

Home is Where the Heart Is

"I've always been attracted to the Jesuit way of life," says Evangelina Preciado. "I remember wanting to be a part of it even when I was studying at Santa Clara University." Evangelina moved from the post of Program Director at Vallombrosa to that of Director of Marketing and Development at the Retreat Center during February.

Evangelina made her first retreat here when in high school. "It was a beautiful experience," she recalls. "Fr. Blake, the director, was amazingly welcoming." Now, she says, with Jesuits as role models, she is merging spiritual life with work and finding balance in the process. "For the first time," she observes, "it seems that there is no separation."

Fifth of eleven children, Evangelina was raised in East San Jose, attending St. John Vianney Church. She spent childhood summers picking and cutting apricots with her family, in high school worked odd jobs to help out, and in college juggled three jobs to support herself. Evangelina has an M.A. in Liturgy from Santa Clara and a Secondary Credential and a B.A. in English Lit. from San Jose State. She continues academic development at Stanford, Santa Clara, and local junior colleges.

Evangelina is the mother of Mountain View High senior Jacquelyn Smith, who heads for Chapman University in the Fall. "I'm filled with anticipation/dread of the 'empty nest syndrome'," Evangelina mulls. Evangelina's late uncle was a chef at the Retreat Center for ten years, and her brother Al is a teacher at Bellarmine Prep. "Getting this job is a dream come true for me," she exclaims.



Evangelina Preciado and Father Kevin Ballard, S.J., in the Rose Garden behind Loyola Hall.

You Can Go Home Again

Father Kevin Ballard, S.J. began his second tour of duty here at the Jesuit Retreat Center just after Easter, returning home after 15 years away.

A Jesuit since the age of 19, Fr. Kevin says that his favorite part of Jesuit life is getting to talk with and to know different types of people. "Everyone has a richness

and goodness that God has placed in them. Life is about bringing up that [richness and goodness] and sharing it with others."

Fr. Kevin's gift for and delight in interacting with people has taken him to the far corners of the world. In addition to living in over ten states in the U.S.A., he has lived in India, Nepal, Germany, Mexico, and Canada. He applies to his wanderlust Kurt Vonnegut's

observation, "Peculiar travel suggestions are dancing lessons from God."

Fascinated by how other people do and say things, Fr. Kevin relishes the variety of languages. He tinkers, he says, with many languages and is fairly comfortable with Spanish.

Fr. Kevin enjoys giving weekend retreats, which allow him to translate our rich tradition of "then and there" to our present way of living in the "here and now." He feels that these retreats enable us to tap into the richness God has given us and then to try to make that goodness accessible and useful in our daily lives. He'll be a regular on our 12-Step retreat teams.

Fr. Kevin loves nature, and his favorite pastimes include birdwatching, which reminds him of Jesuit Father Gerard Manley Hopkin's poetic exclamation, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

The Mustard Seed

An update on JRC financial development

"The mustard seed is the smallest of all, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants, becoming so big a shrub that the birds of the sky come and build their nests in the branches." Mt 13:32

Annual Appeal: Since January 1, 2007, we have received \$7,015 towards the Annual Appeal, which brings this season's Annual Appeal total to \$70,195.

Annual Drawing/Raffle: The raffle ticket sales and donations totaled \$47,560.

Grants: A gift of \$250,000 towards our "Living Water Project" from the **William G. Irwin Charity Foundation** has helped offset the expense of the new water main system. A gift of \$50,000 from **The Robert S. and Helen Pfeiffer Odell Fund** is allowing the Retreat Center to replace the gutter system and to repair the roof of Loyola Hall.

A correction: In the last issue of the *JRC News* we incorrectly listed the Marin Community Foundation as the donor of \$5,000. The donor was the **Thomas and Joanne Peterson Family Fund** at the Marin Community Foundation. We apologize for our error.

Bequests: In January we received \$254,475 from the late John and Mildred Prusky through the **Prusky Family Living Trust**. In March we received \$2,760 from the **Bowler Charitable Remainder Trust** and \$250,000 from the late Elizabeth Johnson (widow of Aloysius) through the **Betty Morgan Johnson Trust**. In April we received \$8,305 — a second installment from the **Jay D. McEvoy Trust**.

Gifts: Since January 1, 2007, we have received \$45,825 in general donations — \$7,330 in scholarship donations and \$2,500 in other restricted gifts.

Estate Planning: **Steve Welch**, Certified Financial Planner and JRC benefactor, is available to consult with our friends who are interested in discussing their charitable goals. Tax laws offer opportunity for wealth protection and advantageous estate transfer. In concert with your tax adviser and estate planning attorney, Steve can help you identify what you might achieve by including the Jesuit Retreat Center in your family's estate plan. You may talk with Steve confidentially and without obligation at **650-948-4141**.

Our generous benefactors are remembered daily and gratefully in our Masses and prayers.

The Chance of a Lifetime

The 25th Annual JRC Drawing was held on Sunday, April 22, with the first prize going to Irene Gregson. John Dooling and Antonia Tu were the second and third place winners, respectively. We're grateful to all the participants in and donors to the Raffle, another great success, which brought in \$47,560. The generosity of our many benefactors makes this ministry of the Spiritual Exercises possible.



Fr. Jim Hanley—under the watchful eye of Fr. Tom Carroll—picks the winning ticket for First Prize for the 25th Annual Jesuit Retreat Center Drawing.



Lift Up Your Heads

Our last two Annual Appeals have had as their focus adding an elevator to Loyola Hall near the Registration Office. Architect Brian Maridon has designed an elegant tower in the Mediterranean style of our Retreat Center buildings, and drafting and engineering are nearing completion.

Funds dedicated for the project so far total \$91,682. We are grateful for your continuing generosity in support of this practical, and long needed, plant improvement.

A Director's Perspective

Occasion for Gratitude

Two years into my term as Executive Director, I am encouraged by the health of our programs and the engagement of many who find themselves drawn here for prayerful companionship with God.

In the Pierre Favre Program, Fr. Bernie Bush and Sr. Anne Hennessy, C.S.J., have given the first class a rich foundation for understanding and sharing the Spiritual Exercises. Their program will include two further years, part academic, part practical, for direction of the Exercises. As this class moves on in the training, we will welcome a new first-year class.

We have hosted our third retreat for homeless men and our first for homeless women. Fr. Bill Creed, S.J., began these programs, and Matt Walsh and Frank Buckley, Jesuit scholastics at J.S.T.B., are building them up. Fr. Greg Boyle brought another group from Homeboy Industries, L.A., for our second retreat for gang members.

Eloquent and thoughtful young adults have presented two retreats for their peers, sharing experience of discipleship and discernment and facilitating faith-sharing conversation among the participants. Fr. Michael Dorrier, S.J., teamed up with locals Nilofer Merchant, M.B.A., and André Delbecq, Ph.D., to present a insightful and provocative retreat for business professionals. The dynamic Fr. Eddie Samaniego, S.J., led our first retreat in Spanish in many a year.

We will build on the success of these programs in the 2007-2008 season, opening a few new doors, as well. At the request of a retreatant, we will offer in early September a retreat for those facing end of life issues (and their family members, friends, and caregivers.) Fr. Jim Hanley suggested the catchy title: *From Here to Eternity!* A first 12-Step retreat in Spanish will be among our offerings, and the Mother-Daughter retreat will return.

A special blessing of the season will be the opportunity to celebrate Fr. Jim Hanley's 80th birthday this June 22nd, the 50th anniversary of his ordination on June 13th of 2008, and his 25 years of ministry here at the Retreat Center. Fr. Jim asked to combine the observances in one event, and we will do so on Sunday, September 30, with Mass at 4:00 p.m. and a festive meal following. The scope of our facilities will limit the number of those we can accommodate, so please let me know promptly, by e-mail or phone, should you like to attend.

Occasion for Hope

Our auditors seemed alarmed when they learned that we were switching to a new accounting program with the start of the current fiscal year—and the data conversions revealed that, over a few years, their reviews had approved flawed records, particularly with regard to accounts receivable. We have spent months correcting over three years of errors, minor but numerous, in our records and theirs. The auditors got their latest review to us only on May 14, none too early for our filing of a tax return on May 15.

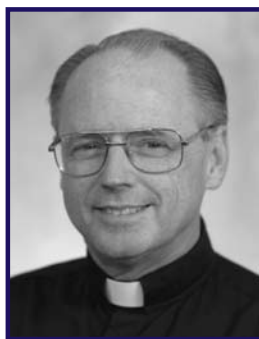
Time I had hoped to spend on a first annual report went, instead, to overseeing a bookkeeping salvage operation. That is finally behind us, as is a business relationship of many years with the auditing firm mentioned above. We will now aim to produce a timely annual report, focusing on the 2006-2007 fiscal and program year, at the start of the next calendar year.

Our volunteers continue to provide substantial assistance. Newest on the team is Cristina Mack, who is putting her accounting skills to work for the Retreat Center and helping to reconcile our books prior to the conclusion of this fiscal year. Lois and Carl Pileri and Cris Goodman continue to render generous service, the last assisting Fr. Joe Fice in keeping our superb Bookstore current.

The "Retreat Preview" column in the last issue of the *JRC News* listed the weekends in the 2007-2008 season for each of our regular retreat groups. Captains of a few groups asked that their retreat be placed later in the schedule, during May, and we were able and happy to oblige.

May 2 to 4, then, Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J., will present a silent retreat for men which will include those in the following groups: *Nativity, St. Denis, & St. Raymond, Menlo Park; Joseph Stack and Ferrari/Rossi Memorial Groups; Most Holy Trinity & St. Francis of Assisi, San Jose; Stockton Group; and Class of '42, St. Ignatius College Prep.*

We continue to encourage here, as most who choose to come here for retreat expect, the silence that allows each heart to attend to its own authentic voice and to the gentle voice of God. We have found it wise to restrict the use of cell phones (conversations on the Rosary Path, for instance, being audible in the Rose Garden!) Thank you for your renewed commitment to sharing the gift of silence, freeing one another for meeting God.



Fr. Tom Carroll, S.J.

Let Me Follow

Fr. Bob Fabing, S.J., the Director of the Jesuit Institute for Family Life and of the 36-Day Program in the Spiritual Exercises, recently returned from Calcutta, India, where he gave retreats to Mother Teresa's sisters and worked in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying. Many of the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity elected to take their sabbatical program in India to be present for the first singing of Fr. Fabing's new Mass he wrote for Mother Teresa.

One of the highlights of Fr. Bob's experience in India was celebrating the Eucharist with over 500 pilgrims, professed sisters, and novices gathered around Mother Teresa's grave at the Motherhouse in Calcutta. Fr. Bob said, "For a composer, this was wonderful. To have my music sung for the first time around the grave of the one I wrote it for...this was so very special." The "Mass for Mother Teresa" appears on his latest CD, *Let Me Follow*. Following the Eucharist, Mother Teresa's sisters took her Mass to over 58 countries worldwide. This CD is available in the JRC bookstore.



In the foreground is Sr. Nirmala (the successor to Mother Teresa and the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity). Fr. Bob Fabing, S.J., Sr. Lysa, (Sr. Nirmala's Assistant), and Sr. Ancy (the first Mistress of Novices in San Francisco) stand behind her, and two unidentified sisters behind them.

Extending Our Mission

Many of our guests, especially for the weekend retreats we sponsor, sign on as individuals, others as members of Catholic groups — by parish or organization (e.g., Knights of Columbus or St. Vincent de Paul Society) or profession.

A majority of our retreatants and guests, though, come our way, often on weekdays, as members of school communities (university or secondary or middle school) or of other non-profit affiliations. Some of these hosted groups present retreats in various modes, including Kairos and silent Ignatian retreats, and other prayer events. Other groups (such as the Jesuit-led Pacific Institute for Community Organizing) do program development and staff training.

As Director of Weekday Programs, **Susan Accornero** built up the hosted aspect of our ministry, focusing it successfully on coherent (and mainly Catholic) programs that complement and extend the

ministry of the Spiritual Exercises that is at the heart of our own sponsored retreats and that is the reason for the existence of the Jesuit Retreat Center.

Susan retired in March, having invested eight years of effective and generous and joyful ministry here. Her welcoming and attentive care for each guest group was legendary, building up for the Retreat Center a grateful and loyal hosted clientele. She has graciously agreed to continue to share her wisdom with the Jesuit Retreat Center as a member of our new Advisory Board.

Leelamma Sebastian, for five years our Director of Marketing and Development, has stepped into Susan's position and is now our Program Director, scheduling and welcoming all our hosted groups. She brings to this position broad knowledge both of the wider Retreat Center constituency and of the Ignatian spiritual tradition. Leelamma has also been on the team for some of our own recent retreats.



Leelamma Sebastian and Susan Accornero

St. Joseph's Corner

Safety-oriented forestry has been a major maintenance project here in recent months.

The ancient Guadalupe oak was cut back after two very large branches fell, one demolishing a Rosary Path bench, the other barely missing Guadalupe herself. A healthy core now survives to thrive for many years to come.

The eucalyptus trees, well known as a fire danger (many will recall the disastrous Oakland Hills conflagration a few years back), have been eliminated from the lower property. This has opened access to Adobe Creek and allowed us to plant appropriate species, which will be a Fall project, and to establish more sheltered spots along the creek for prayer. (It also opens up more spots for dedicated benches. Please consider donating one to honor or to remember someone dear to you.)

We continue to host many high school retreats, but we are unable to offer space for some athletic outlet while the students are with us. We look forward to developing an area for recreation on part of the lower property when funds become available.

New backflow devices to serve a renewed irrigation system are now in place. Our crew will be at work through the summer extending the irrigation

lines. Gardens being nurtured behind Marini and Bellarmine will be among the first beneficiaries.

The Jesuit suite in St. Robert's Hall has been renovated, bringing Fr. Rewak's vision for that building to its completion. St. Francis Hall now has new electrical and plumbing, a bathroom brought to ADA code, and a first—a staff break room, in what was once the Wellman family pantry.

The exterior of Pereira Hall, recently re-roofed, is newly painted, and the roofers will have finished work on Loyola Hall by the time you read this. Both buildings now sport the latest in stylish rain gutter systems. Retreatants will welcome the darker central shades in the Gellert Rotunda, which, with new lighting on the presenters (a gift of William J. Adams, Jr., in memory of his late wife Marijane), will allow our presenters to be seen in more than just silhouette.

Our Annex guests will enjoy new carpets throughout and new lighting in halls and bathrooms. The most welcome addition may be new ceiling fans in the rooms of St. Joseph's and the Annex, which will help our summer guests beat the heat.



Homeboys Retreat 2007

Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., is Executive Director of Jobs for a Future / Homeboy Industries of Los Angeles, an employment referral center and economic development program for at-risk and gang-involved youth. Fr. Greg directed on retreat a group of young men working in those programs.

Top Row: Fabian Debora, Eric Bennett, Hector Verdugo, Beto Lopez, Gabriel Hinojos, George Valenzuela

Bottom Row: Abel Garcia, Fr. Tom Carroll, Santiago Sanchez, Luis Rivera, Luis Perez, Joseph Holguin, Luis Flores, Fr. Greg Boyle

Retreat Update

The date for the weekend retreat groups listed below has been changed since the last publication.

May 2-4, 2008

Nativity Parish, St. Denis & St. Raymond, Menlo Park

Stockton Group

Most Holy Trinity & St. Francis of Assisi, San Jose

**Joseph Stack Memorial Group
Ferrari/Rossi Memorial Group
Class of '42, St. Ignatius High School**

In Memoriam

George E. Albers, Jr.	Rita H. Kraut
Fr. Clinton E. Albertson, S.J.	Elmer R. Kulm
Dorothy Joan Beglin	M. Ogden Mills, Jr.
Mimi (Catherine) Boyle	Fr. James E. Morse, S.J.
Fr. Martin L. Brewer, S.J.	Emmet D. Murphy
Vitale "Jay" Butera	Richard M. Murphy
Al Cerri	Dr. Charles F. Naegele
Robert D. Conlan	Sheila Marie Reudy
Thomas Conry	Fr. John D. Shanahan
Ed Coughlin	Aidan Anthony Shea
Angelina Rose Crowley	Kathryn "Kay" Spaelti
Philip J. Feiner, Sr.	Louise Mary Stagi
Edwin Frank	Ubalda M. Torres
Agnes Gilmore	Judith Ann Tripiano
John N. Glang	Francis (Fran) Weiler
Arlene A. Gutierrez	Fr. Ronald D. Wolf, S.J.
Jane Dunn Kennelly	

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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