

# "Top of the Line"

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning  
Newsletter

July 25, 2014

## Thank You

Thank you Bergamo Center staff for your warm welcome to me as your new Executive Director. I have found my experience getting started here at Bergamo very pleasant. Everyone has been very helpful.

I have discovered that some years ago the Bergamo Retreat Center had a brief newsletter for the employees titled "Top of the Line" with updates and news that all contributed to a team approach at offering "top of the line" service to guests. In those newsletters there was often talk of the "Guests come first".

I am not sure this communication will continue under this name or how often it will be, but I do plan to have a regular communication with staff. The hope is it will facilitate communication and build our spirit and tradition of hospitality even greater.

*Brent Devitt*

## Fr. Paul Marshall

It is with great sorrow that we received the news of the death of **Fr. Paul Marshall, SM**, Asst. for temporalities for the Marianist Province and a member of the Provincial Council since 2010. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

Fr. Paul, 66, died last week in Ranchi, India, during a trip to meet with Marianist brothers of India. Fr. Paul was a kind and joyful brother who will be sorely missed throughout the Province.

A 1969 graduate of the University of Dayton, he served as rector and assistant professor in the religious studies department at the university prior to his service in the provincial office. For many years, he was pastor of an urban parish in Cleveland. Fr. Paul was past president and a current board member of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, and also served on the board of the National Black Catholic Congress. A native of Cleveland, Fr. Paul took first vows as a Marianist in 1966 and was ordained in 1976.

Fr. Paul was buried here at Mount St. John at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Bergamo Center is proud to have hosted nearly 25 members of the extended Marshall family over the weekend. Thank you staff for welcoming them to Dayton.



## Bergamo Shadow

"If God created shadows, it was in order to better emphasize the light."

Pope John XXIII

Your Executive Director, Brent Devitt, will be shadowing a number of employees over the next couple months to help him better understand what goes on at Bergamo. It should be a fun and enlightening experience.

Brent has been searching for a name to give this little experiment. In some ways it will be modeled after and is inspired by the "Undercover Boss" show on TV. However, "Undercover Boss" as a title for this program at Bergamo just doesn't quite work. First of all, Brent's experience working side by side with you all will not be undercover. His identity will be clear. Secondly he doesn't think of himself so much as a boss, but rather as a co-worker. He will be side by side, or just one step behind, shadowing fellow employees in order to be enlightened by their example. So the "Bergamo Shadow" is what this project shall be called.

The hope and expectation is that our director will be enlightened, to be open to all the learning possibilities there are. He has not worked directly in the hotel or dining business ever in his life. Of course he has picked up a few things along the way in housekeeping and cooking to fulfil his own needs and to serve his family but nothing on the order of skills necessary to run a retreat center. So in the spirit of lifelong learning, there is much for the director to learn or relearn. It is possible Brent will learn how to make a bed to high Bergamo standards, learn the ingredients and preparation techniques to make one of the delicious soups that are part of our menus here at Bergamo. He might learn how the scheduling program works and how to be bright and cheery with the guests as they arrive. He will learn how the finances of Bergamo work and what it takes to plan for a retreat with 80 high school juniors. It should be fun.

The plan is to pick one day each week to shadow over the next two months, arriving at work at the time the employee arrives. Direction will be taken from the supervisor and the plan is to be helpful and not do too much damage in the process!

The hope is that this will be a learning experience for all and an opportunity to work as equals with all co-workers at Bergamo. The first of these dates will Monday, July 28 when Brent will be in the kitchen under the supervision of our day cook Sam El-hajj-moussa.

## Upcoming Retreats & Events

Religious Formation group – through Weds. July 30  
Wallpaper Repairs – Thurs. July 31  
Midwest Native Plant Conf. – Fri. Aug. 1 Sun. Aug. 3  
Summit Country Day Retreat – Tues. Aug. 5  
Yoga Workshop – Aug. 6-10