



# SPIRITUAL MOMENTS



*Be Your Best*

*St. Francis de Sales*

Volume 3, Issue 1

Anniversary Issue

January 24, 2001

## Reaching Out!

*“Be Your Best*

*Give Your Best*

*Do Your Best*

*and*

*Leave the rest to*

*the Lord”*

*— Fr. Gus*

What began as a trickle some three years ago, now has become a fountain. A fountain of hope, faith, and fellowship, unique to this East Texas area. Through faith sharing groups, retreats, and individual reflection, Wellspring provides the opportunity to grow closer to God, by understanding His Works in the world around us as well as the love that is within us.

Led by Fr. Gus, a Fransalian Missionary Priest, with an Indian (India) background, but with an East Texas love for the abundance of churches and their biblical faith traditions, Wellspring

is located on Rhones Quarter Road, near Whitehouse. Fr. Gus leads participants with gentle words, thought provoking questions, and insights and reflections, only he can provide.

From its first location, a former home on Fleishel Street, to its current location, a former home on Rhones Quarter Road, Wellspring has reached out to families of all sizes. Whether it be a family of one or twenty, we come to understand that we are all part of the family of God. As part of that family, our lives are all connected and we owe each family member love and understanding.

As Zora Neale Hurston put it, **“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”** Why not make this year to take advantage of the many opportunities for deepening your spiritual being and finding that wellspring within you.

The dream for Wellspring is for the fountain to grow to a stream, the stream to become a river, the river a Sea, and the Sea an Ocean, so that we may all come to understand God’s gift of faith and hope, and through that faith and hope, *love*.

Kathy McCabe

### THANK YOU

*Bishop Carmody, for your welcome and blessing  
Monsignor Joe Strickland, for your encouragement and support  
Cathedral Community, for your faith-filled and prayerful presence  
All contributors and donors, for your financial assistance for maintenance of Wellspring  
All participants, for sharing in the mission of Wellspring  
Al and Sue Platzer, Wade Sorensen, Clyde Christenson, Jim Kuechle, John Messick and Lib-  
erato Aparicio, for all your hard work, clearing the ground after the ice storm  
All friends and Well-wishers, for your support to Wellspring*

*Gratitude is the memory of the heart.  
We remember you – we pray with you.*

*Thank you and God Bless you, your family and all you touch. Fr. Gus*

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*— BE COMPASSIONATE AS YOUR FATHER IS COMPASSIONATE (LK. 6:36) —*

### ***Looking Ahead:***

- ◆ Commissioning of Families for Prayer: First Sunday of every month.
- ◆ Senior Citizen's prayer and retreat experience: First Sunday of every month, 2:00pm.
- ◆ Lenten reflections:       Every Sunday of Lent, beginning February 21  
5:00pm Reflections, 6:00pm Mass, St. Paul's
- ◆ Preparation for feast of Pentecost: May 20, 21 & 22  
5:00pm Reflection, 6:00pm Mass, St. Paul's
- ◆ Preparation for feast of Corpus Christi: major spiritual event  
Sunday, May 30 – Saturday, June 5  
5:00pm Reflection, 6:00pm Mass

Saturday, March 20 Family Prayer Experience  
10:00am -12:00Noon, Wellspring

Thursday, April 1       ***Holy Thursday.*** Celebrating the Lord's Supper  
5:00pm Wellspring. (No mass at Wellspring)

Friday, April 2       ***Good Friday.*** Remembering "Journey to Death and Beyond"  
6:00pm Wellspring

Sunday, June 6       ***Feast of Corpus Christi*** – Major spiritual event  
Details to be announced.

To be announced: Empowering families; Fransalian families; Journal of Spirituality;  
Days of Retreats, etc.

*Spiritual guidance, prayer and retreat experiences for individuals, families, and groups, will be offered on request.*

### **Spiritual Growth Programs:**

GIFT Group	Tuesdays	7:00-9:00pm
Men's Faith Sharing	Thursdays	6:30-8:30pm
Women's Faith Sharing	Fridays	10:00-12:00am
Young Adult Faith Sharing	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	7:00-9:00pm

*Prior arrangement necessary for the above programs. Call 839-1280 for more information.*

***Thank You***

***Ed McKibben, Ray Modlin, Clyde Christenson***

*Your commitment to improve our building facility is much appreciated. You are a blessing to Wellspring. You, your families and all your concerns will be in our prayers.*

## Editorial

### WELLSPRING:

What does “**Wellspring**” have to do with a Center for Spirituality? Why “Wellspring”? What does “Wellspring” mean? These are questions that have often been asked since the opening of Wellspring. I hope that the following insights will help our readers and well-wishers.

**WELLSPRING** is a name chosen to symbolize the most basic vision of our Center for Spirituality. The choice was based on a core belief that there is, deep within every person, at the core of being, a “wellspring” - a spring that wells up – a source of life, of energy, of spirit, that never dries and that yields more, the more it is tapped. A life experience might help understand the idea

better. When I opened a similar Center in India about sixteen years ago, the first thing I did was to find a source of water. We needed the water for construction of necessary buildings, for cultivation, development and maintenance of a five acre farm and for the needs of our community. Water was found – a spring – at the depth of two hundred and fifteen feet. The source was not adequate for our purpose. Within a few months use, the spring began to grow and yield more than expected. It began to yield sufficient water to maintain the farm

- “well spring” -  
a source of  
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of spirit,...

and take care of the needs of a twenty five member community. This is the spring deep within the earth. Similarly, God has gifted each us with a “spring” deep within us – a “wellspring” of goodness, life and love. The more we draw from it the more it will yield life-giving water. Jesus says: “Whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty; no, the water I give shall become a fountain within him, leaping up to provide eternal life (Jn. 4:14).

— Fr. Gus

## Wellspring Call:

- ◆ Pray with us as we minister to God’s people. Help us discern how best we can fulfill God’s call.
- ◆ Share in our ministry – especially in ministry of compassion and prayer.
- ◆ Support us financially. Spare what you can – share your gifts with us. Help us with ongoing maintenance of our ministries. Contributions may be made payable to Wellspring. Donations are tax deductible.
- ◆ Tell a friend about our ministry
- ◆ Share with us your ideas, insights, stories, articles – your spiritual moments, which we may share with

### *Thank You Wellspring Prayer Connection*

*January 29, 1999*

*Dear Fr. Gus,*

*In December, I called the Wellspring prayer line to ask for prayers for my 50 year old niece, Mary Anne Fife, of Austin. She was facing a possible below-knee amputation of her right leg, due to gangrene of her toe. Before going to Austin, I had also gone to Longview to hear Fr. Barham, who blessed us and encouraged us to pray for the sick. Armed with the Wellspring prayers and the blessing of Fr. Barham, off I went to Austin. Mary Anne welcomed my prayers. The decision for amputation has now been changed to “let’s just wait and see.” I wanted you to know this and thank you. I apologize for being so long in doing so. Thank you Fr. Gus.*

*Elaine Henderson, Tyler*

# KIDS CORNER

Hey Kids:

Forty-seven fourth graders responded to the question: "What is Lent and what will you do during Lent to prepare for Easter?" They were all good answers. We are proud of you 4th graders! And we thank you for contributing to our publication, "Spiritual Moments". The best responses were from **Nirali Hazari, Andrea Hyman and Christine Harris**. Here it is: "Lent is a special time of 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday, where we wait and prepare for the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time to forgive and forget what others have done to you. People usually sacrifice something during Lent and pray more. The color of the Liturgical season is purple and we don't say the "Alleluia".

Your answers were good. You can get more ideas reading the article on the front page: "Lenten Journey".

Here is another question for you. What do you love most about Easter and why?  
Please Send your answer to me, Fr. Gus. Best answer will be published!

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SPIRITUAL MOMENTS is published monthly by Wellspring, a Fransalian Center for Spirituality.

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