



# SPIRITUAL MOMENTS



*Be Your Best*

*St. Francis de Sales*

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 24, 1999

## EASTER EXPERIENCE

**EASTER MESSAGE: "MOVE ON, I WILL MEET YOU IN GALILEE" (Mt..28:8-15)**

*"Be Your Best*

*Give Your Best*

*Do Your Best*

*and*

*Leave the rest to*

*the Lord"*

*— Fr. Gus*

Journey through Lent has brought us to the tomb of Jesus. The Love of the Father was so great that he did not spare *His Son* our death. The Journey to Jerusalem did not stop at the Cross – it continued into the tomb and beyond. The mystery of hope unfolds before the tomb holding Jesus – only an eye of faith can see it as it unfolds. The Cross and the tomb do not offer "quick fix, easy healing" - they do call us to wait in Hope for victory/glory beyond understanding. We can withdraw from the tomb – OR look deep inside and find it empty – look around and find HIM alive and moving and calling us.

The forces of pain, suffering, rejection, and death are too much with us – the rock re-

mains across the tomb. To the one grown/matured in faith, the rock has been rolled away, the burden has been lifted – Jesus is alive and is going before us to places and situations that we will meet, to people we will encounter, to suffering we will endure, to rejection we will experience, to death we will face....etc. **HE IS ALIVE – HE GOES BEFORE US INTO OUR GALILEES.**

We did make a journey with Jesus through Lent and have come to experience Easter. It was a great journey. The whole journey is far greater than all that we did in making the journey. The mystery of following Jesus can not be put into simple words. The mystery of dying and rising with Christ is an experience at the depth of our

hearts which no word can describe. We may not look different – we may not even feel different. We will continue to meet testing times – may even fight a few demons. We will have our periods of fatigue and despair, fear and anxiety, doubts and frustrations. We may make wrong turns and "U" turns.

YET DEEP INSIDE OF US, WE ARE DIFFERENT BECAUSE WE MET HIM IN LIFE AND IN DEATH – WE HAVE RISEN WITH HIM – WE ARE NEW PERSONS AND A NEW PEOPLE. BECAUSE THE ONE WHO DIED AND WAS LAID IN THE TOMB IS ALIVE – HE NOW LIVES AND HOLDS OUT TO US THE HOPE OF A NEW LIFE.

Fr. Gus

**The Lenten journey brought us to Easter –  
to new life, to new beginnings, to new  
meaning, to new presence.**

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

*Surrender to God*

*Is not weakness*

*Or cowardice.*

*It demands courage.*

*Confidence.*

*Humility.*

*Generosity.*

*Nobility.*

*Wisdom.*

*Sometimes heroism.*

*And overcoming of self.*

*Fr. Gus*

## Everyone Has a Place at a Certain Time

Confined to a place,  
People wandering around, all looking for common ground.  
What do I speak of this common ground?

There are those crying,  
Wanting an end to their pain whatever theirs may be,  
Those seeing what no one else can see,  
Then there are those hearing voices, spoken neither by you nor me.  
Others so high, it is annoying at times,  
Their brains won't slow down, do not know where to draw the line.

I traveled many miles to once again be in this place.  
I walked in, said nothing, they could see it on my face.  
I had once again given up the will to live.  
I felt in my life I had nothing left to give.  
I have taken pills as ordered, gone where I was expected to go.  
The progress, if any, seems so slow.

The one thing I have continued throughout it all,  
Is to depend on God to hear my call.  
Today, it was different. I had a treatment difficult to explain.  
The results were like walking into sunshine  
After months of being in the rain.

The question is, will it last? I don't know!  
I must take things one day at a time. Try to remember who I am,  
And with the Lord's help, I will be fine.

**Kathleen McKibben**  
(from the hospital)

## PEACE

*In the face of persisting evidence of war and countless grievous defeats of life, Christ, the conqueror of sin and death, urges us not to surrender. Peace is possible, peace is a duty, peace is a prime responsibility of everyone! May the dawn of the third millennium see the coming of a new era in which respect for every man and woman, and fraternal solidarity among peoples will, with God's help, overcome the culture of hatred, of violence, of death.*

*Pope John Paul II, Easter Message*

## Editorial

A little girl and her grandfather went for an evening walk through the garden, the little girl observed the movements of the clouds in the sky. She said to her grandfather "Look, the clouds are all going somewhere. Where are they going Grandpa?" The grandfather, with a sense of humor and wonder and lots of love replied, "They are going for a cloud meeting." "What will they discuss at a cloud meeting?" the girl asked. "I suppose, they will be discussing whether the earth needs rain or not," the grandfather replied. "Gee, God thinks of everything, doesn't He?" the girl exclaimed.

This is a wonderful example of a "Spiritual Moment." I have often been asked about what a Spiritual Moment was. The little girl and her grandfather had a wonderful spiritual experience – a spiritual moment.

Recently, I went to anoint Bob, who suffers from terminal cancer. He and his wife wanted me to give him the last rights. I tried to explain that this was the sacrament of the sick and we will celebrate it and experience the healing and strengthening power of the Sacrament. To Bob and his wife, the last sacrament made lots of sense – it was grace for the last stretch of the journey. Their lived experience of faith made more sense than all theological concepts. Ed and Jack, two faith filled gentlemen, came along with me to celebrate this sacrament. Bob, his wife, and son prayerfully welcomed us for this experience. There was a great sense of something sacred happening. We prayed and anointed Bob and really celebrated the Sacrament. When we finished our prayer, Bob stood up and said with a joy-filled smile, "Thank you Father, now I feel I have an umbrella over my head – God

is with me." We saw great joy in his wife and grandson as tears filled their eyes. This is what a "Spiritual Moment" is.

*"God thinks of everything,  
doesn't He."*

This is what we want to bring you through this spiritual journal and that is why we chose to call it

"Spiritual Moments"> We also invite you to share with us your spiritual moments which we may share with others. We need to strengthen each other's faith with our experience of God, of His love, of His presence, of His wonderful acts in our lives. We hope that this journal will touch your life and become a source of inspiration and strength for you and your family.

Editor

### THANK YOU

Joe and Margaret Oppenheimer, Eddie Spence  
Walt Geisler, Jack Brown, Merle Hinkle

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.

GOD BLESS YOU.

## 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 others.



## MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

# Calendar of Events: Spiritual Growth Programs

### Wellspring Ministry Team

Founder/Director-Fr. Gus  
Wellspring Center-Heidi Cude  
Wellspring House-Ed McKibben  
Ministry Journal-Patricia Cussen  
Library-Veronica Casals  
GIFT Groups-Jim & Ann Callanan  
Discernment Team-Stephanie Hall  
Men's Faith Sharing-Sam Hall  
Women's Faith Sharing-Heidi Cude  
Spiritual Directors-Ralph Guidroz  
Ministry of Compassion-Heidi Cude  
Retreat Ministry -Sam Hall  
Family Prayer Exp.-Patricia Cussen  
Healing Ministry-Veronica Casals  
Senior Citizens-Ed McKibben  
Ecumenical Contact-Jack Brown  
Newsletter-Kathy McCabe  
Journal of Spirituality-Al Platzer

### Wellspring Prayer Connections

This is one of the most important ministries of Wellspring and a major part of our "Ministry of Compassion" to all God's people. We have made a commitment to pray with you and share our faith with you when you are in need of our support in prayer.

This is our commitment to you:

*"Let us know your need,  
And we shall be with you in prayer"*

You may call 903-839-3486 and leave your request for prayer. If you need someone to contact you, please leave your telephone number or write to us at Wellspring, P.O. Box 7932, Tyler, Texas, 75711. You may also fax us at 903-509-0732.

### Important Events:

- ◆ Family prayer experience  
February 27 & March 20
- ◆ Major Spiritual Event  
June 6
- ◆ Empowering Families  
To be arranged
- ◆ Fransalian Families  
To be arranged

# *WELLSPRING NEWS*

## **Looking Ahead:**

- ◆ Commissioning of Families for Prayer: First Sunday of every month.
- ◆ Senior Citizen's prayer and retreat experience: Sunday, May 9th at 2:00 pm
- ◆ Preparation for Feast of Pentecost: May 20, 21 & 22  
6:00pm Reflection, 7:00pm Mass, St. Paul's
- ◆ Preparation for Feast of Corpus Christi: major spiritual event  
Sunday, May 30 – Saturday, June 5  
6:00pm reflection, 7:00pm Mass

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	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Men's Faith Sharing	Thursdays	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Women's Faith Sharing	Fridays	10:00-12:00 a.m.
Young Adult Faith Sharing	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	7:00-9:00 p.m.

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

## *Young Adult Faith Sharing*

If you are graduating from High School or are in College, you are welcome to join the new "YOUNG ADULT FAITH SHARING" group and explore faith, spirituality, relationships, goals in life, paths in life, etc. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Wellspring. The sessions are led by Fr. Gus. For more information please contact Ruth Bielamowicz at 593-5304 or Anna Natera at 839-7390 or Wellspring at 839-1280.

## *C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S*

Kathy McCabe, our Managing Editor is expecting a Baby in June. We rejoice with you Kathy, as we congratulate you. We pray for you and your growing baby and for the rest of your family: Brian, Jarrod and Mark. Thank you for all your support, especially for your service to "Spiritual Moments."

# EMPOWERING FAMILIES

We recently announced our plan to offer a new program: “EMPOWERING FAMILIES” We had identified the following issues and topics as important concerns of families in our community. We had requested your input on what you felt were important concerns. Below are the results of the survey, responded by 47 persons: (listed as ranked by interest)

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<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>% OF INTEREST</u>
<b>Family:</b> Love – children – separation/divorce – God – religion – church community – service – values – morals – virtues	81%
<b>Children:</b> Faith formation – prayer experience – worship forms – character formation – boundaries – discipline	68%
<b>Communication:</b> Language – understanding – misunderstanding – openness – self-revelation – privacies – secrecies	62%
<b>Togetherness:</b> Oneness – fusion – identity – individuality hers – ours – managing time – spending quality time – time alone – time together	57%
<b>Dealing with:</b> Hurt – fear – guilt – anger, etc. – conflict – tension – hostilities	46%
<b>Covenant:</b> Commitment – permanence – loyalty – fidelity	34%
<b>Shaping each other vs. shaping for each other.</b>	30%
<b>No love – no more!</b>	17%

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR MINISTRY. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU WHEN WE FINALIZE OUR PLANS FOR THE PROGRAM. IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT US YOUR RESPONSE, PLEASE DO SEND IT TO US. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE!**