



La Belle Dame

The Newsletter of Our Lady of La Salette Parish

February 2009

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Sixth Graders Off to Yellowstone

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*By Jeremy Selweski
C & G Staff Writer*

BERKLEY — In March, sixth-grade students at Our Lady of La Salette School in Berkley will have the opportunity to commune with nature at America's most renowned national park.

Thanks to an invitation from the Yellowstone Park Foundation, 13 La Salette students will participate in "Expedition: Yellowstone!," a program intended for kids in grades four through eight that aligns with the school's sixth-grade natural science curriculum. Expedition: Yellowstone! also includes an assessment to truly gauge what students have learned at the park and inspire them to continue learning.

With the five-day trip, which takes place from March 2 to 6, the class will become only the second group of Michigan students to ever visit Yellowstone National Park through the program. Established in 1872 and located in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, Yellowstone is the first U.S. national park and is home to a large variety of rare wildlife, a portion of the Grand Canyon and the famous Old Faithful geyser.

"We thought this would be a fabulous opportunity for the kids," said Carol Smith, principal of Our Lady of La Salette. "Yellowstone is an amazing resource; there are so many things to study there. I'm a big supporter of travel as a learning tool — actually being there and seeing things firsthand, not just reading about them."

The idea originated from one of the students' parents, Dr. Veronica Riha, who took her family to Yellowstone last summer. The trip had such an impact on Riha's son, Joe Wonsil, that he came home wanting to be a park ranger and asking his mom if there was a way that his entire class could go.



Photo provided by Veronica Riha
In March, 13 sixth-grade students at Our Lady of LaSalette School in Berkley will take a five-day trip to Yellowstone National Park.

The suggestion piqued Riha's interest, and it didn't take long before she discovered Expedition: Yellowstone! and brought it to the attention of school officials. As a professor of biology at Madonna University, Riha knew that a great educational prospect was at the class's fingertips.

"Our society is on the cusp of changing, and I really think we can raise our kids' awareness of the environment and natural sciences," she said. "(At Yellowstone) they'll be learning about geology, natural history, biology — which are very much tied into their curriculum."

Still, the students have had to put in a great deal of hard work in order to have this opportunity. Through a variety of fundraising activities — working at Caribou Coffee on four different Sunday afternoons, bagel sales, morning baby-sitting and others — as well as donations from local businesses, the class is well on its way to raising the \$850 per student

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La Salette
LEARN. LOVE. LEAD. LIVE ON.



Yellowstone (cont'd)

necessary to make the journey. However, they are still seeking donations from the Berkley community.

The class will fly into Bozeman, Mont., on March 2 and have the rest of the week to take part in hikes, classes and a thorough exploration of Yellowstone. Making the trip along with the students will be 10 parents, Smith, and Sheri Boura, the science and religion teacher for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Our Lady of La Salette.

The group will stay at the park's dormitory facilities, where they will be living and eating together — even cooking their own food. Although Boura values the educational opportunities being offered to her students, she is equally excited about developing a feeling of solidarity.

"This is definitely a team-building experience, where kids need to not just get along, but help each other out," she said. "It's about communication and working together, and uplifting each other. By the end, I think they will feel a great sense of accomplishment."

To capture their expedition for posterity, the class will also create a blog, which will give students a chance to record their daily thoughts and interact with other Our Lady of La Salette students back home. Boura believes it's a great way for them to share something that's "bigger than anything they can learn out of a textbook."

For Smith, it all translates into a memorable experience available to only a select few. "This is the chance of a lifetime for these kids," she said. "I think it's going to change their lives, and they'll come back looking at the environment in a totally different way. This will help develop leaders who can come back and teach others what they've learned."

Our Lady of La Salette School is a Catholic school with nearly 200 students from preschool through eighth-grade. To make a donation in support of the sixth-grade class's trip, call (248) 542-3757.



"I'm a big supporter of travel as a learning tool — actually being there and seeing things firsthand, not just reading about them."Carol Smith, Principal

Catholic Schools Week

Our Lady of La Salette Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools Week from January 25-30. The national theme this year was "Christian Service". La Salette held many activities in support of our school.

The week began with a presentation by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of Lathrup Village, our selected charity. Students learned about the need for baby items to support mothers and infants. Each class designed a bassinette and purchased clothing, diapers, and toys to donate to this organization.

Each day of the week students participated in fun activities relating to Christian Service. They made flowers that were taken to Oxford Towers Senior Center, shared a day at school with Grandparents and/or VIP persons, and watched an opera presented by the Michigan Opera Theatre highlighting stories told by Native Americans to teach moral values.

The highlight of the week was the Mission Fair held on Friday. La Salette families cleaned house all week so students could bring gently used toys to win as prizes at games organized by each grade. Tickets were purchased to play basketball, cake walk, Guitar Hero, Wii, lollipop pull, bean bag toss, and karaoke. Carnival food and face painting was provided by volunteer parents.

The week was a great success with students learning about Christian Service and enjoying the benefits of a Catholic education. The best was the \$800.00 donation Our Lady of La Salette students were able to give to Mother and Unborn Baby Care! We at La Salette are very thankful for our education and our service to the community.

.....Ann Kolley, First Grade Teacher.....Karen Fabian, Second Grade Teacher

"Thanks to our teachers and parents who helped to make Catholic Schools Week so special!"Claudia Saliba, parent



Education Commission

Rev. Msgr. John P. Zenz, Episcopal Vicar, challenges our newly confirmed to:

“Surrender”

Congratulations to our Confirmandi!
February 7, 2009

The whole Church resounds with joy as we welcome those who are confirmed to full membership in our community. May God continue to bless you as you grow in wisdom and grace! May the Holy Spirit be with you on your journey of faith!

- Calvin Almario
- Molly Austin
- Joan Bowker
- Emily Carr
- Emma Doppel
- Daniel Clare
- Taylor Drake
- Julia Goldsworthy
- Chloe Henderson
- Olivia Hill
- Alyssa Intig
- Alexandrea Mozal
- Evan Mulligan
- Cody Myers
- Madelyn Oliver
- Vincent Plaskey
- Kaitlin Prakken
- Zachary Robertson
- Quinton Rosiek
- Samantha Sullivan
- Antonio Tenaglia
- Keith Waldrup



Evangelization Committee

Three Goals of Catholic Evangelization



The US Conference for Catholic Bishops, in their National Plan for Evangelization entitled Go and Make Disciples, calls out three goals for evangelization initiatives, which are addressed to all Catholics, both clergy and laity. They are: Goal I: To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others; Goal II: To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural

background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith, and Goal III: To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ." (Go and Make Disciples, 46-60, 80)

Anyone who feels called to explore and discuss how to further these 3 goals of evangelization; spreading KNOWLEDGE and LOVE of CHRIST, is invited to get in contact with us through Deacon Brian Carroll, 248-891-2817. We continue to look for ways to enliven our own faith and spread it in the parish, neighborhood and indeed the world. Our late holy father, John Paul II called for a new springtime of evangelization. We seek to listen to him and Christ.

"Go therefore and make disciples of the whole world, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Jesus' parting words in Matthew's gospel.

.....*Pat Grundy, Our Lady of La Salette Evangelization Team*



Come Join Us at The Ladies Guild

The Ladies of the Guild have a busy Spring planned. On March 11th we will hold our annual Baby Shower. We collect gifts of new baby clothes (sizes newborn to 18 months), new and gently used equipment and cash. These are donated to a charity that supports the sanctity of life here in Oakland County. Last year, the recipient was the St. Francis Family Center. Your donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in the Parish Offices, marked "Baby Shower" if you are unable to attend that evening. On April 15th, we will welcome guests from Christian churches in our area for our Interfaith Luncheon, held each year on the Wednesday after Easter. Generally, 100 to 120 ladies and clergy attend. We will again have entertainment provided by Kerry Price on the piano and in song. We were so impressed with last year's program that we invited her again.

A freewill offering will be collected and divided between a charity here at La Salette and another in the community. Last year's recipients were our St. Vincent de Paul Society and South Oakland Shelter.

The next weekend, April 18th & 19th, is our Bake Sale. It will take place in the reception area of the church after every Mass. We hope you will come and browse our selection. We have many fine bakers and welcome any specialties anyone might wish to donate.

The Guild is made up of the ladies of La Salette. We hope more of you can join us at these activities or at our monthly meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you would like more information or would be interested in any of these events, please call Sue Daigle at 248-542-7626.

.....*Sue Daigle*
Ladies Guild

School News

Lots of Love at Our Lady of La Salette

New free seminars offered to support parents.
Save the Date: April 21 at 6:30 for Love and Logic

Our Lady of La Salette school is embracing the love of being a parent by offering community support through its new ParentaLove Series. The school will be hosting several seminars to assist parents in the ever blessed, many times demanding, sometimes frustrating, occasionally challenging role of being a parent.

The first seminar, "Guidance for Parents," brought Marie K. Jackson, a program coordinator at the Judson Center, to La Salette. Her presentation covered the role of a parent, different types of parenting styles and alternatives to traditional discipline.

Coming next to La Salette is Love and Logic guru Bob Sornson, PhD, on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. Sornson is a nationally recognized speaker and author. His topic will be teaching children responsibility and respectful behaviors using Love and Logic.

The ParentaLove Series was developed by the La Salette PTO as one of their missions to support parents and to help strengthen parent-child-teacher relationships.

"Love," in this instance of parenting, is one of the values the school is promoting through the positioning statement created last year, "Learn. Love. Lead. Live On." The line was created to reflect values the school instills: a strong education, Christian values and leadership qualities to last a lifetime.

Reservations are not required, but recommended.
For more information call 248-542-3757 ext. 23 or email: marketrepclaudia@wowway.com.

.....*Carol Smith*
Principal

Drum Roll- Spelling Champs!

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations, we held a school-wide Spelling Bee. All grades participated, and each child did a wonderful job representing his or her grade. Good job teachers, and congratulations to all of our winners! Overall winner: Jimmy Paprocki - 7th grade; Runner up: Alyssa Intig -8th grade. Overall winner for grades 1-4: Kendall Hall-4th grade; Runner up: Zeke Bowker- 3rd grade.

The following students will be representing Our Lady of La Salette at the Vicariate Spelling Bee being hosted here at La Salette on February 12: 8th grade: Alyssa Intig. Austen Washington 7th grade: Jimmy Paprocki, Donovan Sullivan, 6th grade: Joe Wonsil, Howard Steele 5th grade: Luke Bowker. Emma Beaudoin

.....*Jenn Paprocki*



AUCTION LA SALETTE

Auction 10, the annual auction of Our Lady of La Salette is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Father Landry Center. We invite everyone to join us for this special evening of adult fun, fund, and friend raising as we make an investment in the future of Our Lady of La Salette.

The success of the auction relies on exciting items that will encourage fast and furious bidding for both the Silent and Live portions of the Auction. What to donate? Almost anything. One of a kind trips -- do you have unused travel vouchers, or vacation property? -- or highly-sought after "splurge items" -- electronics, jewelry, spa packages? Not all items need be expensive, of course. There's always a demand for personal services -- think babysitting, lawn care -- or specially-assembled gift baskets.

Don't have an item to donate? You can still help with a patron ad. You can get a 1 line greeting in the Auction 10 program for only \$10.00. Own your own business? Our program is distributed throughout the community, and you can place a ¼ page, ½ page, or a full page ad in the program.

This is also a great volunteer opportunity. It takes a lot of people and a lot of hard work to make the auction happen -- but it's also a lot of fun. Whether you have a lot of time or just a little, there's a job for you at the auction.

...Cindy Jaeger

Save These Dates



- ParentaLove Series: Parent Intervention, February 11, 6:30
- ParentaLove Series: Love and Logic Seminar with Author Bob Sornson, PhD: April 21, 6:30
- Lenten Friday Fish Fry, beginning Feb. 27
- Texas Hold 'Em Tournament: April 25, 7:00
- Red Cross Blood Drive: May 15, 1-7:00
- Auction and Berkley TasteFest: June 19, 7:00
- Vacation Bible School: June 22-25
- Fall FunFest: September 18-20
- FunFest Fun Run: September 20
- Red Cross Blood Drive: November 13, 1-7:00

Technology Committee

Volunteering in Tough Economic Times

When times are good, it's easy to send a check to organizations that help others, like St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Salvation Army, or the many organizations funded by our CSA contributions. But when times are hard for us, we may not have the extra cash to send to these worthy groups. In fact, it may be a struggle just to make our regular weekly contributions and/or tuition payments.

Because of recent layoffs and reduced hours, you may have some extra time on your hands. Have you considered volunteering some time at Our Lady of La Salette? Remember that the Church is made up of people gathered in His name - it's not a building or an organization. Maybe you have a particular gift that can help the Parish or School save resources like water or energy, which in turn saves money. putting less stress on the collection box.

Recently, someone told me about a mortgage lender (the modern equivalent of a tax collector in biblical times) that had lost her job. She decided while pursuing work that she would volunteer for Habitat for Humanity to keep her spirits up while in a down time. She said she gained so much more that she ever thought. The gift of giving to someone with less, and tapping into an amazing networking opportunity was wonderful. Giving comes back to everyone who is willing to take the first step.

Maybe you have offered help in the past and your offer was met with some resistance. Offer again. If you are turned away, there are plenty of other organizations who would love to put your time, talents, and ideas to work.

So if you have an idea that can save money, or if you'd like to volunteer to help reduce the cost of running Our Lady of La Salette, or you just want to do the next right thing and also get an opportunity to network with people, send a note with your thoughts to Father Connell at frredbeard@lasalette-church.org and copy Carol Smith at carol.a.smith@lasalette-school.org with any school related suggestions. I'm sure they would love to hear your thoughts.

...Mark Wonsil

"Giving comes back to everyone who is willing to take the first step."

.....Mark Wonsil