



first Sunday AUGUST 2008 *Community of the Cross*

Liturgy Schedules

10:00 SUNDAY, Crosswood Centre, Chapel of Mary Magdalene, 5355 Co. Rd. 35, Auburn, IN 46706-9717

10:00 AM SUNDAY, Fort Wayne at Redwood Chapel, 2425 Redwood Avenue, Fort Wayne *thanks to Rose and Stan*

9:00 AM SUNDAY, Angola Crosswood at our new location at 3472 North Wayne Street

A Lesson From Ireland

One of my students in Ireland gifted me with a book by John O'Donohue called *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*. The opening sentence in this book goes like this: "We live between the act of awakening and the act of surrender." This is one of the more profound sentences I recall reading in a long time; Awakening to a morning of possibility each day; Surrendering to the world of dreams each night. Awakening to the world at birth out of the dark recesses of the womb and surrendering to the sleep of death at the end of our life, we continually re-enact this process throughout our life.

Do we really awaken though? I see children alive with the wonder and awe of new discoveries around them each day. Yet somehow, adults seem to not notice the beauty in which they walk. How many times do we simply walk through life without really waking up. I know for myself there are many days that I seem to repeat the same behavior patterns as I did before – sometimes over and over again. Other days, the world is a source of beauty and wonder. I have found for myself that my awareness of beauty is a good barometer of my mental and spiritual health. There are some days that the beauty of God displayed in the world escapes me completely. Instead of beauty, I see ugliness. Rather than feeling the embrace of the Divine, I feel alienated and pressed upon by the world around me. Luckily, something beautiful usually catches my attention and awakens me once more. Not everyone seems so lucky. Some people surrender early and after a long period of surrender they surrender to death prematurely. I believe some of us are among the living dead.

How often do we fail to see the beauty in our world, we see no hope and we shut out awe and wonder. As summer proceeds into fall, let's AWAKEN each morning to a new day of possibilities, look at the beauty around us. Wake up, smell those roses, enjoy the summer evening serenade of the cicadas, catch a sunrise or a sunset. Awake to the sounds and sights of the universe, the energies of God around us. Somehow I believe our awakening each day will make the surrender easier at the end of the day and at the end of our lives.

John+

Community of the Cross Synod Starts October 19

Some of you remember the OCCA Synod a couple of years ago. We hosted the priests and bishops of OCCA from all over the United States. They came to pray, reflect, and make decisions together. A Synod is the name used to describe a coming together. The Community of the Cross will be having a Synod on October 19, 2008 at 1:00 pm and on November 30, which will also serve as our annual meeting. We will begin with a prayer service dedicating the Loft. Our reflection and discussion will begin immediately after the prayer service. Mother Maria will lead us in the afternoon's activities. In order to prayerfully consider our communities future we will: begin from who we are, consider who we are called to be, decide where we want to go, and plan how to get there. This is only the beginning of a process. (We will meet again on November 30th in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.) We will take our lead from the 25th chapter of the gospel of Matthew. Topics will include: Jesus' challenge to us, healing, forgiveness, becoming icons, inclusion, and sheep. Archbishop Skip will close the day with his comments, and we will finish with potluck snack/dinner at 3:30pm. The Leadership Committee will continue its discussion of plans for the Synod at its August 16th meeting.

We sincerely hope that every member of the community will attend the Synod and the Annual Meeting. We need everyone's thoughts and prayers!

Mon & Wed School?

I haven't been there for a while but assume they are still happening. Drop in and see for yourself. I have a good excuse for not being there - how about you???

Missing Jake

If you haven't heard, Skip's dog Jake was struck by a car and killed a while back. If you close your eyes, you can probably see the visions of him when, as a puppy, he loved being tossed into the air by the sheep at the ranch. And being a streak of red-orange racing across the back yard. And an enthusiastic player of fetch (while not quite getting the part where he has to give the stick back before it is thrown again). And his sheer joy when able to leap into the air and then plunging blissfully into the pond.

In fact, sheer joy is a good way to describe and remember Jake. When it came to living, he was a Snoopy on drugs, unapologetically enthusiastic and unabashedly loving. Now, his spirit cavorts with the angels (may they have more luck with fetch). We thank God for this loving creature which visited our lives, and who was Skip's very good friend.

Leadership Team Meeting August 16 10:00 to 12:00 MINUTES ATTACHED

The Leadership Team will meet at 10:00 AM on the 16th of August at the Skete.

The Minutes were sent to me by Fr. Bob:

LEADERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 19 2008

Present: Skip, Maria, Cliff, Jim, Josh, and Bob (recorder)

1. The Loft Project

a) Skip reported that the Loft project is quickly coming to a conclusion. He has arranged for construction materials and other things in the Loft to be removed early in the week.

b) The Painting will begin this week, probably on Tuesday.

c) The carpet will start to be laid on Wednesday. The color upstairs is known to everyone--it is a kind of blue-gray. Downstairs in the chapel and gathering room, it will be a burgundy, slightly darker than the red carpet now in the chapel.

d) Skip was thanked for his work on this final phase, as well as thanks to all who were involved over the past year with the construction.

Skip had to leave after this presentation.

If either the FW or Angola communities want chipboard or other supplies from the Loft, it is imperative that they be removed

early in the week.

2. The Panaketa

a) The Revs John and Maria have constructed a Panaketa service which they plan on celebrating monthly at the Magdalene Chapel. It will be a remembrance of those who have died.

b) They are asking for names of individuals to be remembered. As the list grows, the names will be organized by date of birth. You are welcome/invited to provide names of those to remember. Send them to Maria. If at all possible, please indicate the person's date (or at least month of birth) and if the person was a child.

c) She anticipates that it may begin to be celebrated in November near All Saints/All Souls, and afterward on a regular date, such as the date each month of the Leadership Meeting.

d) The Panaketa will have a litany of the saints taken from the OCCA calendar, and the saints used will be those of the month.

e) Pamphlets for participation and sung litany of the saints will eventually be in the chapel--once the construction phase is completed and things are in better order.

f) The group thanked Maria and John for their hard work on this project.

3. Tabernacle for Magdalene Chapel

Deacon Josh identified the need for a better repository for the Sacred Elements. He notes that oftentimes the shelf in the sacristy is unkempt and cluttered. The issue was discussed by those present. It was decided that:

a) The place for the tabernacle will be where Bob had conceived of it when the chapel was designed. On the east wall at the south end.

b) The pew along that wall will be centered in the wall.

c) The credence table will be moved to the south end of the pew and when the tabernacle is installed it will be centered under it.

d) Clergy--all clergy--are asked to keep the credence table uncluttered, and doing so is one of the tasks following a liturgy.

e) Fr. Cliff has offered to build us a tabernacle (and shelf) made from walnut and blood wood, the same materials as he used for the credence table. It will also have glass. It will not be locked.

f) We thanked Josh for bringing this issue to our attention, and to Cliff for offering to build us a new tabernacle.

4. Community of the Cross all-parish Synod

Maria offered to lead the Synod and presented a proposal of a structure for the discernment process presently scheduled for August, at which all parishoners will be invited to

attend and discuss the growth issues of the Community.

She recommended that:

a) A two-hour session be held at the Centre, and that it be divided into periods of prayer, sharing, and reflection.

b) The synod would start with a detailed introduction.

There was a lengthy and energetic discussion. It was agreed that:

a) Maria will revise and amend her schedule utilizing some of the input she received today. b) She will present the idea again at the August Leadership Meeting. c) It was agreed that the Synod can't be in August, as more preparation of the parish members is required, and first we have to agree on how to do that. d) It was agreed that the Synod could be combined with the dedication of the completed Loft, both to get people to the Centre AND since the Loft will provide us space for the small diads and triads to meet. e) All agreed that more meetings (at least one more) would be needed after the above outlined gathering. The questions of identity and mission and method will take more time. f) There needs to be more ownership, and how we get people to buy in is through participation and seeing things happening (another reason to combine with the Loft dedication). g) The group thanked Maria for the time and effort she put into her proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Zahrt

Leadership Team

If you need to contact the Leadership Committee, here are their numbers:

Fr. Skip Carsten*, 260-927-6040 (numeric pager)

Fr. Vince Cuestas, 426-8885

Mother Kris'ta Cuestas, 426-8885

Mr. Ken Erlenbaugh, Core Team North, 833-1313

Mr. Stan Gephart, Core Team South

Ms. Carolyn Hurley, Core Team South, 484-8380

Email: celectics@verizon.net

Fr. John Newbauer, 615-0156

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Mother Joan North, 833-3412

Fr./Dcn Tom North, 833-3412

Fr. Cliff Polubinsky 493-4223

Br. Richard Lounsbury & Stella 260-336-2276

Mr. Scott Rutsey, Crosswood Treasurer

Mother Maria van Valkenburg 260-385-3707

Fr. James Spink

Fr. Robert Zahrt, 471-6573

READINGS FOR AUGUST

Date	Com of Cross Angola	Magdaline Chapel Auburn	Redwood Chapel Ft. Wayne	Open Door Chapel Ft. Wayne	Readings
Proper 13 (18) August 3, 2008	Joan+	Bob+	Cliff+	Maria+	Genesis 32:22-31 or Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 or Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
Proper 14 (19) August 10, 2008	+Skip	+Vince	Cliff+	Maria+ John+	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 or I Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22 or Psalm 85:8-13 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33
Proper 15 (20) August 17, 2008	Joan+	John+	+Skip	Maria+ Bob+	Genesis 45:1-15 or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 133 or Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Proper 16 (21) August 24, 2008	Bob+	+Vince	Cliff+	Maria+	Exodus 1:8-2:10 or Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 124 or Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
Proper 17 (22) August 31, 2008	Joan+	+Vince	Bob+	Maria+	Exodus 3:1-15 or Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26 or Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Proper 18 (23) Sept. 7, 2008	Joan+	+Skip	Cliff+	Maria+	Exodus 12:1-14 or Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 149 or Psalm 119:33-40 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20