

◆◆ FROM THE RECTOR ◆◆

Dear Friends in Christ:

This week I would like to write to you about a diocesan event that is taking place next month: a retreat called YOUTH 2000.

Suddenly I am aware that I should begin with a description of what we mean by "retreat." To make a retreat is to withdraw from the routine and distractions of one's daily life to spend time with the Lord in an intentional way. A classic retreat would last at least several days, would involve leaving home for a place of solitude, and would include a lot of silence (making a place for prayer and introspection).

In recent years, the word "retreat" has been used quite broadly - even to apply to a program of a couple of hours presented to children (for example, as preparation for First Communion).

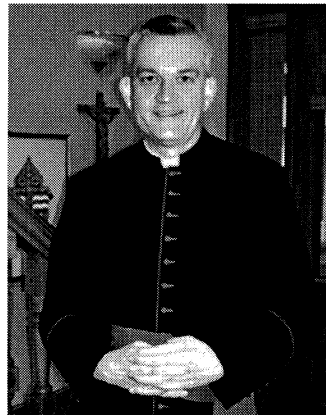
YOUTH 2000 is not a retreat in the strict, classical sense. It is a weekend program, but most of the participants will be going home at night. There is certainly time for silence and prayer - and a great focus on the Sacraments - but there is more group activity (talks, discussions) than a retreat in the old style would include. A classic retreat is very much a solitary experience; YOUTH 2000 is meant to be very *personal*, but is very much a communal experience as well.

I have never personally experienced YOUTH 2000, but from many good things I have heard, I believe it to be an excellent program. The fullness of the Faith is presented in a joyful and enthusiastic way. There is a great emphasis on the Sacraments - especially Penance and the Eucharist. The real challenges of contemporary life are faced squarely. Another benefit is the involvement of really inspiring Religious - brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (the community founded by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, for those who know that name).

I write about this YOUTH 2000 today for two reasons. First, to encourage teenagers and their parents to consider attending this retreat, being held at the Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center on the weekend of March 20-22. I say teenagers because the minimum age to participate is 13. Theoretically, the weekend is open to anyone to age 30 . . . but in reality I would expect that the oldest participants would be in college.

Second, to encourage adult parishioners - and perhaps especially younger adult parishioners - to consider helping with the retreat. Many practical jobs that need to be done do not require special theological or spiritual preparation. But it is a great way to be of service to young people who are trying to grow in their faith. And - just as important - offers you some of the benefits of the retreat (hearing a talk or two, sharing the experience).

I hope to be at YOUTH 2000 to help with confessions. If you would like to be there as well (as a participant or to help) , please contact Monica Freng in the parish office.



Msgr. Kevin D. Holmes

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, February 9

12:10 pm at St. Patrick

† Jane Martin

5:15 pm at Holy Redeemer

† Ann Meyer

Tuesday, February 10 – St. Scholastica

12:10 pm at St. Patrick

† Raymond and Gertrude Schappe

5:15 pm at Holy Redeemer

† Bill Bailey

Wednesday, February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

12:10 pm at St. Patrick

† Bea Tormey

5:15 pm at Holy Redeemer

† Roy Crapser

Thursday, February 12

12:10 pm at St. Patrick

Special Intention: Megan Keaveny

5:15 pm at Holy Redeemer

Deceased of Michael Newman Family

Friday, February 13

12:10 pm at St. Patrick

† Marie A. Schwenn

5:15 pm at Holy Redeemer

Poor Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, February 14 – SS. Cyril & Methodius

8:00 am at Holy Redeemer

Rose and † Hal Roche

5:00 pm at St. Patrick (Vigil)

† Martin & Christoph Families

6:30 pm in Spanish at Holy Redeemer (Vigil)

Deceased of Michael Newman Family

Sunday, February 15

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am at Holy Redeemer

† Betty Blied

11:00 am at St. Patrick

† Pat McCormick

11:30 am in Spanish at Holy Redeemer

People of the Cathedral Parish

5:00 pm at Holy Redeemer

† Eugene C. Bzdawka

Tridentine Mass

Sexagesima Sunday

7:00 am at Holy Redeemer

Deceased of Michael Newman Family