



from the Northside

Breaking News! Catholic Youth Camp Lives On

by Natalie King

Thomas and Lewis Bady, twin brothers, had been attending Catholic Youth Camp for many years when I became the director in 2008. As longtime campers, they filled me in on all of the favorite camp traditions, made suggestions of how to improve camp and helped me see just how special Catholic Youth Camp was. During that first summer, as I got to know the campers and families, I could see what an exceptional place CYC was.

This past spring (2014), Catholic Youth Camp was approached about selling the camp grounds. With so many issues making for an uncertain future, the board of directors made the difficult decision to move forward with the sale, meaning the summer 2014 would be the 67th and final summer of camp.

The summer was bittersweet as news spread of camp closing. After 12 years as a camper, Thomas was back to CYC for another summer, this time as a counselor. And for me as camp director, after seven years at camp, I'd watched campers (like Thomas) grow up before my eyes. It was special for me to have been able to hire a former camper, who, it seemed like just yesterday was a camp kid, telling me all about the best snacks in the camp store. And now, here he was strong, confident, creative, and one of our best staff members leading the campers in sports, songs and camp activities.

Throughout summer 2014, the news of camp closing spread to campers, families, CYC alumni and friends of camp, and the outcry to save CYC began. As the prayers rolled in, the CYC staff gathered a small team of supporters to create a "Save CYC" plan. With the board's support, the plan was been put into action and the sale was called off. Since the fall, the CYC staff has been working hard to implement strategies to overhaul the organization, update camp facilities, and ensure a bright future. CYC hopes to continue changing lives for 67 (or more) years to come.



CYC Camp director Natalie King hangs out with the Bady boys.

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years to come.*

See back page for how to support 2015 CYC campers!



News from the Northside is published three times a year by Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, 1527 Fremont Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411 612-521-6113

We are an urban monastic community. Please contact us for more information about our way of life.

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Visitation Monastery North Minneapolis

You can read the newsletter online at our website. If you prefer this format, please contact the Sisters at vmonastery@aol.com.

Community Update: in Litany Form

by S. Karen Mohan

We thank you, loving God

For the 250 people who joined us at the Capri Theater to celebrate our 25th anniversary

For Mary Pat Gallivan and Sue Schwalbach who put our jubilee plans into action

For the many teens who served so graciously that day and who help us in our ministry

For our Visitation Sisters from across the country and the Oblate Novices whose presence made our joy complete

We bless you, most provident God

For those who provided warm clothing, Thanksgiving dinners, and Christmas joy for our neighbor children and their families

For people who share their time with us in preparing mailings, making deliveries and doing countless volunteer work to assist us

For guests who come to our door in need or for prayer

For Sonny who keeps our sidewalks snow-free and for all of our benefactors

For the Mendota Visitation students, faculty, administration, parents and Sisters who support us in our ministry

We hold in prayer to you, gracious God

Our dear Sister Mary Mao who returned to Ningbo, China after living with us for 2 ½ years

Our Visitation Companions, our VIP Cody Maynus and our MIE Brenda Lisenby as they spend this special year with us

All those who bring life and hope to our neighborhood through the St. Jane House activities

Our cherished friends, Mary Johnson and Ed Roy who were recently married

We commend to you, O God,

Babs Koch's husband, David; Shirley Wanchena, the foundress of Pacem in Terris hermitages; and all those who have been welcomed into your eternal embrace.

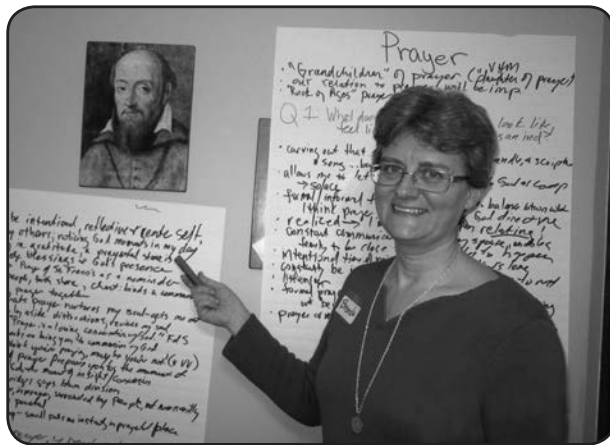


S. Karen welcomes Fr. Michael Newman, OSFS and the Oblate novices to the St. Jane House, where they spent the 25th anniversary week working and praying with the Sisters.

Monastic Immersion Experience (MIE)

by Brenda Lisenby

Immersion in the daily life and mission of the Visitation Sisters in this north Minneapolis neighborhood is a joy, yet not without its challenges! The Monastic Immersion Experience (MIE) is designed by the Visitation Sisters to be a mutually enriching experience. Women of any Christian faith tradition are welcomed into their community for six to twelve months to experience the monastic way of life, to join in daily prayer and faith sharing, and to learn more about Salesian spirituality, a spirituality that I feel is particularly suited to lay people in all walks of life. The Sisters in turn are excited to experience the revitalization of Salesian spirituality as it is shared with women who join them in community and participate in their mission of prayer and presence in north Minneapolis.



MIE participant, Brenda Lisenby, helps facilitate a listening session.

My journey with the Visitation began in the spring of 2014 when I was exploring options for a continuing sabbatical. I am attracted to monastic life and I discovered the blog of a previous MIE and resonated with the experiences she was sharing. So I contacted the community to begin a time of mutual discernment about participating in the Monastic Immersion Experience. After several visits to get to know the community, I arrived in September to begin my experience. After a few weeks of prayer and reflection, I was formally welcomed into the community with a simple commitment ceremony. In my commitment statement, I wrote:

I am very much aware of the precious gift you are giving by inviting me to participate in the Monastic Immersion Experience of the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis. You are gifting me by:

- *welcoming me into the intimate spaces of your community life*
- *providing a safe environment for me to discern my next step*
- *sharing your lifetime of lived Salesian spirituality*

I wish to acknowledge this precious gift. In return, I honor it with my own commitment to live and learn and love in light of the seven practices identified by the community as essential to their mission as I am immersed in the monastic life of the Visitation Sisters for the coming six months.

Recently, I had a mid-point check-in with the community. We went back to my commitment statement to evaluate the experience thus far. Both the community and I have found this to be a mutually enriching experience. I have had a positive experience of vibrant community life, received much prayer and

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“Phase Two” Under Way

by S. Mary Margaret McKenzie

During “Phase One” we gathered listening groups from our various constituents. As we listened, the Sisters’ own call to foster an intentional, residential Visitation community of the laity was more clearly defined by the dedication of the laity to strengthening the church today. The multiple, practical questions we heard in considering the possible lived-experience has guided us into “Phase Two.”

Those who had participated in our listening sessions and who seemed open and interested without yet moving to commitment, were invited back to help formulate “Phase Two.” Beginning in December 2014, there have been fourteen who gather every other Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00. These individuals are mature, experienced, gifted and diverse in age and background. They seem to share easily and in depth with one another, and have increasingly begun to show leadership. They have already expressed interest in what and where living together would look like. Their non-negotiables are family, pets, no-pets when there is allergy, and important dietary needs. After talking about the essentials of community they decided to be guided by the Seven Essentials that the Sisters have gleaned from the experience of living their Constitutions in the modern world: prayer, community, recreation, silence, presence, conversion and hospitality.

What a privilege and blessing it is to come together to flesh out the legacy of Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal, sharing with optimism and joy the good news of the Gospel that God’s love is at home with our humanness in the life of Jesus and with us as we “Live Jesus!”

Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis
1527 Fremont Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411-3232
www.visitationmonasteryminneapolis.org

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“How good it is to love on earth as we shall in heaven!”

—St. Francis de Sales



Catholic Youth Camp (CYC)



Thank you for sharing
the gift of camp!

**CYC helps kids make friends
and connect with God.**

Please consider sponsoring a camper for \$350.
This would be a great Easter Resurrection gift!

Call S. Mary Frances at 612-529-8215 or send your tax-deductible
donation to Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis by May 15 if possible.

Monastic Immersion Experience (MIE)

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support as I discern next steps for my life, and been excited by the things I am learning in my Salesian studies.

As for the dailyness of my life as a MIE participant, I have found the monastic rhythm of prayer and work to be nourishing. In addition to prayer, I help in the kitchen, answer the door as a part of our “Door Ministry,” provide administrative support for monastery outreach events, etc. The challenge for me has been to find and maintain this balance, to find my place and personal rhythm within the community. This is a monastery, but not the monastery of traditional cloistered sisters. The “cloister” is the neighborhood and the community of communities that have emerged from the Sisters’ commitment to prayer and presence. It has been exciting to experience this commitment to prayer and presence in fresh ways as I am immersed in the daily life of the Visitation Monastery in north Minneapolis.