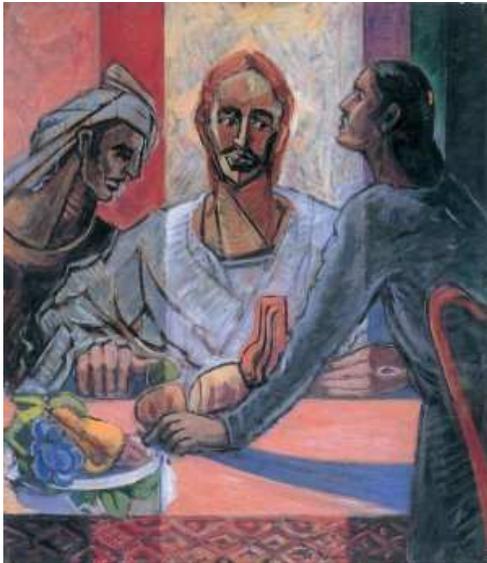


Along the way

"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

From memory to mission: a parish mission for the easter season



"Emmaus" by Roy de Masitre
The Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art

A major conflict arises when 95% of all requests for Parish Missions are sought for the Lenten Season. Even accepting the week of Ash Wednesday, there are only six possible weeks for a ministry like Sabbath Retreats to book parish retreats.

To make other liturgical seasons as attractive for parish missions, Sabbath Retreats is offering a version of the popular "Disciples for the 21st Century" in an Easter motif. To be advertised as "Easter Disciples: From Memory to Mission," this retreat of three nights will focus on an active discipleship by recalling the stories of the Lenten and Triduum experience.

Already the Gary Cluster Parishes (Indiana) have opted for the new theme, scheduling their Easter Mission for April 17-20, 2010. Currently there are two more weeks in the Easter Season still open.

A Parish Mission in Tallahassee, FL this past July proved that even the summer can work. Advent dates have also been very successful in the past. The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a great way to start off the New Year. The six weeks in Lent is a tight squeeze. There are other liturgical seasons besides Lent for a parish retreat!

A hidden support group...

Over the past several years a number of friends and former colleagues in ministry have been quietly and generously advising and guiding the ministry reported on in this newsletter. They have been companions on a journey *ALONG THE WAY*.

Even before I left parish ministry to take up the cause of the poor in Central America and the Caribbean, colleagues and friends like Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU, Howard Erlichman, and Pat McHugh were consistently supportive. Whether it was professional advice or just a shoulder to lean on they and others were always there.

Being disengaged, to a certain extent, from the local scene after 1999 meant less contact with family; yet they made concerted effort to stay in touch in spite of my erratic schedule. Absent weddings and funerals, my cousins are quick to connect.

The addition of posted homilies on the Internet increased involvement from a number of people. Being involved in the text of a homily for a number of days makes one oblivious to typos. Sr. Donna Emerson, CSJ (we were in graduate school together), my twin sister Maryann Semancik, Sr. Thelma Gerhardt, CSJ, and friends Howard Erlichman and John Covolo alternately proofread the final draft before I post it on the Internet.

To all these and so many more who are there hidden but always present: Thanks!

Now you can help...

The homiletic enterprise is the single most influential part of priestly ministry. The Sunday homily is **the** only place the priest comes into contact with the largest number of faithful on a regular basis.

In my first assignment at St. Peter in Lorain, Ohio, I formed homily boards, who for the first couple of years critiqued my homilies on a regular basis.

In the first year with Food for the Poor, I had randomly selected people in several of the churches I visited to evaluate the homilies I preached on behalf of the poor.

I firmly believe in the evaluation and input of those to whom I preach. My "online congregation" is no different. Since the end of the first year of these homilies is approaching, I would ask your help.

Shortly all who receive my homilies by email, and others from among visitors to my website, will be asked to respond to an online evaluation form. I would be so gifted by your response.

A former lay teacher returns to celebrate Mass

On Labor Day I presided at the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Therese in Garfield Heights where I began my teaching career 50 years ago.

I was then beginning my junior year at John Carroll and could no longer afford the \$17.50 a credit hour. I had learned that teachers were desperately needed in Catholic grade schools so I took a stab at it.

As "Mr. Papes," I was a mere 20 years old when interviewed by Father Paul Hritz, then an associate pastor. I was to become the first male on the faculty, teaching language arts to 56 sixth graders each morning and another 54 in the afternoon. I earned a whopping \$3000 a year!

Back then the need was so great that the State granted non-tax-supported schools a "cadet teaching certificate," which allowed someone with as little as two years of college to teach. I was assigned to teach in the basement of the "Portable Building," a prefab wooden structure. Ursuline Sister Aloysius was on the other side of a canvas sliding wall with 50 plus fifth graders.

When I began, I had no idea what I was doing. But the kids were wonderful and the Ursuline Nuns, especially our principal Sister Sebastian, were role models for the rest of my twenty-four years in education."

I taught at St. Therese until 1963 when I began teaching at Padua Franciscan High School in Parma. In 1973, at the end of my term as President of the Ohio Council of Teachers of English, I was appointed the English Consultant for the Ohio Department of Education. I joined the faculty of Chagrin Falls High School in 1974. In 1983, ending a remarkable 24-year teaching career, I entered St. Mary Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland.

Cathedral pilgrimage an awesome memory

If there were one photo of the hundreds I took on the Pilgrimage to the 13th century cathedrals in France this past summer it would be the one pictured here.

The sheer immensity and towering symmetry of the architecture is captured in this photo of a side aisle of the Cathedral of St. Étienne in Bourges.

For eight days with good weather (only two days of rain), Ursuline Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec and I visited six cathedrals and two other historic churches of the period.

The hospitality of the priests of the Congregation in Mission (the Vincentians) in Paris graciously allowed us to have a comfortable place to stay. The Metro Station directly across the street also made it convenient.

At the suggestion of a former high school student now a journalist living in Paris, I did bring along a pair of binoculars which made the stained glass windows of those magnificent cathedrals literally come alive!

I think we would seriously consider another visit, perhaps as "tour guides" -- if there were any interest out there!



Preaching Schedule: Fall, 2009

Food for the Poor preaching assignments unless otherwise noted.

OCTOBER, 2009

October 3-4	Ss. Simon and Jude	West Jefferson, OH
October 10-11	Sacred Heart	Topeka, KS
October 17-18	St. Timothy	Morro Bay, CA
October 24-25	St. Ann	Olmitz, KS

NOVEMBER, 2009

Oct 31-Nov. 1	St. Justin Martyr	Eastlake, OH
November 7-8	St. Patrick	Newport, NH
November 14-15	St. Clement	Lakewood, OH
November 28-29	St. Thomas	Knox, IN