
BETWEEN THE MASSES...

A ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2010

The following is a special reflection sent to our community by Becky Burke, daughter of parishioner Pam Burke. Becky is in the navy and is currently aboard the Bataan, off the coast of Haiti.

Crew Bonds With Haitians Through Karaoke, Cheez-Its, Church

By Corinne Reilly

ABOARD THE BATAAN – It happens every Saturday night that the Bataan is deployed, and the tradition is predictable enough. At 7:30 p.m., the crew gathers in the enlisted sailors' mess hall for two hours of karaoke. The ship's commanding officer usually takes a turn at the microphone. Inevitably, someone does a rendition of "Come Sail Away" by Styx.

But this Saturday was special. The Bataan had guests. Eight of the Haitians brought aboard last week for emergency medical treatment were seated among the audience. In casts and wheelchairs, they smiled and laughed as a corpsman belted out "I Will Survive." Those who were well enough clapped and danced. One even got up to perform. "Take away the bandages and put them in uniform and you'd think they were part of the crew," one sailor remarked. Since the Norfolk-based Bataan arrived off the coast of Haiti last week, its doctors and corpsmen have treated roughly 50 victims of this month's devastating earthquake. Many are still too infirm to leave the ship's hospital. Others are well enough to move around and make friends. For all of them, the Bataan has become a refuge.

"I wish I could stay here forever," said Robinson Louisjeune, 9, who was airlifted aboard last week and treated for a shoulder injury he sustained when his family's house collapsed. Wearing sunglasses, an oversized flight jacket and gray athletic shorts stamped with the word "Navy," he was among the patients who attended karaoke night. "Everything is fun here," he said in Creole, sipping a Coke and munching on Cheez-Its. "I don't want to leave."

For many sailors on the Bataan, the feeling is mutual.

"We've fallen in love with some of these patients," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Huben Phillips, who helps lead the ship's medical department. "The connections that we've established with them are like nothing else this crew has really experienced before."

Several of the Bataan's Haitian guests have begun regularly attending church services onboard. The daily gospel worship is now staffed with a Creole interpreter; the ship-wide evening prayer is recited over loudspeakers in both English and French.

The hospital ward is busier than ever, and not just because of the influx of patients. Many hospital corpsmen and interpreters have been staying long past their scheduled hours in order to spend more time with the Haitians. They play games, watch movies and run wheelchair races.

"A lot of people have been coming down just to visit them and talk and keep them from getting bored," Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Rock said. "I'd say they're pretty popular."

Another Bataan corpsman, Petty Officer 2nd Class Deshun Jackson, said she stayed five hours past the end of her shift Sunday so she could be there when her favorite patient came out of surgery. The 14-year-old boy, named Baker, spent two days trapped under his family's destroyed home. As it fell, his sister ran back inside to try to pull him to safety. They both ended up trapped. Baker watched her die.

"They tell you their stories and they're just so unimaginable," Jackson said. "He reminds me so much of my son.... They're saying he's going to the (Navy hospital ship) Comfort in 48 hours for recovery. I'll admit I'm dreading it. I'm attached."

Other crewmembers described the goodbyes that have already taken place as heart-wrenching. Some said they wanted to keep their patients longer, even though it wasn't medically necessary. They chose to send them home only because shipboard hospitals in the area are facing intense demand. "It's especially difficult because you don't really know what you're returning them to," said Cmdr. Brenda Bradleydavila, a Bataan chaplain. "Especially the children – having them here has turned everybody to mush."

Many said the hardest goodbye so far has been the send-off of a 1-year-old boy named Wilson, who was among the first patients to come aboard. Phillips plucked the baby from a crowd of desperate Haitians on the Bataan's second night

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here. He'd gone ashore to pick up another casualty but said he couldn't leave Wilson behind when he saw him. "He was just lifeless and so thin – like a limp noodle," Phillips recalled.

Wilson was airlifted aboard with his mother and diagnosed with severe dehydration and malnutrition. Doctors believe he got sick from contaminated water and couldn't hold down food. "We started an IV and 36 hours later, he was like a brand-new kid," Phillips said. By Saturday, Wilson was well enough that his mother brought him to karaoke night, where sailors took turns holding him and fussing over him.

A Haitian woman who attended, Ketsia Cirijs, took a turn at the microphone to sing a cappella in French. She wore a green sling on one arm; someone brought her a folding chair so she could sit for her performance. At the end of her song she said, "Please pray for Haiti. Please pray for the children."

When the time came for Wilson and his mother to go home the next morning, most of the hospital staff followed them out to the flight deck to say goodbye. Phillips flew with them in the helicopter that dropped them off.

"A lot of people were crying, including the baby's mother," he said. "For me personally, it was very difficult. But I think we all understand that, unfortunately, we need to clear beds for the next wave."

Guests at Room in the Inn Grateful to Parish Youth

By Carol Contos

A dozen or so guests at Room in the Inn a couple weeks ago were greeted and served their evening meal by the Confirmation Class. The Confirmands prepared spaghetti, pizza, garlic bread, and salad for their homeless guests as their class service project. About 20 young teens joined their guests for dinner and even helped a set of twin boys celebrate their 6th birthday.

Their grateful guests left a thank you note posted downstairs. Handwritten in purple marker and decorated with a colorful drawing of a flower, the note read:

St. Ignatius and You Precious Young People, CYO:

Life is ever so beautiful when drops of love shower us and drench us in human kindness. We blossom and grow just like this flower. Jesus Christ has his love around each and every one of you, your school, parish, family and friends. Each one of you will touch the world in a special way.... You are our future and hope. Stay close to the faith, embrace what you know to be right, laugh, enjoy life, and never change!

Thanks again,

*We Women & Men & Families from Room in the Inn
Jan. 2010*

Book Review of *Serve God, Save the Planet*

By Mark Dorais

Some topics generate a certain amount of skepticism. At first, I was dubious of the scope of a presenter's topic, "Serve God, Save the Planet." However, Matthew Sleeth, MD, gave a very convincing lecture that I attended at Vanderbilt last year. One of his disturbing facts had to do with breast cancer. "When I first entered medicine," he said, "the ratio of women afflicted with breast cancer was one in seventeen; it increased to one in twelve by the time I left medicine, and now breast cancer strikes one in nine women." Doctor Sleeth is convinced that our environment, the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the various chemicals in our food and packaging containers play a role in this disease in addition to threatening the future health of our planet.

Dr. Sleeth's book, *Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action*, is a uniquely revelatory and informative read. As a member of a conservative evangelical Christian denomination, his words are quite progressive and out of step with many of their congregations' perspectives. He is convinced that we have a comparatively short time left for ensuring the health and stability of our planet if it is to sustain animal and human life. Global warming is real and continues to increase. Dr. Sleeth and his family have taken on a completely different life style. Previously, they lived in a rather large home. Their new dwelling is about the size of his previous home's three-car garage. By all estimates they are now creating a very "small carbon footprint." The book is filled with numerous ways of saving energy and money while simultaneously reducing the "carbon footprint."

Not everyone, even after reading the book, could adopt such an austere lifestyle, which banishes TVs, clothes dryers, dishwashers and many other energy consuming appliances. He mentions for example, that any electronic appliance with a remote control is still using electrical energy even when it is "off," and that washing dishes by hand uses less water and a whole lot less electricity. [In a soft-cover at 255 pages, it is an easy read. (ISBN 978-0-310-27534-3)]

In Loving Service

By Ginny Lopez

Fourteen years ago I was introduced, via an Internet friend, to an American couple, living in Fatima, Portugal. Originally from California, Junette and Alan Merwin moved to the country of Junette's ancestry after retirement. They set up a prayer apostolate and began collecting prayer requests from around the world—the majority coming in by e-mail.

They share the load, reading and praying for each request individually, before delivering them to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in the Cova da Iria, a short city block from their apartment. The requests go into the pillar that stands on the spot where Mary appeared to the three shepherd children, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and Lucia Santos. To date they have delivered well over four million petitions.

Both Junette, a retired nurse administrator, and Alan, a former Marine and a convert to Catholicism, are tireless in their efforts on behalf of Our Lady. Their living room is a regular "United Nations," as they play host to clerical, religious, and lay pilgrims and visitors from around the world.

One day, Junette suggested that I contact a friend who arranges pilgrimages to Catholic destinations. As a result, I've been blessed to travel to Fatima on four separate occasions.

Upon arriving at Domus Pacis, the guesthouse of the World Apostolate of Fatima, I routinely settle in before taking a short walk around the corner to the apartment building on Avenida Beato Nuno. A quick trip up in the elevator and there's the Merwin's front door, with Nina, "Our Lady's Shih Tzu," offering a welcoming doggy grin. As Alan ushers me in, Junette comes to hug me, while the statue of Our Lady of Fatima smiles down on us all. I'm home!

Conversation is lively as we get caught up and exchange stories of our respective families and pets. We commiserate over the difficulties and the frustrations of living in a foreign country where the American dollar is weak and expenses are outrageously high. The Merwins have discovered what it means to serve God in *total* trust.

Alan is a gentle, quiet person. He looks like a university professor and, indeed, he probably could qualify for a Master's Degree in that region's history. Those who are lucky enough to tour the area in his company, learn tidbits of which most official tour guides are unaware. We've met local inhabitants whose grandparents were present on the day of the "Miracle of the Sun," seen the ruts left by centuries of Roman chariot traffic on the site of an ancient Roman fortress, and learned that the olive and holm oak trees on the grounds of the Shrine are the same ones that bore silent witness to the events of May–October, 1917.

On my last trip to Fatima, in July 2008, Ed, my husband, accompanied me. Junette, whom Alan affectionately calls "Scrappy," was recovering from surgery. We spent several afternoons quietly visiting with them, and on one of those occasions, the doctor called with the results of her biopsy: Junette had cancer. We sat in stunned silence, trying to be a source of comfort to a couple who has comforted so many others. Our goodbyes were especially poignant, and it was difficult to keep back the tears.

We continued to keep in touch, sometimes through conversations on SKYPE, but mostly by e-mail. On January 19th, 2010, I received the following message from Junette:

*Just came back from the doctor's office. He saw my blood report and talked, etc, punched my abdomen, etc., etc., read my chest x-ray, etc., scolded me for not drinking enough water. After the visit he came over to me and hugged me and said that **I didn't have to go back for a year and a half or two.** It didn't really hit me till a couple of hours after. **THANKS AND THANKS AND THANKS FOR THE PRAYERS.***

Apparently, God isn't finished with the Merwins. Our Lady still needs them to bring her those prayer requests and to be there for her children when they come to call. Jesus continues to use them as intercessors for our needs. If you would like to e-mail them with your own needs, you can reach them at: ourlady@fatima-petitions.com.

Crossword Answers: ACROSS A1 pray B5 sealed E3 required G2 riches DOWN A3 armor A7 tactics

Joe Perez

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Steering

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615-260-9665 Studio

615-818-9056 Cara

Confirmation Class Reflects on their Over-night Retreat

By Carol Contos

About 35 teens from St. Ignatius attended a spiritual retreat in preparation for their sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church. Confirmands spent a weekend with PRE and RCIA Director Jan Trahan, several catechists, and older teen mentors, CYO leaders, and their Confirmation sponsors at Rau-Wood Retreat Center in Nashville.

The young teens reflected on their spiritual retreat. Many said the retreat was really fun and they would definitely do it again! Other highlights included:

- *I really learned from the stories that the group leader told.*
- *I learned so much about Confirmation and much more.*
- *It showed me a lot about faith.*
- *I enjoyed it.*
- *I awoke one morning very early to find myself going to a religious retreat. We had decent food with our eager sponsors.... At night the place was cold, but full of luminous light. I felt happy....The retreat was an amazing adventure....I talked to my greatest hero, Mr. Mike. He is a very good role model.*
- *I woke up eating cold sausage. I had to wake up at 6:30 to go to 10:30 Mass with a headache...*
- *The retreat was interesting.*
- *I learned that Confirmation is a very difficult process. It showed me a lot about faith. I didn't sleep much!*
- *I learned that finding God can change your life. Many people opened up, hoping they can trust that we will keep their secrets.*
- *It was very relaxing. It made me realize what Confirmation really means. It helped me grow spiritually and closer to God and made me realize that I am ready for Confirmation.*
- *I learned more about Jesus and changed some of my views. I even got to meet new people. I appreciate all the hard work that the adults put into the retreat to make it as fun as possible!*
- *It changed the way I see Confirmation. It let me spend some time with my sponsor.*
- *I enjoyed talking to my sponsor. It changed my faith.*
- *The retreat was fun even though at first it was scary for me.*
- *I learned more about God...The retreat was such a spiritual experience. The food was great and tasty.*
- *I got closer to my peers and became a better leader.*
- *My relationship with God has gotten stronger. The retreat was very fulfilling.*
- *I thought the retreat was very beneficial because I got a deeper understanding of faith and got closer to all my peers.*
- *I loved the retreat because I got to meet a lot of people. My leader was great too—she taught me a lot of stuff.*
- *I learned a lot from the younger kids.*
- *I met many new friends and learned many things about faith and love. It was a great experience even the second time. If I could do it again, I would bring all my friends with me.*
- *The retreat was very fun and I absolutely love helping every year.*
- *I had a lot of fun and ate a lot. I stayed up late. I had a nice time with my cousins and made new friends.*
- *Even though I wasn't there the whole time, the retreat was a blast. It was a very exciting experience for me. I laughed and cried and even had fun. I was surrounded by friends and God. That, I must say, turns out to be a very good experience.*
- *I thought it was an incredibly enlightening experience. Many of my peers made speeches that I could relate to.*
- *I believe the Confirmation Retreat was a blessing in numerous ways. I've strengthened my friendship with people that have impacted my life in an abundance of different ways. I am truly lucky.*

New Members Received into Catholic Church through RCIA

Last month 10 parishioners joined in full Communion with the Catholic Church during 10:30 Mass. The now fully-initiated Catholics, who received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation through the RCIA process, included five members of the Hummeldorf family, three members of the Herrera family, Keifer Morgan, and Kevin Lopez. Some of our newly confirmed parishioners offered to share their reflections on their spiritual journeys:

Sunday, January 10, I was received into the church. It was a really good feeling, especially as I looked out at the congregation and saw the love and support. It meant a lot to me to be able to witness that kind of love and compassion. It meant a lot to me to be able to join the church, and it is a joy that I cannot fully express in words. I would like to thank everyone for their support and compassion. Thank you. – Keifer Morgan

On January 10th, 2010, my family and I were received into the church. The experience was extremely heartwarming. Experiencing this moment was ten times more enjoyable because I shared it with my family. I'm so thankful to have such a wonderful community family who support me. I'm going to continue on my journey with God, with a new way of looking at things. Thank you, all. – Chelsea Hummeldorf

I have now realized where my life is going. As a parent, I have the responsibility to show my child the way God wants us to live. And now that my family has gone through this, I am a better parent. I am very proud of my children for accepting the Catholic faith. I want to thank the Catholic community for their support. Thanks. – Eric Hummeldorf

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Mother's Day Out Moment: What Does Jesus Love?

Submitted by Marian Fleener and Angie Osborne

The preschoolers at Mother's Day Out wanted to share what they know about Jesus' love for Valentine's Day. Here's what they are sure Jesus loves...

Ethan Fleener – books

Cameryn Blunkall – hearts

Konnor Adelsberger – God

Jenna Moyer – Mary

Gabe Moyer – Chuck E. Cheese's birthday parties

Payton Baker – chicken

Jacob Contos – gifts

Darin Griffith – Spiderman and Lightning McQueen

Georgia Bock – sleep

Blake Bristow – everything and everyone

Chloe O'Connor – kids

JP Perez – JP

Prayer Quilt Ministry Blankets Needy with Love

By Wanda Palus

Our Prayer Quilt Ministry is underway with the first quilt completed and a second one started. If you know of a parishioner in need of the comfort of a prayer quilt, please contact Marian Pickney at 333-0564 or Wanda Palus at 333-3712.

If you are called to be a part of this ministry, please join us the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in Room 1. It is a very special time of fellowship and faith sharing for all of us. Sewing skills are not required.

We are many parts, but all one body.

Teen Chat with Megan Mullis

Hey, everyone! I hope you have had a fantastic start to the New Year! The latest CYO news happens to be the annual CYO Ski Trip in January.

We had a total of 11 chaperones and 25 teens. We started the weekend with a very long ride up to Paoli Peaks, IN, through the icy roads and snow. We reached the cabin at about 2:30 a.m. and woke up at 7:30 a.m. to go to the lodge and ski. Many participants both skied and tubed throughout the day and came back to the cabin to have a relaxing night. The next morning we all read the week’s Scripture readings and spent time discussing them and focusing on God before we left. We stopped by Shoney's to get a bite to eat and then got back on the road for the rest of the ride home.

It was a very successful trip, and everyone is definitely looking forward to next year. Here ‘s what some of the teens are saying about their weekend of fun in the snow:

*"I liked the skiing and tubing" -Max Thompson *** "I loved the dance parties"-Hailey Blunkall*

*"Super fun! Can't wait until next year!"- Stephanie Teder *** "I realized that I am a professional Bunny Slopes skier."- Mary Thompson *** "Anyone who isn't sure whether or not they would enjoy it should definitely come."- Robert Cope *** "Need help skiing? Ask Betty Gray. She is amazing!"- Marci Greene *** "This was my 1st time skiing, and it was so much fun. I can't wait to go again!"- Allie Shacklett *** "This was my 2nd time, and it was just as great as the first. My favorite weekend of the year!"- Caryn Douglas *** "This weekend was probably the best I've had in a long while. I got to hang out with my best friends and meet new friends. It was great!" – Elizabeth Henderson *** "This weekend was the most fun I've had in a long time. A*

Ephesians

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A					■	■		■	■	■
B	■	■		■						
C	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■
D	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■
E	■	■								
F	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
G	■							■	■	■

Across

- A1: ___ at every opportunity. (Eph 6:18)
- B5: ...were ___ with the promised Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13)
- E3: ...know that each will be ___ from the Lord (Eph 6:8)
- G2: ...what are the ___ of glory in his inheritance (Eph 1:18)

Down

- A2: Put on the ___ of God... (Eph 6:11)
- A7: ...be able to stand firm against the ___ of the devil. (Eph 6:11)

Answers on bottom of page 3

funny story would be when I slipped and fell ... but it was still FANTASTIC! I loved it SO much!"– Lauren Stanly "This weekend was amazing. I met some new friends and I only fell 2 times. Now that's a new record for me." – Erik Mack

"Well this weekend was...fantastic, awesome, coolio, fliptastic, wonderful, and totally rad dude, thoroughly enjoyable, entertaining, enthralling, wicked, incredible so...I guess it was fun. A lot."

- Katie and Emily

"My mom is the bomb, tick tick tick tick Boom!"– Patrick Greene

"Snowboarding is a lot harder than it looks."– Timothy Bradford

"This weekend was one if the best. I got to hang out with my friends, make a video, and got to snowboard without falling all at the same time. If I was able to, I would do this till I was 50 or even more."

– Judson Holden

"This weekend I got to spend time with my best friends. The best part was NOT falling every 5 seconds while snowboarding. I can't wait till next year."– Samantha "It was amazing! I never snowboarded in my life, so it was a great experience. Even though I can barely move now, it was totally worth it!"– Jessica

"Ummm I didn't fall quite as much....yeah it was fun. Will fell quite hilariously."– Aaron Gray

"The trip was pretty awesome. I love to snowboard. A.J. goes really slow. Will fell. Gabe is the best snowboarder ever."– Thomas Blair

So, overall, we all had a blast and can't wait until next January! Well, that's all for now, so I hope everyone stays safe and has fun! –Megan Mullis

Between the Masses is published by the St. Ignatius Communications Committee. Parishioner ideas and input are most welcome. Business ads may be published free of charge as space allows. Submissions may be edited for content, clarity, or length. Anyone interested in helping with future issues may attend Communications Committee meetings. Any questions or comments may be directed to Carol Contos at 399-2364, or contosc@gmail.com.