

Merry Christmas

THE

Serving Catholic and other Christian Youth with a Christ centered retreat facility

EAGLE'S WINGS NEWS

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First Overnight Family Retreat Held

This November EWRC had our first family overnight retreat. St. Thomas More's "Families in Faith" had 7 families here for games, crafts, spiritual time and lots of good food. Each family had a chance to interact with each other and also spend quality time building memories with their own families, getting to know each other better and taking time to rest from a very busy world. They had so much fun they said, "We are not sure whether we are going to tell anyone about it because it might be good to keep it a treasured secret." Well, I guess their secret is out and you can see from the pictures the fun they had.

Contact EWRC if you are interested in setting up your own family weekend escape with other families. We would be happy to help plan your own family retreat.

IRA Distribution Deadline Nearing For No Tax Gifting

A two year window which allows for certain types of transfers of IRA distributions to tax exempt organizations will end this December 31.

The strategy is available to persons 70 1/2 years old and older and allows them to support Eagle's Wings Retreat Center.

To learn more please contact Eagle's Wings Retreat Center at 512-715-0017 or your personal tax planner.



Families in Faith quotes:

"Can we do this EVERY weekend?" Blake Killingsworth age 10

"I felt God there, you know he lives there, right mommy?" Georgia Kelly age 6

"That was the best trip ever, when can we go back?" Curran Kelly age 9

"What beautiful family time, nature time and serving God time." Melissa Kelly

"Mulching the trail up to the outdoor altar made me feel like I was making a new path to God." Hagen Goeters age 9



Everyday is Christmas at EWRC

**By Curt Haffner
Executive Director**

It's hard to believe that Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is finishing its 4th full year. I am excited by the way God's plan continues to unfold. It brings to mind a recent conversation we had with some friends of ours, the Hansen's, who own and operate the Christmas Café in Burnet. We were talking about Christmas and Tom said, what he likes most about the Christmas Café, is that it is Christmas there every day! I got to thinking about that and then realized that it's pretty much the same here at Eagle's Wings. We have Santa Clauses showing up here all the time. Patrick Callahan always reads our newsletter wish list and then the next thing ya know--- we have 50 outdoor folding chairs, or 10 more hammers, a breaking bar or some other tools we need. Then there is David Glorioso who brings a cafeteria table with seating attached that folds up when not in use or Joe Frerich who gave us a 16' utility trailer 3 years ago and last month decided we needed a new 20 footer. Then there is Catherine Owens who has provided the retreat center with an Air Hockey table, a Foos Ball Table, and a ping pong table. Then there are the engineers and contractors who have donated time, materials and labor and the companies and individuals who donated the prizes for the raffle and everyone who has donated money and pledged more so that we can continue to build.

We have been truly blessed by all of you and thank you for

your continued support and belief in Eagle's Wings. You make it Christmas here every day because your gifts and prayers are the visible evidence of the Body of Christ in action. The result is Jesus is here every day and those who come to

His retreat center experience that unconditional love that only He can give. We pray that all of you will have a most blessed Christmas and that each of you will experience His peace and joy throughout the coming year!



St. Helen's youth group was the first retreat to enjoy the new chairs donated by Patrick Callahan.

Looking To The Future

**By Joe Noonan
EWRC President**

This past summer I spent some time in Budapest, Hungary on business. While there I spent some time with a Hungarian friend and of course he got to learn a little bit about my passion for Eagle's Wings. After looking at our web site and our purpose and mission he said that it reminded him of an old Hungarian saying; "If you plant vegetables you see one year ahead, if you plant trees you see 10 years ahead, but if you plant the Good Word of our Lord into our youth you see generations ahead."

This saying is so true in everything

we do here at Eagle's Wings for our youth, It's also true for all those that spread the word of our Lord to our youth whether they are parents, catechists, youth ministers, older teens, priests, pastors and deacons that serve our youth. I love the work we do here at Eagle's Wings with our youth, but in reality it's not any one of us here at Eagle's Wings that is making the difference. We are just a part of it. It's all of you that work with youth, help them get closer to Christ and share yourselves so selflessly that make the difference.

Here's to all of you for all that you do!!!! May you all have a Merry Christmas!!!!



Matthew Matous draws a winning ticket assisted by Kristen Glorioso, Morgan Matous and Colette Glorioso. Collin Glorioso also assisted in the drawing.

EWRC Raffle Nets \$8,320

Father Don Loftin, Pastor of St. Luke's in Temple, Glen and Mary Beth Jensen of Wisconsin, and Matt Ellis of Llano, were the three winners in the first EWRC raffle. Father Loftin chose the week at Hilton Head as his prize. The Jensens picked the \$750 Wal-Mart card and Matt Ellis received the exotic big game hunt.

The youth of St. Thomas More sold the most tickets and won a free two-day retreat. They were followed closely by the youth of St. Luke's in Temple. The three winning tickets were sold by Austin Hanlon of Temple, Joe Noonan, EWRC Board President of Ce-

dar Park, and Gina More, EWRC Board Sec. of Llano.

Liesel Hentschel of St. Luke's sold the most tickets. Others who sold over 100 tickets included: Chris Kubicek, Gina Moore, Diego Avila, Kurt Hentschel, Doug Weisbruch, and Nolan Maloney.

Important Dates To Remember

- ## **Wish List**
- **Donations for live and silent auction**
 - **Benches**
 - **Picnic Tables**
 - **Wheel Barrows**
 - **Weed Whips**

Jan. 19 (9:30 am - 2:30 pm)
Women's Day Retreat with Karen Bruckbauer presenting "Praying with the Icons"

Feb. 15, 16, 17
Austin Diocese Youth Ministers Retreat

Feb. 16 (9 am-12 noon)
Presentation on Mary by Cheri Lomonte and Sally Robb

March 1
Eagle's Wings Benefit Dinner at St. Thomas More (Donations needed for Auction)

April 26-27
Godstock for high school Catholic youth

Call 512-715-0017 for more information or to register for any event

Main Campus Construction



Construction on the Main Campus continued through the fall of the year. The upstream sewage lines are now in place and the water main and supply lines have also been completed. PEC ran the 3 phase electric back to the main campus and installed the transformer. All underground electrical conduit and conduit for communications were laid to all the future building locations and all building sites were cleared and building locations were surveyed in. The hole for the pool was dug to provide fill dirt for the roads which are nearing completion and should be finished before the year ends. Items to be completed are the installation of the well and 20,000 gallon water storage tank. These will be installed as soon as Eagle's Wings receives its permit from TCEQ. We also need to do the finish grading and the grading of the soccer field so that the drip irrigation can be installed. We will have power at the building locations when we begin that construction. Thank you to all those who have helped make this progress possible. We know that with continued support God's plan for His retreat center will become a reality





St. Thomas More Workers Moving New Gazebo to Eagle Mountain

Church of the Assumption - West, TX - Retreat - October 13 & 14



We Have the Answer to the Question

**By Don Comedy
Development Director**

If you are like me, I bet you've already started having those THOUGHTS. You know the ones. We all have them this time of year. It is always in the form of a question. Yeah, THAT question. Sometimes I wake up in a cold sweat in the middle of the night thinking about IT. It's bad enough when I ask myself, but it's WORSE when my wife asks me.

This year I'm already asking myself, "WHAT am I going to get _____ for Christmas?" Why are some people so hard to buy for? You know the ones that have everything. How many of those people are on your shopping list? Or what about the people that you would just like to do something special for, just to let them know you appreciate them?

How about a gift to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center in their honor? We will acknowledge the gift with a letter to them, but you might also present them with a

nice card with this inscription, "To the Glory of God and in honor of you (or your family), a gift has been given to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center" followed by a short personal message from you telling them why they are special.

Also, as we approach the end of the year, you might consider a tax deductible gift to EWRC. Contact your tax advisor for details on how your gift to Eagle's Wings Retreat Center can best meet your tax needs. Gifts can be cash, stocks, bonds, or annuity distributions.

Great Things are happening at Eagle's Wings and you can make them better. Come join us.

EWRC and Dell

Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, Inc. is now part of the Dell Direct Giving program. Any Dell employee can select EWRC as a charity and Dell will match the employees monthly gift.

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