Volume 4:3 Christmas, 2008

Along the way

"Were not our hearts burning within us as he opened the Scriptures for us along the way." – Luke 24:32

A publication of **sabbath retreats** the preaching ministry of Father Lou Papes

A "Plan B" retirement

Though I will turn 70 on February 27, retirement is out of the question. The current economic crisis has squelched much anticipated plans

But I have never been one to throw in the towel, so I am going to spend the next few months trying to develop a *Plan B.*

Plan A had been to continue ministry part-time and to pursue some longed-for leisure activities such as a return to community theater, a return to teaching and some travel outside the States.

Plan B calls for continued full time ministry with Food for the Poor as well as the preaching of parish missions with enough scaling back on the latter to allow for some of those retirement activities.

One such activity involves the dream of visiting the 13th century cathedrals of France. The idea for such a pilgrimage came to me from Emile Male's classic *The Gothic Image*, which documents the artistic significance of those edifices. Male's thesis was that the religious art of the 13th century was actually the catechism of the people. This pilgrimage could also provide the basis of a series of lectures on the phenomenon of Male's thesis.

I have a former student who now lives in Paris and an old friend who visits there regularly, either of whom could provide the services of a "guide."

If there is any interest out there in joining me for a week or two some time in 2009? Let me know.

Notre Dame de Paris is the cathedral of Paris and is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.

Homilies finally on the Web

Sabbath Reflections is the newest addition to the **sabbath retreats** website *www.sabbathretreats.org*. Each weekend a "reflection" is posted on the website under the link "Reflections." Some are homilies from the last 20 years preached on that particular Sunday in the liturgical cycle. Some are compilations of homilies for a particular Sunday. All have been updated to include current circumstances while retaining images and experiences that defy editing.

Beginning the with Cycle B (Advent 2008), all three cycles will be posted eventually. The page will include a number of helpful features for the visitor:

- A direct link to the Sunday Scriptures from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website;
- Two brief essays that offer my understanding of the homiletic experience (with more to come);
- An opportunity to comment on the reflection for each Sunday;
- A guided reflection for carrying the homiletic experience through the week;
- A link to previously posted homilies.

***ALSO REMEMBER**: If you are able to receive this newsletter on the Internet, please send me your email address: **loupapes@ameritech.net** – it would save on printing and postage.*

IN MEMORIAM ~ Marcella Papes Kocianic 1923-2008

She was 15 years old when she began babysitting her newborn twin brother and sister. To little "Junior" -- if not to little "Dolly" as well -- she was a fairy princess, tender and caring, elegant and beautiful, bestowing surprises as if with a magic wand. Those childhood images would never fade.

So our sister Marcy's final days were all the more difficult as the cancer, discovered in early August, began to take its terrible toll. She was courageous in confronting this final challenge, living up to the lyrics of a contemporary song that caught her interest after the triple trauma of the deaths of our mother, her husband, and our brother who was nearest to her in age -- all within a span eight months in 1990-91.

Listen as your day unfolds
Challenge what the future holds
Try to keep your head up to the sky
Lovers they may cause you tears
Go ahead release your fears
Stand up and be counted
Don't be shamed to cry

You gotta be bad
You gotta be bold
You gotta be wiser
You gotta be hard
You gotta be tough
You gotta be stronger
You gotta be cool
You gotta be calm
You gotta stay together
All i know all i know is love will save the day

But more than the lyrics of a song, it was the loving care and presence of our sister-in-law Doris, who came from Florida, and my twin Maryann, who came from California, that sustained her in the two months before her death. Along with Marcy's ever faithful neighbor Dianne Salveter, these three women have given new meaning to the term "heroism." Such self-sacrificing service will never be forgotten and, prayerfully, will bring them the blessings they so richly deserve.

Marcy's family is also grateful to the many who offered their prayers during her illness. The power of these prayers was evident on Monday morning, December 1st at a liturgy I was celebrating with the Carmelite community. At almost the exact moment when Sister Mary Viatori offered a Prayer of the Faithful for Marcy, Marcy entered eternal rest.

A nurse for many years before her marriage in 1958 to Bill Kocianic with whom she had gone to grade school, Marcy is survived by her three sons Bill (wife Tia), John (wife Mary Beth), Neil and by her granddaughter Elizabeth (Patrick) Radachi. Her husband Bill died 1991.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John Vianney Church in Mentor, OH on December 4.

The family encourages donations in Marcy's honor to the ministry of Food for The Poor, 6401 Lyons Rd. Coconut Creek, FL 33097 or on the web at www.foodforthepoor.com

Preaching Schedule: Winter, 2009

Food for the Poor preaching assignments unless otherwise noted.

January 3-4	St. Ann	Butte, MT
January 10-11		
January 17-18	St. Rita	Dayton, OH
January 24-25	St. Brigid	Liberty, IL
Jan. 31-Feb. 1	Holy Angels	Sandusky, OH
February 7-8	St. Frances Cabrini	Springfield, IL
February 14-15	Our Lady of Good Counsel	San Leandro, CA
February 21-22		
Feb. 26-Mar. 5	**VACATION ~ 70th Birthday February 27 !**	
March 7-10 *	***St. Mary***	***Mt. Morris, MI***
March 14-17 *	***Blessed Sacrament***	***Grand Island, NE***
March 21-22	Immaculate Conception	Fountain City, WI
March 28-April 1 *	***St. Philip***	***Green Bay, WI***

**** Sabbath Retreats Parish Missions***

Religious women provide vision and leadership

Though Bishops carved out the shape of a renewed and potentially vibrant Church for the modern world at the Second Vatican Council, and though theologians grounded that vision in the Church's Tradition, it was, in my opinion, the religious women of this country who brought the spirit of the Council to the People of God.

As religious women discerned that a more educated lay population could enter the teaching field as easily as they, the challenges of the Vatican II documents heralded a call to re-vision their charism, paving the way for greater involvement in the parishes and reaffirming the Gospel mandate to embrace the alienated and the marginalized

Two examples of their impact on the parish level are especially evidenced by the outstanding pastoral vision and leadership provided by the two sisters who headed the Secretariat for Parish Life in the Cleveland Diocese: Sister Catherine Lee, CSJ (1986 to 1995) and Sister Mary Harwood, SND (1995 to the present).

Heading the largest non-public school district in Ohio, religious women have educational vision and leadership in the Cleveland Diocese. Sister Frances Flanigan, H.M. headed the Secretariat for Catholic Education from 1975 to 1983; Sister Christine Vladimiroff, OSB from 1983-1991, and Sister Carol Ann Smith, HM from 1992 to 2006.

There is no area in which religious women have more profoundly witnessed vision and leadership than in the their work with the alienated and the marginalized. Wherever the Diocese of Cleveland is involved in social justice issues, religious women are in the forefront.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rocky River, for example, are the driving force behind such social service agencies as Transitional Housing, Westside Catholic Center, the River's Edge and the Women's Outreach. Now that they have merged with several other congregations they are an even more powerful and effective voice on the issues of peace, justice and the protection of the environment.

The Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland are another religious community that has been in the forefront of leadership in the Diocese of Cleveland. Their charism of education is more diverse and more far-reaching than ever in their history. Today Ursulines are still in Catholic education, especially at Ursuline College, Villa Angela-Saint Joseph High School, Beaumont School for Girls and the remarkable Urban Community School. But Ursuline Sisters also educate people to navigate career transitions, learn constructive approaches to foster parenting, re-enter society after incarceration, handle the challenges of care-giving and celebrate the gifts that come with age.

Every year at this time the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up throughout the country. In the Cleveland Diocese it has consistently been the single largest "second collection." The reason is clear: the people of the Diocese of Cleveland recognize that providing vision and leadership has been, is and always will be what distinguishes religious women in this diocese.

Sister Sebastian Boylan, O.S.U.
1916-2008

Fifty years this coming Spring, Sister Sebastian hired me, a twenty year-old college junior, as the teacher of 56 sixth graders at St. Therese School in Garfield Heights. For the next four years this brilliant educator mentored me into a fairly credible teacher.

Her devotion to the Good Shepherd was best expressed in how Sister Sebastian treated her teachers and students. Like the Good Shepherd, Sister was known for leading, guiding, protecting, nourishing.

The ones who needed her the most, like me and the school "bad boys," always received her special care.

I presided and preached at her Mass of Christian Burial on November 24 at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity at the Ursuline Motherhouse in Pepper Pike.

Sister Rose Danich, O.P.
1920-2008

Sister Rose Barbara was my third and fourth grade teacher at Saint Lawrence School here in Cleveland.

She admitted in later years that she was fresh out of the Novitiate when she began teaching us, but she was a pro nonetheless.

When she left teaching she became a pastoral minister in a number of parishes and when she retired at the age of 83 (!) she was ministering in New Mexico, involved in a coalition on behalf of homeless women as well as serving in a religious education program.

We stayed in touch over the last 50+ years. I was as honored to call her friend as I was to celebrate her Mass of Christian Burial on September 19 at the Maria Center in Adrian, Michigan.

A Blessed Christmas
A New Year of Great Promise

This year Christmas is celebrated in very difficult times for so many of the people in our country and around the world. Wars and an economic crisis would seem to threaten the promise this holy season offers.

But there is reason to hope not just in that promise, but in what appears to be the dawning of a new era calling each one of us to reconciliation and genuine cooperation. The New Year will bring challenges unlike anything in our life-time. But it is the promise of Christmas that enables us to say, "Yes, we can!" To that let's say "Amen!"

--Fr. Lou
Christmas, 2008

Windows from St. John Neumann Church, East Freetown, MA
The artist is Barbara Cunha, a parishioner and an artist in glass.

sabbath retreats

Rev. Lou Papes
4519 West 193rd Street
Cleveland, OH 44135

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED