

The Beacon.Com - Marianist Family Retreat Center E-News December 2006

(Be sure to visit our web site at www.capemaymarianists.org for a complete schedule, retreat photos and application)

To find out more of what is happening in the greater Marianist Family – click here www.marianist.com/foi for Marianist *FamilyOnline* - the Province E-Newsletter.

Inside this issue:

- Director's Message
- Dining Room Expansion Update
- Advent Family Retreats - Photos
- Special Invitation for NY/NJ People from MSJC
- 2007 College Age, Cleaning & Maintenance, and Young Adult Retreat dates
- Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

Dear Friends,



Greetings to all of you from Cape May Point and all of the Marianists here.

On this special Marian feast day of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, our staff and local Marianist Community wish you and your families special Advent and Christmas Blessings.

Today is a very special day for us at the Center. For the first time we are conducting a program for those in our local nursing homes and assisted living centers. We are able to have this day in large part because we now have the elevator, which allows for everyone to make it to the second floor. The day is filled with much joy, singing and of course a wonderful lunch. In addition to our staff, I want to specially thank Erin Fucci who is leading the main session.

In many ways, this segment of our society is underserved and this is our way of trying to make a difference in our Community.

Dining Room Expansion Update

We are currently in the planning stages for the construction of our Dining Room Addition. To date we have completed a new survey of our property and are now preparing the documentation to secure a construction permit.

On the fundraising side, we are making great progress. So many of you have generously stepped up to make your pledges and we are so grateful. One person wrote, *"We are pleased to contribute to this project. Thirty years ago our family was blessed to experience the graces of Mary's House and we want to help your programs to grow and flourish."*

We have not fully met our fundraising goals, but I am optimistic that more pledges are on the way. If you have not yet made your pledge to this project you still have time to do so. Remember, we are receiving *matching funds* for the first \$75,000 we raise.

Advent Family Retreats - December 1-3, 8-10, 15-17



Our theme for this year's family Advent retreats is "Called to be Heralds" and so far the first two weekends have been great. Focusing on the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love we explore ways in which we and our families are called to be heralds not only in our words, but in our actions. With the help of our friendly talking angel our skit family finds out how God is calling them to be heralds. Of course, we never forget to include singing, hot cocoa and cookie making! To see photos from the first two weekends click the following links:

www.capemaymarianists.org/2006_Advent_Family_1.htm

www.capemaymarianists.org/2006_Advent_Family_2.htm

Special Invitation for NY/NJ People from MSJC

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 6:00pm – 10:00 pm
Where: Rockaway Park Marianist Community
144 Beach 111th St.
Rockaway Park NY

The leaders of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative are holding our annual meeting at the Rockaway Park Marianist Community on Jan. 11-14. While we are in town, we would like to meet with local members and friends of the Marianist Family and have some informal dialog with you about social justice issues, concerns and hopes.

Please join us for a light supper, followed by a short presentation/discussion with our special guest, David Robinson, executive director of Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace organization. Dave will focus his comments on "Peace is Possible – What are the Steps Each of Us Can Take to Get There?" He is a person who is very knowledgeable and passionate about the work of peacemaking. I think you will find what he shares to be both stimulating and challenging.

The evening will conclude with a Eucharistic celebration, using the liturgy for Sunday.

Please let us know if you are able to come by contacting Andrea Stiles (apsjustice@hotmail.com or 513-531-0790) by Tuesday, Jan. 9.

2007 College Age, Cleaning & Maintenance, and Young Adult Retreat Dates

We are now accepting applications for the following retreats:

College-Age Retreat will be held January 5-7.

Cleaning & Maintenance Weekend will be held January 12-14

Young Adults Retreat will be held Feb 2-4.

Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers

Contributed by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

On Marriage...

The Christmas season is traditionally a "family focused" time and for many people that means focusing on children. For newly marrieds this might be a cozy time of couple bonding but for couples longing for children it can be a bittersweet time. Remember each other.

On Parenting...

"I wish . . . to speak of the love which God lavishes upon us and which we in turn must share with others." (Pope Benedict XVI, On Christian Love) Of course we love our family, our friends, and those who like us. But can we also love the unlikable? Choose one person during this season to lavish love on who might not appear to deserve it. Your child will notice.

Blessings to All!
The Marianists
Cape May Point

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