

# Jesus Our Eternal Hope

VOLUME I, ISSUE 6

NEWSLETTER DATE  
15 OCTOBER 2008

A NEWSLETTER FROM JESUS OUR HOPE HERMITAGE AND RETREAT GROUNDS

## We Continue to Rely on Your Donations

**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.*

The hardest thing Theresa and I have to do at Jesus Our Hope is to ask for donations. Neither one of us are good with begging. But by the Grace of God, we (collectively) keep the facility open. Most of our contributions are from a couple of parishes in the area and by generous work from the Knights of Columbus as they put on benefits for us. However, we continue to need your support and assistance. Jesus Our Hope is not

owned by us. This property is a gift from contributors to those who visit, allowing others to find solace and energy to face their struggles in the world.

Father Roger left a wonderful legacy. Should there come a time to close down or sell, the world would survive, but with one less place to find God in silence and one less remnant of the great legacy left by our holy spiritual leader.

I say all this because our last newsletter recovered very few donations. It was not enough to cover the newsletter expenses. I

know with gas prices pushing upward, it has become harder to make ends meet and that some of our contributors are doing the best they can and we are thankful. We understand that every gift we receive is a result of the hard work of each person, just as it is with the contributions we make.

There is so much to do here and a lot of opportunity to respond to the call of Our Lord if we can just involve the greater community. That is where we need your help. When considering your tithe, please pray and consider Jesus Our Hope.

God always provides—we know that. We also know that He works through His faithful people to support one another, especially those who rely on Him in faith. Through your generosity, Jesus Our Hope will thrive and God will continue to pour down his blessings upon us.

### A Note From Father Don

Dear Friends of Jesus Our Hope, For many people times are scary right now. Many wonder about the future, is there going to be money to retire on? Are my taxes going to go up? Are we safe from terrorism? At this time in history we as a people have many things to ponder and pray about, we have many fears, some real some not so real.

During this time in our history when we have so many concerns and fears Jesus Our Hope can be a place to come, be still and listen to the voice of our God who reminds us that no matter what, we are loved, have the hope of eternal love, and have a God who in end will never let evil triumph.

During a time when peace seems elusive Jesus Our Hope can be a place where peace is found.

Thank You for your prayers and support I appreciate everything you do to make Jesus Our Hope a place where God's love is spoken.

Fr. Don

*Father Roger was singing with us as we joyfully celebrated the opening of the Dome House.*

### The Eagle's Nest—Dome House

Well, it finally happened! The Dome House is complete and ready for occupancy. The Community of St. John gathered together with friends and sponsors to celebrate the opening of the Dome House, also called the Eagle's Nest, designed by Father Roger and on which he left the foundation prior to his passing.

Fr. Didier, Fr. John-Therese and Fr. Joseph-Mary greeted Archbishop Chaput, Msgr Tom Fryar, Fr Renner, Fr Frank and Deacon Tim Kinney, at the front door of the building as they dedicated the home to Our Blessed Lord. As the priest from St. John's the community escorted the Archbishop through the building, the congregation outside was led in singing "Veni Santus Spiritus"

(Come Holy Spirit) and recited a decade of the Rosary in prayerful intercession for our Holy Mother to look down upon the consecrated grounds.

The three priests of St. John's also welcomed Sister Marie-Joann and asked those in attendance to remember the wonderful works of Father Roger. Fr. Didier was sure that his brother in Christ was singing with us as we joyfully celebrated the completion of the hard work and dedicated of the many people who dedicated their time and money. Truly, it is the result of Christian people showing their love for God and one another. What a witness!

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*During a time when peace seems elusive, Jesus Our Hope can be a place where peace can be found...where God's love is spoken*

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

Psalm 63: 2-9

**Oh God, You are My God,  
For You I long;  
For you my heart is thirsting;  
My body pines for You Like a dry,  
weary land without water.  
So I gaze on You in the sanctuary  
To see Your Strength and Your Glory.  
For Your Love is better than Life.  
My lips will speak Your Praise.**



Archbishop Chaput and Deacon Tim Kenny listen on with Fr. John-Therese and Fr. Joseph-Mary as Fr. Didier reads from the Gospel of John at the Blessing of the Dome House

Taking on a Christian or Catholic name has an important and dire responsibility. To be Christian means to be set aside for Christ. To belong to Him. Too often we don't provide good examples that reflect our special religious status.

I remember when the world was sensitive to the Will of God. We prayed in school and businesses were closed on Sunday out of respect for God and in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

It's not that way anymore. Our children are dealing with compromising ideas that sway their impression of Christianity as something less than desirable—even intolerant and vicious.

The early Church Christians were recognized by the way they took care of each other. They were formed by the conviction of being servants to each other and loving God. Others wanted to know about Christ because of the love Christians had for each other. They were curious and wanted to participate in a relationship with the people of God—the Christian. So they were willing to take on Christian values and honor Christ.

I recently talked to an individual who felt Christians were hypocrites and cited a few examples that were easily contested. However, his point needs to be taken seriously because they were something he personally experienced. So often,

we lose patience with others, we condemn others and we don't have time for those in needs. We often forget about the poor, the abused, the lonely and the sick. Then we go to Church and thank God we are not like them—much like St. Matthew's Pharisee and tax collector who were praying in the temple.

I know we often do these things without really thinking about the impression we make—we are in a hurry or too busy. How many times do we go somewhere we don't want to go and make it miserable for others?

It would do well for us to take on the character of the first Christians and reflect a sense of peace and joy; simply because we know God is with us. How practical it should be that people look at us and recognize the face of Christ because of the way we take care of our brothers and sisters and they take care of us.

It is a cause for contemplation. I suggest it is time for us to collectively recognize our special place in this world and how we are set apart because of our knowledge and love for God. Then, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can help provide a world that is richer because of the love we have for one another.

Let me suggest that you take time with God and ask Him to help you with relationships. Take time and listen; then Be still and know...

***“With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can help provide a world that is richer because of the love of one another”***

### 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 had the Francis house 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.

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. Finally, we are considering putting a security camera at the entrance. We haven't had any major problems, but we have had our signs tampered with and a camera might do the trick.

## Stephen Velazquez and his Boy Scout Crew finish the Holy Family Shrine

It took a couple of extra weeks to get everything done, but the Boy Scout team from Troop XXX was able to finish the Holy Family Shrine just in time for the arrival of the new statue. The Shrine is located between the St. Clare House and the St. Francis House and will provide a location for retreatants to focus on the importance of family while providing the Model Family to emulate and ask for intercession.

The Shrine was a challenging project and required a lot of patience and dedicated labor from all those involved.

Stephen Velazquez, the team leader, had been working and planning the project for the past year. Once he started the work, he realized it would require more than a few complete weekends and a number of weekday trips up to the consecrated grounds; but his persistence paid off.

In addition, Stephen was able to make this a family affair with his brother, Jason, his mom and dad and his grandparents helping out throughout the laborious process. Stephen family worked hard to put the finishing touch to the shrine and resulted in a beautiful and lasting shrine.



Boy Scout Stephen Velazquez take a break from working on the shrine to take a picture

## Thank You Knights of Columbus!

On Saturday the 19th of July, the Knights from Light of the World, St. Frances Cabrini and Ave Maria joined forces to do some much needed repairs to the St. Francis House and the Retreat Grounds. Over 16 people showed up for the event and pulled out their tools to caulk, paint, stain, clip, chop, saw, and general cleaning throughout the house.

We are hoping that the hard work from the Knights will eliminate the bug problems

we have had for the past two years. So far, it seems to have worked. There are still a couple of repairs to be made, but the results from the Knights efforts will allow Theresa and I to focus on other areas of the Retreat Grounds that need our attention. With any luck, we may get Otto to pitch in with some of the work... okay, that's a stretch; but, we can always hope.

Thank you Knights for your continued and unwavering support!

Scouts working on shrine:  
**Stephen Velazquez**  
**Jason Velazquez**  
**Matthew Whitaker**  
**Connor Whitaker**  
**Jeff Joyce**  
**Patrick McManus**  
**Dylan Warriner**  
**Jordan Rodgers**  
**Chris Shovein**  
**Tommy Adams**

Adults working on shrine:  
**John & Pauline Velasquez**  
**John & Rachal Velasquez**  
**Brian & Esther Velasquez**  
**Jim & Michele Whitaker**  
**Tom & Laura McManus**  
**Charlie & Jenny Joyce**  
**Liz Warriner**  
**Brian Rodgers**

## Like Herdin' Humans—by Otto the Retreat Dog

I'm telling' ya, its been a busy summer! There was more humans hangin' around the retreat house then a mutt could throw a stick at! First, the Boy Scouts come out and dig a hole in the ground (wouldn't let me help?); then, a bunch a' guys take over the retreat house and scatter all over the place. I had humans comin' and goin'! Its enuf to make a herdin' dog chase his tail! These humans couldn't get in a pack if they had a fresh pas-

ture ta go to! I bet I chased more of them 'Knight' critters than a dog allowed ta! Anyway, seems they left the place better than they found it. The teenage humans made this stone fireplace and stuck a couple of Holy Humans in the middle. The older humans trimmed my trees and covered up cracks where those pesty flies would enter. Once I got them all in one place, they had supper, and took off to pester some other poor dog's soul. Makes me tired,



"Otto" the Retreat Dog at the Clare House.

I tell ya! It was dry up in the mountains and kinda hot; if ya want to take a trip up here next summer, ya may want ta pack an air conditioner or lots of ice! (Save some for me & don't forget the liver treats!) I gotta get ready for the snow season. Seems them

human critters are starting to grow ther fir. It's kinda funny how they grow it real fast b'fer they go outside and then shed as soon as they come indoors. Cain't seem to get them to do anything right! Have a nice season. Woof and God Bless!

## 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](http://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:

**Log Splitters** We have lost our log splitter that we used to borrow. We could use a gas powered log splitter to help keep the heating bills down. We also provide wood to others that are in need and they would be grateful. Receiving the splitter as a

loan or a donation would be appreciated.

**Generators** Winter is coming and we have been blessed to have avoided any power outages that would freeze water pipes in either house. We could use a high wattage generator to avoid water damage.

**Wood Chipper** There are a tremendous amount of branches and wood laying around the property and cause a potential for fire damage. Even if we could borrow a wood chipper that would be helpful.

It's that time of year. The road has ruts going through it and it can make for a rough ride. It doesn't require 4-wheel drive; but, I'm sure it will once we get a good snow storm going.

Anytime you are driving up the road, please do so with caution. The traffic on the road seems to have increased over the summer and it will require someone to pull to the side or back up to a location where two cars can get by. So, please be careful.

Jesus Our Hope Hermitage  
10523 South Deer Creek Road  
Littleton, CO 80127

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

### Valentine's Dance

Every year the Knights from St. Frances Cabrini put on an outstanding dance with the Joe Peterson Band. If you haven't been, you are missing out. Plus, this year the dance is on St. Valentine's Day. In addition, we will have door prizes and great prizes to auction. So, bring your sweet-heart for fun and great music. Tickets are available at the door; but, you may want to get yours early. Call Barrie Whitmore for more information at (303) XXX-XXXX.

### Open House and Shrine Blessing

The Holy Family Shrine is complete! All we need now is a blessing and an open house. The Board Members are in the process of putting a great event together for the opening of the shrine. The Open House is on the XX June 2009 from 12:00-6:00 with a Mass and a blessing at 1:00 by our own Father Don Brownstein. Bring the children and meet some of the friends of Jesus Our Hope. For more information, call Theresa at (303) 697-7539.

***JOH Events***  
***St. Valentine's Dance***  
*14 Feb 2009*  
*St. Frances Cabrini*  
*6:30-10:30 pm*  
***Shrine Opening***  
***Some time in Summer***  
***2009***

Articles by  
Deacon Joe Donohoe  
except for Otto the Retreat Dog