



# FROM THE CENTER

A Newsletter For Friends and Benefactors of Saint Benedict Center Across The Country

## Confirmation 2010



*Bishop McManus gives the blessing to the newly confirmed Soldiers of Christ.*

In a glorious ceremony, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Ordinary of the Worcester diocese, administered the Traditional Rite of Confirmation to 36 candidates in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel on June 19th. The awesome sight of the Bishop processing in with his mitre and crozier was enhanced by the beautiful altar flowers and a sanctuary of priests, including Msgr. Johnson the MC of the diocese, altar boys and acolytes. The chapel was filled to capacity with family members of the students who enjoyed the beautiful ancient hymns of the Church sung by the choir of Brothers and Sisters.

You could hear a pin drop as the Bishop addressed the *confirmandi* and the congregation about the importance of the Sacrament about to be conferred. Then each candidate knelt before the Bishop in the Sanctuary and as he anointed them, he called them each by their new name in Latin making them “soldiers of Christ.”

Following the conferring of the Sacrament, the Bishop again addressed the assembly, especially reminding the sponsors of their serious obligation to look after their spiritual children by providing guidance and good example. The entire congregation then recited the Apostles Creed and received the Bishop’s blessing. The ceremony concluded with the traditional form of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in Latin

along with the Divine Praises.

Afterwards

His Excellency greeted the *confirmandi* outside the Chapel where a group photo was taken at the shrine of Our Lady in front of the school. The day was perfect in every way, even the weather!

The Community was honored to have the Bishop and Msgr. Johnson join them for lunch in the monastery refectory following the ceremony. It was truly a day of blessings!



*Above: Bishop McManus confirms an IHM 9th grader according to the Traditional Rite, on June 19, 2010, in Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel.*

*Left: Attendance at the Confirmation ceremony and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which followed filled the Chapel to capacity and even overflowed into the vestibule and parking lot!*





## Vocation Weekend

In May of 2010, four MICM Sisters flew to Lincoln, Nebraska, the headquarters of the Fraternity of St. Peter, for the ordinations of six seminarians by Bishop Bruskewitz. The Sisters were part of the “Vocation Weekend” sponsored to encourage those interested in religious life. Hosted at Camp Gargano, the Sisters provided several vocation talks for the girls during the weekend along with some “mini camp” activities including sports, arts and crafts and singing. The the boys’ conferences and activi-

*Sister Katherine Maria gives the opening talk to the girls who attended the Vocation Weekend at Camp Gargano.*

ties, on the other hand were directed by the priests and seminarians. At night both groups gathered together for songs around a campfire which ended with a very stirring address given by Father Berg, the Superior General who had travelled from Switzerland for the ordinations.

The following day the priestly ordinations, the main event of the weekend, were held in the morning



*The Ordination Ceremony of the Fraternity of Saint Peter was truly a spiritually enriching experience for all!*



*Father Berg, Superior of the FSSP, shares a fun song during the campfire sing-a-long on the opening night.*

at the cathedral in Lincoln. The ceremony was flawless in integrity and splendor. Afterwards everyone was invited to the seminary to celebrate, meet the priests, and receive their first blessings. In the evening a picnic was held at the home of one of the families during which the Sisters again spent time with the girls and younger children for activities.

On the third day, Pentecost Sunday, the First Masses of the newly ordained were well attended. Afterwards, a trip was taken to the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Family where the girls were able to visit in the parlor with the Sisters who remained behind the grille. The girls were able to ask questions regarding the cloistered life of these traditional Carmelites. At the same time, the boys were given

a tour of the seminary. Afterwards, both groups met at the seminary for the solemn Vespers of Pentecost...and then finished up the weekend with a pizza party at Camp Gargano. The weekend was an invigorating experience, revealing the growth and potential of the Traditional Mass and increase of vocations.



## Michael at Montfort

On Saturday, July 31, a beautiful 58-inch statue of Saint Michael the Archangel defeating the devil, was installed at Montfort Retreat. Adding to the rustic splendor of the Chapel on the shore of Lake Ashuelot, the statue was donated by Tom and Geri Taylor in memory of their beloved daughter Sheila Munson, who died in December, 2008, after a three year battle with cancer. Sheila had often accompanied her father in the icy month of February, 2008, to watch the construction of the chapel at Montfort. Tom recalls praying over and over again to Saint Michael and the host of angels to protect the Brothers as he and Sheila watched the crew position the massive rafters under icy winter conditions.

A flower bed to be planted in the spring is planned for the base of the shrine.

May Saint Michael defend us...and may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

## Montfort Boys...

Montfort Boys' Camp was held from July 11 to July 17 for campers in 4th to 8th grade. Arranged into "companies," the 58 boys woke each morning to the call of the bugler for a day of activities centered around prayer, catechism and the spirituality of Saint Louis de Montfort.

The weather for the week was perfect, allowing the Brothers' schedule to accommodate all the planned events which included: baseball, basketball, boxing, archery, gun safety instruction and target shooting, swimming, sailing, canoeing and kayaking.

The week of unforgettable fun was also a time for spiritual growth for all of the attendees as they daily participated in the Tridentine Mass, and rosary.



*Above: The campers of Montfort Boys' Camp 2010, posed for their group photo on Via Maria, the road leading to the Chapel.*

*Left: Thanks to the help of some great cooking volunteers, mealtimes at both camps were exciting and delicious!*

## ...and Men

Later in the summer Montfort Youth Retreat held its annual session from August 8 to August 14. Sixty boys – high school and college age – had their spirituality intensified and invigorated by retired Air Force Colonel, Tom Taylor, who gave an excellent workshop preparing the boys for the challenges facing Catholics today.

The Brothers kept the spiritual momentum high throughout the week with daily conferences on the virtues, practices and sacrifices and other necessary means for success in the spiritual combat.

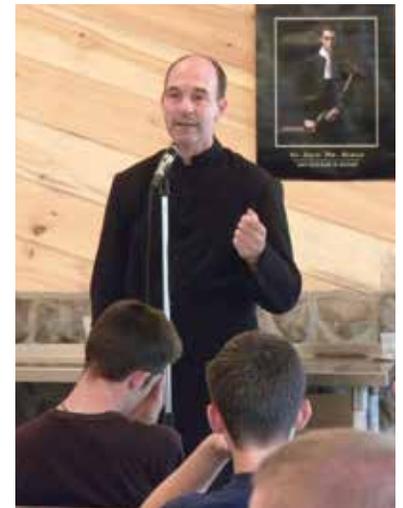
Among the outdoor activities such as kayaking



*One of the highlights of the Youth Retreat included a visit from a New Hampshire State Police Helicopter.*

and canoeing, the week was highlighted by a visit from a New Hampshire State Police helicopter. The officers piloting spent time with the campers explaining and answering questions regarding their exciting occupation.

Other guests included former camper, Tomas Chlebecek – now in the U.S. Marine Corp—and Ulysses Zamora of the U.S. Navy who helped to reinforce the value of discipline and Faith in today's world. The week sped by with a full gamut of activities ranging from waterfront sports to field events including marksmanship and Marine drills and tactics. It was an unforgettable experience for all.



*Above: Brother Thomas Augustine shares some thoughts with the retreatants.*

*Below: The shooting range was a popular place!*



# Morning Star Shines

This year Morning Star Camp for Catholic Girls held three weeks of programs. The first week, Morning Star Leadership Camp, began in June 27 to July 3 and was open to Catholic girls serious about developing leadership qualities. This program was not about conversion, but about fine tuning some skills to enable campers to take leadership roles in society. Attendees were not taught catechism, but taught to teach catechism to others. During the program campers had various classes including water safety, first aid, leading groups in prayers, public speaking, drama and cooking a meal. Guest speakers included:



*Above: The Morning Star Camp Catholic Leaders of 2010!*

*Right: Sister Magdalene Marie instructs her religion class.*

*Bottom: The first week group of Morning Star campers and staff.*

deepening campers' appreciation of the Faith, along with other memorable activities such as arts and crafts, archery, rosary, Benediction and a candle-lite procession. Girls learned the value of charity as they participated in events such as hiking, singing, dancing and sharing cabins. All these created memories for the campers, as they have for thousand others over the past 29 seasons of Morning Star. A full staff of counselors, life-guards and nurses, (almost all previous campers) helped to make Morning Star 2010 a stellar experience.

ers included: Tom Taylor, retired Air Force Colonel; Rita O'Shea, international Irish step dancing adjudicator, Dr. Teresa Gabana, MD, emergency medical at NEMC and Janice Bourque, CEO. Each brought a variety of skills and information to develop a full understanding of how to make a Catholic presence in society.

Attendees were required to be 15 to 18 years old and to have had previous religious instructions. It was obvious at the end of the week that our goal to create a solution to today's negative influence in teenage society by developing strong convictions in girls to remain chaste and live in the presence of Jesus had been met during this week.

Morning Star regular Camp ran two sessions, July 25 to 31 and August 1 to 7. Campers came from as far as Louisiana, Mexico and France. Both sessions were filled to capacity. The two weeks were picture-postcard-perfect with tempera-

tures that sent the girls to the lake every afternoon to enjoy sailing, canoeing or swimming. Surrounded by a beauty only God could create, this 150-acre-facility was built specifically for the Camp on the shores of Lake Ashuelot in Washington, NH. The Camp began each day with prayer and the Tridentine Liturgy, celebrated in a beautiful, log chapel. Catechism was taught,



## www.saintbenedict.com

A long time ago, on Ascension Thursday, May 21, 1998, we premiered our original website! After twelve years of evolution and patchwork, and with a growing need for a more comprehensive online presence, it was finally time for a makeover!

Michael McFarland, who attends IHM Chapel, came to the rescue when he offered to tutor Sister Marie-Bernard, our graphic artist, in the basics of web-site design and construction. Professional web developer and owner of Lineage Media LLC, Michael began weekly classes in HTML language and simple web design essentials, laying the groundwork for the big job. Months later the designs for three new sites were presented and approved and the building began!

Between running his business and devoting time to his young family, Michael and Sister continued the project via Skype, as the designs for the main site for Saint Benedict Center, and subsites for IHM School, and the Gift Shop slowly advanced. The new and improved websites for Saint Benedict Center and IHM School were launched on July 16, 2010, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The sites offer an in depth view of our spirit and apostolates to visitors while remaining a user-friendly application for updating and use. Many thanks to Michael for a magnificent job! May God bless you!



*Visit us online!...and watch for the launch of our new Gift Shop!*



*The "Band Barn" was removed from its original foundation and moved in order to make room for the future IHM gymnasium/auditorium (right).*

*Brother Anthony Marie bulldozes aside the topsoil in preparation for the construction.*



## Make Way for Progress!

Anyone walking up the convent driveway may think they are seeing things, but rest assured they are not. In May the yellow 24' x 36' two story barn/garage that houses IHM band percussion instruments was literally moved from its original location among the trees to a more accessible one closer to the convent driveway. This was done to make room for the new IHM auditorium/gymnasium which will be built alongside of the Mancipia print shop. Preparation began for the site when a building moving



company began jacking up the "band barn" to move it to its new foundation which had been poured weeks earlier. Hydraulic hand jacks raised the structure as the interior was reinforced with long steel beams. The amazing move began after the company placed 8x8 wooden beams called "piers" and steel dollies to form a "railway system" inside the building. Finally, a steel cable was connected to the building, and a crane was then used to pull it several feet at a time. It took 5 days to move the building 110 feet and settle it at a slightly different angle. Now the required space is available for the gym/auditorium and ..more building is about to begin! Stay tuned!

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*Sister Martina Marie and Sister Katherine Maria run the table at the conference.*

## Kentucky Catholics

August 13 and 14, three Sisters traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, joining other religious orders, priests and laity for a two day annual conference called “The Church Teaches Forum 2010” presented by Eternal Life. The late Reverend John A. Hardon, S.J., whose cause for canonization has been opened, founded this organization “to educate Catholics in the full teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.”

The conference’s main and very important objective was to address priests and leaders of the Church to “encourage all in sound doctrine and to refute those who oppose it.”

Archbishop Raymond Burke opened the conference with the Holy Mass and spoke on “proclaiming sound doctrine on human suffering in society today.”

Father Roger Arnsparger, gave a superb lecture on the priest’s duty of encouraging the sound doctrines of the Catholic Church and the pastoral charity needed in teaching, correcting and reproofing those who contradict it. He stated, “Living in the truth always brings the joy for which Jesus prayed.” Bishop James C. Timlin encouraged the laity to become saints, to be channels of grace, and to see themselves as one with the priest in rebuilding God’s Church, in a spiritual nature, through education and evangelization. Archbishop of Louisville, Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, celebrated Mass the following day and during his homily said, “... trust in God will lead to an understanding of truth.” Father Edmund F. McCaffrey, President of Eternal Life, gave a talk entitled “...spinal surgery is needed for some Church leaders.”

The Sisters sponsored a table of traditional religious items and books to reinforce the faith of the attendees. It was very encouraging see so many wonderful Catholics whose desire is to uphold and spread the true teachings of the Church.



## You Never Know!

On the last day of our annual silent retreat in preparation for the renewal of our vows, one of the Sisters found herself confronted by a stranger who pulled up in front of her near the shrine to Our Lady at the bottom of the convent driveway. She was a little taken back as this dark skinned man, dressed in black, greeted her quickly, jumping out of the driver’s seat and turning to her as he took a box out of the back seat of his car. Thinking he was selling something, she told him in a cracking voice, that hadn’t spoken in days, that we weren’t interested in buying anything. “No, no,” he replied. “I am from Egypt,” he continued with a heavy accent, “and I drive past here every night from work...I have been praying at this shrine to become an America citizen.” His voice then changed as he said proudly, “And yesterday I became one!!... I just wanted to ask you if I could put these in front of Our Lady to thank her!” He opened the box to show her 14 solar lights!

Things might be bad in society...but God is still in Heaven and His Mother is still reaching out to His children. Thank you Abdul!

