
NEWS FROM GOVERNOR'S ISLAND

SUMMER, 2008

Home Improvements

Special Guest Taking a breather from his duties at St. Laurence College, Ireland, **Bro. Fred Rech** spends the better part of his long overdue break with our community. Not one to loll in the shade, Fred's energies and skills at maintenance went into action on several projects. Most notable is his resurfacing and painting the foundations of the main house annex and the guest house.



Bro. Fred's smile is convincing evidence of his love for creative and challenging jobs.

Summer Highlights

Family Retreats Eleven families, 16 volunteers, and the Marianist community here participated in two **Family Vacation Retreats** under the direction and design of Ms. **Anne Petratis** and Bro. **Don Smith**. Adapting the Marianist Cape May model of family retreats to the uniqueness of the property, the five-day program emphasizes worship, Gospel values, activities that enhance the sanctity of family life and, of course, lots of family fun.



John Brossart of Cincinnati emerges from the lake with son Jacob who awaits mom Karen's helping hand.

* **Dining room comfort:** No more winter blasts for guests at meal times, thanks to six newly installed **double pane windows**. They complete the major renovation begun four years ago to ensure a long life to the main house and a future to our ministry. Built in 1920s by Ohio Gov. Vic Donahey, the structure has many years of life left.

* **Environment** Thanks to friends' generosity, a new fangled **washing machine** and two new **water softeners** are saving energy and adding efficiency to our modest operation. New bed and bath linens for our guests add a little class as well.

Year 2 of organic gardening is paying off with a variety of healthful delights. With a few ounces of bagged lettuce selling at several dollars, our little patch has so far saved us over \$100, all watered with, you guessed it, organically rich lake water!

The more the merrier. . .

July set high an all time **occupancy record** with an average of 17.1 guests per night. The months ahead promise to keep us busy with mostly youth groups as the panel on the next page reveals.

Adult Retreats? With more parents working two and even three jobs, can we expect a return to the traditional Catholic weekend retreat? Perhaps not soon. What about a full *adult day program*? One such day of recollection hosted here for local men opened promise for more adult retreats. A similar day retreat for women is planned in the fall through **St. Mary of the Woods** parish. Date to be announced.

The modest donation we request for retreats makes it possible for retreat programs for all ages.

Recent and Upcoming Events

University of Dayton Programs

Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants

Aug. 11 -12

Semester of Service Orientation

Aug. 25 – 26

Marianist Leadership Scholars Retreat

Sept. 5 – 7

More2Life Team Retreat

Sept. 12-14

Watershed Project, Biology Dept.

Sept. 19-20

Chaminade Scholars Retreat

Sept. 19-21

Music Dept. Musicians' Retreat

Oct. 9 – 12

School of Business First Year Students Retreat

Oct. 17-19

Guided & Prayer Retreat Oct. 24 - 26

Metanoia Team Retreat Nov. 14 – 16

Other Programs & Retreats

Queen of Apostles (Dayton) Youth Club

Aug. 22 - 24

Marianist Community Washington St.

Aug. 29-31

Marianist Vocation Discernment Retreat

Sept. 26 – 28

St. Ann's Women's Retreat

Nov. 3 – 5

The Well Community Retreat

Nov. 7 – 9

Marianist Community of Trinity Ave.

Nov. 21 – 23

Why Not? At our annual **Spring Clean Weekend**, one of the 20 or so volunteers vowed, "Next year, I'll plan my own spring clean. Like you guys, I'll just gather some congenial friends, feed them well, and make like housework is fun. That garage will get cleaned out yet!" It just may work!

We are at retreatsm@yahoo.com and 937.842-4902.

Merci, Gracias, Danke, Grazie

* **Thank you, Laurie & Walt McEnery** of Columbus for the offer to lodge our overflow guests in their Indian Lake cottage across the road. The newly remodeled interior and quiet setting add a special touch to our ministry.

* Piloting their pontoon boats filled with families and staff, neighbors **Tim & Susan Cruisey, Elinor & Joe Korte**, and **Rose & Larry Sharp** led the way to the **Sunset Prayer** outings during the family retreats.



The family flotilla departs for the Sunset Prayer service, a unique event of praise and contemplation for all ages.

* **Special thanks** to **Mr. Randy Henson**, owner of *LaPizzeria*, through whom we purchased many food items at wholesale prices for the Family Vacation Retreats. . . . and to neighbor Mrs. **Mary Ann Whiteman** whose donation will buy flares for the annual Labor Day **Ring of Fire** celebration . . . also, to **Mr. Bill Jenkins** of R.D.Holder Company for his donation of a replacement hose when our gasoline supply tank hose sprang a sudden and potentially dangerous leak. . .

. . . and finally, many thanks to **all who come to our aid** through prayer, words of encouragement, suggestions, and monetary donations. May God bless your generous spirit!! St. Paul reminds us that "*God loves a cheerful giver.*" 2 Cor. 9:7.

Catholic Presence in Logan County

Along with our little chapel of St. George and Fr. Jim Russell's pastoral work, only **two parishes and two other priests** serve the estimated 4500 Catholic residents. The onslaught of seasonal visitors and second-home owners from Lima, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati fill the Sunday pews to overflowing. The need is great. Pray for vocations! Your prayers will reach the intended Party.