

The Mission of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center is to serve Catholic and other Christian Youth

# Eagle's Wings

And to provide a Christ centered retreat facility and environment.

Volume 1

Issue 2

June 2005



## Eagle's Nest

**Eagle's Nest** which is our first retreat facility being built is 98% complete. The electrical, water and septic were just completed. The building contains 2 bathrooms, a small kitchen, large meeting area and a sleeping room upstairs for 16-18 people.



Teens from many Austin area parishes during Manus Dei service project painting & building deck on Eagle's Nest.

Eagle's Nest will easily allow up to 40-60 people to meet and will allow us to start using the retreat center immediately but currently only sleeps 16-18 so our next project will be an adjoining Bunkhouse to sleep 22 additional people. This will bring the total sleeping capacity to 40.

Reservations are being taken now: Contact Curt or Katie Haffner at 512-715-0017 or email: [Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

Eagle's Wings is intended for Youth retreats and campouts but it is also available for adult or family outings as long as the schedule permits. The main objective is to keep it utilized as much as possible.

### From the Desk of Katie Haffner President



#### Greetings from Eagle's Wings,

The bluebonnets have finished their show of color and have been replaced by the firewheels and blooming cactus. It's a beautiful place to be called to a ministry. While the ministry of Eagle's Wings has been an awesome experience so far, it has also been very challenging. The building of Eagle's Nest has certainly increased our boundaries as is stated in the Prayer of Jabez. (And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain" So God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10.) Our new territory has stretched to New Hampshire, to Colorado, to San Antonio, to the Western Deanery of Austin and of course the Austin area. We have been blessed by so many beautiful volunteers (over 100) who have donated time and talent to the building of Eagle's Nest.

I thought you would enjoy hearing about a few of our groups who have answered the call to service. Our Mother of Sorrows confirmation class have been out for a service project and gained first hand knowledge of the installation of a septic system.

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Confirmation teens & leader from Our Mother of Sorrows in Burnet helping to install the septic lines.

On April 16, an Austin diocese event called Manus Dei sent 50 youth from several parishes to Eagle's Wings. Manus Dei means the hands of God. These kids were certainly the hands of God as they painted Eagle's Nest, cleaned, helped finish the back deck to Eagle's Nest and dug holes for our outdoor Stations of the Cross. Each cross presented its own challenge and was different. They had to install 14 6-foot crosses into rock hard ground. I can tell you that this group of kids now knows how to use a breaking bar and know which breaking bar was the best one. Particularly challenging was the 12<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross, Jesus dies on the Cross. The kids at one point looked at me and said "How important is it that this cross goes here." I then told them that Father Joseph Nisari from St. Luke's in Temple had pointed out to me how much this particular spot resembled Calvary. Sooo, it was very important that the 12<sup>th</sup> Station be here. We then began a collaborated effort to figure out how this could be accomplished. A twenty minute discussion followed with a creative solution. Unlike the other crosses, this would not need to have a hole dug. Instead the cross would be placed against a huge boulder and another boulder would be placed in front of the cross to hold it in place.



Teens from St. John Neumann, St. Theresa, St. Albert the Great, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas More, St. Williams, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louis, Prince of Peace and San Juan Diego HS work during Manus Dei

It took six strong boys plus the use of that breaking bar as a lever to secure the smaller boulder in front of the cross. The lesson I learned was just as these crosses were each different, in life we are handed different crosses to carry and we must meet the challenge of our particular cross. I also think it is very interesting that the Station that Jesus dies on the cross was the most challenging. I know God is smiling down on us when he sees His youth working so hard to help build their retreat center. Thanks to your help and their service they will be able to have a place to come to renew their strength.

Remember God is good all the time and keep praying for us!

*Katie Haffner*

## ACTS Family Picnic

*By Gina Moore*

April 24, was an overcast, chilly day, and even though it started to drizzle just as the burgers were being served, it didn't dampen the spirits of any of the 128 people who gathered at Eagle's Nest for the Western Deanery ACTS family picnic. For many who attended, it was their first visit to the retreat center. Katie led several small groups on a tour of

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the facilities including the Marian grotto and the Stations of the Cross.

## Flag Pole Dedication

*By Chris Kubicek*

Eagle's Wings welcomed a group of Boy Scouts to camp out on the grounds of the retreat center the weekend of April 1-3. Saturday morning, the scouts had a flag dedication ceremony. Msgr. Elmer Holtman, from St. Thomas More Parish, was present to do the blessing of the Papal and U.S. Flags as well as the flag poles. Jacob Chavez was the scout who installed the flag poles and he presented the flags to Msgr. Elmer and Joe Noonan.



Joe Noonan, Jacob Chavez and Msgr. Elmer Holtman at Flag Pole Blessing and Dedication Ceremony

## Parish Involvement

One of the wonderful aspects of this project is having people (youth and adults) being involved in making this youth retreat center a reality. We started with just 2 parishes participating and now have people from over 15 parishes helping. This is very satisfying seeing so many people involved, but we would love to have more parishes & more people involved. So contact us to see how you can help or have us come present to your group.

## Fund Raising



We now can take donations with PayPal on our website. [www.Eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](http://www.Eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

Remember donations are tax deductible. Send checks to: Eagle's Wings, PO Box 248, Burnet, Tx 78611



## LIMESTONE MARKERS FOR MEMORIAL GARDEN AT EAGLE'S WINGS

For a \$100 donation you may honor a loved one with a limestone marker in our memorial garden. The memorial garden will be located in our outdoor Stations of the Cross area at the 12<sup>th</sup> Station, the foot of Calvary. The stone will be irregularly shaped in the size range of 12 x 18 to 12 x 24 inches depending on the size of your inscription.

Go to our website or contact Katie at 512-715-0017 or email: [Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

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## **List of Items Needed for Eagle's Nest**

We are currently finishing up the new building but we lack several items. If you can help us with any of these items or want to donate the cash to buy them here's what we need:

Deck Chairs or tables - \$25-\$50

Benches - \$100

Bunk Beds & Mattresses - \$150 each

Additional Propane Hot Water Heater - \$200

Sand for Volleyball Court - \$250

Electric Stove/Oven - \$300

Bridge to Marian Grotto - \$350

Refrigerator - \$500

Thanks to all those that have donated items already.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Fund Raising Committee Members

Grant Writer

Contact Curt or Katie Haffner: Phone 512-715-0017

[Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Katie@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

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Eagle's Wings Retreat Center

PO Box 248

Burnet, Tx 78611

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## **Eagle's Wings Board of Directors**

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Newsletter Editor: Joe Noonan

**Note:** If you would like to get this Newsletter by mail please send me your address.

[Joe@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:Joe@eagleswingsretreatcenter.org)

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