christ Renews His Parish retreat. Fr. Keith Koehl suggested I attend. His "PUSH," turned out to be exactly what I needed to be reinvigorated. After a wonderful retreat and an even better formation for the next retreat, I became more engaged in my faith. On the night of discipleship, sitting in front of the tabernacle with my CRHP brothers, my HOPE was rekindled. I recommitted myself to God's call. Making my commitment known to others was a big step. I learned two important things that night: 1. I had the support of my brothers in Christ, and 2. I had been missing the important (essential) aspect of continu-

ally praying through the process. For without God, I struggled and failed. When God calls, He wants to stay involved.

Once engaged in the process as God designed it, several things started to happen. First, my pastor, Msgr. Elmer Holtman, and I revisited the plans and made certain to include several of my CRHP brothers. Our first priority centered on obtaining a land donation which would provide a starting place and decrease startup costs. After several false starts and much praying, God orchestrated a meeting between a Temple couple and myself. It seems Curt and Katie Haffner had heard a similar calling. Coincidence or God's perfect timing?

With the idea, "This is your retreat center; help us make it happen", we have been blessed with many volunteers, both youth and adults, who have helped with engineering, design, building, clearing land, etc. and have completed some facilities as the main campus continues to progress. Are we done? No, but everything happens on God's time. It's amazing how he works and brings people into this project. Sometimes I think, "Is this the right thing for me to be spending my time on when there are so many other things that we need to do in our society?" Well, I think the answer is yes. If we plant the seeds of faith and knowledge of service to God and mankind in our youth, we can impact an entire generation.

The people working to bring Eagle's Wings to fruition share a passion to make a difference for our youth; we cannot shortchange them. They are bombarded with a multitude of false messages and need our guidance to get closer to Christ. The retreat center is one step in this effort.

My HOPE is there are others who have been called to something like I was, and that all you need is a little PUSH to go make it happen. Step out of your comfort zone, listen to that call, make a commitment, and watch what you and God can do together. You can make a difference. Here's that little push..... Do it for God and your fellow man.



***L&O Electric has donated and completed all of the electrical infrastructure for the entire main campus***

# Phase II Construction Continues; Donations Within \$300,000 of Goal

The first of five buildings of Phase II of the long-range building plans for Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is almost complete and plans are progressing for the construction of the next building. As of Sept. 1, the maintenance building is almost complete and the steel for the dining hall has been ordered. To date just over \$2 million has been received or pledged toward this phase of construction. This amount includes pledges of in-kind services and materials and a \$250,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation. Stipulations of the challenge grant mandate that donations and pledges to fund the

entire project be received prior to January 31, 2009. At present, just less than \$300,000 is needed to reach that goal and all energies are being focused toward that end.

The decision to build the maintenance building first came about from the need for storage and shop space during construction of other buildings. The maintenance building is a 40X60 all metal building that eventually will have a fully equipped shop to support the build-

ings and equipment of the entire retreat center. During the construction of buildings, the building will be used to store building supplies, materials and equipment and provide a work area during inclement weather.

With some particular segments of building material prices raising as much as 30% per year, EWRC board members voted at their August meeting to order the steel needed for construction of the dining hall. Executive Director Curt Haffner reported to the board that steel prices had increased significantly during 2008 and forecasts called for the trend to continue.

**Our Wish List for this newsletter is for you to join us at the October 12 Fall Family Festival**

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Permit #15  
Burnet, Texas

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by Joe Noonan

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Recent Retreats

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