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VOLUME I, ISSUE 5

NEWSLETTER DATE
15 OCTOBER 2007

Jesus Our Eternal Hope

A NEWSLETTER FROM JESUS OUR HOPE HERMITAGE AND RETREAT GROUNDS

Hope Can Come From Suffering & Tragedy

Psalm 46

Come, consider the works of the Lord, the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth; the bow he breaks, the spear He snaps. He burns the shields with fire. "Be still and know that I am God, supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth."

The Lord of Host is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

One thing about running a retreat facility, is that you never run out of things to do. This spring and summer brought some interesting challenges and wonderful projects for the retreat grounds.

What was great is that we didn't have to do these things on our own. Inside this newsletter you can read some inspiring articles about people who are ambitiously following the Will of God. It's amazing how God brings help just

at the right moment and it couldn't have come a moment too soon for us.

In May, we lost a dear friend, Mike Mascenik to an unusual disease called Amyloidosis. After his death, his family put together a great charity organization to help increase awareness and find a cure. The organization is called, "The Mascenik Fund." You can find out more at www.themascenikfund.org.

In June, Theresa had foot surgery. The results were six weeks with no pressure on her foot, then another six weeks

learning to walk again. She still has a way to go but is improving. Thanks to our daughter Shannon for helping her mom after surgery.

In July, my father, Bob Donohoe, past away at 84 from a number of illnesses that he had been battling. Contributions were generously given to Jesus Our Hope in his memory. Donations will be used to help complete the Holy Family Shrine. Please consider his memory in your charitable donations as we are still trying to build up the fund.

What is wonderful from these unfortunate events are the great responses that followed these episodes. All of this culminated in an outpouring of prayers, assistance and concern from our friends and family. For these gifts, we are incredibly fortunate and thankful to you & God for the blessings we have received out of what could have been disaster.

A Note From Father Don

Dear friends,

It has been a year since Father Roger entrance into eternal life. I have no doubt that he has entered heaven because I have felt his prayers this past year not only for me but for Jesus Our Hope. So much good has happened during this past year at Jesus Our Hope. The Frances Cabrini Knights and Ave Maria Knights have been up to ensure the beauty of our grounds and buildings. Also, the Light of The World teens have been up to also help beautify Jesus Our Hope. Many people have made retreats and many have experienced God's love during their time at Jesus Our Hope.

All the good that has happened this past year has partly been because of Father Roger's prayers from Heaven. I have no doubt that this is the case because Father Roger was all about good and good is what Jesus Our Hope is about.

Please continue to keep Deacon Joe and Theresa in your prayers because without them the good that Father Roger was about will come to a halt.

To all who have been generous in so many ways to Jesus Our Hope: THANK YOU! To Father Roger: THANK YOU for showing us how beautiful Jesus really is.

Fr. Don

See Page 3 for a beautiful statue of the Holy Family that we hope will be on site at the Retreat Grounds

Please Donate! Trail of Hope Opens

'Tis the season for reviewing finances and determining where your charitable contributions will be going next year. As we continue to grow, we ask that you consider Jesus Our Hope as a part of your giving. We have opened up a variety of ways to donor—through the mail, through stock options, and through United Way donations. The information needed for United Way is:

[Jesus-Our-Hope Hermitage](http://www.jesus-our-hope-hermitage.org)
10523 S. Deer Creek Road
Littleton, CO 80127

Org Code: FEIN 84-11-83-150
For those who continue to give so generously of themselves, we want to thank you once again for the sacrifice of your hard earned money. We know that you labor contributes greatly to our efforts.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Cameron Ward spend a weekend with his crew of Scouts and Scoutmasters, building the Trail of Hope. He team was able to build a rock pathway back to a meditation area behind the gazebo.

The Trail of Hope allows patrons to walk a path to a isolated area surrounded by trees and wonder. It will eventually house a Triumphant Christ, allowing those who visit to pray for the blessings of Hope, Thanks Cameron for your hard and dedicated work.

*For Reservations
call
(303) 697-7539*

Inside this issue:

<i>Psalm 46 Hope from Suffering</i>	1
<i>A Note from Father Don Trail of Hope Opens</i>	1
<i>An Impossible Poem Be Still and Know</i>	2
<i>Board Meeting</i>	2
<i>Holy Family Shrine In Thanksgiving</i>	3
<i>Otto the Retreat Dog It's Cold Outside</i>	3
<i>Contributions JOH Events</i>	4

**Be Still and Know—A Reflection By Deacon Joe
Where are You When We Need You?**

Prayer to a Guardian Angel

**Loving Angel, Guiding Light
Teach Me How to Pray
And When You See Christ Coming Near
Tell me what to Say**

**Help me, friend, to listen for
His Voice in all Creation
And when dark's night approaches me
Guide me towards Salvation**

**And, Gracious Angel, stay with me
When its time for me to leave
And pray I find the heart of God
So others may believe**

Deacon Joe Donohoe



Columbine blossom in full array outside the newly built "Trail of Hope". Courtesy of Cameron Ward and his Boy Scout crew.

It is interesting to me how we are often focused on putting our emphasis on worldly events and often overlook the importance of our spirit. What we refer to as "tragic" or "terrible" is rarely ever spiritually put to the test.

These events can vary from person to person. There are people who get incredibly upset over a stain on their clothes or being late for a party. While still others are traumatized over the suffering or death of a loved one. Certainly, the latter is of a much more serious nature and deserves a degree of mourning and sadness.

Often when we are forced to go through tragedy, our tendency is to be angry at God asking Him, "Where are You when I need You?"

Over the summer, I have been a witness to an extraordinary number of seemingly tragic events. Most of these events have resulted in the loss of a dear friend or a loved one. These events have caused me to reflect more on the significance of a pure spirit and a humbled heart.

Have I asked God for help in these difficult times? Yes, in my weakness I have. But at the same time, I began to recognize that God is leading me to a closer inter-inspection of my soul. This is not to suggest in any way, that God has caused the event; rather, it is that when evil or death occurs, God allows us the

opportunity to bring good from our suffering.

To be sure, it does our sick or deceased loved ones a disservice to live in depression or even indifference for very long. More precisely, we should allow the influence our loved ones have made in our lives to bring goodness through our actions. That is where God presents Himself mercifully in our sadness.

So, rather than asking God where He is, it might be that in those times of suffering and sadness you are asking the wrong question. Perhaps the questions to God should be, "How can I memorialize the times I spent with my loved one in a way that brings out the goodness, beauty, and truth of Our Creator?"

How others remember a loved one has a lot to do with your response to God. Will they remember them as one who made a difference or as one who caused sadness and resolute behavior? By responding to God during the hard times, you also bring about glory to your loved one's memory while serving those pilgrims that remain here on earth.

So how do you begin? Take your burden to prayer. Silently listen to God and...Be still and know...

Sister Marie Joann is still looking for stories of Retreat House experience. If you have any experiences with the Retreat House or Father Roger that you would like to share, please provide your input to Jesus Our Hope.

Board of Director Meeting - Memorial Mass for Fr. Roger

September's Board Meeting was very eventful. It started with a Memorial Mass on the 1st anniversary of Father Roger's passing. In attendance were all the Board Members and the Knights from Ave Maria Parish. Afterwards, we met in the St. Francis House with a full cadre of Board Members.

Leading the discussion was the wonderful work that was done by the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Light of the World Youth and the Knights of Columbus at St. Frances Cabrini. In addition, the Board discussed potential ways to raise money for the shrine and fu-

ture fund raising events. Some ideas were a golf tournament and/or a Medieval Banquet. Also, an idea was brought up to offer opportunities for religious business meetings, weddings and baptisms. More information is forthcoming.

The board also discussed the repairs that are needed on the grounds, including the chimney repair and the bee problem. Efforts are being made to try and resolve both problems.

Another topic was the name of the facility. As the dome house on the upper land gets

close to completion of construction, there seems to be some confusion as the name of both properties. A suggestion was brought up to change the name to Jesus Our Hope Retreat Grounds or Retreat Sanctuary. While the Board agreed the name needs to reflect the operations, there is still further discussion needed relative to what the name should be changed to.

Finally, the Board determined to look at the near by property to see if another access road can be used for egress and entrance. The Board adjourned with a nice BBQ with the Ave Knights.

Light of the World Teens Want Only To Do the Will of God—Anomalously

God's Blessings abound in many ways. This July, Theresa went through some major surgery on her foot to the extent that she couldn't walk anywhere. Due to her condition, she was unable to do any extensive work in the Retreat House or Clare House.

As God would have it, a group of teens from Light of the World Catholic Church asked if they could spend a week at Jesus Our Hope after an amazing experience at "Steubenville of the Rockies". They want to conduct a "Home Mission for God.

They did a great job! When

all was said and done, they had cleaned the Francis House, cleared the Trail of Tears and did odds and ends around the grounds.

While they did not want to be recognized for their work, what they accomplished will set the stage for significant reflection. No doubt that while someone is praying or walking through the grounds, they will notice the work of the youth and it will direct their thoughts to God never knowing what these young men and women have done to enhance the beauty of the grounds.

Thanks For All Your Help

The summer was very productive after the hard winter we went through. Thanks go around to many people and organizations. First, the Knights of Columbus from St. Frances Cabrini and Ave Maria, wonderfully helped with the grounds and the St. Francis House.

Next, Mary & Mike Lloyd, along with their Girl Scout Troop, took all the signs birdhouses, and icons to their house. Then, cleaned

them out, painted them, and brought them back to be hung around the grounds.

The Light of the World Youth Group, placed the birdhouses back on the trees while doing a thorough cleaning of the retreat house. They also weeded the grounds and landscaped in front of the Retreat House.

Also, Nick Armado brought a couple of Boy Scouts over to stain the Retreat House deck. God Bless all of you!

Bearly There—by Otto the Retreat Dog

Well my friends, it hadn't been the best of summers...broke a claw last month that had me in the hospital for a spell. Couldn't chase nerie one stinkin' varmit while I was laid up! Speakin' of stinkin' got a hold of one of them black and white varmints two summers back. Smelled for weeks—Got me right on the snout.

Anyway, back to this summer, catch hold of some bear tracks after the snows and dared that critter to come

out in the open; but he never did. I suspect he was just barely there—no what I mean? Probably shaken in his boots. Raided the neighbor trash but fled at the sight of a mean ornery critter like me. Probably took him back a bit. I suspect he probably went back in his cave where he wouldn't have to wrestle with the likes of me.

Been pickin' up tennis balls around the grounds. Pretty boring, but someone's gotta



Top right: Cabrini Knights cutting wood in the Nicodemus Aspen Grove Top Left: New Trail of Hope put in by Scout Cameron Ward. Bottom Left: Light of the World Youth repair Trail of Tears. Bottom Right: Statue of Holy Family on sale to raise money for the Shrine.



"Otto" the Retreat Dog at the Clare House.

do it. It can get down right frustrating sometimes. Soon as I pick one up and bring it to that human; they throw another out there for me to run down. Eventually, I gotta rest after all that work catchin' tennis balls. Ya never know when some

unlucky critter, like a bear, wants to come and invade my territory. Anyway, the humans are doin' okay. One got jealous of my foot bandage and had to get one for herself. Durn copycat. But, until next time, God Bless and Woof!

This and That—Shrine and Purging

So You Are Aware

Phone

(303) 697-7539

E-mail

Theresa@Jesus-Our-Hope.org

*See this newsletter in color
visit our website at
www.Jesus-Our-Hope.org*

As a non-profit organization, we could use help through both financial assistance and charitable contributions. Some other areas of help we could use include:

Mail List Purging:

We're purging our mailing lists for the newsletter and will be eliminating our friends who we haven't heard from in the past couple years. If you have not contacted us through donations or correspondence in recent history,

give us a call or drop a line so we can continue sending this information to you. As you know, mailings can be expensive and burdens your mailbox with "junk mail". Call Theresa at (303) 697-7539 if you would like to know more. Thanks & God Bless

Holy Family Shrine:

This is your chance to own a piece of Jesus Our Hope. For \$40 you can receive a miniature replica of the Holy Family Shrine. See page 3 for details or call the Clare House at (303) 697-7539.

The retreat house books fast on the weekends. Usually, you want to plan about three months in advance for all weekend retreats. Because of this, group retreats are encouraged. The weekdays are more available. One should plan about three weeks in advance to help prepare the house for your visit. Of course, as winter approaches, be prepared to use a 4-wheel drive vehicle. If you book the St. Francis House in the winter, check our website for conditions at www.Jesus-Our-Hope.org.

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**Jesus Our Hope
now take Stock
Donations. Please
contact us at (303)
697-7539 for more
information**

Got Will?

We should always have a will available regardless of our age or health. As a parent myself, I know that we all want to include our children in our wills. We also want them to practice stewardship in thanks for all they are given. One way to ensure generosity is to include information that would allocate 10% of your contribution to go to a worthy organization. We hope Jesus Our Hope is an organization that you will include in your decision.

Joe Peterson and the Cabrini Knights

The Annual Spring Fling has become a major event for southwest Denver. So, you don't want to miss another one! Come join Theresa and I for another wonderful evening with the Joe Peterson Band at St. Frances Cabrini on the 19 April 2008. Dinner will be included. The door prizes are quality items. Theresa got up and sang last year. No telling what will happen this year. Mark your calendars now! Stay tuned to the website for particulars.

JOH Events

St Frances Cabrini's Annual Spring Fling Dance

19 April 2008

Shrine Groundbreaking
Stay tuned for details

*Articles by
Deacon Joe Donohoe
except for Otto the Retreat Dog*