

March, 2010

# On Eagle's Wings

## HE IS RISEN. NOW WHAT?

While doing some research at the public library the other day, I came upon a book entitled *Aging Well*. The book was the result of a decades long study done by a psychiatrist by the name of Dr. George Vaillant. In his long term study, Dr. Vaillant sought to identify traits in men in their teens and twenties that would predict successful careers and home lives when they reached their forties and fifties as well as when they reached old age. The study showed that for many people the last years of life, old age, did not have to be seen as a time of loss, regret and waiting for death. In fact, many of the men studied saw the later years of life to be the best years that may even give meaning to the first half of life.

Dr. Vaillant wrote that he had identified two traits that seemed to be the key to contentment late in life. The first trait was that the men who always seemed to have a growing circle of friendships instead of a shrinking number of people in their lives were much happier people in later life. The study showed that those men who would continue to make new friends as old friends died or moved away, were men of hope and vitality. Dr. Vaillant suggested that everyone ought to make a point of doing a friendship inventory on a regular basis. By that he meant that everyone ought to ask themselves from time to time a rather simple question: "Have I made a new friend recently?"

A second important trait was identified by that long study. The real key to a future filled with hope, joy and contentment is the choice to nurture our ability to forgive slights and hurts. The study suggested that if you spend a lot of time looking back over your life; look back with gratitude more than with regret. How one looks back over the years of their lives is truly a choice one makes. We can look back with thankfulness for blessings received or we can choose to look back with bitterness and regret over disappointments.

It seems to me that the two traits identified by Dr. Vaillant as key to contentment in later life, are, in reality, a good description of what we are called to do and be as disciples of Jesus. As we enter into this Easter Season and we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death, we may be asking ourselves a simple question, "Now what?" What are we to do with what Jesus has done for us and in us? The short answer is simple - we are to live the resurrection. So, what does it mean "to live the resurrection"?

In a very real sense, to live the resurrection means that we live the two traits that Dr. Vaillant identified. We are called to an ever widening and growing circle of friendships in which we can share blessings and burdens as well as our faith in Jesus. After all, it is Jesus who shows us how to identify our blessings and how to bear our burdens.

And finally, the death and resurrection of Jesus makes one more thing evident. It is important to realize that we are also called to be people, like the men in the study, who actively cultivate and nurture a spirit of forgiveness for those who may have hurt us, to foster an attitude of letting go of the slights and wounds that may have come our way over the years, and to be people who are able to look for the good in others as well.

The season of Easter is the season of joy and hope. If we live our daily lives according to those two traits that Dr. Vaillant identified, we will certainly become agents of that joy and hope. Happy Easter!

*fr Mark*



New Life in the Risen Lord



# From the Business Manager

The Valentine 50/50 Split the Pot raffle was a great success! We sold \$27,450 in tickets. Half of this amount was awarded to the cash winner and the other half (minus expenses) goes directly to debt reduction. This year, in addition to our cash winner, we also had winners for other prizes as well! The winners are:

- Cash winner of \$13,725 - Jeanette Lucia
- Westin/McCormick & Schmick winner - Ginny Weale
- Marriott/Jag's winner - Jim Schackmann
- Hi-Lites Spa Basket winner - the Rouse Family



The hotel/restaurant prizes are for an overnight stay and a \$100 dinner gift certificate. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone who purchased tickets! Thank you also to our generous prize donors - the Westin hotel downtown, the Marriott hotel, Jag's and McCormick & Schmick's restaurants and Hi-Lites Salon. We are very appreciative!

Don't forget, the weekend of March 6-7 will be Catholic Ministries Appeal Commitment Weekend at St. John's. God calls each of us to share our gifts with others for the building up of His Kingdom. The theme for the 2010 CMA is "Always and Everywhere, Give Thanks". The Archbishop is asking every Catholic household to participate in this year's 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal, which funds six vital ministries of our Archdiocese. The 2010 Catholic Ministries Appeal is to the ministries funded by the Archdiocese as the weekly offertory is to our parish - so your participation and support is critical! Every gift matters. For more information, please visit [CatholicAppeal.info](http://CatholicAppeal.info).

Please help us keep our database current and correct. If you have dropped your land line, moved to a new home, or changed your email, we would like to hear from you. Also, if your adult children have left the nest, or you have added new family members, please let us know! Email Karen Hake at [khake@stjohnwc.org](mailto:khake@stjohnwc.org) or call the parish office at 777-6433 to update your information.

Have a happy Easter, everyone!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Mack".

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## Parish School of Religion



Registration for young people entering grades 1-8 for the 2010-2011 school year begins March 9. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 in the Parish Center. Register and pay by April 30 to get the "early bird" fee of \$55 per child. Registering early also insures getting your choice of evening. Forms will be available in the parish office, the church weekend office and on the website. Direct any questions to Kathy Guenther at [kguenther@stjohnwc.org](mailto:kguenther@stjohnwc.org) or



## But Wait, There's More!

It is so easy for us to look at the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus with humble gratitude and jubilation from our 21st century retrospective vantage point. We are readily able to identify the role of each involved: Jesus, Mary, Peter, John, Judas, Pontius Pilate and others. We clearly see the culpability of each - be that good or bad - in every choice, every decision, every action or inaction, every allegiance or denial as it seamlessly fits together to create our salvation history. We get to see it all through God's rear view mirror and from a comfortable distance, we are able to witness to the fact that "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Without hesitation we can testify to that truth.

As we rush to embrace the "Good News - He Has Risen!", we quickly forget that the true frontline eye witnesses to the passion of Jesus were oblivious to the fact that they were living the miracle for which all of heaven and earth had been waiting. Unlike us, they were not given the privilege of reading the last gospel chapter first. As a matter of fact, it had yet to be written.

We can only imagine the heart-breaking loss, devastation and despair that those closest to Jesus experienced as they journeyed those last days and stood vigil with him those final hours and minutes, all the while not knowing "the rest of the story". Overcome with shock and awe, in the worst sense of these words, they laid Jesus to rest as they picked up their cross of loss.

The seclusion they sought would have brought little comfort. The silence and emptiness would have been broken only by their own questions recounting their naivety to the seriousness of the recent events as they had unfolded. "How did this happen?" "How could they have released Barabbas and not Jesus - This is unbelievable!" "Wasn't it just a few nights ago we celebrated Passover with Him? It was such an amazing evening - Remember how He washed our feet yet wouldn't let us wash his!" "We watched and witnessed him raise Lazarus and others from the dead - None among us has the power to do the same for Him!" "Was this what He was trying to tell us all along?" "Who will lead us now? No one can guide us and teach us as He did! Who could ever fill His sandals?" "What now? Do we just go home to fish, to plow, to obscurity?"

And although Jesus repeatedly tried to prepare them for what had come and what would come, they had absolutely no reason to think that there would be more to their lives as "Disciples". They were done. They were at "The End" of their story.

And as we all know, in a matter of days, God would shout throughout all eternity, "But Wait There's More!" This was not the end of the story. This miracle was just beginning for all of us!

Two thousand years later, so many of us aspiring Christians long to participate in or witness the power of such miraculous events in our lives today. We secretly yearn for burning bushes, angelic visitations, effortless water walking and resurrections. Even the most spiritually altruistic among us has a deep desire to be connected in some way, shape or form with God's "Miracle Network". But what we quickly forget is that miracles are a messy business. We forget that miracles in the making are wrought with conflict, pain, suffering and loss. Miracles, more often than not, involve great sacrifice, either before or after the fact, and do not bring people back from the brink of disaster and despair but *through* it. Lazarus had to wait quite literally 4 stinking days for his miracle and he was on Jesus' short list of close friends. (Which leads me to believe "That Just A Closer Walk with Thee" does not preclude me from suffering but almost insures a measure of it.)

During this Lenten season or from time to time within your life, if you are carrying the cross of loss, conflict, physical pain or emotional suffering, remember you may simply be in the middle of the mess of a miracle. And just like Mary and the Disciples, you may not be spared the heart-break of this experience. Why? Because like them, you are critical to God's outcome of good. You are an integral part of the miracle. Let me re-emphasize: "God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose".

Although you may be at your wit's end or what feels like the end of your lifeline, remember that God will be with you through it all. Know that you are not at "The End" of your story but from God's eternal perspective you are just beginning. The miracle is unfolding and if you listen closely, you will hear God whispering in your ear, "But Wait, There's More!"

*Jo Koch, CRHP Team 29  
WoW - Women of the Word*



## WOMEN OF THE WORD

Truth and Judgment

Friday, April 30

6:30p.m. - 10:00PM

Favret Hal

We would like to invite all the women of St. John's and our neighboring faith communities, to join us for an evening of FOOD, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP (Let's rephrase – SISTERHOOD). Our evening begins with a light dinner; followed by some amazing ladies sharing their "not to be missed" wit, wisdom and faith journey; add in the Word of God, some prayers, songs and dessert; and you have an evening in which God could possibly change you for a lifetime. We would like to especially encourage those of you, whose busy schedule do not allow you time for an ongoing or long term commitment, to share just one evening with us as we all take one step closer to the Lord. \$10 per person covers your meal and the entire evening! These evenings fill quickly, so RSVP to Jo Koch at 759-5093 or mojokoch@cinci.rr.com.

## Father Don's Corner

"They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:32) The two disciples on the road to Emmaus spoke these words after Jesus broke bread with them. He vanished from their sight; but did he really go that far from them?

Their hearts were alive with the good news spoken to them by the risen Christ. Jesus had opened their eyes and their hearts to what soon would be the good news spoken to everyone; the crucified Jesus has destroyed sin and death and has given all an opportunity to eternal life.

The simple gesture of breaking bread with the two disciples opens their eyes to the risen Christ. Isn't this what we do each and every time we gather to celebrate Mass? Do we see the wondrous life of Jesus come alive as the Gospel is proclaimed? Should not our hearts be on fire as we prepare to receive Jesus' body and blood? Should not our response to the gift be a firm "amen?"



On the Road to Emmaus

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus modeled for us how we should respond to the Easter news that Jesus has risen from the dead and is now among the living. The power of the Father has given our hope for salvation a firm "yes" in Jesus' resurrection. Can we feel the joy? Should not our hearts be burning with the good news? Let the joyous Alleluias be on our lips and the risen Christ in our hearts. Happy Easter to one and all!

## Campton Mission Annual Spring Food & Clothing Drive

Campton Mission is our sister parish which serves Appalachian people of Eastern Kentucky. Many in their community have low incomes and are in need of food and clothing assistance. To this end, donations of food and clothing will be collected here at St. John church after all masses the weekend of April 17 & 18. Look for the large rental truck next to the church. The following food items are especially needed: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti, cereal, canned meats, fruit, canned pork and beans and other canned vegetables. The only thing they don't need right now is canned soup.

As far as clothing, any lightly used clothing for children and women. Usually men are only interested in jeans and shirts (lightly used, of course). Any household knick knacks and kitchen utensils are also welcomed. If you have questions, please contact Jerry Barney at jbarney@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433.



## Let's Communicate!

Hello, everyone! My name is Joan Seibenick and I am the new Communications Coordinator for St. John's. My husband, Pete, son, Alex, and I have been parishioners here since December of 2000, when we moved to West Chester from Connecticut. I grew up in Cincinnati and attended Sts. Peter and Paul grade school in Reading. I graduated from Xavier University and also have a Masters from the University of Michigan. I worked in corporate human resources for 18 years before taking the past 5 years off to spend time with my son.

I wanted to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet met. But, more importantly, I want you to introduce yourselves to me! I would love to hear from you. I am taking care of the bulletin, the Eagle's Wings and the website, in addition to other communications duties. This year, we plan on taking a look at how we use our website and other forms of electronic communications in order to better serve our parish. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this, or anything else having to do with the way we communicate with you, please let me know! My door/phone/email is always open to you, the parishioners of St. John's.

I feel so blessed to be able to serve my parish. God is good, all the time! You can contact me at [jseibenick@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jseibenick@stjohnwc.org) or 777-6433 extension 124. Also, please visit our website at [www.stjohnwc.org](http://www.stjohnwc.org) often as its content changes regularly.

## Lent/Easter Schedule 2010

**LENTEN RETREAT WITH FR. MARK BURGER & FR. TERRY SMITH**  
7:00-8:30PM AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH EACH NIGHT  
Monday, March 1st (Oh God, I'm So Alone!)  
Tuesday, March 2nd (Oh God, How Will I Cope?)  
Wednesday, March 3rd (Oh God, Show Me the Way!)

**LENTEN FISH FRY IN THE CENTER AT ST. JOHN'S**  
4:30pm to 8:00pm Fridays  
March 5, 12, 19, 26

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. JOHN'S**  
Every Friday During Lent in the Chapel  
7:00pm to 8:00pm - March 5, 12, 19, 26  
Noon on Friday April 2nd

**LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES**  
St. Max Wednesday, March 10th at 7pm  
St. Susanna Thursday, March 18th at 7pm  
St. John Tuesday, March 23rd at 7pm  
St. John weekly Saturdays (except April 3) at 4pm

**LUNCH WITH THE LORD WITH FR. MARK BURGER**  
Mondays at Noon at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral  
March 1, 8, 15, 22

**ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISM MASS**  
St. Peter in Chains Cathedral  
Tuesday, March 30th at 7:30pm

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30pm in Church

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Begins Holy Thursday at 9:00pm and continues through Good Friday at 7pm in the Chapel

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND**  
Noon - Stations of the Cross in the Church  
7:30pm Communion Service in the Church

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD**  
Easter Vigil Mass 8:45pm in Church

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH**  
Masses at 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:30am in Church



## Catholics Returning Home

Wednesdays, from 7:00 – 9:00PM, April 7, through May 5

Room D

### Lenten Fish Fry

Don't forget that every Friday during Lent, we have a fish fry in our Parish Center. The food is delicious and the prices can't be beat! 4:30-8:00pm on Friday, March 5, 12, 19 and 26. Check our website for more details. We hope to see you there!

### Are You a Baptized Catholic Adult Still in Need of Confirmation?

Confirmation of baptized Catholic adults will occur on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Formation meetings will be held weekly from April 7 until May 19 on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:30pm in Room E. Contact Jerry Barney at [jbarney@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jbarney@stjohnwc.org) or 777-6433, ext. 121 for further information, or to register.

Do you know someone who has drifted away from the Church? Most of us don't have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home? As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most are just waiting for an invitation to return. Mistakenly, they think they've been excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons. Are negative feelings toward the Church or its members keeping our brothers and sisters away? Many carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a dramatic difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and want them to come home to our Church family. Once again, St. John Parish will be offering a special program to help those who would like to return to the Church, called "Catholics Returning Home.". **Please note: You do not have to attend each session.** For more info contact Ken Braun at 856-7144 or Jerry Barney at 777-6433, ext 121.

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### Parish Job Opening

Kathy Guenther, our Pastoral Associate for Children's Faith Formation will be retiring at the end of May this year. Kathy has been a tremendous asset to St. John's for the past 14 years! Kathy has worked as a Catholic Educator for 25 years and, though we will miss her greatly, we thank her for her dedication and hard work and wish her a wonderful retirement!

We are seeking enthusiastic and organized candidates for the position of Pastoral Associate for Children's Faith Formation. The primary responsibility for this position is the religious education and formation, including sacramental preparation of the children, for St. John's parish. There are also responsibilities for creating and monitoring a budget and working as a member of the Pastoral Team on other parish activities (such as Generations of Faith). The religious formation program is a year-round process and includes the Parish School of Religion, the Loreto and home-school religious education programs.

Successful candidates will be proficient in the use and application of Microsoft Office products. Experience with PDS is a plus. You must be a practicing Catholic with an undergraduate degree (masters preferred). Previous experience in education is a plus. Please send your resume to PACFF Search Committee, 9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester, OH 45069 or email your resume and cover letter to [dwest@stjohnwc.org](mailto:dwest@stjohnwc.org). Resumes will be accepted through March 15, 2010.



## Creighton Model: A Natural Life-Giving Approach to Understanding the Female Body

April 7, 7-9PM

Favret Hall

Wanting to know more about how your body works? Attend a Free Creighton Model Introductory Session and learn about a natural, morally acceptable approach (system) that addresses issues of planning for children and surprising choices and effective solutions to issues such as menstrual cramps, PMS, ovarian cysts, abnormal bleeding, miscarriages, hormone abnormalities, perimenopause and other health problems. The Creighton Model, views children as gifts and empowers the women to embrace their bodies and the power that is within their cycles, without destroying or suppressing a woman's fertility, all keeping within the teachings of the Catholic Church. Three options for a free Introductory Session will be on the days and location listed above. If you should decide you want to join the program, a suggested donation of \$ 350.00 will provide one year of services. For questions or to RSVP for one of these free introductory sessions, please call Susan Giuliano at 737-2125.



Don't forget to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks one hour ahead on March 14th!

## Show 'N Tell Mass

Monday, April 12, 7:00 – 8:15PM

Chapel

Have you ever wondered why the priest places a small piece of the Host into the chalice during the communion rite at Mass? Are you puzzled by some of the symbols or rituals used in our Eucharistic liturgy? Deacon Jerry Barney will answer your questions during a Show 'N Tell Mass. Always engaging and interesting, Jerry will role-play a Mass adding commentary to explain the meaning of symbols and rituals used. No matter how long you've been attending Mass, there is something you will learn. Enhance your weekly church experience with a deeper understanding of the significance and history of our liturgy. Note: the first 30 minutes will be geared for children **ages 7 through adult**; the remainder of the presentation will be geared for teens and adults.

## Catholic High Schools

Are you a current student, parent or alumni of a Catholic High School? If so, you know how important annual fundraising is to our Catholic Schools. Listed below are the fundraising dates and contacts for a few of our local Catholic High Schools:

### Bishop Fenwick High School

Crimson & Gold Gala

April 24, 2010

contact: Fenwick's Office of Advancement at 727-1500

### Moeller High School

The Moeller Main Event - 25th Anniversary

April 17, 2010

contact: Marcia Lechner, mlechner@moeller.org or 791-1680.

### Mount Notre Dame High School

Grand Gala - Pearl of the Orient

March 6, 2010

contact: Jackie Siders, jsiders@mndhs.org or 821-3044.

### Saint Xavier High School

X-travaganza!

March 13, 2010

contact: Paula Flaherty, pflaherty@stxavier.org or 761-7815, ext 117.

### Ursuline Academy

Auto Raffle - Miata, Wrangler, Beetle or \$20,000!

April 23, 2010

contact: www.uaraffle.org

*If your son or daughter attends a Catholic high school not listed here, please email Joan Seibenick at jseibenick@stjohnwc.org.*

## Join the Knights of Columbus!

Imagine being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference. The Knights of Columbus are Catholic men, (18 and over), who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with your community; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith; it is about improving your family life. Want to read more about the Knights of Columbus? Visit our website at [www.eteamz.com/kofc13608](http://www.eteamz.com/kofc13608) (or click the KofC link from the St. John website), check us out on Facebook (search for Knights of Columbus #13608) or email Peter Seibenick at [pseibenick@aol.com](mailto:pseibenick@aol.com). Take that first step today!

# Our Prayers & Sympathy Go Out To ...

## January

*Jim Ruef on the death of his father*

*John Porterfield on the death of his stepfather*

*Kara Molfetta & David Rendon on the death of their grandmother*

*Tom Burke on the death of his mother*

*Cindy Muron on the death of her mother*

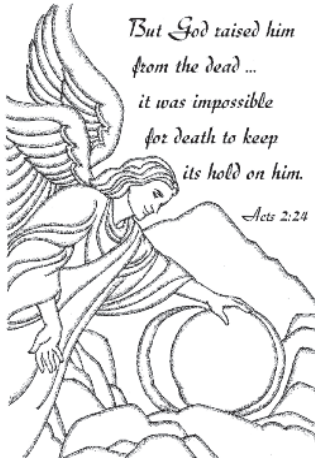
*Laura Popp on the death of her brother*

*Lynn Elizondo on the death of her father*

## February

*The family of Lorraine Ruehrwein*

*The family of Sherry Guckiean - Rick, Brian, Anthony and Ashley*



  
**St. John**  
the **Evangelist Church**  
9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.  
West Chester, OH 45069-3129