



# THE RAY

*The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center*

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

2604 N. Swan Blvd. Wauwatosa WI 53226 414-258-2604 x27 Vol. 2 Issue 1

*From the desk of Mary...*

A heartfelt thanks from the Board of Directors to everyone who supported our Wine and Cheese Reception through your work, donations, attendance and prayers.

In case you didn't make it, allow me to recap briefly. Under the direction of Julie Cucunato, our guests enjoyed an exquisite prelude of sacred music. In his talk, Archbishop Jerome ListECKI likened the need for spiritual direction to an athlete's need for a professional trainer. His message emphasized the necessity of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center. Then, I had the joy of sharing Phase II (see next article). Fr. Cliff Ermatinger's eloquent talk on the three women Doctors of the Church followed.

The reception was complete with an abundance of food, wine, and great conversation. Congratulations to Mrs. Marlene Rappl, winner of our door prize, a rare bottle of California Pinot Noir.

Advent is upon us. Let's journey with Our Blessed Mother, steadfast in our baptismal fiat, to carry Christ into everyday life, to everyone we meet.

*Beth Hanan and Fr. Cliff Ermatinger visit with Archbishop ListECKI.*



**Don't miss this lecture!**

### **Prayer in the Patristic Tradition**

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm  
at Christ King Parish in Tosa

Fr. Cliff Ermatinger, renowned scholar and author, will be presenting a talk inspired by the Augustinian and Byzantine tradition on prayer. *See insert for more details.*

## PHASE II Displayed

As the mission of the Center unfolds, it's time to share the vision for Phase II. A free standing site!—modestly constructed, and beautifully appointed in a lovely, accessible neighborhood. It is to be a warm, peaceful, sacred place for the People of God to find spiritual refreshment.

*Discussion centered on Phase II at the Reception.*



The site will house offices for spiritual direction, a 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, spirituality reading room & sacred music listening area, spirituality gallery, conference room, classroom for workshops on Ignatian Discernment, Sacrament of Reconciliation Room, outdoor gardens with a Rosary Walk and Stations of the Cross, and dining space. Stop by the Center to view the architectural blueprint.



## Advent Reflection

### ***The Whole World Awaits Mary's Response*** ***St. Bernard of Clairvaux***

*This excerpt from a homily In Praise of the Virgin Mother by St. Bernard (Hom. 4, 8-9: Opera omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 4 [1966], 53-54) is used in the Roman Office of Readings on December 20, in the Fourth Week of Advent. Bernard dramatically celebrates Mary's Fiat, or statement of consent in response to the announcement by the archangel Gabriel.*

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

*continued on back...*

## *Our Holy Father on Spiritual Direction*

(emphasis added by editor)

VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 16, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- **Everyone -- priests, religious, laypeople -- and especially youth, should have a spiritual director** to help them in the Christian life, says Benedict XVI.

The Pope affirmed this today when he reflected on Symeon the New Theologian during the general audience held in Paul VI Hall.

The Holy Father mentioned how important spiritual direction was in the life of the 11th Century monk, and affirmed that the invitation to seek guidance in the spiritual life "continues to be valid for all." [ ]

He mentioned that a spiritual guide should help one to grow in knowledge of oneself and lead a person "to union with the Lord, so that one's life is increasingly conformed to the Gospel." [ ] Benedict XVI affirmed. "We cannot do it with our reflections alone. And this is also the meaning of the ecclesiality of our faith, of finding this guide."

### *We need your support.*

#### **END OF YEAR GIVING**

Kindly remember Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center in your 2011 end of year giving. The Center is a 501(c)(3) not for profit. All donations are tax-deductible. Checks may be made payable to ***Our Lady of Grace***.

#### **ADOPT-A-DIRECTEE**

Our Holy Father emphasized the need for spiritual direction for all, especially young people. If you would like to sponsor a directee, please contact Mary DeSantis at 414-258-2604 x27.

#### **VOCATION GUID**

Lead a small group in praying the Rosary monthly with the intention that we all become saints by answering "yes" to our God-given vocation. Prayer booklets for leader and group members are available. Please call the Center at 414-258-2604 x27. Imagine, **your prayer** could be the reason for the joyful seminarian or that holy young couple!

#### **MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**

Designate your financial contribution in honor of your friend or in memory of your godparent. Honorariums and memorials will be listed in the next newsletter.

#### **VOLUNTEER**

Whether your talent is organizing an event, writing grants, maintaining a Web site, stuffing envelopes, baking, singing or babysitting, let us know. Please share your talent with the Center.

### *Advent Reflection continued...*

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the Divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the Eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*

Match the **spiritual director** with their directee.

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. ___ <b>Hans Urs von Balthasar</b>      | a. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque |
| 2. ___ <b>St. Francis de Sales</b>        | b. St. Jane de Chantal        |
| 3. ___ <b>Fr. Michael van der Peet</b>    | c. Bl. Teresa of Calcutta     |
| 4. ___ <b>St. Claude de la Colombiere</b> | d. St. Catherine of Siena     |
| 5. ___ <b>Bl. Raymond of Capua</b>        | e. Adrienne von Speyr         |

Answers 1.e, 2.b, 3.c, 4.a, 5.d

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### **Free Prayer Cards**

Visit us online to request a free prayer card imprinted with a picture of Our Lady of Grace on one side and the *Magnificat* or *Suscipe* on the backside. Simply visit our website at **[www.OurLadyofGraceSpiritualityCenter.org](http://www.OurLadyofGraceSpiritualityCenter.org)** and click **Contact Us**. Complete the request form with your address and your choice of prayer card!