

News from Governor's Island Spring, 2008

Recent Guests on Retreat A delightful variety to be sure! Student retreat teams from the University of Dayton occupy most of our guest accommodations until Easter. Their mission: to conduct peer retreats of various themes:

More2Life (incorporating Christian values in life).

Metanoia (conversion),

Lighthouse (working out problems in faith).

Other programs: **Marianist Vocation Retreat** (for those interested pursuing church ministry), the **Guided Retreat** (prayer-centered, reflective quiet), **Chaminade Scholars** (students from Marianist high schools), and **Christian Leadership** (for those intending to make a difference). Several **Marianist communities** of Dayton come to enjoy a weekend of quiet and prayer.

It's March! That means no more blizzards, ice storms and snow drifts of which we've had our share. For our Marianist ministry, spring means fix-up projects, new ideas for service, cultivating short and long range plans, and preparing the buildings and the lawn for another busy good-weather season. After a harsh winter, our little four acres needs a facelift. Want to help?? Read on. . .

Spring Clean Weekend April 25-27 If you've joined us before, you know the fun and rewards awaiting you. Tell us by **Monday, April 21**, if you will join us for one night or two. The community shows its appreciation with homemade soups, entrees, and desserts.

Some fun jobs we do, often in teams: light housework, window washing, lawn clean up, tree trimming, flower and vegetable garden prep, dock fix-up, general washing, vacuuming, and so on. If you are

particularly skilled, say, in painting, electricity, plumbing, carpentry or gardening, lets us know. Bring a friend, some old clothes, work gloves, and a good appetite.

Mothers' Day Weekend May 9-11 **Moms, Grandmas**, spend part or all the weekend doing only what you want while enjoying the company of folks you invite. We'll have mass for you, great homemade meals, boat rides, and little else to interfere with your free time. *Reservations a must by May 2.* No charge, but good will donations appreciated. Contact Bro. Paul at **937.842-4902** or via email: retreatsm@yahoo.com.

Musicians' Retreat-Worship June 22-28 Dr. **Willie Morris** of international saxophone fame coaches young musicians to appreciate the gift of music. A concert open to all will be performed at the end of the program. For details, contact Dr. Morris at the University of Dayton 937.229-3994 or by email: Willie.Morris@notes.udayton.edu.

Family Vacation Retreats Now in its 13th year at the Island, this uniquely Marianist specialty will offer three sessions:

June 17 - 21

July 8 - 12,

July 15 - 19

For information and reservations, contact **Anne** at **937.258-3828** or Anne.Petratis@Kmcnetwork.org. The program staff is made up of volunteers young and older, vowed religious and lay persons, so check also with Anne about volunteering. Interested? Other sites of Marianist family retreats:

Marianist Family Retreat Center
410 Yale Ave.
Cape May Point, NJ 08212
609.884-0545
afucci@capemaymarianists.org

CFL Family Retreat Center
2006 Wicker St..
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460
910.328-1584
cflcenter@charterinternet.com

- Q. Name four characteristics of the typical family summer vacation.
A. Long car rides, slow moving lines, mediocre food, and high prices.

Like most meaningful experiences, enthusiasm and word of mouth whet the interest of others. Do a family - and this ministry - a favor: take opportunities to mention the Marianist family retreats as an option to the annual family vacation. Then pray and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Guess what. . .

. . . the generosity of neighbors and friends continues to help us make improvements: among them, a new **lawn mower-snow blower**, an outdoor **utility light** to brighten the chapel parking lot, and two new **mass vestments**.

. . . our 2007 overnight occupancy reached **1560**, the second largest number of overnight guests on record. So far, this year looks even more promising.

. . . with just **two parishes in Logan County** and only two assigned diocesan priests to pastor them, our Fr. Jim and a retired priest help out when they can. Currently, while our pastor, Fr. **Harry Kist**, is under medical restrictions, Fr. Jim's pastoral talents are in greater demand. We pray for Harry's speedy return to pastoral duties.

. . . we finally have **new water softeners** in the guest house and the main house that improve greatly the quality of our well water.

. . . interest in **personal retreats** is on the rise; men from St. Mary of the Woods have approached Bro. Paul about starting an on-going men's retreat. Please pray for this and other similar intentions.

... while on a short break in Florida, Bro. Paul attended a reunion of old **Dayton Chaminade** and **Chaminade-Julienne alums** and found the dedication and spirit in high gear as when the schools merged 25 years ago. Viva school spirit !!

... our mission here is one small piece of a very large picture. To get a broad view of Marianist endeavors nationally and internationally, the biweekly on-line newsletter, *FamilyOnLine* reveals lots. To subscribe, enter <http://www.marianist.com/subscribe.htm>. No obligation; just enjoy.

As for the three of us, we continue in reasonably good health and high spirits. Each will make a private retreat during Holy Week and come together Easter Sunday to celebrate 8 a.m. mass with friends and neighbors and to raid our Easter baskets.

Who comes to the Island? To the surprise of many, Governor's Island is a **private residence**, not a typical retreat house open to the public or even to the at-large Catholic community. Our mission is to serve the many *Marianists, and Marianist-associated groups and institutions*, of which there are enough in number to keep us busy year round.

Like any private home, we pay property taxes (quite hefty because of our long shoreline) and abide by all codes affecting neighborhood structures. We often turn away requests for space from a variety of groups seeking an economical, attractive site for their meetings and retreats.

Yet our doors are not closed: friends and neighbors stop by to say hello; some linger to enjoy the property and the views. Our chapel welcomes all who wish to join us for daily or Sunday masses. You can too.

We grieve with Becky, our cook-housekeeper and her family on the death of grand daughter Angel, age four, in January, due to medical complications.

To our many friends who help and support us through their prayers, donations, words of gratitude and encouragement, we thank you for keeping our ministry healthy and relevant to our many guests. Our warmest wishes for a happy Easter season. May you be filled with hope, optimism and the peace our Risen Lord promises to all who approach him.

The Marianists at Governor's Island
9636 Lakeshore Drive East
Huntsville, OH 43324
937.842-4902