

EAGLE'S WINGS NEWS

Volume 6

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www.EaglesWingsRetreatCenter.org

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New Entry and Signs Completed

We Just Plant the Seeds...

By Katie Haffner

He said, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how." Mark 4: 26-27 Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is the soil where God is the Master Gardener. I have the privilege at Eagle's Wings as Director of Operations to see the seeds of faith being planted in our youth and our adults. Since the opening of the main campus on September 17 we have held retreats for ACTS communities and Confirmation

retreats for our youth. In addition, we have had a diversity of other retreats in different age groups, faith communities, family retreats and scouting programs. From September 17, 2009, to date, we have had 36 retreats serving over 1,837 people. I have come to realize that it is not our job to worry about how fast things are growing and whose plants are bigger. We need to focus on the kind of seeds and where and when the seeds are being scattered for the spiritual lives of those who come to a place like Eagle's Wings for spiritual renewal.

...and Til The Soil

By Msgr. Elmer Holtman

When I'm asked to quote one of my favorite Scripture passages my first thought goes to Matthew 13; 4-12. "One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what he sowed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Part of it fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it began

to wither for lack of roots." I think we all know the parable from here which ends with the description of the seed that landed on good soil and yielded grain a hundred fold. It's this last illustration that really rings true to me.

Being an old farm boy I know the importance of quality soil preparation if you want to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Sometimes one will find that the soil they are

standing on only needs tilling and planting. That wasn't the case when I moved to the beautiful rocky and hilly terrain here at Eagle's Wings. Now if I had been writing the parable from here I could have added several more debilitating conditions like the feral hogs and deer.

My love for working the soil and watching the plants grow was

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\$50,000 Challenge Donation

Two Dorms, Chapel and Rec Area Included in Phase III Project Plans

By Curt Haffner

It's hard to believe that the main campus has now been open for over 6 months. Usage of the retreat center's facilities has increased significantly and the need for Phase III is clear. We are again at capacity and already scheduling retreats for 2011 and filling quickly.

Phase III will include two additional dormitories. This space will enable us to serve more and larger groups and the Chapel, which will provide additional meeting space and a bigger area for large group masses and adoration, as well as a day chapel for daily mass. We also recognize the need to complete the recreational area so that youth groups also have a place to play. The

completion of this part of the Master Plan will also enable Eagle's Wings to move forward with requested summer programs. Phase III is consistent with the stated mission and goals of Eagle's Wings.

The cost of Phase III, based on our most current estimates, is approximately \$950,000.00. Due to efficiencies and gifts in kind, Eagle's Wings is rolling over \$150,000.00 from the now completed Phase II to Phase III construction. Eagle's Wings has also been presented with a \$50,000.00 challenge donation toward the chapel. The Challenge donation will match every donation received by Eagle's Wings up to \$50,000.00. We have a good start and now we need your help

with Phase III. We are launching a campaign to raise \$750,000 so that we can begin construction of Phase III.

The sooner we can begin construction the sooner we will be able to serve larger and more groups. Please prayerfully consider how you can help Eagle's Wings achieve this next step in its ministry to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment. Considering the many ways one can invest today, this investment pays huge dividends. It transforms cash into an environment where young and old may see life differently and truly find love and joy and then pass it on to others. What a great return on investment!!!!

Approximately 500 Expected

Godstock V Planned May 1 & 2 At Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

Eagle's Wings will host the 5th annual Godstock on May 1-2. Godstock is a 24 hour Catholic music festival for high school teens. Godstock was conceived by local youth ministers for the youth of the Austin diocese to offer young people an opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. We are planning for about 500 youth & their chaperones to attend this year. That's a lot of seeds of faith being scattered. Keep them in your prayers.

This year's keynote speaker is Father Brian McMaster,

Vocation Director for the Diocese of Austin.

Along with the many bands playing throughout the day activities will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, rosary making, Reconciliation, guided meditations and Liturgy of the Hours. Other activities will include games, hiking, a rock climbing wall and sleeping under the stars of Texas.

For more information or to register go to www.austingodstock.com

...and Til The Soil

worth the extra challenge I faced in the location I am living. The first thing I realized is that I couldn't do it without help. First the STM Men's Club set up raised beds and then Katie, Joe, and Carol Sedlacek hauled in the soil I had selected from the creek bottom. So with their help and my tilling and enriching the soil the little garden spot that had formerly been overrun with cactus and five or six other sticker bearing plants is now producing vegetables in every shade of green.

Now if I would have had to do all this by myself I'd still be talking about my garden in the future tense. Experiences like this continually

remind me that God does not intend for me to stand alone here at Eagle's Wings but to reach out and invite others to discover their own time, talent and treasure to continue in the direction the Spirit is leading us.

The next plot of soil that I am preparing is that of our chapel. We already have some plans for a beautiful building seating 250, along with an adjoined adoration chapel.

It is my hope that you share with me the passion I have to someday in the near future have a dedicated chapel here at Eagle's Wings for our liturgies and adoration. Won't you help me bring in the Good Soil?



Western Deanery Women ACTS singing for their supper



St. Mary's Wimberly Confirmation Retreat

Wish List...

- Picnic Table*
- Large Wall Tents*
- Hoes, rakes & shovels*
- Wooden Benches/chairs*
- Room air conditioners*
- Religious Articles*
- Large Crucifixes*

Kitchen/Barbeque Pavilion Plans Outgrow Original Dreams

All those involved with Eagle's Wings development have been impressed with God's handiwork. The physical campus has proved to be a Christ centered environment for retreats. The 2 new dorms are comfortable and very youth friendly. The commercial kitchen in the dining hall has only received rave reviews. A priest friend of ours once said, "Dream big because God even dreams bigger." This has been the case with the new kitchen. The kitchen is equipped with all the needs of even a gourmet cook (and we have had a few gourmet cooks using the new kitchen). A soon to be finished project is our new covered barbeque pavilion which includes a donated wood fired stone pizza oven and an open-pit barbecue along with some gas grills.

During a recent visit, Betsy Foarde, Youth Minister at St. Alberts in Austin said, "Eagle's Wings is my new favorite retreat center".

There is always the sense that God is watching over all His volunteers at Eagle's Wings and the whisper in our ears is "Well done, good & faithful servants."






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 Holy Vietnamese Martyr Catholic Church
 Spring Youth Camp**

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