

Along the way

"Were not our hearts burning within us as he opened the Scriptures for us along the way." — Luke 24:32

A publication of **sabbath retreats**

New Address 4519 West 193rd St. Cleveland, OH 44135

Deciding to leave the yard work and home repairs to others, I've moved into a townhouse about a mile from the airport and just up the hill from the Cleveland Metro Parks and my beloved bike path.

The move took place in early October and by Thanksgiving I was pretty much settled in—just in time for preparing for arthroscopic surgery on my right knee (torn meniscus) on December 11. It will be a quiet Christmas recovering.

My email address (loupapes@ameritech.net) and cell phone (216-408-0708) remain the same. My snail-mail address and land line phone (216-267-7207) have changed. And you can still check up on my programs and travels on my website www.sabbathretreats.org.

Religious retreats expanding

sabbath retreats was born some fifteen years ago with a week-long retreat for the Cleveland Notre Dame Sisters entitled *Religious Life as Sacrament*. That retreat quickly took a back seat to parish missions which were more in demand.

This June, Ursuline Sister Mary Ellen Brinovec and I facilitated our fifth retreat for religious at Mount Nazareth, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in Pittsburgh. Some 45 sisters participated.

You can view the brochure for these retreats at www.sabbathretreats.org and by going to Formats / Religious Retreats.

Our next retreat is scheduled for July 8-13 with the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa in Lowell, MA.



Sr. Mary Ellen and I present Sr. Sister Cecilia with a memento of the Annual Retreat of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth in June.

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Mission schedule: Lent 2007

Three Missions (+) this Lent will center on the theme of *Disciples for the 21st Century*. Two (*) will focus on the spiritual dimension of human relationships in a mission entitled *Families of Faith*.

February 17-21 *

February 24-28 +

March 3-7 *

March 17-20 +

March 24-28 +

Church of the Nativity

St. Mary Church

St. Francis of Assisi

Immaculate Conception

Braintree Catholic Cluster

Charleston, SC

Winchester, MA

Apopka, FL

Ft. Benton, MT

Braintree, MA

Parish Mission DVD may be in the future

When preaching the Parish Mission at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Gaylord, MI, the pastoral staff was kind enough to record each night on both VHS and DVD. The Cathedral is equipped with a close circuit television set-up with multiple cameras.

The quality is quite good and since people have often asked if CD's or DVD's of ~~sabbath retreat~~ presentations are available, there is the possibility of duplicating these DVD's. However, it seems to be more complicated than at first thought. A local movie producer has been consulted for technical advice, and a copyright lawyer is looking into legal ramifications of including the musical selections that were a part of that Mission.

Producing a print version of homilies preached over the last 18+ years is also under consideration, which has many of the same problems as the multi-media versions.

Who knows? We'll see. Anyone out there know how all this works?

THE CULVER ACADEMY



The Culver Academy Chapel

It was a distinct honor to be able to celebrate the Eucharist with the students of the renowned Culver Academy.

The Culver Academies are independent college preparatory boarding schools comprised of Culver Military Academy and Culver Girls' Academy. Henry Harrison Culver founded Culver Military Academy in 1894 "for the purpose of thoroughly preparing young men for the best colleges, scientific schools and businesses of America."

I was assigned to preach at St. Mary of the Lake in Culver, Indiana, the weekend of April 29-30. The parish provides the sacramental needs of the Academy. That weekend was "Parents' Weekend," so the beautiful chapel (at the right) had a "parish-like" feel.

The students exercised all the liturgical roles which in itself was impressive, considering that they were in an awesome interdenominational environment.

A "real" model for kids

For years I have been using a real-life example of Christian service with children. I tell them the story of Trevor Farrell, who, over 20 years ago as a 6th grader in a Philadelphia suburb, was moved by a TV report on the homeless in the inner city. He convinced his parents and some of his friends do something concrete about it.

When the reports of their trips to the homeless to feed them and to provide them with warm blankets were picked up by the media, a groundswell of support arose that eventually received national attention. A shelter in his name (*Trevor's Place*), a book (*Trevor's Place: The Story of the Boy Who Brought Hope to the Homeless*) and a TV Movie (*Christmas on Division Street*) all record the Christian courage of this young boy.

Today Trevor manages a thrift shop for the poor in Central Philly and lives with his wife and two daughters on the grounds of an 18 acre estate owned by a group of cloistered nuns, where he is the groundskeeper. When in Philly for a Parish Mission this past Lent, I had the honor of meeting the adult Trevor, who is still committed to doing the simple things that make the Gospel come alive. A real model for kids — and adults.



Fr. Lou with Trevor Farrell at his Thrift Shop.



All are welcome in this place... (?)



That's the refrain of a hymn that opens many Eucharistic liturgies. If what we sing were actually true, our national average of church attendance would not be stuck at around 30%. As I go around the country preaching Parish Missions, the single most frequently requested intention I am asked to pray for is "for my children who don't attend church anymore."

While these declining numbers have not a little to do with the cover-up of the sexual abuse crisis, the dwindling numbers predate that disaster. There is sufficient evidence that self-righteous and judgmental attitudes have more to do with people walking than even the real or perceived hypocrisy of the hierarchy.

At the top of the list is the attitude towards the divorced, separated and remarried. One of the first public statements of Pope Benedict after his election was the need for greater understanding and compassion for those struggling with broken relationships. A major item on the agenda for the first synod of this Pope was an open discussion of the same issue. No changes were initiated, but at least the issue is being discussed openly.

And though barely noticed, word has come from Rome that the annulment process should not drag on so that the wounds of broken relationships are not further deepened. It's a start. Unfortunately, the recent meeting of the U.S. bishops produced a document that will be perceived by many as very "unwelcoming," despite its best intentions.

The widespread perception is that in our churches those whose lives do not fit the norm are in fact often not welcome. It is not the responsibility of the priest-president alone to be welcoming and non-judgmental. The "church" is after all "the people of God." It is the responsibility of every worshipper to be demonstrably welcoming. I encourage people who attend Parish Missions to greet just one new person each week. And by that I don't mean a wave across the pews at the greeting of peace. Imagine the impact on the community of such simple act of welcoming!

Each person must make it her/his responsibility actually to engage a "stranger" in a welcoming dialog at every Sunday, Eucharist. Perhaps then the hymn we sing will really mean something: "All are welcome in this place..."

Not divorced from the church

In a moving article in the May/June (2004) issue of *Preach*, Donna Pinsoneault, writes of her pastor's efforts to minister to those living with separation and loss, including herself.

She pointed out his sensitive use of language both from the pulpit and in casual conversation. "He didn't hold up one family style or lifestyle, one vocation, one set of choices...as 'higher' or more valuable to the community than another."

"He was careful about linking the act of filing for divorce or the state of being divorced with sin."

This true shepherd recognized that those who are wounded by human relationships have a real kinship with "the folks he preaches about: the stranger who minister's to another's wounds on an unfamiliar road, the lovable guy in the tree who suddenly realizes Jesus will dine with him....[And] why Christ picked Peter to lead, and why he trusted the five-times-married water-drawer to tell her town about the Messiah."

May such as he increase in the pulpits and in the pews!

"All are welcome in this place!"

A church called to celebrate life

Early in my term as pastor, I receive a call from a woman who asked if I would baptize her new-born daughter. When she indicated that she was not a parishioner, I suggested that it would be more appropriate for her daughter to be baptized into the family's worshipping community.

She then informed me that her parish priest had refused to baptize the child since she and her husband were not married in the Church. She had been divorced. I invited her and her husband to come in to share their story.

This is what I learned from listening to their story. She had married her first husband fourteen years ago. He left her after eight months. About a year and a half later she remarried without getting an annulment. For twelve years they tried to have a child.

Finally, Sarah, was born. And their parish church refused to baptize the child!

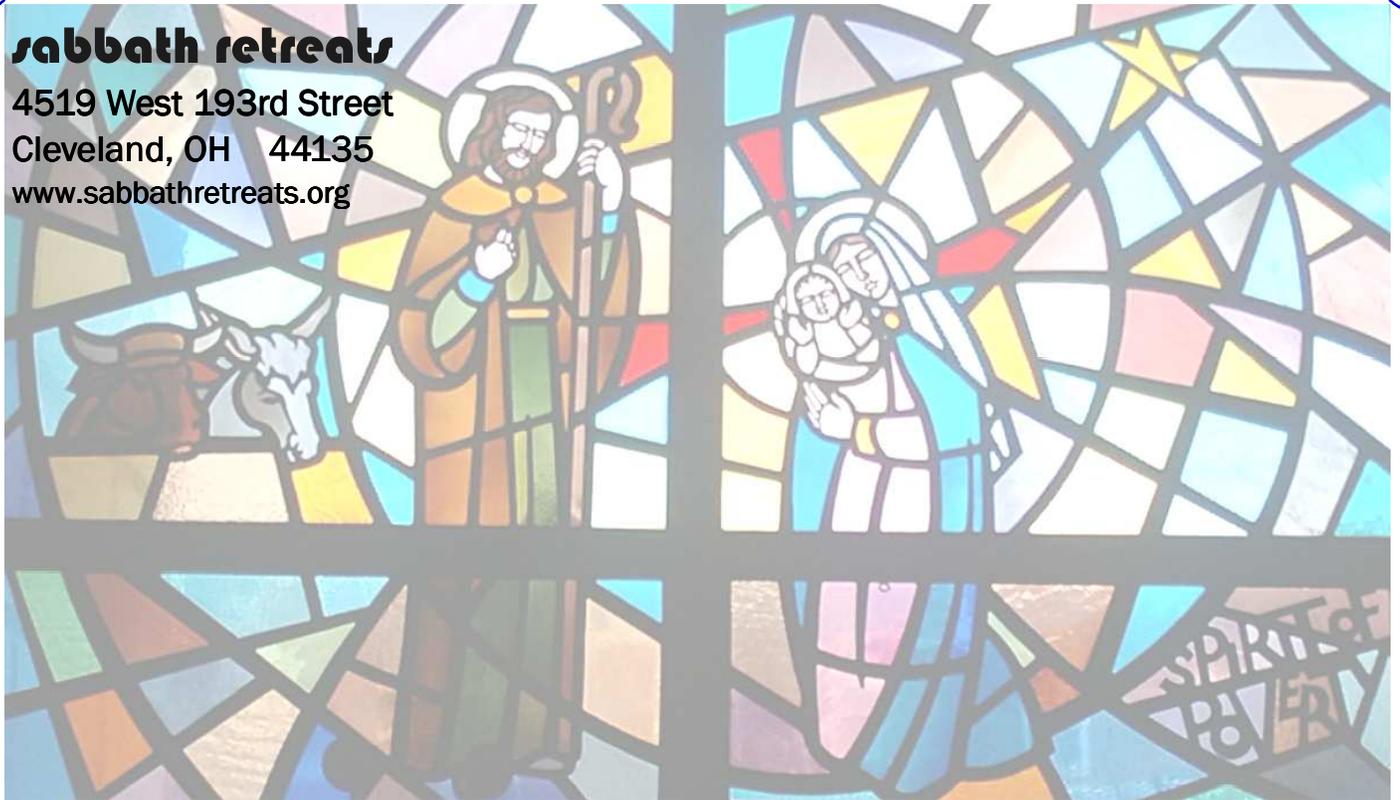
Regardless of why her mother did not pursue an annulment, we joyfully celebrated Sarah's Baptism because...

"All are welcomed in this place!"

Christmas, 2006

sabbath retreats

4519 West 193rd Street
Cleveland, OH 44135
www.sabbathretreats.org



Spirit of Poverty Stained Glass Window, St. Bernard Church, Philadelphia, PA

Preaching Schedule: Where I've Been ~ Where I'm Going

June, 2006

June 3-4	St. Aloysius	Calmar, IA
June 10-11	St. Bernard	Billings, MT
June 17-18	Christ the King (Ohio U.)	Athens, OH
June 24-25	St. Mary / Sacred Heart	Centralia, WA

July, 2006

July 1-2	Sacred Heart	Petersburg, VA
July 8-9	St. Bernadine	Baltimore, MD
July 15-16	St. James the Greater	Montague, NJ
July 22-23	Holy Trinity	Webster, NY
July 29-30	St. Mary	Mount Vernon, IL

August, 2006

August 5-6	Sacred Heart	Highland Falls, NY
August 12-13	Good Shepherd	Tallahassee FL
August 19-20	St. Stephen	Cleveland, OH
August 26-27	St. Stephen	Grand Island, NY

September, 2006

September 2-3	St. Stephen of Hungary	Skidway Lake, MI
September 9-10	St. Andrew	Bridgeport, CT
September 16-17	St. Michael	Independence, OH
September 23-24	St. Anthony of Padua	Chicopee, MA
Sept. 30—Oct. 1	St. Joseph / St. Paul	Spearfish, SD

October, 2006

October 7-8	St. Joseph Cathedral	Manchester, NH
October 14-15	St. Ann	Excelsior Springs, MO
October 21-22	Immaculate Conception	Fulton, NY
October 28-29	St. Anne	Alpena, MI

November, 2006

November 4-7 *	St. Martin of Tours	New Hope, PA
November 11-12	St. John ? Sacred Heart	Pottsville, PA
November 18-19	St. Therese / St. John	Phillips, WI
November 25-26	St. Joseph	Medway, MA

* *Sabbath Retreats Parish Mission: Disciples for the 21st Century*

December, 2006

December 2-3		
December 9-10	St. Clement	Navarre, OH
December 11-31	Vacation / Arthroscopic Surgery	

January, 2007

January 6-7	St. Andrew by the Bay	Anapolis, MD
January 13-14	St. Bernard	Thief River Falls, MN
January 20-21	Sacred Heart of Jesus	Lake Charles, LA
January 27-28		

February, 2007

February 3-4	Maternity of Mary	Bourbonnais, IL
February 10-11	St. Adrian	Adrian, MN

LENT MISSION SCHEDULE SEE PAGE 1