

Jesus Our Eternal Hope

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NEWSLETTER DATE
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A NEWSLETTER FROM JESUS OUR HOPE HERMITAGE AND RETREAT GROUNDS

An Open House Success!

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.

What would you say if I told you that we were able to bring in 100 people up a single lane dirt road and then back down again on the same day without incident? That is what the Knights at St. Frances Cabrini and the Boy Scout Troop 43 were able to successfully do at our Open House on the 28th of June.

The ceremony began with an Open Air Mass celebrated by Father Don Brownstein in front of the

new Holy Family Shrine that was blessed after the Mass. The blessing of the Shrine included placing a plaque on the Shrine in appreciation for Eagle Scout Steven Velasquez who led the effort to get the shrine built. Immediately after we remembered two board members, Bill Hotzworth and Ric Simmons by inscribing their names on a plaque. Both individuals provided significant contributions to Jesus Our Hope and are sorely missed.

Once the festivities were accomplished at the Shrine, every-

one went to the St. Francis House for a nice BBQ lunch, conversation and laughter. Pictures and mementos were scattered around the house while members and participants both recalled personal events that they experienced while visiting the grounds. Most of the discussions led to God's gentle hand in their lives.

Later in the month, Kayte Bruno, who helped prepare the food and serve our guests, left us with two beautiful pictures; one of Our Lady of Guadalupe and one of Jesus Our Peace. What wonderful gift! If you are looking for a talented artist to paint you a picture, I would recommend her work. Andy Marquez was also present and had left us with a couple of beautiful photographs in the past. Please visit both of these generous individuals and thank them for their contributions.

A Note From Father Don

Dear Friends,
Please take the opportunity to use the St. Francis House this coming year where you can find peace, the beauty of the mountains, the quiet of the forest, and most importantly Jesus.

I wish you a Christ-Filled Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

I will remember all those who support the ministry of Jesus Our Hope in my Christmas Masses.

Father Don Brownstein.

Time Crept Up

As you might have noticed, time crept up on me and I'm late getting the newsletter out. Please remember Jesus Our Hope in your donations as you determine your charities for the coming year.

Theresa and I (and Otto the Retreat Dog) would like to wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Also, may your Advent season be filled with anticipation for the coming of Jesus Our Hope.

Deacon Joe and Theresa Donohoe

Andy Marquez
Photographer

Kayte Bruno
Artist
(303) 261-0671

Bishop Conley Visits Jesus Our Hope

We received a nice visit from Auxiliary Bishop Conley this summer. He, his mom, Betty Jean Conley, and a couple of friends, Lori Fetch and Jackie Roth, came to see the grounds and spend time in the mountains. After lunch, our guests visited the St. Francis House and walked the grounds.

Our discussions included a history of the grounds and how Father Roger was able to pull together a community to help young people find sanctuary outside of their inner city situations. We also discussed with His Excellency, and his guests, some of the great gifts we have received from the many people that support Jesus Our Hope and also some of the difficulties we deal with in our ministry.

Bishop Conley was quite pleased with the grounds and particularly enjoyed the fact that the retreat facility relied on donations and did not charge a fee.

Bishop Conley looks to Jesus Our Hope to continue to support the people of the Archdiocese with a place of rest and prayer. He assured us of his prayers. He also considered the possibility of spending time at the St. Francis House, himself during the course of his ministry in Denver. We look forward to seeing and hearing from him more in the future. Please keep him, his ministry and his mother in your prayers.

Reservations
(303) 697-7539

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Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year

Be Still and Know—Humans Do the Darneest Things—A Reflection By Deacon Joe

Prayer to the Holy Family

Oh, Most Holy Family, may our lives be entwined with yours. Grant that we may always see in our family members the love and devotion that your Most Precious Family gave to each other.

May we immolate your care and concern for each of our relatives and come to know the peace that comes from the grace that God uniquely gives to the marriage covenant.

*Mary Mother of Virtue, pray for us.
Most gracious St. Joseph, pray for us.
Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us.*



Father Don conveys his gratitude to the friends of Jesus Our Hope during a homily at the Shrine of the Holy Family

The human condition is prone to making things difficult. In a world where we are constantly looking for reason and hope, our tendency is to be pessimistic and doubtful. It is often the case that a person will figure out all the things that can go wrong before they ever attempt to start a project or a venture. After making one excuse after the other, they often walk away from the problem frustrated and determined not to pursue it any further.

I have found that this condition is amplified when one deals with their spiritual life and their relationship with God. When things are worrisome and they are down on our luck, they pray—and pray hard—to God to make something happen. Then, they impatiently wait; watching time click away and thinking of all the reasons God will not answer their prayer. In the meantime, they do absolutely nothing about it. They know (at least, they think they know) that God performs miracles and they (kind of) expect Him to answer immediately. Even when the goal is unreasonable and the request is a little dicey for God’s intervention. After a long day or two, one concludes that He is not going to answer the prayer, then they get frustrated and want to take it out on God or His Church. Afterwards, it becomes a test or a compromise. The prayer might sound like this, “God, if you will do this one thing for me, I will

go to church every Sunday, etc.” When nothing happens, they just get frustrated and quit going to Church and praying all together.

However, there are times when a person decides to stand up to the challenge and do whatever it takes to accomplish their goals. They make the decision to do “whatever it takes” to make the project successful.

In the case of spirituality, they get serious with their prayer and work to make sure that God is intimately involved in the process of achieving the ultimate goal, while making sure that all that is done is done according to His Will. The prayer is, “Lord, you have done good things for me, may everything I do, be according to Your Will.”

This is when we see a change. Smoothly, one’s disposition improves and is able to do good work. Soon, it is not about what one wants, but about what others need. They’re desire is to do things for the good of others and to be pleasing to God. Then, as they look back, they realize a miracle has happened. They’re no longer frustrated or pessimistic; rather, they’re at peace. And it all started with a prayer and the realization that all one needs is to be still and know....

It all started with a prayer

Lord, you have done good things for me, may everything I do, be according to Your Will

The Old Ford Had to Go

We did the best we could to make it last. But after 14 years and 127,000 miles, we had to turn in the old burnt orange 1995 Ford plow truck. The dented old truck was starting to costs a lot to maintain with a new transmission in 2007 and electrical work in 2008.

The old truck had been instrumental in keeping the road clear during the snowy months of the year. The old truck went through a lot of snow banks and storms during the four years we have been on the retreat grounds. This includes the heavy snow season of 2007. The plow truck was

running rugged and the costs to repair would have been substantial in order to continue running on the rugged terrain. The latest storm last year was too much for the truck even though the snow totals were not that significant.

In its place, we were able to get a new truck with the basic equipment with the hope that it will be able to help us continue to move snow for the next ten to twenty years. Thanks to your contributions and donations, we were also able to get a plow that is much easier to maintain and store.

The only problem with a new truck is we have to be more careful with how we maneuver around the property. Seems that Father Don wasn’t that concerned if we told him we had put a dent in the old plow horse. With the new truck we are going to have to be much more careful about the funny turns we need to make in order to clear the snow.

Otto misses his old ride; but, will likely be happy with the new accommodations. Hopefully, he’ll keep his fur to himself and not shed too badly on the new cloth seats.

Bearing His Soul at Jesus Our Hope

It is no secret that Jesus Our Hope is a place where prayers are answered—sometimes in small ways; sometimes in huge ways. Over the summer we have a visitor from France who was yearning for a silent retreat. He had been in the house a couple of days and hadn't seen any wild life. To help things along, the retreatant asked for intercession from Blessed Kateri, requesting a chance to see wild life during his stay.

The very next day, as he was coming up the stairs from the oratory, he noticed something out the corner of his eye. As

he turned towards the front entry door, he spotted a black bear standing on his hind legs peeking into the house. In all the commotion, no pictures were taken and only a window screen was damaged.

As one might expect, the retreatant ran around the house closing windows and peeking over to get a look at the visitor he had prayed for.

My theory is that the bear went back to Blessed Kateri and said that he knocked on the door and checked in the windows, but no one came out to see him, so he left.



Theresa greets Bishop Conley, his mother, Betty Jean, and two friends, Lori Fetch and Jackie Roth, during a visit Jesus Our Hope for a day in the mountains.

Thank You Knights of Columbus!

Once again, the Knights of Columbus have come through. The Knights from Light of the World and Cabrini came together to help stain the decks at the two houses before the winter weather arrived. It took an entire Saturday; but, after sunburns and sweat, they were able to get everything done before sunset. To top things off, they were also helped with the open house by directing traffic and setting up locations for Mass and lunch. What a tremendous gift they are to

Jesus Our Hope!

I would highly recommend any one looking to conduct service ministry in their own parishes to check out the Knights of Columbus. At the very least, I would ask that you support their activities. If it wasn't for this great organization, it would be difficult to sustain all the work it takes to keep Jesus Our Hope running and in good condition.

I would also like to include a hardy thanks to Dick Swisher who has helped with odds and ends around the grounds.

I'm workin' on Sainthood...—by Otto the Retreat Dog

My dearest friends: I need ta be serus fer just a second. Things er gettin' a bit tough fer dogs 'round the retreat house. So, I'm thinkin' with all the hoopla over Mother Theresa and Pope JP2, I might should apply for canon-a-sensation. Not sure how ta go 'bout gettin' ta be a saint or what that there word means; but, I'm startin' with a fundraiser. I figer if everyone pitch in \$50 bucks, I can speak with the Pontiff 'bout it. Then with all my

typin' and claw clippin' I could get a miracle or two. I been keepin' the humans in line too! There's a real miracle!!! Plus, I already got a star on that there street in Hollywood. Only thang is I wood haveta be a livin' saint. Don't go for waitin' till I gone, if ya know what I mean.

If'n I were an important mutt, I might get a little respect by the humans. Probly, make 'em call me St. Otto. Master dog sounds good too.

If you missed the Valentine Dance last year, I wouldn't worry too much, this year's dance is undoubtedly going to be great. See back page for more information



"Otto" the Retreat Dog at the Clare House.

Might even get an extra bowl of dog food out of it. If'n it don't work with the Pope and all, I could always use the fundraiser for extra treats and dog bones. Maybe a couple fetchin' sticks as well. Seein' the human don't always play ball with me

like I want 'em to, I could use some aut-o-matic ball thrower.

Please sent yer sainthood donation to the retreat doghouse address (in care of St. Otto) Might write a letter too. Gotta go and shine my halo. Stay warm. Woof and God Bless!

Phone

(303) 697-7539

You can find our newsletter under the "news" tab of our website visit us at www.Jesus-Our-Hope.org Website created and maintained by Jennifer & Steve Majewski

This and That—Wood Tools & Power

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 Splitter 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.

JOH Welcome Sign We initially had a boy scout who was going to build a sign on the triangle at the entrance of the property. We still would like to get something that will fit in with the environment and endure the weather. Need to zone as well.

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.

So You Are Aware

The youth group of Our Lady of the Pines are planning to help clean up and prepare the St. Clare House for visitors. While there have been a lot of improvements in the past few years, there is also much to be done. Both houses are at the point of needing renovation and repairs. If you are able to provide financial support for these repairs, please keep us in mind for the new year. Your donations and prayers are what keep us going and functioning properly.

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Call (303) 221-1007

Articles by Deacon Joe Donohoe except for Otto the Retreat Dog

Clare House Events

In October, Theresa and I moved into another house a couple of miles from the retreat grounds. The idea is to allow us to open the St. Clare House for clergy and religious retreats. The St. Clare House will be closed for the winter and we look forward to opening it up for retreats in the Spring. In the meantime, St. Francis House will continue to operate as in the past. Please keep Theresa and I in your prayers as we take new steps into the future.

St. Valentine Dance

Mark your calendars, the 10th annual St. Valentine's Dance is Saturday the 15th of February 2010 at St. Frances Cabrini in Littleton. Last year's events great but sold out quickly. Make sure you get your tickets and reservation early. The Joe Peterson Band will also be back to entertain and provide big band music. The plan is to have a silent auction and door prizes to be ready to win! Call Barry Whitmore at (303) 933-1299 for tickets.

JOH Events
St. Valentine Dance
15 February 2010
St. Frances Cabrini
St. Clare Open House
Tour
29 June 2010