

MOLLOY MINUTES

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Themes for 2009-2010

The theme for the 2009-2010 Season is: *Baptized into the Priesthood of Christ!* The theme for our Days and Evenings of Reflection is: *Places We Meet God!* The schedules of retreats and Days/Evenings of Reflection are on our web site: www.bishopmolloy.org

From The Director

September 2, 2008, 9:30 pm, Our Lady of Montserrat Rectory, Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY. At the end of a three hour supper meeting Fr. Joe Jones, C.P., Provincial of St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Province spoke two sentences: "You are the new Retreat Director of Bishop Molloy Retreat House! You will begin on October 1st".

Although not entirely unprepared for that message, I found my head reeling nevertheless. Moving from the gorgeous mountains of Appalachia to the congestion of the Big City,

from the 99 % white population of North Central West Virginia to the United Nations of New York City, from the two parishes and one mission spread over the 650 square miles of "The Free State of Preston County", WV, to the three story, 97 bedroom Retreat House on a couple of acres of urban landscape in Jamaica, Queens: this would be like moving from Kansas to OZ!

June 25, 2009, Bishop Molloy Retreat House, Jamaica, Queens But OZ has turned out to be a most welcoming

place. It has been a wonderful year of getting to know our retreatants and promoters. Fr. Chris (who arrived only a couple of months ahead of me) and I have been delighted with the response to our efforts. A huge "Thank You" to all who have welcomed us, encouraged us in myriad ways, and offered to support us. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again in the new season beginning in September.

Fr. Sal, who originally signed on for one year to assist Fr. Paul Ruttle, C.P., has been an

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Enormous help in this year of transition with his talks at the Friday evening rituals and the Penance services, his hearing of confessions, his awareness of traditions and practices, and his behind the scenes efforts to keep everything moving smoothly. Next week Fr. Sal will leave Bishop Molloy to join the staff of Immaculate Conception Parish next door. He will be in residence at Immaculate Conception Monastery (which has the same address as Bishop Molloy). I thank him for generously staying an extra year at Bishop Molloy while I adjusted to my new responsibilities. And now I gratefully wish him all of God's blessings as he returns to his first love which has always been parish ministry.

Tomorrow begins the last weekend of the 2008-2009 Retreat Season. It has been a good year! Retreatants and staff have been most welcoming. Numbers are improving. Promoters and retreatants are promising to bring back old friends and more new people in the coming season. Our Advisory Board has high energy for some new fundraising initiatives. And plans are well underway for the new season.

This week we completed the installation of the new gas boilers. Today we signed the contract for the installation of new windows in the 50 year old *new* wing of Bishop Molloy. Our rooms should be nice and cozy this winter!

Fr. John, C.P.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

As I grow older I am recognizing that the hours that seemed to go so slowly as a child are now difficult to keep pace with. This year at Bishop Molloy has been full of blessings that have been amazing. Many who visit Bishop Molloy have remarked as to the spirit of welcome the staff offers the retreatants. I would return the compliment. The retreatants have offered me a deep and heartfelt welcome. It will be a year in July that I moved from our retreat house in Shelter Island to Bishop Molloy. In this year I have renewed connections with men and women who went to Shelter Island for their high school retreats. This has been a great time of reunion. Each

weekend, new connections have forged with the men and women who have come to the theme retreats and Days and Evenings of Recollection that gather each month. I continue to have a connection with teens both here at Bishop Molloy plugging into mid-week high school days of prayer as well as offering programs for teens at high schools such as Bishop Kearney in Brooklyn.

After all that has been said I believe the common denominator is the holy ground of Bishop Molloy Passionist Retreat House. In the midst of a busy city as well as a busy life

Special Events

In March, at the invitation of Chief Michael Scagnelli, Fr. John Concelebrated with Bishop DiMarzio at the NYPD Holy Name Society Mass and Communion Breakfast. At the Breakfast he was touched by the stories of courage and trial experienced by many of the officers. Fr. John is currently in the process of becoming the "Clergy Liaison" with the NYPD Highway Patrol. In April, Fr. John was privileged to concelebrate with Archbishop Timothy Dolan on his first Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It was the occasion of the FDNY Holy Name Society annual Mass and Breakfast. Fr. John was the guest speaker at the breakfast – after the new Archbishop gave jolly good wishes to NY's bravest.

the grounds of this retreat house offer a spiritual oasis that nourishes the soul. I am deeply blessed to continue ministering and working with Fr. John and a holy staff. I also want to offer a deep expression of gratitude and blessing to Fr. Sal as he moves into Parish Ministry. I am looking forward to another year of God's blessings here at Bishop Molloy.

Fr. Chris, C.P. aka C²



BISHOP MOLLOY RETREAT HOUSE

2009-2010 Retreat Season

The **Theme of this year's Retreats** is: **“Baptized into the Priesthood of Christ! !**

In this Year of the Ministerial Priesthood, as we pray for an intensification of the holiness and dedication of priests throughout the world, it is an appropriate time to also remind ourselves of the **“Priesthood of the Laity”** which was an important theme of the Second Vatican Council.

As the priest or deacon uses the Sacred Chrism to anoint the one being baptized, he prays: *God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.*

The Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, of the Second Vatican Council states: *To the apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole People of God. ,*

The Decree further states: *If they are consecrated a kingly priesthood and a holy nation (cf. 1 Pet. 2:4-10), it is in order that they may in all their actions offer spiritual sacrifices and bear witness to Christ all the world over.*

The Dogmatic Constitution On the Church teaches: *... the laity - no matter who they are – have, as living members, the vocation of applying to the building up of the Church and to its continual sanctification all the powers which they have received from the goodness of the Creator and from the grace of the Redeemer... The laity, however, are given this special vocation: to make the Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances where it is only through them that she can become the salt of the earth. ,,*

Cf. Dogmatic Constitution *De Ecclesia*, chap. IV, no. 33; (This reference is part of the original document)

The Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People, Vatican Council II, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 18 November, 1965, para. 2
Ibid, para. 3 (Reference to 1 Pet. is part of the statement)

See Pius XI, Litt. Encycl. *Quadragesimo anno*, 15 May 1931... Pius XII, Alloc. *De Quielle consolation*, 14 Oct. 1951
(References are part of the document)

The Dogmatic Constitution On the Church, Vatican Council II, *Lumen Gentium*, 21 November, 1964, para. 33.

All of the above quotes from the Documents of Vatican II are taken from Vatican Council II, The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents, Austin Flannery, O.P., General Editor, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MI, 1975

BMRH FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Capital Campaign which Fr. Jim Price, C.P., began in 2004 has been a huge success. The goal was \$1,000,000.00. Julie Labeck, our Capital Campaign Accountant, reports: *As of May 11, 2009, we have 739 pledges totaling \$975,110. Of that amount, we have received a total of \$964,728 (99%) and have an outstanding balance of \$10,382 (1%).* And this June we have already received no less than \$1,000.

Already a number of Capital Campaign projects have been completed: renovation of the bathrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors; refurbishment of the dining room; new carpeting in our Main Lounge, and on the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways; new ovens, a new freezer and a new refrigerator in the kitchen; one out of three boilers; painting of the corridors throughout. As we get to press we are awaiting the inspector to approve our two newly installed boilers. And on June 25 I signed the contract for the installation of windows throughout the 50 year old “new” wing.

Last October we had a debt of \$90,000.00. As of June 30 we have a debt of \$24,000.00 which we hope to pay off before the fall season begins. A couple of bequests helped enormously in the retirement of this debt! Although we expect to have no debt by the beginning of the new season, we are projecting a significant deficit. I have asked our accountant to provide us, by September, a clear financial statement which we can make available to our supporters so that they can judge for themselves the quality of our financial management and the degree of our need.

For years Bishop Molloy has been subsidized by the Passionist Congregation either through Immaculate Conception Monastery or directly from our Provincial Office.

Neither of these entities is able to continue its support. Twenty years of seeking grants for another institution has taught me that Foundations generally do not provide grants for “spiritual” undertakings. It is not likely that Bishop Molloy will be able to

find any grants or subsidies from the sources that non-profit organizations usually rely on.

After three months of careful scrutiny of all of our expenses, our accountant recently estimated that our cost per retreatant is \$250.00. This season we asked retreatants for a donation of \$175.00 for each weekend retreat. In the new season we will ask for a donation of \$185.00. We must find a way to cover the rest of our cost. Ultimately, the best way to do this would be to have an endowment. But this does not seem the best time to attempt to do that. So in the meantime we need to continue to do whatever fund raising we can in order to keep Bishop Molloy solvent.

The BMRH Advisory Board is organizing a major fundraiser for mid-September – a banquet honoring Pete and Tena Vallone, both long time supporters of BMRH. We have begun inviting retreatants to consider regular monthly donations to the Retreat House as a means of improving our cash flow. And I have recently begun suggesting that retreatants consider including Bishop Molloy in their wills. A couple of bequests by generous retreatants have made a major difference in our financial picture this year!

“Together we can make a difference”

Upcoming Events

Sept. 10—Day & Evening of Recollection
 Sept. 20—Annual Picnic—\$20 per Adult
 Sept. 11-13—Women’s Retreat
 Oct. 2-4—Men’s Retreat

Oct. 9-11- Women’s Matt Talbot Retreat
 Oct. 16-18— Charismatic Retreat
 Oct. 27-29— **FDNY** Retreat
 Oct. 30-Nov. 1—Silent Retreat for Men & Women

GOOD NEWS

Sr. Joanne Fahey, C.P., who led the Women's Silent Retreats this season, has agreed to return for the Women's Silent retreats in the upcoming season. She will also be present for all of the Women's retreats in which she will offer optional workshops and opportunities for private conversations.

Mr. John Gonzalez, who assisted on many of the retreats this year, has also agreed to return. He will focus primarily on the men's retreats, but may be present for other retreats as well.

Fr. John is currently in conversation with a volunteer with a background in spiritual direction and some retreat experience who may be available to assist on some of the women's retreats.



A New Look

Early in the 2008-2009 season, Fr. Chris and Eddie, our caretaker, began hanging pictures in the halls of BMRH using some found in storage here and some taken from our recently closed retreat house in Shrewsbury, MA. Carol Rothstein, an Advisory Board Member and a gifted Photographic artist responded to their work by offering to provide BMRH with a very large number of framed prints of her photographs of the Holy Land, Rome, the Amalfi Coast of Italy and a variety of still life. You will recognize her work by the vibrancy of the color and the way her pictures focus on detail. Many of Carol's pictures look more like oil paintings than photographs due to the way she processes them. We are very grateful for her generosity.

Bishop Molloy's Wish List

Things

- bolts of fabric for curtains
- curtain rods & associated hardware
- lounge/conference room chairs
- mini fridges (1 or 2)
- beds
- large, flat screen TV with dvd/video capacity (on wheels if possible)
- new, or very good used, photocopier
- bedding
- vcr/dvd players & monitors
- lamps
- Lampshades
- hairdryers
- smokeless ashtray for outside
- dining room linen
- suitcase stands
- alarm clocks
- night tables
- Desks

Persons

- seamstresses to hem curtains
- volunteers for office support weekdays
- volunteers for receptionist, weekends
- volunteers for gift shop/book shop
- volunteers for September picnic
- promoters
- speakers to promote BMRH in parishes
- volunteer librarian

Fr. Sal's Farewell

Dear Retreatants and Friends,

I know you are retreatants of Bishop Molloy –But I presume to call you “friends”.

My three years at Molloy have always been a “high” when you retreatants come for your retreat. You have always been a pleasure to work with and be with.

But my love in ministry has always been parish ministry. I have spent most of my priesthood in parish work. Now I have an opportunity to return to it. I am now assigned to our parish here in Jamaica.

My time here has been enjoyable and fruitful because of my co-workers- Fathers Paul Ruttle (who has fled to the West Indies – I think I had nothing to do with it) John Michael Lee and Chris Cleary, but most especially Sr. Regina.

You are in my prayers. Remember me in yours.

Interesting Groups

In November the Permanent Deacons of Rockville Center Diocese made their retreat at Bishop Molloy. A dedicated group of married Catholic clergy, they entered into the retreat with open minds and hearts. We very much enjoyed our interaction with them.

Later in the year, the first year candidates for the permanent deaconate joined in on one of our theme retreats. Fr. John prayed with them when they took turns leading each other in the Liturgy of Hours. Deacon Ricardo Flores and his wife Marta held a special session for the deacon candidates which was extremely well accepted. These men also impressed their fellow retreatants with the quality of their presence.

In January, five second year theology students from Immaculate Conception Seminary had a week long directed retreat with Fr. John, Fr. Chris, and Fr. Sal. There were two Irish Americans, two Hispanics, and one African from Nigeria. We were both impressed and encouraged by the participation of these young priests-to-be.

Also in January thirty members of the Korean Catholic Community of St. Bellarmine's Parish held their own retreat in the St. Gabriel's and Terrace Rooms while our regular Women's retreat took place in the Lounge and chapel. Both groups shared the dining room. The weekend was a very positive experience.

In the first week of June we hosted the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, a most impressive order of Priests of the Syro-Malabar Rite. These Eastern Rite Catholics trace their origins in India to the Apostle Thomas in the 1st Century! The next time you enter the lobby of Bishop Molloy you will see the beautiful picture of Mary and Jesus in Indian garb and posture which was a gift from these friends. The picture comes from a Carmelite Christian Ashram in India.

The Carmelites also had interesting visitors. Archbishop Timothy Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York gave them an excellent half hour talk. Fr. John and Fr. Chris joined Bishop Cisneros of Brook-

lyn in concelebration with them of the Syro-Malabar Rite. Bishop Di-Marzio of Brooklyn also dropped in!

On June 12 – 14 we hosted a Conference of the Ghanaian Presbyterian Church. All of the participants were originally from Ghana but now live from coast to coast in the USA as well as Toronto, Canada. They prayed and worked with an intensity that could put many of us to shame. This was the first time they had used a retreat house for their conference. They were very please with their accommodations and our hospitality.



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