



Inside this issue:

Annual Retreat	2
Fall Auction Fund Raiser	3
Board Members	4
Conrad Hilton Grant	4
Thanksgiving Choir	4
Christmas Celebration	5
Christmas Donations	5
Outreach Celebration	6
God's Shining Stars	6

Mission Statement

Jesus' ministry on earth was all inclusive. We read in the scriptures how Jesus cured the sick, healed the blind, the crippled, and raised the dead to life. Jesus desired that his mission of all inclusive love be offered to all people.

The Watertown Catechetical Board, under the sponsorship of the Catholic Parishes in Watertown, recognizes the importance of the commission by Jesus to bring His love to all people including persons with disabilities.

It is our desire to provide for the spiritual well-being of persons with disabilities by sharing with them opportunities for spiritual enrichment, prayer, faith sharing and fellowship.

Winter Is the Best Time

by David Budbill

Winter is the best time to find out who you are.

Quiet, contemplation time,

away from the rushing world,

Cold time, dark time, holed-up,

pull-in time and space

*To see that inner landscape
that place hidden within.*

Well, I don't know David Budbill, but I discovered his poem on the internet and found it to be quite inspirational. So often in life we race from one event to the next without really thinking much about the purpose for which we are engaging in the activity. When nature offers us time to slow down and enjoy the beauty of the present moment, we may find ourselves uncomfortable with the slower pace and end up wondering what we might do with the time given us.

Reading David's poem made me stop and ponder for awhile. What was it about winter that touched my heart? My reflection made me realize that I actually enjoyed being away from the hustle and bustle of the work day. It was nice to be able to take the time to just sit and watch the snow fall to the ground. Walking around the Motherhouse property I enjoyed the beautiful sculptures formed by the wind and the snow. It was a sight to behold. The falling snow and the sound of the howling wind called me to hunker down and settle in for the day. It was a peaceful and quiet time and I found myself thinking, "Ice and snow, bless the Lord." (Dn.3:69) I started to see that wintery day as a gift.

David's poem led me into a quiet, peaceful day of reflection, where I came once again to realize that everything is gift—even the cold, snowy, wintery days which slow us down and call us inward. It is in this space that we come to a deeper understanding of who we are and where God is leading us. Winter days that force us to stop for awhile can be seen as special opportunities to give God thanks and praise for the break from the hectic pace of daily life. I'm ready to accept the gift of winter and all that it teaches me about the importance of living in the present moment. I thank David for sharing this poem with us all. I give thanks for the solace of these winter days.



Friends of Jesus

Find True Peace and Happiness

On the first Saturday of November, fifty members of our Special Religious Education Program met at the Mother-house of the Sisters of St. Joseph for a day of prayer and reflection. The theme for the day focused on the verse from John 15:13, *“There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

The day began with an Opening Prayer session led by Sister Diane Marie. Throughout the day there were five half hour sessions which the participants attended. The first session presented by Sister Diane focused on Jesus calling his apostles to be his special friends. A short DVD was shown demonstrating how Peter and the other apostles grew in their relationship with Jesus. Remaining close to Jesus even after his death and resurrection made the apostles strong in their faith. They were happy to suffer the trials they encountered as they preached in Jesus’ name.

Patrick Bates, Sister Jackie Sellappan SCC, Laura Johnson, and Sister Noel Chabanel SSJ each presented a session throughout the day. Patrick’s session centered around the story of the Woman at the Well. He talked about how Jesus invites each of us into friendship with him. Laura conducted the art session. Each participant made a banner of the symbols that speak of the various aspects of the life of Jesus. Sister Chabanel’s session helped the participants to reflect on the suffering of Jesus and how each of us in our suffering must call on Jesus to help us. Sister Jackie held her session in the chapel. She showed the participants many ways to pray and center their hearts so that they can connect with Jesus and remain close to him.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of pizza, subs, and salad. There was a wonderful spirit of friendship throughout the day which ended with a special closing prayer. Each participant received a cross ornament on a prayer card which had the various titles for Jesus, Son of God, Lamb of God, Light of the World, Emmanuel, Blessed Redeemer. On the cross the words “Jesus—God with us” will help all to remember the message of the day. It was a day that touched the hearts of both the participants and the presenters.



Catechist, Julie Gould registers Christopher O’ Leary and Francis Scovel



Sister Noel Chabanel SSJ shared with participants the blessings of suffering. Jesus is with us always.



Sister Jackie explained various forms of prayer that help us to stay close to Jesus.



Catechists Laura Johnson and Patrick Bates help Harold Rancier and Nalanie Simpson complete their banners.



Anderson Stenard blesses Eddie Sayyeau during one of the prayer sessions.



Sister Jackie SCC offers a special prayer for each student during her session on prayer.

Fall Auction



Ninety-one Silent Auction Items

Mel Busler –Auctioneer for more than forty items

Vinnie Paragon looks over Live Auction items.

Special Thanks to Area Businesses...

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Touch of Grace | Blue Mountain Spring Water |
| H&R Block | Watertown Savings Bank |
| Pete’s Restaurant | Touch of Grace |
| Wendy’s | Widrick Auto |
| McDonald’s | Salon1033 |
| Tilted Kilt | Home Deli |
| Home Depot | Moe’s Southwest Grill |
| Stratton Hardware | Price Chopper |
| Yo Johnny’s | Ci Ci Pizza |
| Panera Bread | Denny’s |
| Starbucks | Olive Garden |
| Ruby Tuesday’s | Red Lobster |
| Morrison’s Furniture | Cold Stone Creamery |
| Cole Muffler | Art’s Jug/Sboro’s |
| White’s Lumber | Snack Shack Family Fun Center |
| Morgia’s | Crystal Restaurant |
| Nobel Ace Hardware | Gray’s Flower Shop |
| Jake’s Lawn Care | Crossroads Dinner |
| The Willow Cottage | Hairy Business |
| Dream Beads | Harold E. Russel & Son |
| Sundance Leisure | Texas Roadhouse |
| Carthage Savings Bank | Boulton’s Pharmacy |
| Pine Cleaners | Jefferson Concrete |
| | New Attitude |

Our first annual Fall Auction was held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym on November 9, 2013. The hard work of the members of the Fundraising Committee resulted in a very successful event. Thanks to the many donors, the businesses in Watertown, and the many people who came to support us, we profited seven thousand dollars. This money will be used for the general running of the program which includes spiritual materials, social events and arts and crafts items.

The evening was filled with excitement as Mel Busler entertained the crowd as the Auctioneer. He is one talented individual who is a master at working the crowd! There were many laughs and lots of fun as each item was presented to the crowd for bids. We are most grateful to Mel for giving his time and talent to our first auction endeavor.

A special thanks to the members of the Fundraising Committee: Patrick Henry, Mary Henry, Cathy and Mike Deline, Virginia Burdick, Katie Patrick, Sandy and Steve Petrillose, Elaine Grant, Alice Busler, Patty Johnson, and Sister Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ. We also would like to thank David Busler and Jeffrey Jewett who solicited many of the area businesses for donations, as well as, several parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish who volunteered their services.

The Fundraising Committee has already met to begin planning our 2014 Fall Auction. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 1, 2014. Once again the event will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Gym. You won’t want to miss the 2014 Auction which will be even more exciting than our first. This committee is always looking for new and creative ways of raising money to support our friends with special needs.



Stephanie and Barb Williams

Cathy Deline and Sr. Diane

Mary Henry

Dave Busler

Watertown Catechetical Board Members

- Pastors of Four Parishes
 - Religious Education Coordinators
 - Parish Representatives
- Rev. Donald Robinson—President
 Rev. Steve Murray
 Rev. Jonas Tandayu, MSC
 Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ
 Alice Busler—Committee Chairperson
 Elizabeth Bamann—St. Patrick's
 Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC—Holy Family
 Helen Guardino Trimm—St. Anthony's
 Sr. Bernadette Marie Collins, SSJ—OLSH
 Patrick Henry – OLSH
 Sandi Butler– St. Patrick's
 Katie Patrick—Holy Family
 Patricia Spaziani—St. Anthony's
 Sr. Noel Chabanel Hentz, SSJ - Secretary



Conrad Hilton Grant

Last May, I applied to the Conrad Fund For Sisters for a ten thousand dollar grant that would help us provide three main social events for our people with disabilities. For more than thirty years the annual Thanksgiving Dinner was provided for more than two hundred of our people through the kindness of the North Side Improvement League.

Now in order for us to continue this tradition it cost us approximately two thousand dollars. We also provide a Christmas party and purchase gifts for the one hundred and twenty-four participants of the program,

In October I received a check from the Conrad Hilton Fund for the amount for which I applied in order to keep the social events of our program available to the participants. In June, six thousand dollars of that money will be used to take twenty people with disabilities to the Sight and Sound Theatre to see the stage performance of the story of Moses.

“A visionary businessman responsible for building the largest hotel real estate empire of his time and the first American international hotel company, Conrad N. Hilton was also a visionary philanthropist committed to world peace and economic stability. In 1986 the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation established the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters specifically to support apostolic work of Roman Catholic Sisters in accordance with his Last Will and Testament:

“Be ever watchful for the opportunity to shelter little children with the umbrella of your charity, be generous to their schools, their hospitals, and their places of worship. Give aid to their protectors and defenders, the Sisters, who devote their love and life’s work to the good of mankind, for they appeal especially to me of being deserving of help from the Foundation.”
 - Conrad N. Hilton

I am grateful to the Foundation for accepting my application. I believe that providing our people with social events and opportunities to interact with society and enjoy the holidays and cultural experiences of life, is an integral part of our program. These events are opportunities to experience God’s love in action. Thank you Conrad N. Hilton!



Thanksgiving Entertainment



Fourteen participants of our program provided the entertainment for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Jeffrey Deline played his guitar performing, *Lord of the Dance* and *When the Saints Go Marching In*. Terese Burdick played *Amazing Grace* on her violin. Both Jeff and TC have shown improvement in their abilities to play these instruments. They are proud to share their talent with others.



A small choir was formed for this special event. They practiced once a week for four weeks to prepare a program singing songs that gave the message of the importance of having an “Attitude of Gratitude.” The group did a fine job and even received a standing ovation from the crowd.

It is wonderful to see the smiles and energy from these very special members of our program. They love to sing and are proud to share their talent with others. Each time we perform I see their confidence level growing. They are learning that being a good choir requires a lot of work. Singing on pitch and memorizing the lyrics of songs is no easy task!





Christmas Celebration



Our Christmas celebration consisted of prayer, dinner, gifts, a visit from Santa, and best of all dancing. This year's celebration was attended by more than eighty people which included program participants, JRC staff members, and catechists who volunteer in the program.



During the opening prayer various participants at the tables bought forward the figurines and the nativity scene was built as we sang and prayed together.



Dinner followed the prayer. The menu for this year's celebration was a change from the usual pizza and salad. We all enjoyed meatball subs, salad, chips, and cupcakes with ice cream for dessert.



In their gift bag the participants received a ceramic mug with the Special Religious Education Logo, candy treats, hot chocolate and coffee packets, and a nativity ornament. They love receiving their gift from Santa.



You can see from the pictures that everyone had a great time. Once again Sister Noel Chabanel Hentz SSJ served as our DJ for the night. She played great tunes and the dance floor was rocking with rhythmic moves.



Christmas Gifts Received From Benefactors



Mr. and Mrs. Gary Charlebois	\$25.00	Mr. Dan Ryan	\$150.00
Mr. Clayton Jank	\$200.00	Anonymous	\$200.00
Mr. and Mrs. William Jesmore	\$100.00	Sisters of the Precious Blood	\$100.00
Miss Margaret (Peg) Ryan	\$50.00	Judith Paquin	\$25.00
Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warner	\$100.00	Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lamica	\$200.00
Mr. and Mrs. James Lafferty	\$25.00		
Mrs. Marie Messina	\$10.00		



Thank you for your gifts to our program. Your kindness and generosity are most appreciated.

Outreach Christmas Celebration



The week before Christmas the Outreach catechists visited their sites and presented each resident with a bag of gifts. As you can see from the pictures everyone was excited to receive their gifts from Santa (Patrick Henry). The ceramic cups were a real hit. Some of the residents wanted their hot chocolate or coffee right away.



Sister Chabanel prepared a simple prayer, Christmas carols, and gifts for each catechist to present to their people in the various homes. Looks like every one in these pictures had a great time and enjoyed their Christmas celebration.



God's Shining Stars



"Like beacons of light stretching wide and far, we are God's shining stars."

The annual birthday prayer and celebration was held during our first class back after Christmas. The theme of the prayer was "We Are All God's Shining Stars" and we must let his love shine through our actions each day.

During the prayer service prepared by Sister Diane Marie each participant came forward to receive from the birthday box a colorful felt star that read "You are a Star." The group then was divided into three small groups and shared around three questions. Who has been a shining star for you in your life? What are the gifts God has given you that help you to bring his light into the world? What gets in the way of us being able to let our light shine?

The groups returned and shared the results of their small group discussion. We then closed our time of prayer by singing *Walk in the Light*.

JoAnn Patrick and Cathy Deline made delicious cupcakes which we all enjoyed after our time of prayer and sharing.

