

# Young People Who Care, Inc.

## Spring Newsletter 2008

### PAST EVENTS

#### Celebration of the Holy Week Liturgies

The Anawim Community celebrated the Holy Week Liturgies at Bethany Retreat Center with Fr. Phil Billotte as celebrant and many local people and retreatants in attendance. Palm Sunday was celebrated with Gannon University Students who were on retreat at Bethany.



Holy Thursday began with a Seder Meal followed by the Mass of the Lord's Supper and one hour of adoration.



Good Friday was solemnly observed with walking and praying the outdoor Stations of the Cross in the morning, the Celebration of the Lord's passion in the afternoon, and a Taize prayer service around the cross in the evening.



The Easter Vigil began with the outdoor fire and lighting of the Easter candle. The procession led the participants into the Prayer Center for the remainder of the joyful celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus!

#### Day of Reflection on the Beatitudes



Sr. Therese and Sr. Karen were presenters for a Day of Reflection on the Beatitudes in Pittsburgh, PA for a group of 50 adults sponsored by

Contemplative Outreach of Pittsburgh and the New Liberty Presbyterian Church. The day consisted of presentations, time for reflection, prayer, music, and group sharing. This retreat on the Beatitudes will continued to be offered to other interested groups.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Extended Anawim Work Weekend – May 9-11, 2008

The Anawim Community invites anyone interested to participate in the annual Extended Anawim work weekend May 9-11. This weekend is a chance for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together at Bethany Retreat Center to join in the ministries of the Anawim Sisters by helping with various work projects. There is time for community building, prayer, recreation, Mass, and work projects (i.e. landscaping around Bethany and the labyrinth, painting rooms at the shelter for women and children, minor construction projects, preparing the land for a garden, mulching the blueberries, and much more). If you are looking for a chance to give of yourself and experience working together with others to make a difference, call 814-263-4855.

#### World Youth Day Home Event

**Bethany Youth Center**, under the direction of Sr. Suzanne, is offering a special program for the youth of the Erie Diocese to be held at the same time as the celebration of World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. This event consists of two components: **a one week experience** of education, community building, and service for 48 youth (and 12 adults) to prepare these students to be the youth leaders at the second component of the program: **the weekend event** open to hundreds of youth from around the Diocese. The Saturday-Sunday weekend program will consist of community building activities, education, faith development, and service, a viewing of the message of Pope Benedict from the Sydney, Australia World Youth Day Event, and other kinds of fun activities. The keynote speaker will be Fr. James DiLuzio, a Paulist priest from New York, NY. Please keep the youth attending this event in your prayers. Hundreds of youth from the Erie Diocese are expected to join in this celebration of World Youth Day at Bethany. We are open to sponsors to help defray the costs of this event. All donations are tax deductible.

#### Blueberry Festival

The Blueberry Festival this year will have a slightly different format. It is going to be held on the weekend of July 25-27, 2008. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event or make any donations, please contact us at 814-263-4855.

## **In Gratitude to the Benefactors of YPWC:**

### **YPWC Services in past 6 months**

#### **Direct Service Program:**

- 125 families served
- 1200 volunteer hours

#### **Marian House:**

- Oct-Nov: 13 women & 7 children for 743 Housing Days
- Jan – March: 12 women & 9 children for 786 Housing Days

#### **Life Line Services:**

- Jan – March '08: 223 families served
- 55 were new clients

#### **Adult Retreats:**

- 12 retreats for 366 participants at Bethany
- 3 retreats for 166 participants away

#### **Youth Retreats:**

- 25 retreats for 1,037 participants

The ministries of Young People Who Care would not be possible without the financial support, prayers, and volunteer time of so many benefactors. All that are served through the various programs of YPWC are so grateful for the help and services they receive. Your support has impacted the lives of many people. May God bless you.

### **Marian House Emergency Shelter for Women and Children:**

Marian House, under the leadership of Sr. Ruth Ann, has been extremely busy the past 6 months, at times with all available rooms occupied! This winter has seen some difficult times for many families and Marian House has been a safe shelter for many who had found themselves

homeless. Monetary gifts provided at Christmas have helped with some needed improvements: painting, a new stove was purchased, and there are plans in the near future to replace the window blinds and redo the flooring on the first floor.

### **Life Line Pregnancy and Infant Services:**



Life Line offices in Clearfield, Philipsburg, and Frenchville have provided services to over 223 families in the past 3 months. Benefactors from Brockway, pictured here, have donated baby items such as

diaper bags, diapers, bibs, blankets etc. to be given out to expectant mothers and mothers with infants who come to Life Line to receive assistance. Such donated items from individuals and groups are greatly appreciated by those who are struggling financially.



### **Mercy Mission Used Clothing Outlet:**

Mercy Mission has undergone a transformation in the past few months. Improvements have been made in the quality of merchandise made available for purchase at low costs and upgrades to the store itself have made a difference in the ministry of Mercy Mission. All proceeds from the store go to support Marian House. Donations of new, very good and clean used clothing are being accepted.

### **Other Anawim News:**

Sr. Karen has recently started to work one day a week at Clearfield Hospital's outpatient office in Houtzdale, PA, located about 25 miles from Frenchville. She continues to provide medical care to the uninsured at the Susquehanna Rural Free Clinic for four days a week. The free clinic has just received news that it is the recipient of a grant that will assist in establishing two dental rooms at the free clinic so that dental care to the uninsured can be provided. A local dentist and a few dental hygienists have agreed to volunteer their time and talent once a month to meet the dental needs of the uninsured. The clinic will need to expand to accommodate these new services and so construction plans are under consideration.

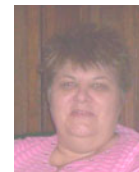


### **Welcome home, Fr. Phil!**

Fr. Phil Billotte, whose family homestead is next door to Bethany, has officially retired from the Rochester, New York Diocese and has moved "back home" to his Frenchville homestead. He is celebrating daily Mass at Bethany and is assisting with retreats, both youth and adult. We are privileged to have him with us!

### **Welcome New Volunteer: Theresa**

Theresa joins YPWC as a short term volunteer for 3 months. Theresa is a retired OB/GYN nurse, she comes from Arizona, and brings with her many gifts and talents to be used in service of others. We welcome her to YPWC!



**Prayers and Sympathy** go out to Barb and Jim Flickinger and their family to support them as we all grieve the recent sudden death of their daughter, **Karen Redmond**, who was an original founding YPWC volunteer when in high school and then she served on staff at Young People Who Care, Inc. for ten years. May God welcome her into his loving care and comfort all of us who miss her.