

The Retreat House News

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, OH 45860

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January, February, March, April, May 2014

Winter Snow

by Robin Goettemoeller

In August, musicians Matt Maher and Audrey Assad performed for a crowd of about 850 people at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. It was truly one of the highlights of my summer! Since the concert, I've become a big fan of Audrey Assad (I was already a huge fan of Matt Maher). Her music has so much meaning that as you listen to it you forget you are listening to Christian music.

As I sit and write this newsletter it is snowing and I'm listening to a song Audrey Assad and Chris Tomlin composed called "Winter Snow". What a beautiful reminder of how our faith can be compared to a winter snow. While He *could* be loud and demanding—like a tidal wave or a roaring flood, He comes to us quiet and subtle like a winter snow. His voice can be "small and hidden"—which reminds us during busy times to stop and listen for His voice.

1 Corinthians 16:6 says "Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey wherever I go."

This winter, as we grow tired of looking at all of the snow falling around us, we are reminded to think about our journey and the journey of those surrounding us. We may want the snow to hurry and melt so that we can get outside to do things, but if we listen to the quiet around us, we may hear God's

voice and He may be able to help us on our journey.

As the seasons change from winter to spring, and the birds begin to sing again, and we journey outside to feel the first rays of Spring sun on our faces; let's remember to "Be Still and Know" that *God is with us*. He's with us on *every* journey, no matter what the season—watching over us, guiding and protecting us—we just have to remember to listen for Him.



SANCTUS 2014

Save the date!!

Matt Maher returns for

SANCTUS 2014
this August!!!!

Watch for more info at
www.spiritualcenter.net

Verse 1

You could've come like a mighty storm
with all the strength of a hurricane
You could've come like a forest fire
with the power of heaven in your flame

Chorus

But you came like a winter snow
quiet and soft and slow
Falling from the sky in the night
to the earth below

Verse 2

You could've swept in like a tidal wave
or an ocean to ravish our hearts
You could have come through
like a roaring flood
to wipe away the things we've scarred

Bridge

No, your voice wasn't in a bush burning
No, your voice wasn't in a rushing wind
It was still, it was small, it was hidden...

“Winter Snow” by Audrey Assad



Message from the Board...

The cold weather has not affected the warmth of Christ. His love and relationship can even melt a stone heart. We try to warm the hearts of all who come to the Spiritual Center. Christ has blessed us throughout our 15 years. The Board and staff have tried to add new interests, devotions and events each year. Updating the largest conference room with a new ceiling and decor has priority this year.

Thank you for your support in prayer, attendance and treasure.

May God bless each of you and your loved ones!

Hope you can stop in this season! *Deacon Greg Bornhorst*

Changing of the Guard Many thanks to our outgoing past President Deacon Greg Bornhorst for all that's he has done over the past years. He has served as a great President and we are thankful for all his time, talent, and treasure. Deacon Jerry Buschur has been voted in as the new President as of January 1, 2014 and Mr. Alvin Dues is the Vice President. **Thank you Greg!!**



2014 Board Members

*Deacon Jerry Buschur—
President*

Alvin Dues— Vice President

Ed Werling—Treasurer

At large members:

Deacon Randy Balster

Deacon Greg Bornhorst

Mike Bruns

Virgil Lochtefeld

Deacon Bill Schaeffer

Newly engaged couples interested in attending Pre-Cana at the Spiritual Center

are asked to contact the Family & Respect Life Office at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. You can register online at www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/family-life/engaged-couple-programs/

Or contact Josh Danis at The Family & Respect Life Office in Sidney at 937-492-4449.



No registrations or payments are accepted at the Spiritual Center.

2014 Pre-Cana Dates

February 1, March 15, June 21, September 13, December 6



419-925-7625

Job Opening

Monday's Only 8:30-4:00

Laundry

Love to do laundry? The Spiritual Center is looking for someone to work every Monday from 8:30-4:00 in the laundry room. Applicants should apply in person at the Spiritual Center or call 419-925-7625 for more information.

Events Listing: January, February, March, April, May 2014

Sunday, January 5, 5:45 p.m., “The Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Benediction” in the Chapel.

Tuesdays, January 7 & 21, “Piecemakers Craft Group” 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 1, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Pre-Cana retreat for engaged couples.

Sunday, February 2, 5:45 p.m., “The Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Benediction” in the Chapel.

Tuesdays, February 4 & 18, “Piecemakers Craft Group” 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15, “Evening to Celebrate Marriage” contact Connie Buschur to register or for more information at 419-678-8644.

Sunday, March 2, 5:45 p.m., “The Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Benediction”.

Sunday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., “Annual Volunteer Dinner”. See page 4 for more information.

Tuesdays, March 4 & 18, “Piecemakers Craft Group” 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Friday, March 7- Sunday, March 9 “Theology of the Body” retreat for teens. See page 5 for more info.

Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., “Healing Liturgy” in the Chapel.

Saturday, March 15, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Pre-Cana retreat for engaged couples.

Friday, March 21-Sunday, March 23 “Life in the Spirit”. Contact Kelly Horstman at 419-678-3821 for more information or to register for this youth retreat.

Tuesdays, April 1 & 15, “Piecemakers Craft Group” 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 6, 1:00-6:00 “RCIA Retreat”. See page 6 for more information.

Sunday, April 6, 5:45 p.m., “The Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Benediction”.

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m., “Healing Liturgy” in the Chapel.

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Dr. John Woods presents “Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission”. See page 7 for more information.

Sunday, May 4, 5:45 p.m., “The Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Benediction”.

Tuesdays, May 6 & 20, “Piecemakers Craft Group” 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 8, 10:00-3:00, “Spring Day of Reflection”. See page 6 for more information.

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m., “Healing Liturgy” in the Chapel.

An interview with St. John's Jesuit Campus Ministry Director

"Why choose the Spiritual Center?"



St. John's Jesuit
High School & Academy

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein strives to make sure all of those on retreats leave filled with faith and have the best experience possible. Recently we asked Campus Ministry Director Tom Harms from St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, OH why he brings his students to the Spiritual Center. This all boys high school comes for retreats throughout the school year and we are thankful they choose us as one of their retreat centers!

What is your favorite thing about the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein (SCMS)?

"That is a tough question, we love everything." "There is nothing NOT to love." We love the facility, the meeting rooms, the chapel and the accommodations. There are many bedrooms which allows students and adults to have private rooms as we usually have 50-55 people at our retreats. There are many recreational options, both inside and outside. The staff has gone out of their way to provide activities for students during down time. They now have an indoor basketball and volleyball area, as well as lacrosse nets for outside. The beauty of the grounds is also a plus; being able to walk through the wood is wonderful. The staff is also cordial and accommodating."

Why do you come back to the SCMS?

"We have our students do an evaluation when they return from their retreats. The kids love the SCMS. They say the food is awesome and the facilities are great!"

Would you recommend the SCMS to other schools or church organizations?

"Absolutely!"

What would you say to others about the SCMS?

"You are guaranteed to have a peaceful, enjoyable stay and you will not find anything that lives up the high expectations of the SCMS."

What do your students say about the SCMS?

"Their experience at the SCMS is an all-around great time. You leave feeling fulfilled, spiritually, mentally and physically."

Interested in bringing your youth group, High School, or Kairos retreat to the Spiritual Center? We would love to work with you to make this happen! Discounts are given for groups that come more than one time per year. Call Robin at 419-925-7625 for more info.

Annual Volunteer Dinner—Sunday March 2, 2014

Please RSVP
by February
27

The Rosary, Evening Prayer, & Benediction will begin at 5:45 p.m.

Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Entertainment following dinner will be provided by
"New Outlook"

New Outlook is a Bluegrass Gospel band based out of Wapakoneta, Ohio. The husband and wife team that leads the group has musical influences ranging from Lonesome River band to Earl Scruggs. Their recent tours have led them throughout OH, IN, MI, TN, & KY.



THANK YOU to all of our
volunteers!!! Please join us for this
special evening honoring all

volunteers!!

"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller



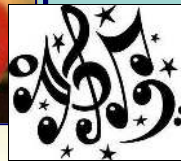


Vic and Kyle after the concert

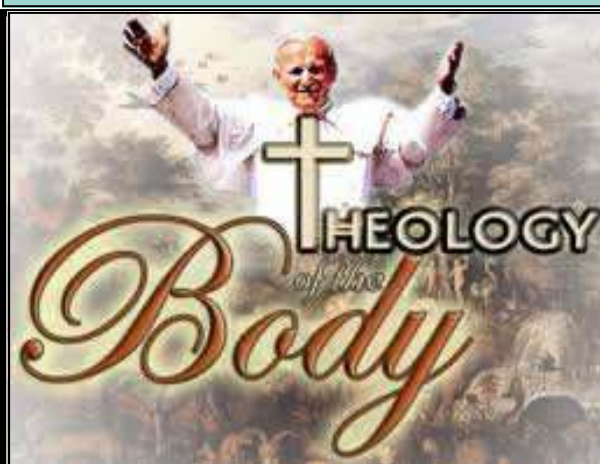
The Spiritual Center is fortunate to have volunteers help with various tasks and we appreciate each and every volunteer! One such volunteer, Kyle Osterholt, comes weekly and helps Vic Klosterman with different things in the building and outside. Kyle always arrives with a smile on his face and brightens everyone's day!! On December 5, Kyle brought his friends from school and they put on a Christmas bell concert for all. Over 50 people, including parents, friends, relatives and Spiritual Center staff and volunteers enjoyed listening to their joyful and beautiful music. The "Peace Chord Bell Choir" is made up of students from the Coldwater MRDD unit.



**"The Peace Chord"
Hand Bell Choir**



Many thanks to all who helped make this wonderful concert possible!



Theme: "Freedom to Love"
Presenter: Courtney Brown

Theology of the Body for Teens

A Retreat for confirmed youth in grades 8-12

Friday, March 7, 6:00 p.m. until

Sunday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Contact Karen Fitzharris at St. Albert the Great for more information or to register for this awesome youth retreat! kfitzharris@live.com



Change...to become or make different.

Change...the mere mention of the word places us usually in a defensive position. It

takes us out of our comfort zone and challenges us. Our sense of security and stability naturally comes into question. Yet, we encounter change every moment of our lives.

It was once said, "The only thing permanent is change." So the question becomes not if, but how, do we allow change in our lives?

The first thing is to realize that there are certain truths that never change. Such as,

"There is nothing you can do that can diminish God's love for you."

That is a constant that will never changeever. So with that knowledge, we are far more receptive towards change. In fact, we live in a state of grace that gives us confidence to embrace new situations.

We become eager to transform our life to deepen our love for Jesus Christ. He pursues us in a never ending desire to become, as Matthew Kelly states, **"The best version of ourselves."** Once initiated towards this truth, we shed our old ego protected self and empty ourselves towards his Love.

This maturity towards Christ creates an openness that may not have existed before. We begin a metanoia, the Greek word indicating a changed mindset, that becomes a trusted force in ourselves. This invigorates our lives with a newness of Spiritual energy that the good Lord supplies to us in abundance. We then move forward inspired by the scripture of Galatians 2:20,

"It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me."

Now that's a change worth living, and dying for!

God Bless,

Dr. Jim Schwieterman



RCIA Retreat returns! Cancelled last year due to snow!

Please register by March 31

Sunday, April 6

PRESENTED BY SCOTT FREY

1:30-6:00 p.m.

- 1:30 "Faith Without Works is Dead"
- 2:15 "The Holy Eucharist"
- 2:30 "Breathe: The Sacraments, Experiencing Jesus Christ Personally"



- 3:45 Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 4:45 "Washing of Hands"
- 5:15 Dinner & Closing Prayer

\$15.00 donation per person



A Spring Day of Reflection

"A Big Heart Opened to God"

With Father Al Naseman and Father James Dugal

THURSDAY, MAY 8 10:00-3:00

\$15.00 donation per person

Please RSVP no later than May 5 by calling 419-925-7625

This day will be focused on Pope Francis and what we can learn from him. His apostolic exhortation entitled "The Joy of the Gospel" and his interview after returning from World Youth Day will be the basis of the day's reflections. There will be discussions, prayer, lunch, and Mass.

The Spiritual Center
and
Catholic Social Services
Invite you to...



Dr. John R. Wood is a passionate speaker and author who wrote the book, "*Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps to Winning the War Within.*"

ORDINARY LIVES
EXTRAORDINARY
MISSION
5 Steps to Winning the War Within

Presented by

Dr. John Woods

Sunday, April 13th

2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

2365 St Johns Rd, Maria Stein, OH 45860

\$5.00 donation per person

Call or email to register by April 10

(419) 925-7625 or office@spiritualcenter.net

Don't miss out on this extraordinary speaker:

Doctor John Wood is a speaker who captivates his audience from the moment he takes the stage. He was able to hold the attention of one hundred and fifty people, mostly high school students, for an hour and a half. The students were focused and attentive the entire time... He is able to motivate others to become a better person without giving them the feeling they're being preached at or lectured to. He left our students feeling uplifted and ready to change and help others."

- St. Louis Catholic Church Youth Ministry team, North Star, OH

John works by day as a mobile eye doctor who travels to over 40 different nursing homes and developmental disability facilities to provide eye care through his business Mobile Eyes, LLC, which he founded in 2007.

As an all-star athlete in high school and college, John knows the hard work and dedication it takes to obtain a certain level of greatness. Thus, his knowledge of the faith and his ability to teach has allowed him to encourage others to strive for their own level of Catholic greatness: sainthood.

As an active member of his Catholic parish, John teaches and speaks on a variety of topics, including the Theology of the Body, the Saints, the Church, Mary, the Great Adventure Bible Study and his own educational program for children and adults: Saints in the Making (SIMU).

Dr. Wood also discusses his passion for the faith on his local Catholic radio station, "Annunciation Radio."

John and his wife Kristin currently reside in Northwest Ohio with their four children.

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

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**2014 Winter/Spring
Healing Mass Schedule**

*All Masses take place in the
Chapel at 7:00 p.m.*

All are welcome!

Tuesday, March 11

Tuesday, April 8

Tuesday, May 13

Our Mission...

We are Christians dedicated to serving the Lord, each other, families, parishes, and communities.

We believe in God the Creator, His son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides us through the magisterium of the Catholic Church with its scripture and traditions and through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Through the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, we provide opportunity for spiritual growth, social development and community service. We will do this through facilities, staff, and programs.

Visit our website at www.spiritualcenter.net

Call to register for retreats at 419-925-7625

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