



St. Pius Calling...

March-April 2018

Confirmation Retreat 2018

By Diane Shamory



Early in the morning and it's a SATURDAY? That's probably what was going through our eighth-graders' minds as they sat and waited for their Confirmation Retreat to begin. It didn't take them long to wake up and sit up taller as Scott M. Anthony grabbed their attention and got the retreat going. Scott Anthony is a popular speaker working with Teens. He describes himself as: "Goofy, funny, a whole lot of energy, and a

whole lot of handsome, but most importantly: I'm crazy committed to bring teens closer to Jesus through the Church." As they listened and did activities together, you could see they definitely were enjoying their retreat.

One of our eighth-grade teens had this to say: "I enjoyed the retreat very much! The speaker was hilarious, but also very helpful. We learned a lot about the love of God and Scott Anthony helped us grow closer to God."

As Scott Anthony shared his own

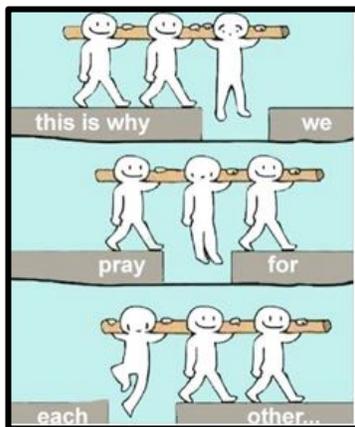


personal experiences and continued our retreat, you could see the teens thinking and paying attention into the afternoon hours.

Another teen said: "I really enjoyed the experience. I learned so much, not just about my

faith...but about myself. I am so glad I took the opportunity to go on this retreat. Scott Anthony is a very intriguing and inspiring man, and I'm so happy I got to meet him."

So a Saturday and Scott M. Anthony make for one great Confirmation Retreat!



Pious Thoughts

from our Pastor, Fr. Pius



May the Joy of our Risen Lord bring you grace and blessings. This edition of *St. Pius Calling* comes with great news about our community.

May our Alleluia Joy be our strength.

Smile and happy reading.

Life Teen Mount 2000

By Diane Shamory

Live the Drama

"Do you have too much drama in your life?" This question was asked as our Mount 2000 retreat at Mount St. Mary's Catholic Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, began for our St. Pius X high school teens (plus 1,000 other teens) back in February. The Mount St. Mary's seminarians coordinate the retreat, and we were paired with a wonderful seminarian named Thomas. He had been there a little more than six months. Thomas was so full of energy and love for our Lord! We shared many hours with Thomas and others in our small group talking about and sharing our faith.

One teen had this to say about her experience at Mount 2000: "Being a person who doesn't attend church regularly, and struggles to maintain her relationship with the Lord, Mount 2000 was the most amazing experience of my life! I wouldn't have traded the weekend for anything. I met wonderful people, created amazing memories, but most of all I found God more in those three days than I ever have in life! I am thankful for the opportunity."

We were able to attend Masses with our own Bishop Gainer, receive Penance, and listen to a ton of motivational speakers throughout the weekend. The speakers talked about eliminating the negative things in our lives and to live out a more loving drama that God wants for all of us.

Another teen remembers her experiences at Mount 2000: "I always have a great time going to Mount 2000—not only getting to meet new people but also having a fun time experiencing how God works and brings kids from all over together for a weekend to rejoice in Him. I strongly recommend attending; it's full of fun, friends, music, and enlightenment."



Greeting Card Ministry

By Agnes Janas

The Greeting Card Ministry involves sending greeting cards to the parishioners on a

personal basis. It was established over 10 years ago with Father Ted Keating. Janet Evans was the first chairman, then Pauline Gemberling, now me. I joined the committee with Janet Evans and have been active since then. I enjoy it very much as it enables one to interact with other parishioners. It allows the persons receiving the card to know that someone (people of the parish including Father Pius) cares about them and their well-being and also reminds them they are under God's constant watch and loving care.

We have a calendar with birthdays listed. If someone needs to add a name, please let me know at 570-473-3690. The committee members check once a week with the parish office to see if anyone needs a get well card or a sympathy card sent.

The church provides the cards, the parish registry, and the postage. A committee member just needs to address and mail the cards at the proper time. In 2017, we sent 185 cards to the members of our parish.

A committee member is in charge of one month of the year to offer his or her time and talent to our ministry to see that all cards are mailed for that month. The member then turns the job over to another member. So far, all the members are women, but if men wish to volunteer, please do.



WinDowS

By Nadine Lawton

WinDowS is a social ministry for Widows/Widowers, Divorced or Single people. It is open to anyone in the community and the group meets once

per month at Hoss's restaurant for food, fun and fellowship. We started with sixteen members. Those from Lewisburg liked it so much, they started their own local group. We currently have ten members. We enjoy each other's company and it is a rare meeting when everyone is not there. The name WinDowS indicates the effect of the group of opening up to new views, conversations, insights, sharing and friends.

The gathering normally opens with a general prayer and intercessions for the concerns of our members. We have tried different formats and the current game we all enjoy is called *Right, Center, Left*. It is a combination of dice and action with each person starting with three corks and the person with one at the end is the winner. We play three games and the members take turns bringing a five-dollar prize to add to the fun.

Ann (the newest member) when asked why she keeps coming said "The company, the fellowship and being around people who know how I feel." She also stated "Playing the game brings a sense of camaraderie." She feels more comfortable with the group each time she comes. Pat said she enjoys the company and conversation and that "Playing the game is fun and carefree." reminding her of her childhood.

WinDowS is in their third year. The group brings a lovely sense of belonging. God is with us everywhere and it's certainly true with this group. We are blessed! If you are interested in knowing more about WinDowS contact Nadine Lawton at 570-884-3313.

I was born Feb. 17th, 1953 to a very loving, God-fearing, Protestant husband and wife, Robert and Shirley Maurer. From the time I could remember I was raised going to church and Sunday school every week. Many nights after dinner, we would get one of dad's "lectures" about the importance of making Christ the Lord and Master of our lives. He would relate the story of a dream he had as a young man where he saw Christ down a road coming toward him. He ran and knelt before Him, but when he looked up into Jesus' face, he appeared sad. From that day forward my father gave up some bad habits, amended his ways and resolved to follow Jesus more closely.

Why Catholic?

As a result, I always believed in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that the Bible was His Word. When I was growing up, I had a few Catholic friends, but we never got into any serious discussions about the differences in our churches. Fast forward to my freshman year at Susquehanna University, 1971. Now that I was on my own, I didn't *have* to go to church, and I usually didn't. Then something dramatic happened. I met some students at SU who met to pray every evening at 6:00 in the chapel at Weber Auditorium. They invited me to come along, and a short time later I had what I then thought to be a "born again" experience, asking Jesus to come into my heart. (Only later did I come to learn that we are "born again" at baptism.) It was a conversion in that I began to take my faith seriously.

I have to really fast forward now. 2005—I'm married to the love of my life, Lynn. We have two fine sons, Andrew and Dan. Andrew moved from Atlanta, where he had just received his master's degree in Aerospace Engineering, to the Washington D.C. area for a job. A mutual friend introduced him to a young man as a potential roommate. They got along well and got an apartment to share. The only "problem?" This young man was a Catholic, on fire for his faith. After a number of discussions, and Andrew's reading of a number of apologetic books, he told Lynn and I that he was converting to Catholicism. We were concerned, but knew Andrew to be very intelligent and logical, so we gave him our blessing.

I have always been a seeker of truth and was more curious than Lynn, so Andrew gave me several books to read such as BORN FUNDAMENTALIST, BORN AGAIN CATHOLIC by David Currie and SURPRISED BY TRUTH by Patrick Madrid. He also downloaded various Catholic programs and talks on my computer. Before long, I began to see the logic and fullness of truth that existed in the Catholic faith, but what really convinced me was listening to Scott Hahn's lectures about the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb." I became convinced of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and became hungry to receive Him.

Andrew was received into the church at Easter Vigil 2006. I wanted to be there for him, so I decided to wait till that fall to enter R.C.I.A., but in my heart and mind I was ready to come in.

I have to relate something else that happened during this time. In June 2006, Lynn was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer. She died Dec. 12, 2006, The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. This was obviously devastating, but God was with me through it all. Father Ted graciously asked if I would like to be received into the church then instead of waiting until the following Easter vigil, and so I was received into full communion with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church on Dec. 21, 2006.

Thanks be to God! ~Tom Maurer

