

# 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

## Sabbath retreats goes international

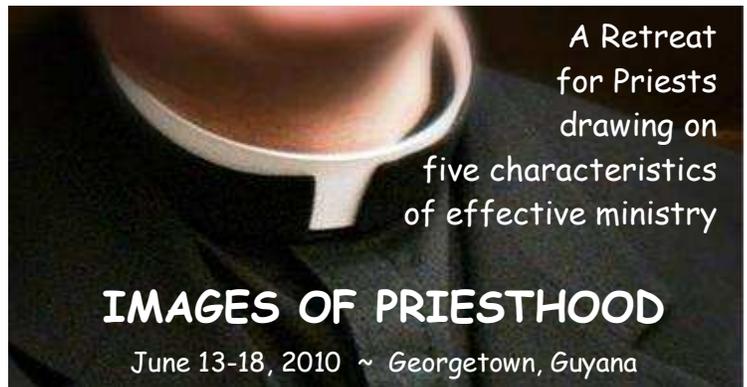
### Priests in Guyana

When I accepted the invitation from Bishop Francis Alleyne to preach a retreat to my brother priests in Georgetown, Guyana, I had little idea of what I could possibly say to these men whose ministry is vastly different from my own.

The preparation for this preaching assignment has turned out to be the most challenging of my nearly 22 years in the priesthood. It has led me not only to research and study the priestly ministry of the priests in Guyana, but has, more importantly, prompted me to look at my own ministry.

The challenges currently faced by the priests today test our vocation every day. The image of the Church as a credible moral force has come under widespread attack. Local churches are faced with people's objections to the administration of bishops, which often places local pastors in an uncomfortable and unenviable position. These issues are present wherever priests minister. So the retreat theme I have chosen, *Images of Priesthood*, has taken on a universal significance.

This is looking like a retreat I will facilitate, but also one I will make along with the priests of Guyana.



A Retreat  
for Priests  
drawing on  
five characteristics  
of effective ministry

### IMAGES OF PRIESTHOOD

June 13-18, 2010 ~ Georgetown, Guyana

### Religious Life as Cosmic Blessing

A retreat for the  
Ursuline Sisters of Saskatoon  
and other women religious

Facilitated by  
Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec, OSU  
and Fr. Lou Papes

August 1-6 2010  
Queen's House Retreat Center  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

### Religious in Saskatchewan

The investigation of religious women in America by the Vatican and criticism over their breaking with the American hierarchy on the recent Health Care legislation, have put religious women in this country in the media spotlight. That is sad.

It's sad because these women have been a real blessing to the institutional Church and to the People of God, who are the Church. They are truly a **cosmic blessing**.

They are the ones who brought Gospel values to the education of generations of Catholics. They are the ones who knew first-hand the physical and material needs of the ill and the poor. They are the ones who ushered in the transforming documents of Vatican II. They are the ones who have kept their faith even when their counsel and leadership was ignored or disparaged.

It is an honor to have our faith nurtured and nourished by such selfless disciples of the Jesus. As we honor the Risen Christ in this Easter Season and acknowledge him as the Christ of the Universe, the Cosmic Christ, we also acknowledge religious women as a *Cosmic Blessing*, who follow in the steps of Mary of Magdala, chosen by God to be the first to proclaim the Risen Lord.

## Memories from the musical "Cats"

Midnight - not a sound from the pavement.  
Has the moon lost her memory,  
She is smiling alone.  
In the lamplight, the withered leaves collect at my feet,  
And the wind begins to moan.

Memory - all alone in the moonlight.  
I can smile at the old days,  
I was beautiful then.  
I remember the time I knew what happiness was.  
Let the memory live again.

Every street light seems to beat a fatalistic warning.  
Someone mutters and the streetlamp gutters,  
and soon it will be morning.

Daylight, I must wait for the sunrise.  
I must think of a new life,  
And I mustn't give in.  
When the dawn comes tonight will be a memory too,  
And a new day will begin.

Burnt out ends of smokey days,  
the stale cold smell of morning.  
The streetlamp dies, another night is over,  
another day is dawning.

Touch me, it's so easy to leave me  
All alone with the memory  
Of my days in the sun.  
If you touch me, you'll understand what happiness is.  
Look, a new day has begun.

## First class memories

The graduating Class of 1962 of St. Therese School in Garfield Heights, Ohio will be celebrating a reunion on Saturday May 15. The occasion is, as they have pointed out: "The Class of '62 Turns 62."

They happen to be the first class I taught fifty years ago. As a mere 20 year-old college junior, I taught language arts to sixth graders in two sessions of about 56 children each. I followed them into seventh grade (English) and eighth grade (Literature).

At the end of my sophomore year at John Carroll University, I had found that I could no longer afford the \$17.50 a credit hour! I had heard about a cadet teaching certificate offered by the State of Ohio for non-tax supported schools. All that was needed was 60 credit hours.

So in 1959 I applied to the Catholic schools in Cleveland and was interviewed for an opening at St. Therese by Fr. Paul Hritz who was an associate pastor at there. (Twenty-seven years later Fr. Paul would be the supervisor for my seminary internship at St. Malachi Church in Cleveland.)

The reunion committee has established a website [www.sttherese1962.com](http://www.sttherese1962.com)



"Mr. Papes" is on the far right on the Class of '62's graduation day.

## In memoriam: Maureen Abraham



On February 2, one of the dearest people in my life passed into eternal life. Maureen Snyder Abraham, a cousin five years my junior, was really a second cousin, something I wasn't aware of as a child. Actually, her mother Ronnie was my cousin. But since my twin and I were the youngest of the cousins, we were closer to the second generation.

A career of over thirty years as an elementary school teacher gave Maureen the chance to offer herself in service to others, especially the children of the City of Cleveland. Even after retiring, Maureen continued to work part-time to offer her skills as a first-rate teacher to the children of the inner-city who meant so much to her.

That same spirit of self-giving blessed her family and friends. Over the years there was hardly a major holiday that did not include an invitation to celebrate a festive meal at the Abraham home. There always seemed to be room around Moe's table!

Maureen was diagnosed with a rather aggressive form of cancer in early November. She fought valiantly, but throughout her final days, she was more concerned about her husband John, their two children, Mark and Beth, and their five beautiful grandchildren than she was about any treatments.

Her remarkable faith was able to shine through her suffering and inspire—even transform—those around her, ultimately ministering to those who were striving to minister to her. For all who loved Maureen, her legacy is a faith-filled love rooted in a caring hospitality. Her reward is new life!

## Honoring a memory

Those who are familiar with the Church in Cleveland know that over 50 churches are being closed or consolidated by the new bishop. Emotions have been running high as parishes all over the Greater Cleveland area see the churches they have known slowly disappear.

It will hit close to home in June when my childhood parish, St. Lawrence, passes into history. (See pictures below.) The remnant of that Slovenian community that sprung up from that 1902 church is grieving. But in losing their spiritual home they are offering hope to others who have lost their earthly homes.

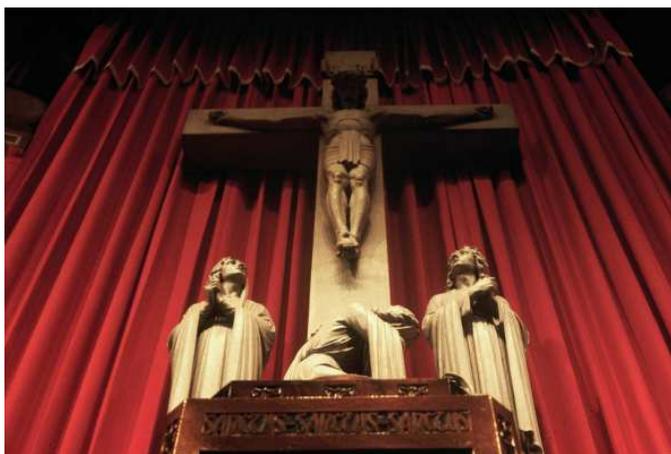
**On Sunday, May 16, I will celebrate the Eucharist at St. Lawrence and begin a two-week long Food for the Poor appeal to build as many houses in Haiti as possible in memory of Msgr. John J. Oman, who was pastor from 1915 through 1963, one of the longest pastorates in diocesan history.**

Msgr. Oman was called to St. Lawrence from the St. Cloud, Minnesota, Diocese to respond to the growing number of Slovenians in the young St. Lawrence community. The appeal for houses in his honor in Haiti is an appropriate symbol of his generosity of spirit living on after all these years.

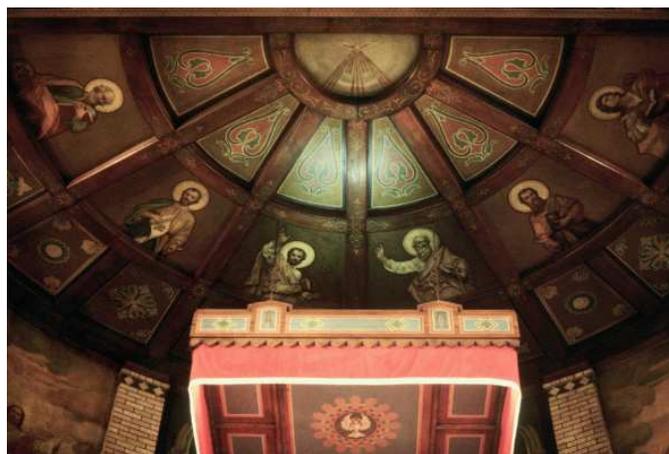
**If you wish to donate to this special memorial, send your donation payable to Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073. Indicate that the donation is for the St. Lawrence Memorial # 73307.**



*Msgr. John J. Oman, Pastor, 1915-1963*



*The stunning stone crucifixion scene towers over the brass tabernacle.*



*The ceiling throughout has painted pictures and symbols on choice mahogany.*



*Traditional Forty Hours symbolized the parish's love for the Eucharist.*



*Christmas in the past featured a nearly life-sized Nativity scene (right).*

## sabbath retreats

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Weekly homilies now on the web at  
[www.sabbathretreats.org](http://www.sabbathretreats.org)

### Preaching Schedule: Spring, 2010

*Food for the Poor preaching assignments unless otherwise noted in **bold**.*

<b>April, 2010</b>			<b>June, 2010</b>		
<b>April 1-3</b>	<b>Norbertine Spirituality Center Sabbath Retreats Triduum Retreat</b>	<b>De Pere, WI</b>	June 5-6	St. Mary	West Plains, MO
April 9-10	Vacation		<b>June 11-18</b>	<b>Priests' Retreat</b>	<b>Georgetown, Guyana</b>
<b>April 17-20</b>	<b>Gary Cluster Parishes Sabbath Retreats Parish Mission</b>	<b>Gary, IN</b>	July 19-20	Our Lady of the Lake	Cleveland, OH
April 24-25	St. John Neumann	Marlinton, WV	June 26-27	Family Wedding	Chardon, OH
<b>May, 2010</b>			<b>July, 2010</b>		
May 1-2	Holy Rosary	Kaplan, LA	July 3-4	St. Brendan	Elkins, WV
May 8-9	Blessed Sacrament	West Fargo, ND	July 10-11	St. Thomas	Zanesville, OH
May 16	St. Lawrence	Cleveland, OH	July 17-18	St. Leo the Great	Leonville, LA
May 22-23	St. Charles	Cassville, WI	July 24-25	Good Shepherd	Hope Mills, NC
May 29-30	Holy Family	Brillion, WI	July 31-Aug 1	Holy Spirit	North Platte, NE