



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

EAGLE'S WINGS HAPPENINGS

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Romancing the Rainbow

by Msgr. Elmer Holtman

The rainbow image is one of the most impressive and at the same time illusive phenomenon of nature. The author of Genesis uses it as a mythical bridge between earth and heaven connecting humanity and divinity expressing the covenantal mystery of God's infinite love. Noah sees the rainbow as a hopeful sign of the end of the deluge.

The American Indians saw the vision of the rainbow as a unifying factor of all humanity and nature with the Great One. It was the great mystery in the sky that defied capture and exploration.

Today science explains to us that water particles, suspended in the atmosphere, refract the sun's rays into different lengths thereby creating a vision of many colors. Even with the scientific knowledge of how it all happens, we are still caught up in awe by the stunning multi-colored arch in the sky when the sun appears after a storm.

So what if we reflected how the image of the rainbow could teach us something about our quest for God in our spiritual journeys?

First of all it teaches us how to deal with the mysteries of our faith. Our sight confirms its reality yet it is elusive and denies any and all effort to control. It is a gift for which we



do nothing to receive and can only be thankful, admiring and appreciative.

The legendary "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow could be considered God's enticement to draw us to himself. The radial nature of the rainbow's shape forces us to live in the present and accept ourselves as we are.

As we travel along our lifelines we are not able to see beyond the horizon ahead of us. So at times of doubt and fear of the unseen future, we can be at peace and continue in hope to follow the light ahead of us. IF on the other hand we decide to look behind us, regretting the journey that we have taken or not taken, the mistakes we have made, the sins we have committed,

we will find that the merciful God who continues to call us forward has taken them all out of our line of sight.

*"And now a moment with you
is enough to reassure me
all is well,
for this world is a bridge,
but do not build our house on it,
a rainbow bridge,
and we shall walk together,
on and on into the light"*

*An excerpt from a poem
by John S. Dunne, C.S.C.*

A Note From the Executive Director

by Sherie Zebrowski

It is with great pleasure that I have joined the staff at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in 2014 and I am very grateful for this opportunity. I am optimistic for the future of Eagle's Wings and its mission to provide the best facilities and programs for spiritual retreats.

2014 proved to be a great year for Eagle's Wings Retreat Center with some banner milestones. The number of booked retreats has increased over the last three years. We hosted over 80 group retreats with over 5,000 individuals in 2014. These numbers are thrilling to report and we are grateful that so many groups and individuals make use of our facilities for their spiritual development.

In addition to our core operation, we started a spirituality series for adults called a "Day of Spirituality". We have completed two sessions, one called "Spirituality of Simplicity" and the other called "The Art of Balance". Both were huge successes. Our goal is to provide a Day of Spirituality once a month excluding the summer months. Please come and join us!

We hired two additional staff members last year to keep up with this progress: a facilities person to help keep up with the maintenance of the Center as well



"I Live Here, I Give Here"
March 5-6, 2015

go to:
<https://amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/ewrc/overview>

as an Executive Director. This was previously a volunteer position.

The operational costs of keeping Eagle's Wings functioning and clean outweigh our program income. We are dependent upon the generosity of so many. Thank you for your past support and we pray you will continue to support us. This is why we have joined with other non-profit organizations in the greater Austin Area to participate in **Amplify Austin's** philanthropic initiative

called "I Live Here, I Give Here". It is a 24-hour initiative to empower people from all walks of life within the community to give and to help hundreds of non-profits like ourselves to meet our critical needs. Last year over \$5.7 million was raised. We ask that you support us this year with the **Amplify Austin "I Live Here, I Give Here" program** which will be held on **March 5-6**. Please go to <https://amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/ewrc/overview> to support Eagle's Wings Retreat Center and its mission.

Scanlon Foundation Grant

With great pleasure we announce that we received a grant from the Scanlon Foundation to be directed to future construction

-Sherie Zebrowski



Seeking Grace Through Sacred Art (part 2)



The art glass in our chapel depicts the seven sacraments beginning on the left side with a tree stump representing the stump of Jesse, or the heritage of Jesus. A vine is shown sprouting from this seemingly dead stump which laces its way through all the symbols of the sacraments. This important symbol reminds us that Jesus is present and active in all the sacraments. He is the vine and we are the branches. - Fr. Elmer

Fun Run

Eagle's Wings hosted its Inaugural Fun Run in December 2014 and it was a huge success! Over 100 participants ran, walked or jogged a trail through the beautiful grounds at Eagle's Wings. Our keynote speaker, 2012 Silver Olympic Medalist Leo Manzano, addressed the crowd before the race and ended up running the trail with the runners – two times! Participants had the option of stopping at pit stops along the trail which made for a truly family friendly event. A special thank you to our sponsors, especially our top level sponsors: Seton Highland Lakes; Highland Lakes Vet Clinic; and Northern Trust.



Recent Events



Sign Up for Upcoming Eagle's Wings Retreats

February 28 - March 1: Confirmation Retreat

\$70 (includes meals and materials)

This overnight retreat opportunity is for youth preparing for Confirmation or parishes looking for a Holy Spirit-focused retreat. It's perfect for smaller parishes or for those who could not attend their own retreat. NOTE: you must provide your own chaperones as Eagle's Wings is facilitating but not chaperoning.

Presenters: Joe Noonan and Sherie Zebrowski; Music by Jeremy Rodriguez of Soundwave

March 24: "Dying to Live"

\$35 per person 9:30 – 2:30 Morning snack and Lunch included

Ask yourself this, "Am I living today knowing that one day I will die or am I dying to live?" How do I experience the Paschal Mystery? How does it affect me on a day-to-day basis? How do I become aware of its presence in my life in a real way and not just something I know about? Come and learn this cycle of dying for the purpose of living and see life in a new light. Presenter: Cheryl Maxwell "Max": Former Director of the Office of Worship and Secretariat Director for Formation and Spirituality at the Diocese of Austin

Calling All Lumberjacks

While preparing for the service project with St. Thomas Moore's youth recently, I noticed that on Meditation Mountain the cedar tree growth has really gotten out of hand. We need a group that would be willing to accept the challenge of clearing all or part of the cedar growth from the top of Meditation Mountain. There are various sizes of trees from small saplings to sizes around 4 inches in diameter. The smaller trees can be cut with the loppers but the larger trees will need to be taken down with chainsaws. **Is there a family, group, or organization that would be willing to take on all or part of this challenge?** There is also quite a large group of trees that have died on the lower part of the retreat center as a result of the recent drought. A good project would be to cut down these dead trees creating firewood for your own use or for use at Eagles Wings Retreat Center. Again it would be great if a family, group, or organization would be willing to tackle this project. -*Blessings, Mike Winkler-Director of Facilities*

PS - BYOCS (Bring Your Own Chain Saw)

Eagle's Wings Wish List

- Repair and repaint buildings at Eagle's Nest - \$3,500
- Update our well water system - \$1,600
- Replace a commercial refrigerator - \$3,000
- Create a solution to water runoff damage - \$7,000
- Replace lawn equipment - \$3,500



Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. - Pope Francis

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