



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

# EAGLE'S WINGS HAPPENINGS

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## unBEARable Fun! Run

by Msgr. Elmer Holtman

Canadian geese fly in V formation migrating to their feeding grounds in the rice fields of Katy, Texas. They have learned to take advantage of the updraft created by the movement of the wings in front of them. The intermittent honks one hears as the flock flies over are said to be the way they encourage their flight mate in front to move a little faster. When a bird is injured or ill and drops out of formation, three or four follow it to the ground where it either dies or recovers to join the next south bound formation. This is the pattern we find in most wildlife. There is encouragement and safety in numbers.

It is not uncommon for the human species to act in much the same way by grouping together running marathons, racing to the finish line. Running in a pack lends itself to a

lot more competition and excitement than if one were running all alone. Good healthy competition draws out the very best in us. And it is great exercise for our ab muscles as we suck in our gut to hide our overlap. And besides that, it's just great fun to join the running crowd. You can generally find someone who is in worse physical shape than you are. So in that sense it can be a very encouraging experience to get lost in the running crowd.

So let me tell you what this is all about!!!! We are thinking here at Eagle's Wings that there are a lot of good people who could have great fun making a 5K run through the hills and valleys of our 120 acre campus. We just thought it would be a great idea to have some fun while we are raising funds for our retreat center. We

are calling it the unBEARable Fun! Run. That's OK, don't worry; it really is bear-run and not bare-run.

But wait, there's more. You are saying there are no grizzly bears in Burnet County. We thought the same thing until one showed up at the dining hall when we opened the center five years ago. He really doesn't move around much. He just stands there and watches everyone, never growls or makes a pass at anyone.

So we challenge you to come on out to the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center and check it out for yourselves on December 6. **I have been cajoled to run/walk/crawl or however I can make it to the finish line. Come sponsor me.** I need all the honking I can get. To run or to sponsor Father Elmer, see

[www.unbearablefunrun.weebly.com](http://www.unbearablefunrun.weebly.com)

## Girl Scout Gold Award Project - Outdoor Chapel

The summer before I started high school, I attended Cross Training at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. This began my connection to Eagles Wings.

As I thought about what I wanted to do for my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I thought of various projects which had been done at the local Christian camps for outdoor worship sites, but I wanted the project to be at a Catholic location because my faith is very important to me. I thought of Eagles Wings Retreat Center. As soon as I saw the outdoor chapel, I knew this was the project I wanted to pursue. The seating did not look like a place I could sit for a one hour Mass. I felt like I would be worried about tipping over, thinking about bugs and critters, and not focusing on the Eucharist or en-

joying Mass outdoors in God's beautiful creation. I just knew something needed to be done.

This began my journey to figure out how to improve the seating for the outdoor chapel. I contacted my friend Sarah and her mom, knowing that they were looking for a Gold Award project also, and knowing that I was going to need help. We met and split the project into two distinct pieces, the deck and the cover/seating. I chose the cover and seating because my initial vision was for better seating.

I did a lot of research for the design of a pergola, and the type of labor, materials, and tools that would be needed. I also researched various bench designs and whether it was more practical to purchase kits to build the

benches or make them from scratch. It worked out to be better to have the benches made from cedar by Pete's Hobby Shop, which makes cedar outdoor furniture.

This project was hard work in the hot sun. I learned a lot about design and construction, how to use different tools, and how to push myself to work. I understand that the outdoor chapel now has electricity and lighting so that the space can be used day or night.

I can't wait to attend Mass there. I hope many people enjoy this outdoor worship space when they come to the retreat center. I pray that it is just one spot in this beautiful place where retreatants can connect with God and renew their faith.

by Emma Green

We began the project in the spring trying to beat the summer heat. However, we soon came to realize it caught up with us. The area was unsafe and not used due to the run-down benches and uneven seating area. We spent weeks trying to figure out what

we wanted to build, the cost, and what the ultimate goal of the project was. I have been going to retreats at Eagle's Wings for years, and I knew that the outdoor space could be beautiful with some hard work and dedication. Eagle's Wings was very gracious and helpful

as well as throughout the project, with helping me build a sturdy deck foundation. The hardest part was getting started, but with teamwork, prayer, and motivation to make it through the heat, we accomplished it.

by Sarah Hudec



### Thank You!

**Sarah & Emma** would like to thank everyone who helped (although that is a long list) including their parents Debbie Greene & Natalie & John Hudec, Jay & Carolyn Hudec, Thor, the Haffner's, Deacon Dave, the Hoover Lumber Company, their Girl Scout

leader, Jan Hayes, & friend Anna Hayes and all the staff at Eagle's Wings for being so hospitable. We especially want to thank Mike Winkler and Jerry Castillo for their hours of labor, the tools and resources they loaned us, and for walking this journey with

us each day that we worked on the project.

The project was generously helped financially through several donations including Knights of Columbus in La Grange & Eagle's Wings Retreat Center.

# 1st Annual 5K Fun Run unBEARable Fun! Run

Saturday, Dec. 6th  
9:30 Start time  
\$35 early registration  
before Nov. 15th

**RUN WITH LEO!**  
Olympic Silver Medalist  
Leo Manzano to speak  
and run with runners.

Run, walk, crawl or roll your way around the 5K here at Eagle's Wings. This event is meant to be fun with a couple of optional pit stops including a Bear Crawl, a Bear Scratch, and a Bear Style Fishing post.

We are pleased to announce our event will include a special guest appearance by **2012 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST LEO MANZANO!**



Cleopas the Bear will be at the start / finish line, and we will wrap up with music, our climbing wall and Bear Claws after the race!

Can't come but want to support us? **You can sponsor Fr. Elmer!**  
To register or sponsor Fr. Elmer, visit our website:  
[www.unbearablefunrun.weebly.com](http://www.unbearablefunrun.weebly.com)  
or [www.ewrc.org](http://www.ewrc.org)

## 3rd Quarter, 10 Years Ago

by Deacon Curt Haffner

The weather is starting to break from the summer heat and fall is just around the corner. Fairly typical for September here at Eagle's Wings; but 10 years ago it was not a typical September for Eagle's Wings. It was the first September for Eagle's Wings Retreat Center and the plans for its development were well underway.

July and August had been filled with a tremendous amount of planning. Don Collier was diligently guiding a host of professionals that included expertise in architecture, infrastructure and construction and the master plan was not only taking shape but it could now be seen in blueprints and architectural renderings. We now knew where the roads



would go and where the buildings would be and what they would look like. God's plan for His retreat center was becoming more and more a reality. All of this initial planning had to be complete so that we could share the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center vision at an Open House on September 19th, 2004. The planning for that was also underway during July and August. Fortunately God was already touching hearts resulting in a developing and growing list of volunteers, who would and have, continued to make Eagle's Wings what it is.

The Open House took place in a field that is now the location of the main campus and a large tent was located

where the chapel now exists. The vision of Eagle's Wings was presented to over 500 people on September 19th, 2004. The land was blessed by Archbishop Aymond who was the bishop of the diocese at that time. It was truly a celebration of the work that had been accomplished so far and a recognition that God's plan would unfold through the participation of people who would generously give their time, their talent and their treasure to achieve the vision; and faith that God would abundantly bless everyone's efforts. He has and it is evident when looking at Eagle's Wings in September 10 years later. Thank you to all who trusted and believed. Today we see what God has achieved!



# Retreat Center Activities



## We have a New Website!

[www.ewrc.org](http://www.ewrc.org)



After much work and many hours, we have a new website. Same name, different look.

This website is dynamic, informative, up to date, has lots of pictures and even allows visitors to register online.

Many thanks to Judy Hoelscher and Joe Noonan for their hard work.



[www.facebook.com/eagles.wings.564](https://www.facebook.com/eagles.wings.564)

## How a Faith Family Held Someone in Love

by Megan Copeland

As I drive through the trees and into the gates of the beautiful Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, I am always reminded of God's immense love and the family that I have made here. Eagle's Wings is the home of the Together Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat. TEC is a fantastic renewal retreat based on the Pascal Mystery of Christ. The TEC community helped me through the toughest year of my life this year.

Last summer as I packed for Eagle's Wings to staff the TEC retreat, I received a call from my mother. She said that my brother had just been diagnosed with leukemia and was in the ICU. My mind immediately swirled with fear and doubt. I had no choice but to leave for the retreat the next morning.

Spending three days in God's beautiful creation on the TEC weekend at Eagle's Wings was exactly what I needed. I was quickly reminded just how great our God is and that He would never abandon us. Throughout my brother's illness, the TEC community prayed for me and we walked the journey together. TEC has taught me what it means to die to myself and put my full trust in God so that we can rise again together.

After my brother lost his battle to cancer in July, I had the great blessing of sharing the story of how God guided us through this difficult time with His love and peace at the last TEC in August. My family remains full of joy and peace. We are so thankful for the time we had with him and find great comfort

that he is in the arms of our heavenly Father. **The next TEC retreat is January 2-4, 2015 at Eagle's Wings.**



**Megan Copeland** is the Director of Youth Ministry at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Round Rock.

## Eagles' Wings, A Home Away From Home

I enjoy coming to Eagle's Wings because of the peace and serenity I have there. I've been going there since I was in high school and now I'm an adult helping facilitate retreats. Coming here always feels like a second home.

Ana T.

I had an amazing time at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. There was so much space in which we could complete our activities. One of my favorite parts was the beautiful trees and nature that surrounded the entire area. I truly felt the presence of God here. The ex-

perience I had at Eagle's Wings was fun. I was able to have a home away from home.

Tarshya W.



## Prayer Warriors

Join our Prayer email team to pray for those on retreat. We send out an e-mail to let our Prayer Team know about the retreats each week. If you would like to be part of our team, please e-mail Lee Winkler at:

[winkler1835@gmail.com](mailto:winkler1835@gmail.com)

## New members of the Eagle's Wings Board of Directors

Eagle's Wings welcomes two new members to its board of directors. Welcome, Nan Neff of St. Mary Parish in Wimberley and John Mosher of St. John Neumann Parish in Austin.

## Wanted!

Eagle's Wings is seeking private sponsors to underwrite our upcoming unBEARable Fun! Run. For a minimum donation of \$200, the name of your choice ("John and Mary Doe Family", "In memory of John Doe") will appear on our run t-shirt. To donate or for more information, phone 512-715-0017 or email Barbara at [petrolbarb@gmail.com](mailto:petrolbarb@gmail.com).

## Sign up for Upcoming Eagle's Wings Retreats

### November 4

#### **Spirituality of Simplicity**

\$35 per person

9:30 – 2:30 Lunch included

Come and join us for a day as we discover new ways to fill our days with light, laughter and peace which will allow us to run the race of life at a more meaningful speed.

**Presenter:** Cheryl Maxwell; Director of the Office of Worship and Secretariat Director for Formation and Spirituality at the Diocese of Austin

### November 22-23

#### **Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

\$70 (includes meals and materials)

This overnight retreat opportunity is for youth preparing for confirmation or parishes looking for a Holy Spirit-focused retreat experience.

**Presenters:** Joe Noonan and Sherie Zebrowski

**Music** by Jeremy Rodriguez of Soundwave

### December 4-5

#### **Advent Family Retreat**

Price varies on family size

(includes meals and materials)

Take a break from Christmas preparations. Come join us as a family and experience Advent reflections, prayer, music, fun activities and Main Street Bethlehem in Burnet. Singles and grandparents also welcome.

**Presenter:** Judy Hoelscher; gifted retreat facilitator, musician and hospice chaplain.

**For Registration please visit our website: [www.ewrc.org](http://www.ewrc.org) or call 512-715-0017**

## Announcing:

# Matt Maher at Godstock...April 11-12, 2015!!

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Testimonials

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