

## The Beacon.Com - Marianist Family Retreat Center E-News January 2007

(Be sure to visit our web site at [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) for a complete schedule, retreat photos and application)

To find out more of what is happening in the greater Marianist Family – click here [www.marianist.com/foi](http://www.marianist.com/foi) for Marianist Family Online - the Province E-Newsletter.

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Dear Friends,

Greetings and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you from Cape May Point and all of the Marianists here.

As we begin this year we are certainly excited about what is happening here at the Center. Our calendar is just about full and we have some new retreats this year. In addition, we hope that by July 1 we will have an expanded Dining Room!

As many of you know, Erin and I had a second child, Edward (“Eddie”) and we are so grateful for all of the congratulatory letters and notes – we feel loved. While I am on the topic of family, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all of the people, like Erin, AJ & Eddie, who allow their spouses and family members to work and volunteer here making this ministry possible.

I know in my family it is not always easy for Erin to stay home on weekends while I am here; she does it without complaint or resentment and for that I am grateful. And I know that this goes for many of our volunteers who graciously come to support this ministry – I thank those in your families who allow for you to be here to serve God's people. We are blessed in many ways.

## **Retreat Information & Critical Dates**

We are *now accepting* applications for the *Spring Women's Spirituality Retreat, April 27-29* - this retreat fills quickly so please send in your application. As of today there are about 20 spaces open.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – **February 5** is the earliest date to send in your Summer Family Retreat applications. Also, please keep us in prayer on February 10 as we meet to plan this year's theme!

**February 5** is also the earliest date to send in applications for the *May 11-13 Teen Retreat*.

## **Would You Like Additional Brochures & Flyers?**

If you would like additional 2007 Program Brochures and/or flyers we would be happy to send them to you – just respond to this email or call the office – 609-884-3829. Word of mouth is the #1 way people find out about our Center and retreats – remember, nothing beats a personal invitation.

## **Marianist Young Adults Assist in New Orleans Cleanup**

Twelve young adults (interesting number...) from Mary's House led by Jessica Sherwen (our Program Director) and her husband, Dave traveled to New Orleans to help with the recovery efforts in Louisiana. The Catholic Charities of Camden sponsored the trip and along with the Catholic Charities of New Orleans. They worked on three separate homes and responsibilities included gutting the house, clearing debris and dismantling destroyed outbuildings. Jess says, "As you can imagine, the physical labor was extremely difficult but emotionally uplifting. The trip participants were compassionate, hard working and spirit-filled. I felt blessed to be a part of the group."

Of course, in addition to the hard work, the group had the chance to enjoy great Cajun food and dance to zydeco music. Their final day included a trip to the Ninth Ward, the hardest hit area. "There are no words to describe the desolation and destruction," recalls Dave Sherwen. "Please continue to keep the people of New Orleans in your prayers as they continue to rebuild for years to come." To see some photos click

[www.capemaymarianists.org/2007\\_New\\_Orleans.htm](http://www.capemaymarianists.org/2007_New_Orleans.htm)

## **2007 College- Age Retreat**

This year got off to a wonderful start with our first retreat for those of College-Age. The theme of this year's retreat was Messy Spirituality, based on a book of the same title by Michael Yaconelli. Turns out that many college-age young adults can relate to this topic. We looked at our spiritual lives and how we can better connect God with our every day living. Jessica, Fooch and Fr. John Thompson, SM (Chaplain) led this retreat. [www.capemaymarianists.org/2007\\_College.htm](http://www.capemaymarianists.org/2007_College.htm)

## **2007 Cleaning Weekend**

25 people gathered here last weekend to help clean and complete some light maintenance tasks. The weekend was filled with so much joy and energy! We cleaned the place top to bottom, and underneath too - we even added a bit of color to the big Chapel! You'll have to come and see for yourself...to see photos from the weekend click [www.capemaymarianists.org/2007\\_Cleaning.htm](http://www.capemaymarianists.org/2007_Cleaning.htm)

## **Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers**

Contributed by Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

### **On Marriage...**

"This decision to love is one we have to make over and over again, when it feels good and when it does not." (Follow the Way of Love) When the romance and feelings of love fade, sometimes it is the vow that we made to each other that keeps us faithfully looking for the good in the other.

### **On Parenting...**

"It's not only a matter of what screen-based media promote, but what they prevent." (Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference) All of us like to veg out occasionally but too much passive entertainment robs children of the motivation to play outside, to be artistic, to create their own games and fun.

## **Blessings to All!**

**The Marianists  
Cape May Point**

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