

# "Top of the Line"

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning  
Newsletter

Feb. 1, 2015

## 2017 – A Year of Anniversaries Ahead

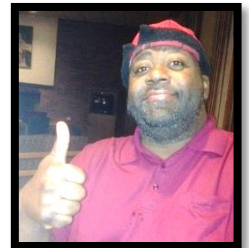
The countdown begins - within 2 years looking ahead to the year 2017. Bergamo was founded nearly 50 years ago in 1967. 2017 also marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Marianists. These milestones will be celebrated with various local events for Bergamo and worldwide for the Marianists.

### The Bergamo Shadow

The most recent shadowing experience for Director Brent Devitt was with evening receptionist **Annie Harter**, on a Friday night welcoming guests from the UD Madeleine group & Miami Valley Sewing Guild. We are fortunate to have Annie's pleasant smile and welcoming presence with our guests at the Center.

### Welcome New Cook - Ron Early

In January we introduced to the staff Mr. Ron Early as our new evening cook. Ron readily credits his cooking background, "I have formal culinary training, but it was really my Grandmother from Mississippi who taught me how to cook." Ron has been taking a majority of the evening dining shifts and has treated the guests and staff to some very nice meals so far.



### Invitation to contribute topics and articles...

The next publication of the *Top of the Line* will be March 1. If any-one has something to contribute to this communication please submit items by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to: [brentd@bergamocenter.org](mailto:brentd@bergamocenter.org)



### Marianist Feast Days in December

Presentation of the Lord – Feb. 2  
Our Lady of Lourdes – Feb. 11

### December Staff Birthdays

Sam El-hajj-moussa – Feb. 5  
Ginny Snead – Feb. 21  
Gina Gregory – Feb. 27



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

Miami Valley Sewing Guild (24) - Feb. 1  
UD Madeleine Group (50) – Feb. 1  
Moeller HS Retreat (50) – Feb. 2-3  
Lasalle Kairos (60) – Feb. 4-6  
Christian Life Center Board (16) – Feb. 6-7  
Scrapbookers Retreat (19) – Feb. 6-8  
UD Metanoia Group (60) – Feb. 6-8  
Alter HS (50) – Feb. 8-9  
Ohio Star Quilters (14) – Feb. 9-11  
St. Albert Youth (57) – Feb. 10  
Moeller Kairos (65) – Feb. 10-13  
Quilters (108) – Feb. 14-16  
Mt. Notre Dame (45) – Feb. 17-18  
St. Francis Women (100) – Feb. 20-22  
Watterson HS (45) – Feb. 22-23  
Seton HS (45) – Feb. 23-24  
Springfield Catholic (43) – Feb. 25-26  
World's Greatest Retreat (45) Feb. 27-March 1

### Quote

"Let us limit ourselves, my good friend, to doing, each of us, what God would wish us to do...in our houses...let us take care to have the same purpose, the same spirit, and a union of hearts."

– Marie Thérèse de Lamourous

### Marianist Founders Day

As many as 150 guests in the Marianist community in Dayton area came out to the Queen of Apostles Chapel for mass and to the Bergamo Center for a reception on Sat. Jan. 17 to jointly celebrate the feasts of the founders of the Marianists - Ven. Adele de Batz de Trenquellion on Jan. 10 and Blessed William Chaminade on Jan. 22.



In honor of the third person often recognized as a co-founder of the Marianist movement, Bro. Joe Barrish, SM has contributed a banner of Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous in our lobby to complete the trio of Bl. William Chaminade and Ven. Adele whose banners already grace the lobby. We thank Bro. Joe for once again sharing his art talents with Bergamo.

### Spotlight on World's Greatest Retreat



With a retreat theme like World's Greatest it begs some questions...What are the origins of this retreat? And come on, really...Who can boast that this is the "World's Greatest Retreat"?

Bergamo Youth Program director Kevin Kozlowski explains the *World's Greatest* retreat was started in the year 2002 by Christi Dodson, Youth Minister at St. Patrick, Troy; Kathy Shirley from Our Lady of Mercy, Dayton; and Kevin Kozlowski, who was then the youth group leader at Sacred Heart, New Carlisle and their respective youth groups. The team of High School students involved in the planning the event were seeking a theme song that could be used to set the tone of the retreat.

At one of the team meetings a young lady named Emily Hibbits presented R&B singer R. Kelly's - *World's Greatest* as the theme. In Emily's presentation she began with a reading from Genesis 1:27, "**And He created Man in His image and divine an image it was.**" Emily suggested the song should remind us that we are the only inhabitants of this planet that are made in the image of God, so that means we are the greatest gifts to this earth and we should respect the earth, respect all life, respect each other, and make the choices in our lives likewise.

The theme was truly embraced even as much as addressing the retreatants as not just ex. *Joe Jones*...but as, "Hey, World's Greatest Joe Jones." After the retreat ended the goal was to encourage others to affirm the world through their schools, churches, and communities that we are all the greatest gifts to this earth.

The next year the Bergamo Center was booked again for the retreat and the question of a new theme came up. It was Christi Dodson who said, "No, we keep that theme! It is a good one to keep going on and affirming young people." So the theme has stuck and the World's Greatest retreat continues annually now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. The retreat has become quite popular and the numbers have increased over time.