

# EAGLE'S WINGS NEWS

Volume 5

Issue 2

www.EaglesWingsRetreatCenter.org

June 2009

## Godstock IV Draws Over 500

Warm April breezes and smiling faces of hundreds of youth and adults were indicators that the Godstock IV was once again upon the Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. Over 500 participants including youth and adults from 27 parishes made their way to Burnet to worship God in breathtakingly beautiful acreage. April 25th opened the experience conceived specifically by Austin youth ministers, for the youth of the Austin Diocese. Each year Godstock offers unique prayer experiences and musical talent including new and returning artists. This year's lineup included local Catholic musicians: Soundwave, Aquinas Bloom, The Plow, Grace Pettis, Doug Weisbruch, Paul Findley and musician/key-note speaker Ben Walther, a youth minister and favorite of the Arch-

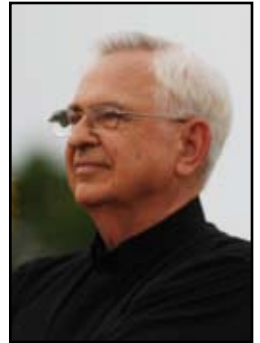
diocese of Galveston-Houston. For 24 hours participants were engaged in a combination of spiritual and fun activities including: Mass;

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## Msgr. Elmer Holtman To Serve At EWRC

Msgr. Elmer Holtman plans to retire and serve as the Chaplain of Eagle's Wings Retreat Center. He retires from St. Thomas More



July 15 and after a time of reflection will be available for the retreats in the fall of 2009. Msgr. Elmer Holtman has been pastor at St. Thomas More of Austin for the past 20 years. Along with his duties at Eagle's Wings he has been appointed by Bishop Gregory Aymond the Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin effective July 15th. He will share this responsibility with Father Michael Sis.

## Construction In Full Swing



**Dining Hall**

*During these uncertain economic times and because we want to be good stewards of the gifts we receive, we are printing this newsletter in black only. We invite you to view the beauty of the color pictures on our website at: [www.ewrc.org](http://www.ewrc.org) and follow the links to the newsletter.*



Construction on the clergy residence is nearing completion. Fundraising for this portion of the capital campaign was completed with the receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the Scanlan Foundation. Msgr. Elmer Holtman will be the first resident when he assumes duties as EWRC Chaplain this summer.



Bishop Gregory Aymond blessed the new adoration chapel and posed for a picture with some of the Knights responsible for the construction.

## *Main Campus Construction...*

Construction on the Dining Hall, 2 dorms and the Clergy House is progressing nicely and we expect to be completed in early September for the Fall retreat season. Bookings are now being accepted.



**Construction on two dorms.**



Painting the adoration chapel was one of the service projects performed during Godstock.

# Godstock...

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making rosaries for Africa; the Liturgy of the Hours; and guided meditative hikes; sand volleyball, flag football, climbing wall and Frisbee. Reconciliation was offered at all times to encourage participation in the sacrament. A booth titled 'Men In Black' was available for youth to enquire and expand their Catholic Faith by visiting

with Priests and seminarians. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Munchie Hut snack bar manned by Knights of Columbus #8936 of Highland Lakes. Participants enjoyed a meal prepared by Saint Albert the Great's Knights of Columbus Council #10333. Ben Walther's keynote message of hope and trust in God followed the meal. Following Walther's message was prayer-

ful songs led by Doug Weisbruch and Keysis Team. Highlight of the evening, came as over 500 people adored on bended knee while Father John Guzaldo processed and led prayer with the Blessed Sacrament in a service of Adoration and Benediction. The evening concluded with fellowship around bonfires shar-

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## Godstock...

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ing experiences of the day. While several parishes headed home, a majority of parishes camped under the Texas stars. Bishop Gregory Aymond presided over a Eucharistic Liturgy with concelebrant Fr. Rusty Richard. The Bishop, who is always popular with the youth, told them, "You are the church today. Wear your Godstock shirts to school and evangelize those who ask about Godstock."

Chris Bartlett, youth minister for the Diocese said, "Godstock was a powerful Christ-centered event. All the music, activities, fellowship, amazing priests and one cool Bishop helped bring about conversion that is Everlasting!" Betsy Foarde, Youth Minister and Godstock committee member, said "Godstock owes a large part of its success to the beautiful Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, not to mention the hard work of the Eagle's

Wings Staff and core of volunteers." She also praised Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry; Office of Worship and the Office of Vocations as contributing to the success of Godstock. "We are greatly blessed to be part of a Diocese that so unequivocally embraces and supports the youth of our church," said Foarde. Planning for Godstock 2010 has already begun. If you would like more information, please contact [austingodstock@gmail.com](mailto:austingodstock@gmail.com).



# A&M Students Participate In First Ever Silent Retreat Held At EWRC

The first silent retreat ever held at Eagle's Wings was hosted during spring break 2009 with 33 students from Texas A&M University, College Station, attending. Due to the nature of the retreat no pictures were taken. The students made a conscious decision to spend part of their spring break in prayer and meditation. The major portion of each day was spent with individuals spending time alone in prayer and meditation.

All participants were given the opportunity to meet every day with one of the seven spiritual directors or a Priest. It was common to see individuals out jogging, walking the paths, spending time at the Stations of the Cross, sitting quietly on a rock, or in deep dialogue with an advisor.

After the conclusion, an unidentified participant said, "I just loved sitting on the rocks and praying",

another said, "Eagle's Wings was the perfect place for this retreat. There was so much space to just be alone."

Stephanie Curtis said, "Being on silent retreat at Eagle's Wings Retreat Center was a beautiful experience. Praying with our Blessed Mother, falling on my knees in front of the Tabernacle, walking the peaceful trails, simply being within the Father's presence, and embraced in His love was a beautiful blessing I am very thankful to have experienced."

Stephanie Balser said, "I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to attend a silent retreat for the first time over spring break. The retreat center was beautiful and provided so many peaceful places to pray. I didn't have any trouble finding a spot where I could be alone and reflect. I was truly able to escape with God for a few days and allow Him to speak to me in the silence of my heart."

## *Special Thank You*

During the past several weeks we have been blessed with numerous special gifts and we want to express a very sincere thank you to the individuals and groups responsible for:

- *New Tables*
- *Honoring Your Pledges*
- *New Chairs*
- *New Altar*
- *New Tabernacle*
- *New Adoration Chapel*



Msgr. Elmer Holtman (back right) recently led the retreat for Christ Incarnate Word, Houston.

## *House Warming/Shower*

As our construction progresses we start to think of the many things that we need to begin use of the new buildings. Please remember Eagle's Wings as we will have many expenses associated with the opening of these new buildings. Not unlike moving into a new house we have trash cans to buy, commercial cooking utensils, chairs, plates, eating utensils and 72 mattresses. The only difference between us & a wedding is all of EW's 'stuff' will need to be indestructible. Donations toward these 'House Warming' gifts should be mailed to : Eagle's Wings Retreat Center, PO Box 248, Burnet, TX 78611.

## *Christ Has No Hands...*

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
 no hands but yours,  
 no feet but yours,  
 yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion  
 is to look out to the earth,  
 yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing  
 good  
 and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us  
 now.

St Teresa of Avila



# MIGHTY Retreat From St. Elizabeth



## Young Adult Returns to Eagle's Wings

It has been an amazing experience helping out at the MIGHTY retreat. I was here four years ago, 2005 my senior year in high school, for Manus Dei. The service project my group worked on was the Stations of the Cross. When we took the kids up there, it was like I walked through an invisible curtain to the past. I very clearly remembered lining that path with heavy stones, and putting up the crosses. The memories flooded my mind. It was surreal! And, to see all of our hard work still standing and being enjoyed by so many is a great feeling. Eagle's Wings has come so far, and still has a ways to go. I am so excited about it, and I got to be a part of it, TWICE!

- Jessalyn Bernhard, Age 21, Round Rock, Tx., St. William Parish

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