

Jammin' with Jesus Journal

~The Official Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary Parish~

July 29, 2007

Hello everyone!

It has been an action-packed two months since the first meeting on May 9 of Our Lady of Hungary's youth group. Our first task was to come up with a name for the group. Jammin' with Jesus (JWJ) emerged the winner over other great suggestions like God's Bulldog's, Dancing with Saints, and Living with Jesus.

The name sure becomes this group: right now, we have 10 bright and energetic teenagers who are definitely "jammin' with Jesus!" Their creativity, friendship with each other, dedication to the group, and their enthusiasm to serve are sure to make our parish an even more vibrant and inspiring place to be!

The goal of JWJ is to bring young people, especially teenagers, to a more active, personal relationship with God. JWJ does this by engaging its members in service work to our parish and community, through Christian centered movies, readings and games, and through time for members to socialize and have fun in a safe environment.

At least once a month, you'll see a JWJ Journal as an insert with the regular church bulletin. We want to keep all parishioners posted on the good things we're up to. Since we are a new group, we are especially open to suggestions, and, of course, to financial contributions. Look for us to have many creative

fundraisers year-round to support our church, outings for members, and funds for the OLH Scholarship Fund.

If you'd like to make a financial or other donation to JWJ (we're hoping, for example, to eventually get a pool or air hockey table for the kids), please give Kathy at the rectory a call. For all other questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact Heather Mezösi at (574) 288.6948 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com.

Certainly, there are so many ways to make a difference. Whether through your ideas, your time, and/or your financial contributions, we will indeed be appreciative. But more than anything, we also need your prayers as we go about this challenging new endeavor.

Peace and Blessings,

Heather, Ida, and Edie

~Our Mission Statement~

We, the Jammin' with Jesus Youth Group of Our Lady of Hungary, wish to bring kindness and friendship to our community through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Make me love not only my friends but my enemies as well in imitation of Jesus Christ who through You offered Himself on the Cross for all human beings.



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Each JWW Journal will feature a “spotlight” on a youth group member or other parishioner. Feeling connected and valued is so important for young people, and we hope that this section of the Journal will help parishioners, no matter what their age, get to know each other a little better.

ASHLEY LEEMREIS

Jammin’ with Jesus member

Name: Ashley Leemreis

Age: 15

Brothers and sisters: David

Pets: Aly, a dog

How long you attended Our Lady School: 9 years, graduated this past May

Favorite teacher and why: Mrs. Jay, she's fun!!

Favorite subject in school: English

High school you're going to: Riley

Hobbies: Reading and watching TV

Kinds of music you listen to: Anything

Favorite TV shows: Anything, but especially “Charmed.”

Favorite foods: Anything, but especially meat and potatoes.

Career/Job you'd like to be in when older: I don't know yet

What you liked best about Our Lady of Hungary Church and School: Small classes

JWJ GROUP LEADERS

Heather Mezösi attended OLH School from kindergarten through 8th grade, graduating in 1990. Heather is also a 1994 graduate of Marian. She has a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in liberal studies. She is the director of internship

and volunteer programs at Indiana Legal Services, a poverty law clinic in downtown South Bend. Heather enjoys reading, walking, shopping, watching the Discovery Channel and TV Land, movies, listening to music, and following politics. She also likes spending time with her dogs, Glory—a loveable golden retriever/collie mix—and Francis—a comically mouthy dachshund.

Ida Balazsi attended OLH School from 1981 through 1986 (kindergarten through 5th grade). She graduated from St. Mary’s of the Assumption School in 1990 and from Riley High School in 1994. She is working on an accounting degree at IU South Bend. Ida works in the Retirement Plan Services Department at First Source Bank in downtown South Bend. Ida enjoys reading, following the Detroit Red Wings, movies, spending time with her niece and nephew—Gabby and Zach—and volunteering for OLH school events (where Gabby attends pre-school). Ida has an adorable black poodle named Maggie and two cats—the sweet and sophisticated Chloe and the handsome but misunderstood Mr. Boots.

Eddie Leemreis attended OLH School from 1st through 8th grades, graduating in 1986. She is also a 1990 graduate of Riley High School. Eddie has an Associate’s Degree in General Studies from IU South Bend. Eddie enjoys reading and listening to all kinds of music. She has been married to

Raymond Leemreis for eight years. Edie has much experience in working with children, so if you or someone you know is in need of quality child care, feel free to give her a call at (574) 289.2143.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

"Why Do We Make the Sign of the Cross?"

"The Sign of the Cross expresses blessing. It symbolizes God blessing us, God embracing us with blessings. In this same sign we express our belief in God from whom all our blessings flow. In the Sign of the Cross we embrace our good God with mind and heart and all of our strength.

With the Sign of the Cross we recall in particular the blessing of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We trace a cross on ourselves, the cross of Jesus. His death on the Cross was an outpouring of love for us. The Sign of the Cross is a reminder of his love, a love found not only in the past, but here and now, as we make this sign upon ourselves, for the love of Jesus Christ abides forever."

*From: Lord, Teach Us How to Pray,
<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/index.html>*

Gratitude Corner



"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." ~ G.K. Chesterton, Catholic writer

A big "thank you" to **Mary Pettit**, a St. Pius X parishioner, who donated a TV to JWJ. Mary volunteers at Indiana Legal Services (where Heather works). When Mary heard that Our Lady's youth group was just starting out, she wanted to help! The TV will allow us to show family friendly movies at some of our meetings. The movies can provide a great springboard for discussion about larger issues of faith and morals in our world. Though Mary donated the TV to JWJ, any group at OLH is welcome to use it.

I want to add that it's not surprising for Mary to be so giving. Last year, she won a Community Association of Volunteer Coordinators (CAVCO) Super Volunteer Award for the more than 1,000 hours of volunteer service she contributed to Indiana Legal Services in just 2006 alone. Whether she's rescuing lost beagles from busy highways, befriending homesick law students at Legal Services, or offering an empathetic ear to battered women, Mary is an inspiring model of Christian service. JWJ is grateful to be touched by her kindness.

Thanks to Regina Gruber for picking up more than 25 lbs. of popcorn for JWJ to sell at the Parish Festival.

Thanks to Kristi Richard for allowing JWJ to use her festive 15' x 15' tent at the festival.

Thanks to Roseann Smorse for wrapping the boxes from which JWJ sold popcorn at the festival.

Thanks to Al Heet for transporting the Jubilee Cross in his truck to St. Jude's Parish on July 18. Also thanks to Tom Richard and Mary Leemreis for helping to transport JWJ members to St. Jude's.

And, saving the best for last, a great big thanks to Fr. Lawrence and Kathy Baugher for all their support in helping us take the youth group from idea to reality. We're especially grateful to Father for allowing us to make the St. Stephan's Room in the church basement our permanent home!



2007 Parish Festival

The Parish Festival on Saturday, July 21, 2007 was a rousing success for JWJ. Ashley Leemreis, Thomas Wicker, Tori Gruber, Joseph Molnar, David Leemreis, Lamyia Kindred, and Cassidy Richard helped sell popcorn. Not only did they sell popcorn from under our tent in the church parking lot, but they took their sales skills “on the road,” by walking around the church and school grounds selling popcorn from festively decorated boxes. JWJ made \$160, half of which was returned to the Festival Committee’s profits. The remainder of the money went to JWJ’s general fund account.

Cassidy Richard played a big role in drawing people to our booth: she put on quite an impressive show outside our tent juggling plungers, rings, and rolls of duct tape!



The Jubilee Cross visit to Our Lady of Hungary

On Friday, July 6, the Diocese Jubilee Cross arrived at Our Lady of Hungary. Parishioners from St. Casimir’s Parish, many of them youth, handed the cross over to JWJ members Cassidy Richard, Ashley Leemreis, David Leemreis, Theresa Shaw, and Tori Gruber, who carried it into our church and placed it near the altar.

After placing the cross in its stand, group members then participated in First Friday Devotions and Benediction and then gathered for a photo op around the cross.

Cassidy, Ashley, David, Tori, and Theresa—along with Thomas Wicker and Joseph Molnar—also helped escort the cross to St. Jude’s Parish on July 18.

JWJ members worked very hard at the youth group meeting two weeks prior to create individualized T-Shirts featuring the Jammin’ with Jesus name to wear for these events. Their hard work produced trendy, individualized, but respectful tie-dye and hand painted designs.

These events marked JWJ’s first official public appearances as a group and they represented our parish very, very well!

So What Goes On at JWJ Meetings?

Some of you may be wondering what a typical JWJ meeting is like.

Most meetings are held in the St. Stephan’s Room in the church basement and last from 6:00pm to 8:00pm every Wednesday.

We begin each meeting with a prayer and then move on to the religious and educational portion of the meeting.

Since we began meeting in May, we have incorporated faith discussions into the group by reading a devotional for teens titled Wake Up and Smell the Pizza: 40 Tasty Readings for a Super Supreme Life by Todd and Jedd Hafer. It discusses weighty issues like drug use and sexual activity from a Christian perspective, but in contemporary and often humorous prose that appeals to teens.

Actually, there many readings from this book that might reinvigorate adults who feel a little stale in their faith. For example, there are chapters on how no one is “an accident” and on how to see God’s fingerprints on everything—in nature, in each other, even in our “enemies.”

We're also reading *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* by David Gregory. This book is a quick read of about 100 pages. The story involves a faithless man who receives an invitation to have dinner with Jesus at a local restaurant. Though the invitee is obviously skeptical, he ends up showing up to dine with this mysterious man who claims to be Christ. During the dinner, Jesus guides this prodigal son from skepticism and doubt, to gently but persistently leading him deeper and deeper into the bigger issues of the truth of Christianity and how making Jesus the center of our lives enlivens and strengthens our faith.

Adults should definitely check out *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger* as well; it is very thought provoking, but not full of intimidating theological terms.

Along with doing some reading, JWJ also plays "Jesus Jeopardy." This game quizzes the kids on events in the lives of Jesus, Mary, and their Biblical counterparts. Friendly competition makes this game very lively. Everyone gets candy for their participation, but the winning team gets the bigger candy bars and, of course, bragging rights.

We've also held a meeting at Rum Village Woods, where we went for a walk on the nature trails, and we've also had plenty of pizza, chips, and pop at our gatherings.

After the exercising our spirits, we spend some time exercising our bodies by roller blading in the church basement or playing ball in the parking lot.

In the near future, we also plan to serve lunch at a homeless center, possibly visit nursing homes, and refurbish the St. Stephan's Room.

Most of our members are 13 to 19 years old. If you know of a teenager who might like to join us, please contact Heather at (574) 288.6948 or at heathermezosi@yahoo.com. JWJ members do NOT have to be Catholic or OLV parishioners or students at the school, but we

do ask that all members and attendees of our meetings be respectful of everyone in attendance and have a desire to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic faith.

The Teen Creed

Don't let your parents down, they brought you up.

Be humble enough to obey, you may give orders someday.

Choose your companions with care, you become what they are.

Guard your thoughts, what you think, you are.

Choose only a date, who would make a good mate.

Be master of your habits, or they will master you.

Don't be a show off when you drive, drive with safety and arrive.

Don't let the crowd pressure you, stand for something or you'll fall for anything.

**This JWJ Journal is dedicated in
loving memory of**

Mikey Vargo, cousin of Edie Leemreis

John Balazsi, father of Ida Balazsi

**Ruth "Sia" Rozploch, friend and
grandma of Heather Mezösi**

Something to Ponder

Not Everyone Can be in Your Front Row

Life is a theater - invite your audience carefully.
Not everyone is capable
enough and healthy enough to have a front row seat
in our lives. There are some people in your life who
need to be loved from a distance.

It's amazing what you can accomplish when you let
go, or at least minimize your time with draining,
negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere
relationships/friendships/fellowships!

Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention
to:

Which ones lift and which ones lean? Which ones
encourage and which ones
discourage? Which ones are on a path of growth
uphill and which ones are going
downhill?

When you leave certain people, do you feel better or
feel worse? Which ones
always have drama or don't really understand, know
and appreciate you and the gift that lies within you?

The more you seek things honorable -- the more
you seek growth, peace of mind,
love and truth around you, the easier it will become
for you to decide who gets
to sit in the FRONT ROW and who should be
moved to the balcony of your life.

You cannot change the people around you...
but you can change the people you are around!
Pray for wisdom and discernment and choose
wisely the people who sit in the front row of
your life.

~Author unknown