

The Beacon.Com - Marianist Family Retreat Center E-News May 2006

(Be sure to visit our Web site at www.capemaymarianists.org for a complete schedule, retreat photos and application)

To find out more of what is happening in the greater Marianist Family – visit www.marianist.com/foi for *FamilyOnline*, the Marianist online newsletter.

Inside this issue

- Director's Message
- Summer Intern and a visitor from Ireland
- Women's Spirituality Retreat & Photos
- Teen Retreat & Photos
- Upcoming 2006 Retreats
- Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

Dear Friends,

Wouldn't you know it – my wife, Erin is pregnant again! What a joy it is to our family – although AJ is not yet fully aware. Also, I recently attended my 20th high school reunion – while it was great to see all the guys (I went to an all boys school), it reminded me that time is moving - quickly. These two experiences have helped me to reflect on various aspects of my life and especially this ministry. Specifically, how we are called to honor our past and find joy in it, but also how we are called to tend to our families and each other here and now; all the while we keep anticipating future growth and are on the look out for where God is leading us.

Take a moment today to reflect on where you've been and where the Spirit is leading you. In the meantime, I wish each of you a joyful Spring – a sure sign from God of new growth.



Summer Intern and a Visitor from Ireland

On April 29 we welcomed Fr. Mike Reaume, a Marianist priest currently in Dublin, Ireland. He has been on a year-long mission traveling around to various ministries to broaden his experiences by filling in for Marianist priests. Fr. Mike is originally from Cleveland and has taught in several Marianist high schools. He will return to Ireland in July of this year.

Then on May 11, we welcomed Karen Ross to our staff as our new summer intern. Karen is a junior at the University of Dayton (a Marianist university) and is a

Religious Studies major, with a minor in Spanish and Sociology. Karen is from Kalamazoo (yes, it really does exist), Mich. This is Karen's first trip east, so give her a warm *eastern* welcome when you meet her.

Women's Spirituality Retreat & Photos

From April 28-30, 40+ women gathered here for our Spring Women's Spirituality Retreat. The theme of this retreat was *Finding Your Passion*. Erin Fucci, Mary Ann Papp, Daria Mojibian and Kathy Conroy led this experience, which was filled with creative activities, prayer, small groups and Eucharist. To see photos, visit www.capemaymarianists.org/2006_Women_Spring.htm

Teen Retreat & Photos

This past weekend, we hosted 30+ teens for our Spring Teen Retreat. The theme for this retreat was *Unlikely Heroes*. We used different characters from both the old and new testaments to emphasize how God calls the weak and the strong, those with a strong faith as well as those with little faith, and those who are ready and willing to serve and those who are not ready at all. Simply put the retreat was amazing – so filled with joy, deep sharing and tons of fun! To see photos, visit www.capemaymarianists.org/2006_Teen_Spring.htm

UPCOMING 2006 RETREATS

For an application: www.capemaymarianists.org/Applicationmenu.htm

Volunteer Reunion Weekend – May 26-28 – LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP

This Weekend is intended for past Volunteers (aged 18-?), who are looking for a weekend to be with their friends (and meet new ones...) in a relaxing environment. There will be no set program (other than Mass and prayer services), which means you can spend your time at the beach, touring/shopping in town and take advantage of Cape May! **Cost is \$80 per person.**

Note: *We will also be hosting a Fair Trade Sale this weekend, May 27. My office is loaded with goods from around the world, literally. Baskets from Vietnam, coffee from Cost Rica, dolls from Chile and candle holders from India just to name a few.*

A Retreat for Young Married Couples – June 9-11

This retreat is intended for couples that are married less than 10 years. We will explore issues that challenge young couples in today's ever-demanding world. We will also look at our faith lives and how we can keep God in our marriage. Our time will include small group sharing, Eucharist, special liturgies and time for fun. **Cost is \$105 per person.**

Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers

Contributed by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

On Marriage...

On Memorial Day we remember those who have defended our freedom. Humorists suggest that once couples marry they lose their freedom. True, we are not free to enter into other intimate relationships or to make important decisions based solely on one's own desires. But, marriage can free us to stop searching, to stop putting up a front, to risk being our truest, best self because we are loved unconditionally.

On Parenting...

"Parents aren't the only influence in their kids' lives, so they need to be the best, the loudest, the clearest and the closest." (Dr. Phil McGraw) Many parents don't have a problem with the "loud" part, but being clear without catching diarrhea of the mouth can be a challenge.

Blessings to All!
The Marianists
Cape May Point