

"Top of the Line"

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning
Newsletter

Dec. 1, 2014



Lalanne Program Teachers Retreat

The Bergamo Center will be hosting the Lalanne program in early December. Lalanne, a post-graduate teacher service program, specializes in supporting beginning Catholic school educators by combining service and teaching.

Lalanne teachers make a two-year commitment to teach in an under-resourced Catholic school, live together in a faith-based community, and pursue professional and spiritual/personal development. Under-resourced schools are identified as those schools primarily in urban or rural areas that struggle to attract young, faith-filled teachers.

Service in Lalanne is a commitment to making a difference in the lives of children who face unique challenges in their school and community settings. Named in honor of Marianist Father Jean Baptiste Lalanne, the Lalanne program is an initiative of the Center for Catholic Education of the School of Education & Health Sciences at the University of Dayton.

Prayers

- In thanksgiving for our staff and for an ever greater sense of harmony as we work together to serve our guests.
- For **Kim Patterson** (one of our staff cooks) recovery
- For **Nikky Leasher's** mother recovery
- Please pray for our adult guests and high school retreatants through the month of December that they find comfort and inspiration during their visits to Bergamo.

Prayers are a regular feature of this bulletin. If you would like to share a prayer or ask for prayers just send a note or email to Brent Devitt – brentd@bergamocenter.org.

Invitation to contribute topics and articles...

Next publication of the *Top of the Line* will be Jan. 1. If anyone has anything to contribute to this communication please submit items by the 25th of the month to: brentd@bergamocenter.org



Marianist Feast Days in December

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Dec. 12
St. John the Apostle – Dec. 27
(Patron of Mt. St. John)

December Staff Birthdays

Annie Harter - Dec. 5
Tommy Parker - Dec. 18
Launa Eby - Dec. 31



Upcoming Retreats/Events and (Approx. # of Participants)

Purcell Marian HS Retreat. (50) – Dec. 1-2
Alter HS Kairos Retreat (60) – Dec. 2-5
Wellness Management & Recovery (15) – Dec. 6
Lalanne Program Teachers Retreat (21) – Dec. 5-7
Watterson HS Retreat (65) – Dec. 7-8
Lehman HS Kairos (79) - Dec. 9-12
St. Albert the Great Confirmation (90) - Dec. 13
ISP Follow-up (20) – Dec. 13
Mount St. John Charism Luncheon (50) - Dec. 15
Bergamo Staff Luncheon (22) - Dec. 16
Carpeting/Wall Paper Installation - Dec. 17-31

Quote

"Ours is great work, a magnificent work. "

Bl. William Chaminade

Christmas Crèches arrive at Bergamo & Mount St. John



Two crèches (nativity scenes) will soon be on display in the lobby of the Bergamo Center. A collection of over 25 original Christmas *All American Crèches* settings from around the country will be on display at Gallery St. John. Hours: Dec. 3 - Jan. 4 will be 12 to 4pm Weds. through Sun. or by appointment 320-5405.

Call for special hours on Christmas Eve and

Christmas day. Members of the Mount St. John community are welcome to view the crèches at other times beside those listed. Just call to make sure someone is available.

Brightening the Entrance of the Bergamo Center

During late November and through December the Center has embarked on a project to spruce up the front of the center with new wallpaper in the Darby Conference Room, carpeting in the entrance lobby, Darby, Barrett and Fireside lounge and painting through the lobby and hallways at the front of the building.

What might be most notable will be the fresh lighter gold color of paint on the walls. We actually took as some inspiration color we found in images of the skyline of the old city of Bergamo in



Northern Italy. The choice of gold will evoke a warm and bright feeling as you enter the Center. We thank our contractors The Carpet Store and Sharon & Shelly Wallpapering for the work they are doing to brighten up the Bergamo Center.

The Bergamo Shadow

The most recent shadowing experience for Director Brent Devitt was with **Kevin Kozlowski** – Dir. of Youth Formation and youth Intern **Emily Brun** as they guided a two day overnight Junior retreat for Mount Notre Dame HS on Nov. 10-11. It was a unique opportunity to see both of our youth staff in action giving their witness talks, guiding the youth through prayer experiences, small group sharing and large group activities. We are fortunate to have these members of our staff who are passionate about their faith and share it with the high school youth.

Origins of "Top of the Line."

What is the inspiration for the "*Top of the Line*" you might ask? The Bergamo and Mount St. John property lie just east of County Line road on Mount St. John, one of the highest points in Western Greene County. The name was used from 1990-1998 as the title for the employee bulletin. For the time being we have borrowed that title again for this newsletter to staff and friends of the Bergamo Center.

"Top of the Line" is believed to be military slang which worked into mainstream conversation at about the time of World War I. Today's military equivalent would be A.O.K. If you're tops at some endeavor you are the best. Our aim at Bergamo is to be the best we can be, to offer our guests an excellent "top of the line" experience while they are at our facilities. We hope that *Top of the Line* will give you a glimpse of the good that is going on at Bergamo.