

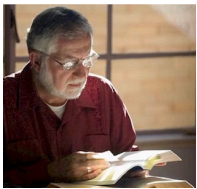
# Words of Hope

August 2007 Volume 11 Number 3  
Established in 1996  
Celebrating 10 Years of Service



## The Advancing Dawn

August 15, 2007  
Feast of the Assumption



**D**ear friends of Sanctuary of Hope,

Welcome to summer in good ole Kansas City, KS. I have recently returned from my summer vacation to Colorado and Oregon. It was good to visit friends of forty years. One of those friends and I went to our college prom together and she was the one who also taught me how to drive a stick shift. We were both reminiscing about our days in junior college at Donnelly. Some of my other friends are now taking care of their ailing parents and doing well in their chosen careers and vocations. To me, the closest relationship to God's heart is **friendship**. I have to laugh sometimes when I think about the words of Jesus when He said that those who give up family, spouse for the sake of the Kingdom, will receive a hundred times, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. I find this to be very true in my life. I am honored by the people God has let me share with over these sixty years.

Fifteen years ago, I blest my first castle. It was only a frame building then, but now it is complete with a suit of armor as well. It is located in Jasper, Oregon, at a ministry called Scar/Jasper Mountain. The mission of this place is to help children who have been abused hopefully find their own self worth and maybe for the first time begin to find a genuine attachment to another human being, along their spiritual path. This may or may not happen, and it takes years to invest in therapy "coaching" and parental involvement that may help bring this about. The children live in the castle now and have many disci-

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**Fr. Dennis Wait**  
**Sanctuary of Hope**  
**Inner City—Inter Faith**  
**Retreat Center**  
**2601 Ridge Ave.**  
**Kansas City, Kansas**  
**66102-4617**  
**913-321-HOPE (4673)**

### Please Read This

#### **Prayers:**

\* Morning 7 AM Tue.-Sun.

\* Evening 5 PM Tue-Sun.

#### **Morning Mass**

7:30 AM Tues. & Thurs

#### **Weekly Prayer**

10 to 11:30 AM Tues.

#### **Prayer & Support Groups**

\* HIV AIDS-3rd Thurs. 7 PM

\* Recovery Plus-4th Wed. 7 PM

#### **Centering Prayer**

\* Wed. 7 PM

#### **Spiritual Cinema 6:30 PM**

Last Thurs. of the Month

#### **Work Day—2nd Sat.**

8 AM to 1 PM includes Lunch

#### **Associates' Day—4th Sat.**

**Most months. Check Web.**  
10 AM to 12 Noon fol-

## WORDS OF HOPE

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plined activities to boost them along this very challenging road. I pray that they will one day discover one friend who truly loves them and whom they can love in return. As I saw the land full of Douglas Pine trees and flowing rivers and smooth lakes, it made me think how fragile we all are. It started my thinking that we need to reach out to all our little ones in life and help them come forward for their own good and the good of our society. I also saw a parallel with the ministry at Sanctuary of Hope and Scar/Jasper Mountain. I know the "child" in all of us needs **healing**, like these youngsters, ages 3 to 12. It makes me more aware of what we are communicating to our children of today (those who will still be our friends hopefully in 2040).

We have had several losses in these last few months at SOH. The death of our dear friend, Donna Cermak, really shook us all and still does. Donna is such a bright light and such a **refuge** for many of us in the larger community. Others have been enduring illnesses and set backs in their lives, like the fire that struck the home of George and Trish Miller. We have had the on-going challenges of a 111 year old building too. We stand in great trust in God and with each other as to how we will continue **moving forward** in the midst of these challenges.

One of the youth from Sunset Hills Baptist Church in Omaha, NE, told me that he liked my necklace. I was really complimented. It was a Cursillo Cross given to me by another friend, Veronica Neybert, at her death. Then later that same evening I saw one of the girls seated in front of the bathroom door, waiting to go in and she was listening to music and we greeted each other as I went down the hallway to the Chapel. Again I thought how precious are our youth and how we need to start reaching them early in life.

In order to bring SOH into the next 10 years, we will need to address programs that will touch our youth, encourage our adults in their own families and help all to find their true worth in God. We are looking at inviting a couple who would have

the skills of cooking and also being handy with gardens, with light home repairs and have time to give to prayer on a regular basis. If you know of some couple or two people who might have these skills, please let me know. We just hired Jeffery Crockett to be our maintenance man. We are blest to have Jeffery help in this regard. He lives in Strawberry Hill and is very involved in the neighborhood and in helping youth do projects that build their own **self esteem**. Jeff will also be coordinating supplies and maintenance projects that are on-going at SOH.

Due to our Volunteer Coordinator, Trish Miller, we are seeing an increase of volunteers working at SOH. Trish is good about reaching out to others and inviting them to do volunteer hours at SOH. I have said so often: It takes an **army** of volunteers, staff, prayer warriors and associate members to move SOH into the future.

So if you want to give us a hand, please do. My dream is to set up Sanctuary of Hope as a place that will provide for future generations into the next century. The Board and I hope that one day we would have a financial corpus that would fund the many spiritual programs and resources needed. Our annual **The Hope Benefit** is a move in this direction. This place has been giving of itself for over a hundred years and before that as a milk farm, so why not claim the **victory** for a very dear friend who happens to be SOH.

Dios te bendiga siempre, God bless you always,

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Dennis Wait, Spiritual Director

### I DID THE DOUBLE!!

This was the shout of triumph for the 48 individuals who ran both the 5K challenge course and the 5K road course June 16 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Run the Good Race.

The excitement started early as Kathy Hirt began greeting over 80 volunteers at 6:00 in the morning, and that was hours after the first volunteers working in the kitchen. Volunteers are the key to our increasingly successful run. Boy Scouts from Troop 295 cooked and served pancakes, once again volunteers from SACS helped with parking and registration. Kansas City Metropolitan Catholic Singles joined us this year both as a Gold Sponsor and with volunteers from several of their member groups. Of course SOH associates spend many hours not only on the day of the run, but in the weeks preceding it as well. Thanks to you all! It would not have happened without you!

We were financially successful this year because of our wonderful sponsors. Barber Financial Group again graciously stepped forward as our Event Sponsor. Not only were they most generous in the sponsorship donation, but they sent a team of 36 walkers and runners to the event! The enthusiasm of these families says a great deal for Barber

Financial Group. Thank you Kim and Dean and company! Please be sure to check out the other businesses, individuals and groups who sponsored Run the Good Race.

More runners than ever came to Run the Good Race – 232 runners! The oldest runner was 87 and the youngest was only 4, both finished the road course in a little over an hour. However, Ed Burnham, the oldest runner had earlier completed the challenge course: Ed Did the Double! Randy Myers 22:27, and Margo Laville 26:27 were overall winners for the Challenge Course and Patrick Steffen 21:32, and Marla Rhoden 25:54 for the Road Course. Many runners commented on how much they enjoyed running on the woodchip trails as part of the Challenge Course this year. Some have returned to enjoy the peace and calm of an early morning run since the race. Welcome to the joys of SOH!

Finally a special thanks to our honorary chairperson Frank Boal from Fox 4. Frank and his wife Jen both fell in love with the SOH trails and plan to be back again.

Mark your calendars, the 2008 Run the Good Race is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 21, awaiting final ok from the Parks Department.





**Hope Benefit to Honor  
The Memory of  
Donna Behmer Cermak**  
By MaryAnn Gardner

Mention Donna Cermak to anyone of the Sanctuary of Hope community and immediately her smile, her arms reaching out to hug, and her hands clapping with joy come to mind.

Recently, a small group of her friends gathered to celebrate her life and to share memories of one of the founding mothers of Sanctuary of Hope. Throughout an evening of tears and laughter, Donna was repeatedly spoken of as being, "positive in her attitude, joy-filled, a true romantic, sweet, kind, loving, one who never knew a stranger." Many of her attributes were remembered: her depth of spirituality--"When she prayed, you felt as if you were entering the throne room"; her total acceptance of whatever came her way--"Any time she voiced a little complaint, she always added, 'But, that's all right, Lord.'"; and her love for life--"She took flying lessons, you know. She loved puzzles and playing games—and she loved to win!" All present

spoke of Donna's love of people and her words, "People are like a mixed bouquet." She often referred to others as her's, i.e., "my Theresa, my Jane, my Leah." Marilyn Connelly observed that even the Scripture read at her funeral (John 15) could have been written by Donna.

Bernadine Asher and Donna were the first live-ins of the Sanctuary of Hope community. They moved into the building in 1998. Donna's residency was short-lived due to health problems caused by the dust from the ongoing building renovation. Bernadine said that although they had a lot of fun, it was also a little scary when they would walk together through the building to the fourteen places necessary to turn on the outside lights each evening. Donna would try to ease the tension by inviting Bernadine to join her to dine on peanut M&Ms, or to blow up paper sacks and pop them. (Bernadine said by the time you finished, it was impossible not to be laughing.) They often prayed in the chapel even though it had not yet been renovated.

Whether it was picnicking in their Victorian hats, traveling to the sunflower fields where Donna loved to watch the flowers turn their golden faces toward the sun, or, months later, sitting on the front porch after it had been repaired, Bernadine remembers Donna as so many others do: "A dear, dear person, silly and kind, lighthearted and prayerful, one who loved everyone."

The last time Bernadine stopped by Donna's apartment, she said she found her at a neighbor's down the hall. "As always, she was where people needed her."

Father Dennis fondly remembers Donna as being, "truly at the heart of this institution by her dedication, love, and abiding faith and joy. I still see people sitting in the chair next to her desk simply spending time being with her. Having sat in that chair myself, I believe all went away refreshed and renewed, with a smile in our hearts."

He added, "Although we know Donna is dancing with God and all her family in Heaven, she also stands clapping for us and

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will truly be our advocate with God.

Donna loved Sanctuary of Hope and believed deeply in its mission. Through the years Donna served on both the SOH board and pastoral council, as associate director, and director of receptionists. Until the day she went home to the Lord, she helped to make SOH into that Scriptural "land of milk and honey" we will celebrate at the Hope Benefit this year.

Won't you please join Father Dennis and the Sanctuary of Hope community on the evening of October 27, 2007 to celebrate

Donna's life and to help all hearts who seek hope to continue to find it amid the trees, the paths, the halls, and especially among the community of people at Sanctuary of Hope?

What an example left to us by this woman who so graciously greeted all she met! May our hearts find their way to Donna's sunflower fields and emulate those Carey Landry lyrics our children and grandchildren sing in Bible school and which our Donna lived every day: *"Like a sunflower, that follows every movement of the sun, I turn to You and follow You my God."*

### WISH LIST

- A good deal on a Bob Cat.
- Art Room Matching Chairs, sturdy, light weight.
- Commercial rubber mats for entrances and in laundry room.
- Power Point Projector & screen.
- Hot and cold serving lines for the dining room.
- Plain, quilted or chenille white bedspreads.
- White linens and towels.

### COMING EVENTS

- August 25, 2007 –Associates' Gathering 10 AM to Noon followed by pot luck lunch
- September 8, 2007-Work Day 8 AM to 1 PM including lunch
- September 22, 2007– Associates' Gathering 10 AM to Noon followed by lunch.
- October 13, 2007-Work Day 8 AM to 1 PM including Lunch.
- October 27, 2007-**2nd Annual Hope Benefit 6 PM to 11 PM**  
**Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction**  
**The Reardon Center, The Abel Ramirez Big Band**
- November 10, 2007-Work Day 8 AM to 1 PM including lunch
- November 22, 2007 **Thanksgiving Day. Mass at 8 AM followed by Breakfast**
- December 8, 2007-Work Day & Associates Gathering 8 AM to 1 PM including lunch, Decorate.
- December 25, 2007-**Christmas Day 10 AM Mass followed by Brunch.**
- December 31, 2007-**New Years Eve Gathering and Prayer Vigil.**
- February 10, 2008-**Meditation in Music & Movement Concert 2 PM.**

## WORDS OF HOPE



### Join us at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “The Hope Benefit”

Dear SOH Friends,

As the Co-Chair’s for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “The Hope Benefit”, we would like invite you to join in on our celebration of SOH as a “Land of Milk and Honey” in the urban core of Kansas City, KS on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Reardon Center and Hilton Garden Hotel in downtown KCK. 6 to 11 PM. Like last year’s event, we will have a wonderful dinner, followed by entertainment, a silent auction and dancing to live big band music! So mark your calendars now and to plan join us. Watch for your invitations in the mail in early September!

When we considered the theme for this year’s event, we wanted something that reflected the “sweetness” of SOH and the peace that is found when you drive through those gates and walk in the door. Just like the Israelites who descended into the Canaan valley to find their promised “Land of Milk and Honey”, many people enter SOH and find blessings of all kinds. Our community is truly blessed to have SOH, which has been a miracle in the making. While we celebrate the miracle of SOH during our event, we also seek to raise much need funds for operations and for ongoing capital needs that will enable us to “keep the miracle of SOH going”. We have big hopes and dreams for this year’s event, which will only happen with the help from many of you!

We are currently soliciting for benefactors and sponsors for this year’s event and we need more committee volunteers for the event. Please contact the office if you are interested in helping out, and here are the sponsorship levels that are being offered:

<b><u>Sponsorship Level</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Benefits</u></b>
<b>Grand Benefactor</b>	<b>\$1,500 - \$3,000</b>	<i>Full page program ad, special recognition during event, 10 event tickets, 10 drink tickets</i>
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$1,000 - \$1,499</b>	<i>Full page program ad, recognition during event, 8 event tickets, 8 drink tickets</i>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$750 - \$999</b>	<i>Half page program ad, recognition during event, 6 event tickets, 6 drink tickets</i>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$500 - \$749</b>	<i>Quarter page program ad, recognition during event, 4 event tickets, 4 drink tickets</i>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>\$250 - \$499</b>	<i>Business card program ad, 2 event tickets, 2 drink tickets</i>
<b>Friend of SOH</b>	<b>\$100 - \$249</b>	<i>Listed in program, 1 event ticket, 1 drink ticket</i>
<b>Corporate Table Hosts</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<i>Listed in program, 10 event ticket, 10 drink ticket</i>

Again, call the office if you would like to be a benefactor, sponsor, want to get a group of friends together and host a table or know of leads that we can follow-up on.

Thanks for your prayers, and consideration of supporting The Hope Benefit.  
See you on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Cazares and Sr. Ruth Stuckel Co-Chairs of The Hope Benefit

## Mark This Date on Your Calendar

The Sanctuary of Hope Board of Trustees

Cordially invite you to join us for the

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## The Hope Benefit

“Land of Milk and Honey.”

Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction

When: October 27, 2007  
6:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.

Where: The Reardon Center  
(Hilton Garden Inn)  
520 Minnesota Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Cost: \$ 60.00 per person

Band: The Abel Ramirez Big Band  
[HTTP://www.abelrimerezbigband.com/](http://www.abelrimerezbigband.com/)

There will be a Cash Bar available  
and  
the Hilton Garden Inn is offering a  
special Rate of **\$ 75.00** for those  
interested in staying after the event.\*

### The Hope Benefit Dinner Menu

#### Salad

Baby Spinach Leaves w/ Mushrooms,  
Chopped Eggs and Feta Cheese  
Served with Honey Dijon and  
Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressings

#### Entrees

(Each meal includes both entrees)

Medallions of Beef  
Served with Brandy Mushroom Sauce

Pan Seared Chicken Breast  
with New Orleans Cajun Cream Sauce

#### Starch & Vegetable

Dutchess Potato  
Honey Glazed Baby Carrots in Butter Sauce

#### Dessert

Land of Milk and Honey Cheese Cake

#### Bread

Assorted Dinner Rolls and Butter Rosettes

Coffee and Tea

Please direct any questions to either:

Mike Cazares

Phone: 913-526-1498

Email: [Michael.Cazares@sprint.com](mailto:Michael.Cazares@sprint.com)

Sr Ruth Stuckel C.S.J.

Phone: 816-942-6791

We are still seeking Sponsors, Underwriters, and Donations for the Silent Auction. Please contact Mike Cazares or Sr. Ruth Stuckel with suggestions or for additional information.

\*To book your room for the event call (913) 342-7900 and ask for the Sanctuary of Hope special rate of \$ 75.00 for October 27, 2007.

**WORDS OF HOPE**

**Sanctuary of Hope  
P.O. Box 172018  
Kansas City  
KS 66117-1018**



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**The Hope Benefit  
“Land of Milk and Honey”  
Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction**

Saturday, October 27, 2007  
6:00 P.M.—11:00 P.M.

**The Reardon Center**  
(Hilton Garden Inn)  
520 Minesota Ave.  
Kansas City, KS 66101

\$60.00 Per Person

**The Abel Ramirez Big Band**

Mike Cazares 913-526-1498  
Sr. Ruth Stuckel C.S.J. 816-942-6791

