

FROM THE CENTER

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

Center Launches Youth Retreat



Almost 50 high-school boys participated in this year’s retreat program, offered by the Brothers for the first time. Geared to enrich the boys spiritually, this program also provided a variety of sports and adventure. Each day began with the Tridentine Mass religion instruction, and spiritual reading at meals. Before each afternoon conference the boys were given classes in sailing, archery and marksmanship. The beautiful new camp on Lake Ashuelot offered ample opportunity for mastering sailing techniques, along with a new archery field and a still rustic rifle range.



Left: Retreatants take a break on the huge rocks along “Rosary Way.”

Below: Brother Matthew organizes the ranks before heading to chapel.

On two separate days different groups participated in a 6-mile canoe trip, leaving the lake and traveling up one of the scenic rivers that feed it. One afternoon was spent on a five mile hike up Jackson Hill.

A variety of sports in the afternoons led up to conferences which addressed very timely topics such as, Courage, Fortitude, Prayer, The Virtues, The Four Last Things and Vocation. Dinners were preceded by Rosary in the Chapel and before the sun set, the Retreatants enjoyed a game of baseball in the new field. Some nights they were supervised in the rudiments or pugilism (boxing) before



gathering around the campfire in the amphitheater. Keeping to the theme “To Jesus through Mary” the day closed with prayers and adoration in the chapel. Before they went to their cabins they saluted Our Lady by chanting the Salve Regina.



Three weeks earlier, Montfort Camp for Catholic Boys welcomed 75 participants for a regular camp program of pre high-school age. It was a wonderful and unforgettable experience for all, both spiritually and physically.

Catholic Leaders... in the making

On July 26th, 2009, Morning Star re-introduced its Leadership Program for Catholic Girls at Montfort Retreat. This wonderful opportunity for girls ages 14-18 has been on hiatus for 8 years or more and



The first Certified Catholic Leaders of the new phase of Leadership Camp at Montfort Retreat! Among other instruction, the Leaders took part in a water safety course (left).

rescue, and archery. Several guest speakers addressed a variety of issues enhancing a fuller perspective applying Catholic values in the work place. Officer Margie Carr gave instructions on “girl’s safety issues” stressing the importance of dressing modestly as an integral protection. Dr. Warhold discussed the importance of prayer giving many examples of how when he is confronted with difficult surgeries he says a rosary before going into the OR. An unwavering conviction of Catholic medical ethics has also brought him into many conflicts with colleagues, but Dr. Warhold counseled the girls to stand their ground and defend what is right, not what is popular. Tom Kapp of the US Army Special Forces instructed the leaders on survival issues and how to read signs of nature to tell direction and time. Janice Bourque, a CEO from Boston, interacted

with the girls on honesty issues in the working world, citing possible pitfalls often overlooked. All of the speakers were wonderful, enriching the girls with a deeper understanding of their Faith.

The Washington Rescue Squad came one afternoon to teach Basic Red Cross First Aid, certifying each participant. Of course each day was also filled with fun activities like arts and crafts, canoe and kayak trips, basketball, volleyball, hiking and



Above: Father Angelo Vanderputten of the Fraternity of Saint Peter was the chaplain for the two weeks of Morning Star, offering daily Mass and Benediction!

Right: Two Sisters were officially certified as archery instructors and, thanks to the donor of all the new gear, had great success with all the young archers!!



dancing.

The highlight and focus of all the fun, however, was centered on the spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort, *To Jesus through Mary* and the Tridentine liturgy. The Fraternity of St. Peter graciously supplied a priest for all the spiritual needs of both camps, providing daily Mass, Benediction, Rosary, Confession, and the Real Presence in the Chapel. It goes without saying that the graces from all these were by far the most treasured moments of the week.

At the same time 40 other campers participated in a regular Morning Star program, as they were not age appropriate for the leadership program. The next week 100 new campers arrived for the traditional program in which some of the Certified Leaders stayed to help provide. The Spiritual activities at Montfort Retreat are just beginning and we hope that in years to come God will continue to honored and glorified by the activities there.



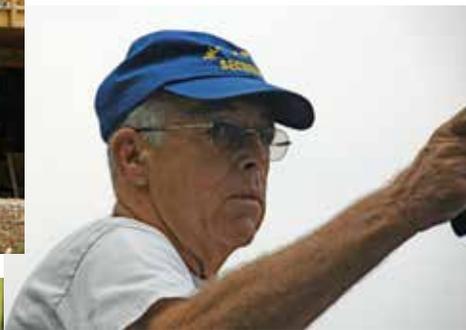
The Certified Leaders who stayed through the second week were capable of instructing younger campers in some sailing techniques.

John Vail

Something about him makes you feel safe and something about him makes you feel like you're on a winning team. His name is "Coach" to the IHM basketball teams and "Security" to the Morning Star Campers. John Vail is more than accomplished in both fields.



A native of Lowell, MA, in high-school John was nominated All City Basketball Champ of Merrimack Valley. He loved basketball so much that he would often play after the lights went out in the park...waiting to hear the "swish" when a basket was made. He received a full scholarship to the University of Miami on



his basketball achievements, but because the Vietnam War was at its peak, he enlisted in the Marines instead. There he became a demolition engineer. When he returned, he became a Fire Fighter for the City of Lowell, spending the next 36 years in that role, 18 years as Fire Inspector. Because of his expertise acquired in the Marines, he became one of the two-first HAZ Mat Techs in the city of Lowell and one of the first for the State Hazardous Response Unit. During this time he raised his family and coached basketball for

the Rec. League and started a team for the Franco American School.

Retired now, John has donated countless hours acting as security guard for Morning Star Camp, which his daughter, Bridie, attends as lifeguard. His presence and vigilance is a great assurance to staff and campers alike.

IHM also benefits from his generous hours coaching, refereeing and training. Little-by-little the scores are climbing as the team wins more games each year gaining confidence from their "coach's" positive attitude. We cannot thank you enough John Vail. God bless you!



Update on Juarez

One Million Rosaries for Juarez, Mexico" campaign for peace has reached its' goal! As of September 12th 1,023,858 rosaries have been prayed to stop the violence. Thank you for your support and prayers.

The Boat

The day after Sr. Christopher Margaret put an ad on “Craig’s List” asking if anyone would like to donate a used sunfish/sailboat, she received a response offering her a “blue-jay,” sailboat and trailer to boot! Enthusiastically, she brought the boat home and began to spruce it up for use at Montfort Retreat. Well, one thing leading to another, Sister soon discovered minor repairs had turned into major ones, eventually resulting in a year of rebuilding the boat on her free time. Researching and contacting experts for



The donated sailboat was taken down to “the bare bones” and then almost completely rebuilt by the two Sisters!



advice Sister Christopher Margaret and Sr. Brigid Mary learned how to strip the boat, re-apply marine plywood, sand, calk, and

a million other intricate techniques needed to make it “seaworthy.”

Unfortunately they painted it too late to use for this year’s camp, but they did succeed in getting it up to Montfort afterwards and tested it in the waters. The result was a thrilling ride on the lake aboard the “Morning Star” and a great deal of satisfaction in all the time and work they spent on it.

At the present time we only have 4 Sunfish sailboats for the use of 100 girls at camp. If you have one you are not using or would like to donate for the purchase of a new one, we would be most grateful. Please contact Sr. Christopher Margaret.



Sailing into the Lake Ashuelot sunset aboard the refurbished and newly christened – “Morning Star”!

Requiescat in Pace!

Mrs. Yorita, RIP



Yasuko Anna Yorita of Honolulu, Hawaii, mother of Sister Miriam Teresa, died this summer on June 16th. A survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, she would have celebrated her ninety-second birthday in July. Fourteen years ago, on the feast of Saint Valentine, Mrs. Yorita took the name Anna when she was baptized a Catholic. She was a beautiful example giving her self totally and enthusiastically to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in her newly discovered spiritual life of grace. A faithful member of the Japanese Catholic Community at St. Stephen Church in Oahu, she enriched her Faith with the sacraments, but her special and beloved devotion was to the Rosary. In this she found great consolation and would often be seen fingering the beads. Sometimes she would start them over again, asking God’s forgiveness for losing count and then she would not stop until she finished. Even at her death bed, the ever present love for the rosary manifested itself when a non-Catholic nurse, offered to say it with her as they waited for the chaplain! Anna will be greatly missed by her seven children and thirteen grandchildren, not to mention all those who were touched by her faithful example and love. May she rest in peace.

Peter Vicherek, RIP



The Vicherek family, natives of Bratislava who have attended the Center for the last six years called for prayers on Monday Sept. 14th. They became concerned having not heard from their father, Peter, 45 who was flying in his brother George’s ultralight from the Netherlands to Prague. They were traveling to visiting their father who was ill.

Hours later news came that the plane had crashed in Germany and Peter and his brother were killed. The family’s immediate recourse was to the rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament. A requiem Mass was held at the Center before the family flew home for the funeral. A packed church testified to the devoted friends of Peter and family. Please pray for the repose of his soul and future of his family.

Joe Pisano, RIP

A devoted attendee at IHM Chapel for 15 years, Joe Pisano died at the age of 88. A talented musician, Joe traveled the world playing in many bands and instructing in schools, including IHM. Many student will remember him teaching them to play wind instruments, especially his beloved clarinet. His unique presence is missed by all, may he rest in Peace.