



Magnificat

*My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
Luke 1: 46*

Volume 9, Issue 4
November/December 2011

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

by Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Is 2: 1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Mat 24: 37-44

As fall moves onward towards winter we have places to go, things to do, people to meet. Yet as we go about our business, we notice the days are getting shorter. Sweaters come out of storage, we close the windows, and turn on the heat.

Advent is a season where we stop and remember that the light of this world is waning in more ways than one. That the world as we know it is passing away.

The world "secular" comes from the Latin word for this present world with its priorities - getting a job, paying the bills, finding a mate. Politics, economics, entertainment, sports are all realities of the secular world. "Secularism" is the modern program that insists that this is all that there is. A version popular in America says that there may be more to life than this, but it is entirely a private affair that you may not talk about in public. God, higher values, heaven, are all out-of-bounds topics in school, politics, and the news media.

Secularism wants us to live under the illusion that things will always be the way they are. There may be ups and downs in the economy, but it will keep humming along. Elections may change the office holders, but the government will just keep on keeping on. That's the way people thought in Noah's day. But then the flood came (Mat 24:37-44).

St. Paul calls this attitude being asleep (Ro 13:11-14). God breaking into space and time, in a manger in Bethlehem, changed things forever. The central moment of human history has come and gone; we're in the end game now. The things that now seem so real, so ultimate, will come to a crashing halt.

For many of us in December, the bleak light injects a dose of melancholy into our disposition. But then we remember that "the holidays" are coming, there is something to look forward to! We string lights on our shrubs and put candles in our windows to cheer ourselves up and thumb our nose at the darkness.

For Christians, these lights have a deeper meaning. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. At the moment when darkness of human society is at its deepest, the Light of the World will come.

So is it a waste of our time to get educated and employed? Should we just spend our days praying, reading the Bible, and trying to predict dates for the Return of the King? St. Paul sharply rebuked some for taking this approach. As focused as Paul was on the age to come, he was thoroughly engaged in this one. Besides his profound life of prayer and preaching, he labored with his hands to the point of exhaustion so as not be a burden on anyone, and have something to give to the needy. He said that those that refuse to work should not eat (2 Thes 3:6-13). The Second Vatican Council said that living for the future world should make us more, not less, committed to improving this one (Gaudium et Spes 37).

(See ADVENT p.2)

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BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS BY FATHER THOMAS FAUCHER



As I have mentioned I am in the process of publishing two more books. The first of these is *Reflections By People Who Knew Of Nazareth*. This book has already been printed.

This is a book of fictional reflections by people who knew Jesus. Some of the people are mentioned in the scriptures, some are not. Some of them liked or loved Jesus, some truly disliked him, and some are not sure just what they think about him. But all of them tell their tales in a way that hopefully will stir the soul.

The second book is *God Didn't Make Peas, Stories To Stir the Soul*. This is a book of stories about people. They are from my experiences and my understandings of those experiences. All of the stories are based on real people and real events. In that sense they are true. I have taken the liberty to change the events, sometimes a little and sometimes a lot, to obscure the actual people involved. In that sense the stories are fiction. Some of the stories are very personal, some are observations. Some are more serious than others. But all of the stories are truly able to stir the soul. This book should be printed this coming week.

Both books can be purchased at the parish office, with each costing \$10. I am told they would make great Christmas gifts. I hope to have some for sale in the narthex after some of the Masses in the weeks to come.

I have some other things I have written. My published works include numerous newspaper columns and articles. Three other books are *Touching God* (with Lone Neiland), *Candy Cane Cottage and the Cloud of Nica*, and *About Many Things, Thoughts to Stir the Soul*. These last two are also available in the parish office.

I do have a number of other manuscripts which I have been told I need to finish and get into print. I do appreciate all of the encouragement for my writing.

Saint Mary's Ball & Auction



Saturday, November 19
 Jordan Ballroom, BSU
 Doors open at 5:00 p.m.
 Silent auction 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 Dinner 7:00 p.m.
 Dessert Auction 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
 Live auction 8:30 p.m. followed by
 music and dancing
 No host bar - Dress is semi formal
 Tickets \$50 per person



(ADVENT Continued from p. 1)

Besides, the Lord clearly says that his Second and final coming will be at the time we least expect it (Mat 24:44). If God is purposely designing it to be a surprise, I don't think there is much hope of outsmarting Him.

So what do we do about His Coming? Very simple. By the power of his grace, let's make sure that when the Light arrives that it won't for us be a cruel light. Are there things in your life that you'd rather not be seen by God and everyone else? Then you'd best get busy getting them out of your life. Because the Light will reveal all.

A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

By Bob Tanner, Director of Alumni Affairs



In many ways it is difficult to grasp the fact that I have spent this past year working at St. Mary's School once again. As Director of Alumni Affairs, I see our school from a very different vantage point. When I was teaching my world tended to be my classroom and the 35 to 45 students that filled it. I rarely knew what was happening on a day to day basis in the other grades.

Today, my vantage point encompasses the entire body of students from the first graduating class through the last class to graduate. Not only have I had the enormous pleasure of meeting my former students, but I have met many students who were a part of St. Mary's school long before I arrived as well as alumni that graduated long after I left. I can honestly tell you that being part of this outstanding Catholic school once more has been one of the great blessings in my life and at the

same time it has been the very most humbling experience in my life.

During the course of this past year I have shared experiences with former St. Mary's students from around the world. Our graduates have truly gone out to make planet Earth a better place. We have alumni who have created a new generation of children. We have many alumni who have distinguished careers in the armed forces, worked for NASA, doctors, lawyer, actors, and this list goes on and on. Our world has truly become a better place because of the efforts in stewardship that our graduates have so freely given.

Many wonderful people *have* worked very hard and *are* working very hard to keep St. Mary's School one of the highest academic achieving schools in Idaho.

Several months ago I sent a letter to all of the alumni that I could reach. In the letter I asked each one of you for a monthly donation equal to one hour of you monthly income. Your response has been outstanding. Every penny that you have invested in the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund has gone to help pay tuition for students who attend St. Mary's School. Not one cent has gone to administrative fees or salary. I can't tell you how proud I am of your efforts. God has blessed you and you have blessed students attending our school today as well as tomorrow's students.



People, our work goes on. As we enter the Thanksgiving season, please continue to do what you can by donating to the St. Mary's Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund. Just to let you know, not one potential student was turned away from attending our school this year due to their lack of funds. All of your donations have helped pay for the cost of their education. You have been very giving alumni – please continue to help.

We all have a common thread that originated in this little red brick school house at 2620 West State Street. Because of our connection to our school we share so many things. Through St. Mary's School we are bound by an important part of our education, love, stewardship. Difficult times, good times and, last but not least, spirituality. Some of my alumni have become members of other churches, some have remained Catholic but do not attend Mass but through it all, each one admitted that we really are bound together spiritually. Because of this school, we know each other and we are bound to something great. Please continue to help by sending in your donation so that our doors will remain open for all children who want to attend St. Mary's School.

May God bless each of you in a very special manner and may the Holy Spirit continue to shower blessings on our school.

Your friend in Christ,

Bob Tanner

CORPUS CHRISTI HOUSE STEP UP: AN EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS

By Vashti Summerville



In November of 2009, my husband, Chad, was on 15th Street near the skate park when he noticed a woman holding a cardboard sign that said, “Today is my daughter’s 9th birthday. Anything helps.” It was not unusual to see a person holding a cardboard sign as this is known as the area in town where the homeless population congregates. This particular sign struck him because we had a daughter who was about to turn 9. He stopped to visit with her and came home to tell me her story. He suggested that the next time I was at Corpus Christi House (CCH) I should try to meet her. I had already been involved in fundraising and on the board for CCH but I hadn’t done much direct volunteering. During my initial conversation with, I’ll call her Laura to protect her privacy, she shared with me that she only needed to finish the math section to have her GED. After our first meeting, I agreed to tutor her.

I bought her the supplies she needed and we started to meet regularly. One day, she asked if she could bring a friend who also needed to finish just the math section in order to complete her GED. Her friend joined us. Before long they started bringing their children to our sessions and I became painfully aware that the children were falling desperately behind in school. More adults and more children continued to join our tutoring sessions. It became evident that we needed a space dedicated to this work and an organizational structure to support it. That is how the Corpus Christi House STEP UP Education Center was born. STEP UP stands for “Success Through Educational Partnerships Unleashing Potential.” Many homeless have lost all hope and purpose. Using education as the tool, we are not only helping put people on the path to self-sufficiency, we are restoring hope and purpose.

Today, our education center is filled with students working to better their lives and the lives of their families. It is hard to believe that the STEP UP Education Center celebrated its first birthday in June. When one looks over the accomplishments of this small learning facility, it is nothing short of impressive.

The STEP UP Education Center’s primary goal is to reduce the number of homeless in Boise by using education as the tool toward self-sufficiency. STEP UP provides GED preparation, college access assistance and support for the school-aged students who reside at Interfaith Sanctuary and Corpus Christi House. To date 25 students have received GEDs, 10 students are enrolled in college with five of those students now permanently housed. STEP UP also continues to work with school aged students providing academic and social support as needed.

One of the most gratifying things I hear are exclamations like, “I am forty years old and the first person in my family to finish high school!” “I am accomplishing things I never thought I could accomplish.”

We provide tangible resources to advance education. However, the books, the testing fees, the calculators and the pencils are not what make us successful. What makes STEP UP work is that above all, we offer friendship. We build relationships. We establish trust and accountability. We say, “We believe in your potential. No matter how long this takes, we won’t give up on you. We are here to help you unconditionally.” This act of one human being, believing in the potential and worth of another, is the key ingredient to restoring hope and purpose.

STEP UP (and CCH) are all-volunteer operated. We look for people to help in a variety of ways. We always need tutors for the different subject areas of the GED. We need people to help us provide educational advocacy services to homeless youth. We occasionally need technology support and equipment updates and, of course, we rely on donations to fund our operating expenses.

“Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, essentially and apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself. And there too, a great deal has to be gone through as gradually you struggle less and less for an idea and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, but it gets much more real. IN THE END, IT IS THE REALITY OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT SAVES EVERYTHING....” Thomas Merton

STEP UP EDUCATION CENTER

525 Americana
Boise, ID 83702

As an outreach program of Corpus Christi House, the STEP UP Education Center provides one-on-one educational assistance to all homeless adults and children who desire to improve their education. Through education, STEP UP promotes relationships, friendships and connections that awaken potential, stir energy, fight loneliness and help individuals achieve their full potential.

What STEP UP Does

- Provides one-on-one tutoring sessions
- Creates individual education plans
- Provides a safe, clean and well-lit environment conducive to learning
- Subsidizes all testing fees
- Provides transportation to and from testing centers
- Provides all necessary study supplies
- Research grants, scholarships, and other available funding to allow students to continue their education or attend youth summer programs
- Collaborates with schools to identify areas of need for school-aged children
- Restores hope and confidence to all those who pass through our doors

What STEP UP has Accomplished

- 25 GED Graduates
- 30 GED Students in Progress
- 10 GED Graduates enrolled in College

Like Corpus Christi House, STEP UP is operated entirely by volunteers. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in volunteering at STEP UP please contact:

Emily Johnson
Director, STEP UP Education Center
(208) 336-6649
education@corpuschristihouse.org

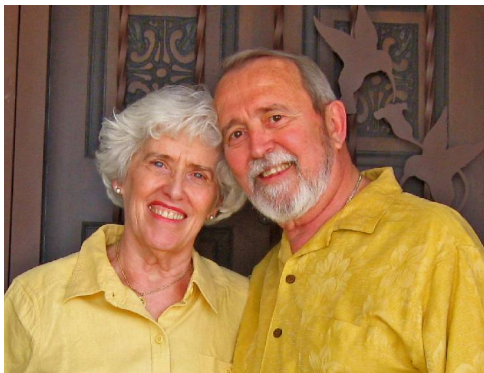


Letter from one of our STEP UP successes

I am a 30 year old divorcee with four children and I am working on my GED with the STEP UP Education Center. I have taken 2 of the 5 GED tests. I decided to start with the STEP UP Education Center for a few different reasons. I was tired of banging my head against a brick wall while trying to get through it. I also realized I didn't have the world in my hands, like I thought I did when I was young. I have noticed a lot of people succeeding and moving on with their lives while working with the STEP UP Center. I quit school in the 10th grade. I didn't do very well in school because I thought I had better things to do with my time. I also had a baby when I was in high school. Now I realize I need a better future. The STEP UP Education Center offers one-on-one tutoring which is a bonus. It seems like they plant little brain cells in my head. Also, I can work alone at my own pace. I feel like I have a step ladder to climb over the brick wall, instead of banging my head against it.

**You can make direct donations Online at the following site.
http://corpuschristihouse.org/?page_id=18
Or contact STEP UP Education Center by phone or in person.**

PEOPLE WHO ARE SAINT MARY'S: DEACON BERNIE AND PAT REKIERE



Bernard Joseph Rekiere was born in Moline Illinois, November 16, 1935. Deacon Bernie has one sibling, deceased, ten years older, named Dorothy. His wife, Patricia Mary Vogeke Rekiere, was born in Rock Island, IL, January 7, 1936 and has two siblings, Margaret "Peggy" Catherine, 1941-2011, Colette Ann, born in 1952.

Bernie grew up in Moline, Illinois, and as a young child played baseball and hide and seek from morning till dark. He later spent time in the woods and biked to swimming holes and all over. In grade school he played short stop in baseball and center in basketball. Patricia lived in Rock Island the first five years of life and then her family moved to Moline. "I attended public schools through the ninth grade, transferred to Alleman Catholic High School Sophomore year. My family attended Mass every Sunday and I attended Catechism

classes and made my Communion and Confirmation. In the off school time I enjoyed the out of doors, hiking, riding a bike, playing at the local park, soft ball, crafts, presenting puppet shows, stage presentations, sledding and ice skating, helping Mom hang out and fold laundry, helping Dad mowing the lawn, pulling up dandelion weeds.

Bernie's favorite memories growing up are raising rabbits, playing baseball, High School "Alpha Beta Dance" on Sunday nights. Pat's favorite's were getting her driver's license and driving a 1938 Ford to high school, to the drive-in movies and shopping trips; helping Mom with a new born sister when I was sixteen; summer time at the farm of my Aunt and Uncle; my first date at the County Fair with a farm boy.

Bernie and Pat met in the chemistry class senior year of high school with an invite to the Homecoming Dance. We each went our separate ways to college. Our friendship took a serious turn after college and we married at Sacred Heart Church in Moline, Illinois, on August 20, 1960.

We have six children and fifteen grandchildren. The kids are Nanette, Joe, Chuck, Michelle, Pamela and Charlotte. When the kids were younger we did a lot of camping and touring. The kids were active in sports and in band. I was an engineer and we have three engineers, one industrial designer, one International Business and one with a degree in art. We moved from Illinois to Phoenix in 1980 as a result of a job transfer. There are three families in Boise, two in Colorado and one in Michigan. We moved to Boise to be closer to family.

Please pray for our daughter, Nanette, who is in Afghanistan, and her husband and two lovely daughters in Colorado.

What inspired you to become a permanent deacon? I was planning to retire in a few years and wanted to retire to something. I took classes at Kino Institute to work in the church and thank God for the blessings he has given us. As I became more active in church, people asked me, "Have you ever thought of being a deacon?" At that time I became curious and the journey started. As every deacon knows, God takes you to the point where you know that you didn't chose Him, He chose you. It was an interesting journey.

I was ordained on my birthday in a class of 18 in 2002 in Phoenix. The whole event was spirit-filled and moving but the highlight was kneeling before the bishop and his laying of hands on my head in silence. Since my ordination, preparing parents for baptism and baptizing their babies has been a highlight, part of God's working through me bringing that child to be a child of God.

My roll at Saint Mary's is developing. First I want to become acquainted with the parishioners and their spiritual needs.

Regarding her role, Patricia responded, "in a world filled with challenges to be able to bring the message of the 'Good News' to the parish community and the greater community; Jesus' message is the hope of our time and to witness the hope-filled response to His message. I love to watch how God works His miracles through the least of His chosen."

Deacon Bernie asked that we as parishioners support them with prayer and patience.

WHAT AM I EXPERIENCING IN MY LIFE AS ADVENT BEGINS?

Many of us are in an ideal place to begin Advent, but we don't know it. It can be tempting to think that, because we are struggling these days, we can't enter into Advent without a big change in our mood or without distancing ourselves from our real experience. Nothing could be further from the truth. Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. And, the whole mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first – by, in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realize we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.

So, what are we experiencing? That is the first Advent question. If we chew that question, then the Isaiah reading will sound so good to our ears. Are we the people “who walk in darkness” or have “thick clouds” over us? Is the way before us full of valleys and hills? Does it seem like we are in a desert? Are there wild beasts out there who are ready to devour us? Have we been guilty of some things we aren't proud of? Have we lost touch with who we really want to be? Has our fidelity become a bit shabby? Then, Isaiah proclaims that our God is ready to come and save us. And, none of the things that I see as barriers even matter to God.

Then, is Advent a passive season? No, we have work to do, but it is different from what we first think it is. It starts with understanding what our preparation is. If we haven't prepared our hearts to be open to asking for salvation, we'll never shout, beg, plead, “Come, Lord, Jesus!” Our work is to become who we are. Advent is a humble season, a season of self-awareness. To say it another way, before we decorate our homes for Christmas, we have to clear away some of the false masks we might wear. These made up identities help us be more “presentable” to others, and at times they even fool us. When I look in the mirror, which “me” do I see? There is nothing wrong with putting our best foot forward in public, and it is quite understandable when we want others to see our best selves. But, before our own consciences and before God, we want to be transparent and real. We want to have no illusion. If there is struggle in my life – and there has to be some struggle in all our lives – then we want to acknowledge that before our God and to let that struggle be the door into Advent's graces.

How can we have hope and expect God will come to us? The readings of Advent open up a whole series of promises, full of powerful images, that keep reminding us that our God will come to save us. They free our imaginations to see and experience that coming with drama and joy – a banquet with “choice wines and rich, juicy food.” They invite us to imagine when “a time will come for singing.” They give us the opportunity to hope beyond our wildest hopes in the past – “the lion will lie down with the lamb” and “they will prepare for war no more.” They open our hearts to imagine the love of our God embracing us in the coming of one like us, who knows our life and its struggles and offers us the hope of the Spirit's presence with us every day, in every moment.

What are the key first steps to enter into Advent? We can all slow down. We can all breathe more deeply. We can all begin to trust that this will be a blessed time. Then, when we let ourselves be who we are, and hear the Scriptures, we can begin to quietly pray, “Come, Lord, Jesus.” We might expand that prayer, in quiet moments of our days ahead, “Come into my life. I trust you don't mind if it is still messy. I believe you love me, because I need your love. I don't fear you can't find the way to my heart. Come and fill me with peace and the love only you can give.” Some of us will want to open our hands on our laps or hold up our arms in the privacy of our rooms and say out loud, “Come, Lord, Jesus, come into this house, into my family, into our struggles. Come and heal us, and give us joy again. Come and unite us and let us experience, each in our own way, a bit of the joy you are offering me now.”

And, before a single decoration goes up, we have prepared for Christmas' message with the foundation of faith, with the mystery of Advent's gift. God wants to be with us. Advent is letting God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives.

(Deacon continued from p. 6)

What would you like the parish to know about you? Patricia said, “Please forgive me if I do not bring a creative food dish to a pot luck. I really appreciate all those who do. I am happy God guided us to Saint Mary's. We were raised in a French Gothic style church filled with iconic stained glass windows which for me were very inspirational. I feel at home. Deacon Bernie replied, “I have a photographic memory but I can't find a drug store that still develops film.”

FACES OF OUR COMMUNITY

Saul and Esther Huerta

By Noemi Hernandez



I'd like you to meet Saul and Esther Huerta. They have been active members of our community for the last four years. They both serve as Eucharist Ministers and as one of the leading couples of the Hispanic Marriage Encounter movement in our Parish. Esther also volunteers as teacher in Plaza Comunitaria - the literacy program in Spanish at Saint Mary's, whereas Saul is one of the current coordinators of the Hispanic committee and member of Saint Mary's Development and Finance Council.

Saul and Esther were born in San Luis Potosi, one of the states in Central Mexico. They arrived in Nampa in 1998 after one year of living in Los Angeles. Saul works in a financial institution and Esther has recently started

as business administrator. They have three children – all boys- who volunteer in different capacities at weekly Masses. They used to come all the way to Saint Mary's from Nampa until they moved to Boise.

Esther grew up with her father and among four sisters and two brothers because her mother died when she was a child. Saul's parents had seventeen children of whom twelve survived. Saul is the youngest of them. He remembers he met his oldest brother after many years because his brother left the family at a young age to earn an income to collaborate in supporting the family. Esther and Saul met in 1989 in Tierra Nueva, a beautiful town that is one hour from San Luis Potosi's state capital. They kept in touch by mail and telephone until they married eight years later.

When asked, Esther told me she likes the brotherhood spirit in Saint Mary's. She said it is remarkable how people are warmly greeted and welcome even if it is the first time they are attending. Saul admires the capacity Father Camacho has to transmit the Christian message and they both feel as being in family within the community.

The Huerta children were moved to Saint Mary's school this year. Saul and Esther are happy about it because it is important for them that their children receive an integral education including academic rigor, moral and spiritual values. Esther wants to foster in her children the family union and values she experienced as she grew up. She says that participating at Saint Mary's as a family helps to nurture in her children those values she cherish. On the other hand, Saul is a man of goals. He is convinced of how important it is to have them and persevere to reach as many as possible. One of his goals is to transmit to his children an entrepreneur spirit that allows them to move forward in life.

Saúl and Esther have enjoyed, learned and grown by participating at Saint Mary's. Saúl told me he is grateful for having such opportunity. He said that it is very rewarding to give without expecting something in return. We are blessed that such community and family spirit is nurtured through Saint Mary's. We are thankful of having the Huerta family among us. Their kind hearts are cherished by the community and their service greatly appreciated.

December 2 - 4
School Gym

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

ADVENT REFLECTION



Don't think that love, to be true, has to be extraordinary. What is necessary is to continue to love. How does a lamp burn, if it is not by the continuous feeding of little drops of oil? When there is no oil, there is no light and the bridegroom will say: "I do not know you". Dear friends, what are our drops of oil in our lamps? They are the small things from every day life: the joy, the generosity, the little good things, the humility and the patience. A simple thought for someone else. Our way to be silent, to listen, to forgive, to speak and to act. That are the real drops of oil that make our lamps burn vividly our whole life. Don't look for Jesus far away, He is not there. He is in you, take care of your lamp and you will see Him."

Mother Teresa

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

Make a friend!

By Noemi Hernandez



Advent is a beautiful preamble for starting a new year. In addition of being at the heart of our Christian faith, in practical terms, Advent sets the scene for the welcoming of a new year... this time it will be 2012! Among such euphoria, it is wise to make a balance of the blessings, the hardships, the adventures, the learning, and the losses we have received in this fading year. At the center of all of them is the realization that all in all, we survived! We are here and, there is a Divine purpose for it. We may also have our own purposes and resolutions for this Christmas time and the New Year. We may want all good things to happen and conquest all the challenges we may face... could one of them be to make a new friend?

There are several reasons for making friends. A few of them could be to fill a void in our heart, to learn something, to expect help from someone in times of need, to have company or to share. All these motives have a space and a time. What are yours? I'm not going to tell you who or what you should do to befriend someone. I just want to talk to you about some people who could benefit of having you as friend.

Nursing homes are full of people we see in the streets. Yes, this is not a misstatement but the acknowledgment that most of the people, who are currently in such facilities, were previously working, had a house, relatives, fun, run of the world, etc. just like the rest of us. Moreover, such a statement is also the realization that many of the folks we deal with every day - you and me included - may reside in a nursing home some day. Many of this type of facility dwellers live a life of confinement. More than once I have heard people saying, "I'll only leave this place when I die". That is a huge statement if we consider they used to go to work every day, run errands, dine out, visit people and places, etc. I don't know if it's me or them but I feel great respect for someone who spends every day in the same place as I find it difficult to stay home for several days in a row.

There is a lovely band in Boise, the Prime Time Swingers, formed by nursing home residents that take lively enjoyable entertainment to different places in town but they are a few in a pool of many. There are many wonderful volunteers that use their talents to ease the monotony of those who are no longer able to be self-sufficient. Why not offer yours? There is satisfaction in showing up for one of them. They are not going anywhere so you could go as periodically as you can. Some of them would enjoy chatting or playing; some of them would like someone to watch TV with but most of them would love to have a friendly companion to color their day. Would you like to share the world with them?

TEEN WE WALK BY FAITH: "TWELVE"

By Jesse Leija



Jesse is a Borah High School student who gave permission to reprint his writing, "Just promise not to edit it."

This is part one of two, containing the first six lessons. Part two, with the final six, will come later. Oh, it feels good to be back. Seriously, I haven't written anything in months.

So, as I write this sentence it has been about seven hours since I returned from Summer Camp 2011. I feel that God made movements and revivals in many lives, which is simply AWESOME. I'm also thinking that God spoke to many hearts, which is also AWESOME. As far as the heart-speaking goodness went, I was stuck right in the thick of it. With exposition finished, I wish now to present to you *TWELVE!* things that God didn't just speak...he shouted.

●1. When the Spirit tells you to do something, DO IT

Number one with a bullet. Story: God told me four times over the week to pray for someone, a different person each time. Most everyone has already heard that part, but what I *haven't* mentioned is that all four of those times were in one night, in only a couple of hours. In fact, all four of those callings of the Spirit spontaneously happened *during* the service where I spoke about callings of the Spirit. Funny how God works, isn't it?

As you can see, God hit this to me hard, and I can see why: many are the situations where we are called to pray for someone, talk to someone, or just read our Bible, and we back off. As long as you know that it's the Spirit speaking to your heart and not yourself, you should have no reason to be scared. If you *don't* know if it's the Spirit speaking, then I ask you a question: how has your prayer life been?

●2. IIGW

The phrase "what would Jesus do", WWJD, is certainly well-intentioned, but, "Is it God's will", IIGW, seems to be more.....encompassing. For one, not everyone is called for ministry like He was. For two, focusing on the path someone else took draws attention away from the path God wants us to take.

I sincerely pray that I don't spark any controversy here. Jesus led a sinless life of constant prayer, and we should all try to follow his example, but we also need to keep in mind that we should chase after God's will for our own lives (go to the next paragraph for more on that).

●3. Chase after God and nothing else!

The Bible itself is laced with this! The book of Ecclesiastes talks about how none of the things of this world bring true joy (*Ecc. 1 and 2*), Romans and Ephesians speak of putting your flesh aside and living in the spirit (*Rom 8:9, Eph 4:24*) and both of Paul's epistles to Timothy tell to flee sinfulness and pursue God (*1Ti 6:11, 2Ti 2:22*).

This makes what God wants us to know very clear: don't turn to your "favorite sin," turn to him. Don't live by your will, live by God's will. Simple.....but not easy by any means.

●4. We take the Bible's power for granted.

Oh boy... this one has stung a lot of people, including myself. I know that you've heard this many times, and you're bored of hearing it, but it holds true: the only way you'll ever grow closer to God is to be living in the Word and living in constant prayer. Again, it is simple but not easy.

●5. Anyone can prophesy.

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." (*1 Corinthians 14:1*) When

people hear the word "prophecy," they usually think of predicting the future. However, that's not always the case. There are many prophets throughout the Bible and only a few of them actually predicted the future (You know, Isaiah, Daniel, John, and the like). So, the question arises: What is prophecy?

Simple. Prophecy is *a direct message from God*. The one receiving the message then communicates it to whomever is supposed to hear it. Obviously, a revelation of future-predicting fits into this category, but it could be anything else, God's plan for your church, a problem in your life you need to fix, or just a person God wants you to witness to.

As I said, anyone can be called to do this work. I would tell a story to prove it but I've already taken up enough space. Throw a shout if you want me to expand on this.

●6. Purity is something God loves.

It seems that the words "purity" and "sex" are always put in the same sentence. In fact, they just were in the same sentence. While staying true to your future spouse (or current spouse, for all you "spousified" folk) is a very great thing to do, There are so many more layers of the onion to peel. The dictionary defines "pure" as "free from anything of a different, inferior, or contaminating kind." Now, lets take a quick look at Jesus. He was tempted, but still pursued God's will and ended up leading a sinless life. See where I'm getting?

When you connect the dots, you quickly find that purity is really all about seeking God (also see #3). Making a pledge to always let Him be first and sin be last in your thoughts and actions is HUGE, and it truly shows your heart for the Lord. I doubt you'll live a sinless life, but making that promise to come as close as you can is a demonstration of your love for God.

*Part 2 of "Twelve" will appear in the next issue of **Magnificat**.*

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 29 - February 5, 2012



Schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, parishioners and the community at large.

The 2012 theme focuses on three priorities that Catholic schools establish that make them stand out from other educational institutions. Children are taught *faith*, not just the basics of Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. *Academics*, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential. *Service*, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of NCEA, National Catholic Educational Association, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about Catholic Schools Week, visit the NCEA Web site at: www.ncea.org/news/CatholicSchoolsWeek.asp.

The NCEA, founded in 1904, is a professional membership organization that provides leadership, direction and service to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing and teaching mission of the church. NCEA members include elementary schools, high schools, parish religious education programs and seminaries.

Please visit Saint Mary's School during Catholic Schools week.

Idaho Diocesan Catholic Prison Ministry

*"Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body."
(Heb. 13:3)*

Our Vision:

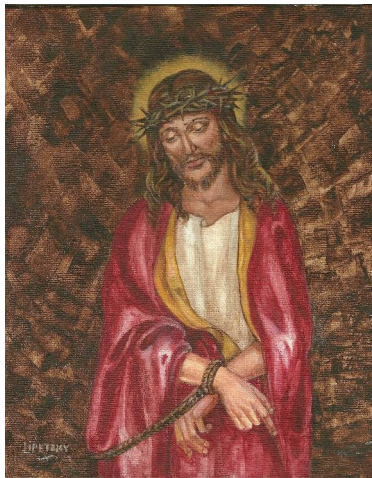
To be a well-trained, well-organized team of Catholic volunteers united in our faith, aware and respectful of our diversity. Eager to serve our brothers and sisters in all the prisons and jails of Idaho; those who have completed their sentence or are released on probation or parole; and inmate families to the limits of our capabilities, with the help of partner organizations, and in the name of our Lord and his Church in Idaho.

Our Mission:

To function as an official ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise, bringing the Eucharistic presence of our Lord Jesus and his gospel, as presented by the Catholic faith, to our imprisoned brothers and sisters for their spiritual nourishment; and to welcome former inmates back into the Catholic community making sure they know they are loved members of our faith community.

Our History:

The Catholic Prison Ministry in Idaho originated in 2000 through the efforts of a few church members who answered the call of Christ to visit the imprisoned (Mt. 25). Their efforts and vision for the ministry encompassed the mission put forth by the USCCB in their article entitled Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice. In this article the USCCB called Catholics into action and reaffirmed the message of Christ, "...[that] both the criminal ... are created in the image of that must be recognized, promoted, mind, and with the help of the Holy ocesan Ministry.



As of 2010, Catholic services are available in nearly 20 different detention facilities throughout Idaho. The services generally include the following: Mass or Baptism, First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation; Bible Study; Weekly Rosary; Music Ministry; and Counseling. At this point in time 350 men and 250 women incarcerated in Idaho attend the services provided to them by the Catholic Prison Ministry. The services are provided to the inmates by volunteer priests and over 100

most wounded victim and the most callous God and possess a dignity, value, and worth safeguarded, and defended." With this in Spirit, the effort of a few has become a Di-

ble to inmates in nearly 20 different detention services provided vary at each facility but Communion services; RCIA Study Courses; tion, and Confirmation; Bible Study; Weekly from Priest volunteers. At this point in cerated in Idaho attend the services provided. The services are provided to the in-lay men and women.

Our Prison Ministry Business Model:

Centered and United in Christ

Our focus is to be Christ Centered in all that we do. At all of our Volunteer Staff meetings Christ is invited to lead and direct us as we reach out to the inmates at the detention facilities; offer support to our volunteers; gain the support of the parishes and partner organizations throughout the state; and work to offer assistance to inmate families in their time of need.

Our Motto:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. *2nd Timothy, Chapter 4:1-5*

<http://www.idahocatholicprisonministry.com/>
Pat Lipetsky, artist of Divine Prisoner