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NEWSLETTER DATE
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Jesus Our Eternal Hope

A NEWSLETTER FROM JESUS OUR HOPE HERMITAGE AND RETREAT GROUNDS

Two Gifts to God: Ric Simmons & Bill Holzworth

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.

As we move from winter to spring, we wonder at the marvels of God. In the seasons, He shows us how life comes from death. Thus, in this transition we should focus on the wonderful people and friends Our Lord has blessed us with.

Friends and relatives that bring so much joy and peace to others, leave a huge void when God calls them forward to be with Him. It is in our suffering and pain that we are able

to face the wonder of the people we've lost. The more we love, the more we are susceptible to sadness and pain. The more wonderful memories are able to be recalled to our present life.

God has brought two people in particular to Jesus Our Hope as a blessing and inspiration to our work here. He now has other plans for them. Ric Simmons and Bill Holzworth, both Board members of the Jesus-Our-Hope Charitable Organization, passed away in the past six months.

Ric Simmons and his wife

Brenda, were recently elected to the Board a few years ago. Ric came with energy and new ideas to JOH and helped with a number of projects around the retreat facility.

Bill and Bertha have been long-time Board members and were instrumental in the procurement of the two houses on the grounds. Bill's early work was key to the organization getting started and operating. The history of Jesus Our Hope is embedded in the life of Bill and his wife.

A Note From Father Don

Dear Friends,

We live in a world filled with constant sound from our I-pods to computers. Silence is not something we are used to, especially our young people. The problem with constant sound is the voice of God can be drowned out.

Even though Jesus has promised to be with us always we sometimes doubt that promise as we can't hear the voice of the Lord because of the many, many sounds in our lives.

Jesus Our Hope is a place where there is only the sound of God. Jesus speaks through the beauty that surrounds the retreat center. He speaks through the quiet of the mountains that surrounds the grounds. He speaks through His presence in the Blessed Sacrament located in the oratory at the Francis House. Jesus Our Hope provides a wonderful place where the voice of God can be heard.

Our culture drowns out the voice of God who loves us so much. What a gift Jesus our Hope is as real peace can be found there and only one voice can be heard, the one true voice that can give us peace and hope—the voice of Jesus.

Thank you for your continued support of Jesus Our Hope, with out your prayers and financial support we could not continue this vital ministry in a world that has so many voices that are contrary to the gospel. Fr. Don

Both Ric and Bill were gifts from God to those who utilize this wonderful place

Both Ric and Bill were gifts from God to those who utilize and support this wonderful place. We miss them both and pray often for them and also for Brenda and Bertha as they push forward in life and work through the sadness and grief that often comes with the loss of a loved one. God Bless them all. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Holy Family Shrine Coming Soon

We have finally seen some movement on the Holy Family Shrine. After much deliberation, Father Don and I made the decision to go ahead and order the statue. So I asked the company to begin making the statue. Within a month, we had a generous donor offer to make up the difference in the cost of the statue. Thanks be to God!

So what happens next? Well, in May, the Boy Scouts, led by Life Scout Steve Velazquez, are scheduled to come out and build the foundation for the statue.

Then, we are expecting the statue itself to arrive in June or July. The statue will be placed in a tree cover between the Francis House and the Clare House. If all goes

well, the statue will be up and ready around August.

We are grateful for all those who have supported and donated to the shrine. We should not be amazed by the work of Our Creator. We pray that the shrine will help those emulate the love and grace of the Holy Family and that lives will be transformed by this small token of love.

For all those that have ordered a "Tranquility" statue. We thank you for your patience. The statues are still in process and have not been received. We expect them to arrive some time in May.

For Reservations call (303) 697-7539

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Be Still and Know—A Reflection By Deacon Joe Jesus Our Hope-Christ Our Hope

Prayer to a Guardian Angel

**God guides the broken-hearted
With love that'll never cease
To heal their wounds of sorrow
And stir their hearts with peace**

**He heals the wounds of Adam
Of Jacob, Job and Ruth
He opens up the way to hope
By bringing them His truth**

**God heals the broken hearted
In every wounded way
With grace that comes from heaven
And joy He gives each day**

Deacon Joe Donohoe



A Stellar Bird sits in a Ponderosa watching the snow fall and waiting for a chance to get at the bird feeder at the Clare House

What a wonderful gift the American Church received in April of this year with the visit from Pope Benedict XVI. "Jesus Christ has sent me to America". Those are the words of our Holy Father and they resonated across the nation. He was sent by Our Lord to bring a message of Hope. How timely!

Despite our economic and social status compared to other nations, we fight and argue among ourselves like siblings. Though we are a nation that values freedom and religion, news of hatred and pain surrounds us everyday. If we can't find suffering in our country, we look for it in other places. We find it on the TV, in our homes, in our government and in our very lives.

As I watch television or read news articles from the media, there always seems to be an underlining sadness. Yet, these forms of communication are instruments that should be used to bring us trustworthy conditions of the state of America. But even good news is often looked with pessimisms and cautious concern. So, it should be no surprise that we walk around like injured warriors with wounds that beg for healing.

Yet, Our Holy Father had an amazing ability to bring the nation together with joy and hope! Each time he spoke, he started with gracious thanks and a wonderful message of hope. He made us feel good

about ourselves. Even when he brought forth difficult subjects like sexual abuse. It was all done with the loving concern of a Father. But more than that, he brought encouragement, leadership and direction, telling his fellow Bishops to do the same—to broadcast a message of hope and to be models of love through obedience!

Our Pope set an example of how to live life and find God. After all, that is how we find our freedom and break the chains that hold us down—the chains of sin.

Perhaps it's time for us to recognize how fortunate we really are, even in our suffering and trials. Then, act in accordance with God's Will—to take care of our brothers and sisters that are not as fortunate as we are. We, as Christians need to look to Christ to find the gifts He gives us to care for one another. These gifts from God are freedom, love, faith, and hope. They are gifts that unite us to the Body of Christ and are confirmed through our relationship with Our Savior. God Bless America! That was the Pope's message to you, me and the world.

Spring is a good time to think about all the new and beautiful things that come from God. It is a time of Hope. So relax, take the time to thank God—to have hope, to Be still and know...

Our Holy Father had an amazing ability to bring the Nation together with joy and

Projects that are being considered at Jesus Our Hope

There are a number projects, outside of the shrine, that are being considered by the Board of Directors. Most of the projects are in the area of maintenance and improvements.

We have had a problems with bugs in both houses in the past couple of years. Partly due to the woodpeckers making nest in the chimney and partly because of the age of the houses. So, we have hired a contractor to repair the chimney and put up a netting that will keep the woodpeckers from nesting inside. The other problem deals with caulking and insulation. We hope to have the houses caulked over the sum-

mer. Along the same lines, we are going to have to replace a sliding glass door in the master room of the Francis House. We discovered last summer, the door won't close completely, leaving room for insects to enter.

The road is getting more use that it has in the past and, as a result, it develops ruts and mud in the spring. We are looking at ways to combat the issue and will likely require grading. To do repairs in the early spring would probably make the road worse. We hope to have it done in late spring. In the mean time, if you are coming up, be pre-

pared for ruts.

There was once a beautiful aspen grove in the back of the property. Most of the trees have died and left hollow trees trunks on the land. We have been working gradually to cut the old trees down in hope that the young trees will be able to respond.

We are also in need of a couple of generators to keep power going when we experience a major storm. This is important as water can freeze up and make a mess. These are just a few projects we are working on this summer.

Who Needs a Retreat Anyway?—Your Contributions Help Many

The winter has been a steady time with intermittent retreats. We are careful to warn retreatants that the road to the Retreat House is icy requiring 4-wheel drive which prohibits some individuals from making it up here. However, there were plenty of miracles and retreat revelations. Since the last newsletter, we have had a number of Priests visit the retreat facility, including Priests from the Oblates of Mary who spent time in prayer and reflection, giving them a chance to get away from the business of the inner city and the demands that

go with the caring and feeding of their mission.

Also, a minister spent a week here reflecting on the theme at Jesus Our Hope, "Be Still and Know that I am God". His conversation with Christ gave him the confidence to deal with difficult situations in his church and in his life. He left the grounds changed and committed to a renewal of his covenant with God.

Other groups and individuals have made the trek up to the grounds in the midst of snow and cold weather to renew the grace that comes with being committed to God and

His Church. This included a quilting group from a local church, the Knights of Columbus, and 3rd order religious, to name a few.

It also included individuals that need support but don't have a lot of money to afford the facility. This is where your contributions and donations make a difference. Last year, we discovered the average retreat do-

nation was \$30. That's for an entire retreat, regardless of the time or number of people. Obviously, \$30 doesn't cover operating expenses. Without your contributions we couldn't continue our ministry. So here's a special thanks for all those who allow these consecrated facilities to operate. God Bless you for your generosity



The road to the St. Francis House on a snowy winter day in January 2008



"Otto" the Retreat Dog at the Clare House.

7th Annual Benefit Dance—Great Success

The 7th annual Benefit Dance was another great success. Great prizes were given away in the silent auction and raffle including; a trip to Mexico, a week in a condo and a couple of beautiful handmade quilts! There were other great gifts as well, too many to list.

As best I could tell, everyone had a great time! Joe Peterson and the band packed the dance floor. Some participants got great deals and some wonderful

prizes. The food was delicious and the company fantastic!

If you missed out, don't worry, the Knights are planning the next benefit dance for 2009. Don't miss out. When we get a date we'll get it in the newsletter.

Our sincere thanks goes out to the St. Frances Cabrini Knights of Columbus and the Joe Peterson Band. We also would like to thank all the sponsors and donors. Thanks to all who attended.

I'm a "Type A"—by Otto the Retreat Dog

Heard tell some of you human critters been complainin' bout my typin' skills. One human fuzzed up a storm 'bout my spellin'—seems to think us domicile critters should talk 'n type like humans. Well my friends, I'm here ta tell ya; that I'm a mutt, not a 'fisticated creature like some dog animals. Although, I am kinda cute!

Anyway, thought ya'd like ta know that peckin' at them keys with paws ain't as easy

as it looks. Specilly, when my humans haven't taken me in for my groomin' and claw cuttin'. You ever tried typin' with 4 inch nails? Can be hard on the cuticles, if ya know what I mean!

So, this is 'bout the best I cin do. Them keyboards aren't 'xactly made for dog paws.

Been spendin' my days snoozin' a lot durin' the winter. Hard to get outta bed when my fur coat get ta

growin'. Sometimes my humans make me go for a ride in the truck to plow the snow and trim the trees. Hard work and all; but, I have ta grab tree limbs if there threaten' ta scratch the ol' 95 Ford plow truck. Kinda tasty if I can reel a branch or two

into the ol' passenger dog seat. Since my humans are pretty scared of wild critters, I gotta bark lots 'n keep them creature at bay. But its my job. Anyway, time for my mid-morning' nap. Them humans drive me ta nappin'! Woof and God Bless!

This and That—Shrine and Purging

So You Are Aware

Phone

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E-mail

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*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've have purged our mailing lists for the newsletter and eliminated some people from our mailings. If you know of someone who would like it continued, please have them contact us through email, letter or phone call.

Retreat House Repairs

A couple of items that are in need of replacement are the sliding glass doors in the master bedroom. We are also looking for high wattage generators to avoid water pipes freezing should we have a power outage. We could use a generator for the Clare House as well. Contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Adobe Software

We could use Adobe software that reads our newsletter and allows it to be posted on the web.

When the houses were power washed a couple of years ago, the vendor didn't caulk the outside of the house afterwards. We are looking for a contractor that is will come in and seal the house so that the bugs aren't pestering the retreatants. If you know of someone that has experience or caulks the houses, please have them contact us. Also, retreatants need to be aware that there may be interruptions in order to clear up this problem. Its either the maintenance or the bugs?

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information**

LOTW Fair

The Light of the World Fair is coming soon. Come see the LOWDOWNS sing on Friday the 30th of May at 6:30pm till closing. I sure Theresa will be singing her "Boots" song for everyone. Great fun and good people are available throughout the weekend. The fair runs from Friday night until Sunday at 5:00. This year there will be a Louisiana theme with Cajun food and music. For more information call the parish office at (303) 973-3969.

What's up at Jesus Our Hope

We have had a website for a while; however, my daughter, Jennifer, has updated the site and gave it a more attractive look. With the help of her husband, Steve, they have been able to include the current conditions and the forecast for this area. There are still improvements to be made and if there are any suggestions, feel free to let us know. We would love to hear from you and get your comments. There are some neat photos as well.

**JOH Events
LOWDOWNS at
Light of the World Fair
30 May 2008
6:30-9:30 pm
Shrine Opening
Some time in August**

*Articles by
Deacon Joe Donohoe
except for Otto the Re-
treat Dog*