

Retreats Offer Many Things - 'Opportunity' Is A Major One

By Lee Winkler
EWRC President

Have you ever thought about the beauty of the word opportunity? When we think of opportunity we often think of our youth and how the whole world seemed to be providing opportunities for us to make better lives for ourselves. As we mature, we often think of the opportunities available to make this world a better place for others. Stop and think for a moment, of a time when someone gave you an opportunity which made a huge impact on your life, possibly changing your life direction. Maybe a priest, teacher, or a youth minister helped by just opening your mind to the array of possible opportunities

available to you and pointing you in the right direction.

A retreat is an opportunity to spend some quiet time with God and can be an awesome, life-changing experience. Katie and Curt Haffner tell of their Cursillo retreat that changed the direction of their lives. God used their time of reflection to plant in their hearts and minds the desire to build a Catholic youth retreat center. Quite a few years ago Joe Noonan got a very gentle push from God during a St. Thomas More Religious Education Teachers' retreat that, "We need to build a youth retreat center in the Austin area." God brought together those two forces, the Haffners and the Noonans, and the rest is history.

How life-changing can you get!

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life? Eagles Wings provides many opportunities for all of us. First of all, Eagle's Wings offers retreat opportunities for many individuals and groups to come away from their busyness and worldly distractions and spend some quiet time with God.

Eagle's Wings offers service opportunities for youth groups and adult groups. If your parish youth group, young adult group, singles, or other groups want to do a service project, you may want to see what you can do to help out at Eagle's

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Formal ground breaking ceremonies for the new Chapel at EWRC were held February 6. Board members manned the shovels and Msgr Elmer Holtman gave a special Blessing.

Reflections from a Retreatant..

6:51AM Tuesday Sept 20, 2010

TO ALL THAT WORK AT THE EAGLES NEST RETREAT

On the evening of the 16th of September that I was unsure packed every thing except the kitchen sink.

I kept thinking well what all right what if? Will it not what if it's what an experience it all became to me.

To walk with "Jesus" and then come

Thank You for your Prayers, Presence, Gifts and Service

Thank you all from all who was present in each and everyone's work. The Prayer Group, the

the Angels, the Cooks, the Marthas, and the wonderful women that really work hard to get it all done. Every thing there is no amount of to make you up in the morning and my chefs to prepare breakfast no Angels to serve you the wonderful food. From your transportation to and from your sleeping cabin.

The **Madre** was very beautiful. **Jesus Christ** is felt in your heart when you have gone through all this training that you won't ever forget.

As dull coming home to all the ever pressing chores and other daily happenings. It all... Blessings you wanting more and pray name some kind of come back soon must be...

- Wish List**
- Wooden Rockers - \$169 each
 - Plastic or Wooden Picnic Tables from Sams
 - Rustic Wood Seating

More moments to be closer to God!

Gracias por todo lo que God is Good all the time!!!

Blessings to all and take care. I LOVE YOU ALL!!

GRACIAS!

Sept. 2010
Western Deanery
ACTS Retreat

Scanlan Foundation Donates \$25,000.00

Eagle's Wings has received a \$25,000 grant from the Scanlan Foundation that will be used toward the Phase III Capital Campaign. The campaign will include construction of a Chapel, two new dorms and the recreation center and swimming pool.

"We are extremely pleased to have the Scanlan Foundation once again participating in the growth of EWRC", said Curt Haffner, executive director.

EWRC Described As The Mecca of All Things Retreat



St. Louis Confirmation Retreat

Dear Eagle's Wings Retreat Center,

I had the great honor and privilege of bringing our teens to your facility for our Confirmation Retreat. I want to thank you for the amazing blessing of Eagle's Wings. Having been to many retreat facilities in years past, I can honestly say that Eagle's Wings is the mecca of all things retreat. Everything from the abundance of prayer and meditation areas, to the amazing kitchen, to the excellent technology blew me away. Mostly though, it is the true and real presence of the Holy Spirit flowing all around - in both the staff and the grounds that kept me filled with gratitude and awe.

Blessings to you and thank you so much,

Alissa Molina
 Youth Confirmation Coordinator
 St. Louis King of France, Austin

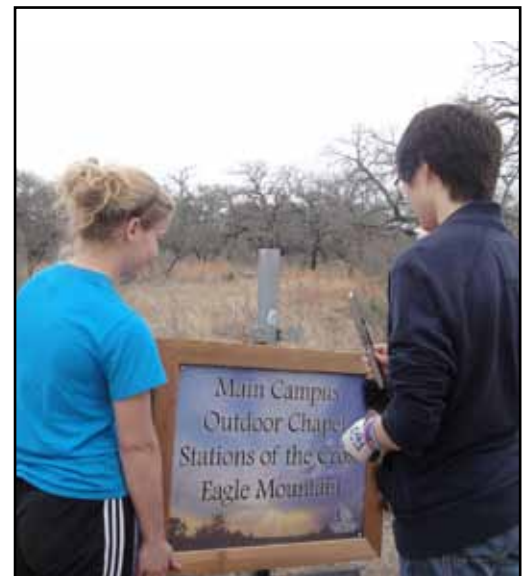
GODSTOCK
 OUT OF THE DEPTHS - DIOCESE OF AUSTIN

Early Registration April 8
Godstock April 30 - May 1

New Signs Installed By St. Thomas More Group



Signs Donated by



Opportunity...

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Wings.

Eagle's Wings offers opportunities for Eagle Scout projects. Many Eagle Scouts have found Eagle's Wings to be the perfect place to create a worthwhile project for God's greater honor and glory. Some of the Eagle Scout projects include two low-elements courses by Adam Arlitt, a low-level challenge course and two compass courses by Brad Billac, gazebo benches by Clay Billac, a bridge to the Marian Grotto by James Buckley, two flag poles installed by Jacob Chavez, stations of the cross benches by Alex Dolan, Meditation Mountain benches by Michael Freidberg, a large cross at the twelfth station by Jack Guenther, a low-water concrete bridge by David Laurent, sixteen wooden directional signs by Matthew Scheible, a Horseshoe - Washer Recreation Area by Donald Flynn, and St. Helen's Campsite at the base of Meditation Mountain by Kevin Snook. These Eagle Scout projects require hours and hours of coordination, work, and dedication on the part of the Eagle Scouts, their troops, their families, and their friends. All of us at Eagle's Wings are lifted up every time we see one of their projects and thank God for these special young men.

Another very important opportunity is the need for all of us to pray for our retreatants at Eagle's Wings. Our youth constantly receive conflicting messages and need God's help to sort it all out. Please consider praying for them. Every weekend there is a retreat or two at Eagle's Wings, and what bet-

ter way could you help the success of those retreats than by praying for retreatants? You can specify a particular person, or just ask God to pick the one who needs your prayers the most. On the weekend of April 30th- May 1st, Eagle's Wings will host Godstock. In Fall 2011 we plan to have another diocesan-wide Confirmation retreat. Both of these events offer golden opportunities for you to pray and make a silent difference in the lives of the youth in our Catholic Diocese.

So, consider all the opportunities God is opening up for you at Eagle's Wings, pray about it, and pick the one(s) that are right for you. You'll be changing lives in ways you never dreamed.

On the subject of opportunity, since this is the first newsletter after I became Eagle's Wings Board President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Noonan and Katie and Curt Haffner for all

their help and patience in getting me oriented to my new position. Also I would like to thank Katie, Curt, and Joe for their confidence in me and for their generosity in seeing that the presidency has moved on to someone other than the founding members. For my part, I don't expect to be able to fill their shoes, but will do my best to help Eagle's Wings in whatever way God leads me. When I look around Eagle's Wings and see how God has used so many people to make it possible, I am in awe of all that has been done. This is a grace-filled time in the development of Eagle's Wings. How fortunate we all are to be witnessing the starting of the most important structure of the retreat center – the chapel where all retreatants will have the opportunity to pray and give glory to God. All of us truly are blessed to be part of God's retreat center and the opportunities it offers for so very many people.



Site prep for the new Chapel

Meet The EWRC Board President

Lee Winkler Board President

Lee Winkler was first elected to the EWRC board in 2009 and is currently serving as president. She and her husband, Ellis, have three grown daughters and nine grandchildren. They live in Burnet where Lee serves as Executive Director of Literacy Highland Lakes, a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) non-profit which provides free classes and free tutoring in GED Preparation, Basic Reading, English as a Second Language and Citizenship Preparation for adults in the Highland Lakes area.

Lee is a retired high school English teacher and high school librarian. She received a BS in English from the University of Houston and a Master's in Library Science from Sam Houston State University. She loves to read and enjoys working with native plants and just being with nature. She also loves to sew and quilt although she doesn't seem to have much time to do that.

She says, "The very first time I saw Eagle's Wings, when Katie, Curt and Joe had their first open house, it was obvious to me that Eagle's Wings was a special place for youth to spend time with God. When I see and hear all the wrong messages the youth of today are bombarded with I am so very thankful there is a place like Eagle's Wings to counteract those wrong messages and to give the students a chance to be lifted up on Eagle's Wings to a whole new level of existence, a whole new way of seeing things, and a whole new way of being with God. I feel blessed to be a small part of what is happening at Eagle's Wings and know that the work we do for God's retreat center is making a difference in the lives of our youth."

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