

# The Mission vs. The Passion

By Joe Noonan

Recently someone suggested to me that the mission of Eagle's Wings needed to be expressed in writing with passion. Well to state the mission is easy: The mission of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is to serve Catholic and other Christian youth and to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment. I think that's pretty self-explanatory but now to write in words with passion is a whole different animal. When you talk about your passion on a subject, usually your voice throws in different pitches, your eyes start to gleam and you talk very excited and this along with your words

gets the point across. So how do you do this in an article? Well I'm not a novelist or journalist so I thought I would give you some clues to our passion based on experiences here at Eagle's Wings. The morning I wrote this I decided to start by reading the Bible. The first thing I did was to randomly open the Bible to *ACTS 2:17* "It will come to pass in the last days", God says, "that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams."

Now this verse brought lots of thoughts to mind so I decided to explore these

thoughts. Since the very first God-stock in 2006, and every year since then, it truly amazes me to see hundreds of teens kneel during Adoration in a pasture containing a few stickers and cactus. They do it with such reverence for as long 30 minutes. The Holy Spirit truly touches these teens during this event and the many retreats held at Eagle's Wings. Then I thought of many of the retreats where people had been touched by the Holy Spirit and they in turn started to prophesize to their peers and share their renewed faith. Being a witness to this kind of transformation is what makes this project such a fulfilling ministry. The love and support that both retreatants and retreat teams share is amazing. It demonstrates God's love for us and how he shares it with us.

Now I know that I haven't adequately expressed the passion we have for this ministry, you just have to experience it or just ask me sometime and see if my eyes and voice go into overdrive.

## Fall Festival Set Oct. 24

Everyone is invited to a fun afternoon for the 3rd Annual Fall Festival at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in Burnet, Texas. Make plans now to spend an afternoon of fun and fellowship on Sunday, October 24 from 12 noon to 3:00pm. Free Admission!! Join us for contra dancing, silent auction, rock climbing, hayrides, games, music, bounce house, bingo, face painting and lunch (homemade pizza, burgers & hot dogs). Visit [www.ewrc.org](http://www.ewrc.org) for directions or call 512-715-0017 Don't miss the fun, see you there!



*New statue donated*

# God's Connection To The Heart For The St. Theresa's 20 Somethings Group

## *Retreats provide amazing opportunity...*

There is something very special about setting aside an entire weekend to concentrate solely on building one's relationship with God and others. Young adults in their twenties often find it difficult to make

## *Facilities provide perfect setting...*

"Eagle's Wings retreat center provided an excellent facility for the Catholic 20-Somethings' 5th Annual Retreat! The large facility and kitchen provided all the indoor space we needed, and the dorms had a place for everyone to sleep. The new buildings are truly a blessing, especially with a chapel right in the middle of the main campus building, with Eucharistic presence! As young adults, we appreciated having Jesus right there the whole weekend, including the ability to celebrate mass and have adoration! It was the perfect venue for a Catholic retreat!"

*Trey Ange*

## *Christ Centered way to reflect...*

As young adults searching for our place in the world after college, this retreat was a Christ-centered way to reflect on our lives where they were at that moment and where God might be leading us in the future.

*Amy Lavergne*

time for prayer and reflection in the midst of their busy schedules, and retreats provide us with an amazing opportunity to refresh our spirits and strengthen our faith lives while surrounded by a supportive community of fellow Catholics.

One aspect of the Catholic 20-Somethings retreat that I found particularly meaningful was the in-depth exploration of *1 Timothy 4:12*, which was the Bible verse that had been chosen for our theme. Every speaker and small

group session focused on a different virtue contained in that verse, and how we as young people can serve as good examples of Christian behavior. Having this theme throughout the retreat gave direction to our personal meditations as well as our conversations with each other, and I believe that we all came away from the retreat with a much deeper understanding of how to apply the message of *1 Timothy 4:12* in our daily lives.

*Kelly Dupen*



*St. Theresa's 20 Something Group*

## *Retreats renew faith...*

Retreats are one of my favorite experiences for renewing my faith. I attend retreats to recharge my faith batteries, get closer to God and work on my relationship with him. In addition, I am able to get closer to friends and colleagues, experience nature, belong to a community and have fun.

I feel that sometimes it takes some

time in a place away from the everyday hustle of life. You need to relax and be able to have some quiet time to reflect on what God is speaking to you. Retreats are a perfect way to open up to God and let Him guide you without having to worry about what's next to do or where else we need to go.

*Sabrina Vega*

# God's Connection To The Heart For The St. Theresa's 20 Somethings Group

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## *Faith life rejuvenated...*

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Our young adults group formed a leadership team that met for months in preparation for our retreat at Eagle's Wings. I was personally very anxious about how everything would work out. When I reached the retreat center, I found myself loured to the amazing facility's kitchen busying myself with food preparations. A friend of mine approached me and challenged me to participate in the retreat by saying something like: "I've had retreats where I've spent the whole weekend in the kitchen... the weekend ends in the blink of an eye, and I'm left wondering where it went". I was then able to calm down, and realize that the facilities were amazing, we had tons of retreatants to help serve + prep the food, and my anxiety was simply preventing me from opening up to the gifts God had for me at the retreat. So I made a conscious decision to stop freaking out : ). It wasn't just about making that decision though... I had to ask God for help. So I strolled over to the beautiful Adoration chapel. I asked God to take my "agenda for the retreat" (having perfect meals) and make it His Will.

I then had the courage to join my share group (half-way into the retreat), and I enjoyed the conversation... while it was such a simple

realization, it was really profound... we realized that Isaiah 40:31 was the namesake of the retreat center. We all shared our different experiences with the beautiful verse... one girl noted that the song Eagle's Wings ("and I will raise you up on eagle's wings...") is her favorite song. I shared that it is the song I remember from one of my Grandmother's funerals.

To sum it up, personally, I gained a sense of encouragement through the retreat at Eagle's Wings. My faith life has been rejuvenated as a result of the retreat. I'm now working on daily taking a few minutes to give the day away to God. There are memories flooding in my heart now from the weekend... I got the chance to watch the sunrise Sunday morning... and it was a beautifully quiet spiritual experi-

ence. We were able to have an affirmation activity at the end of the retreat which was particularly enriching for me. The memories are endless : )

From our group's perspective, I know the unobtrusive + helpful interaction with the Eagle's Wings' staff meant a lot to us. We were given the freedom to creatively put on the retreat... never once did Katie, Curt, and Joe tell us we couldn't do something... they'd simply help us solve problems that came up. And it also meant a lot to us that Katie + Curt supported and encouraged our Catholic ministry... for example, Katie and her husband Curt joined our group for Sunday Mass. Overall we can't thank Eagle's Wings enough for hosting our Catholic 20-Somethings!

*Anna P. Meier*



*Fr. Brian McMaster Proclaiming The Word*



*Mike Peraino tosses dough for new pizza oven*

***Raffle Tickets Available  
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***Donations needed for the Fall Festival Silent Auction***



*Raffle set at Fall Festival for Eagle Quilt donated by Tom & Janet Herzog*



*Group from Christ Incarnate Word at Low-level Challenge Course*

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