



Around Our Diocese

Issue #113

The Diocese of Northern Indiana

March 2010

*A Passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ
A Willingness to do Whatever it Takes*

*A Heart for the Lost
A Commitment to One Another*

A Letter from the Bishop

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Bible is filled with walking trips – the Israelites in the desert, Jesus and his disciples journeying in Galilee and then traveling south to Jerusalem, St. Paul and his companions making their way through Asia (modern day Turkey) and Greece. It's no surprise that "walking" is often used in scripture as a way of talking about our journey with Christ. "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2). Sometimes, when we *actually* walk, we're reminded of the deeper dimensions of our spiritual journey.



Photo by Mark Hartman, South Bend Tribune

So it was, on February 21, that five hundred people gathered at the Cathedral of St. James, South Bend, to take a walk on behalf of St. Margaret's House. What is St. Margaret's? It's a day care center in downtown South Bend, dedicated to providing a place of safety, healing,

and hope for women and children. Here's a brief description of St. Margaret's history and vision, taken from its website:

In the late 1980s, Deacon Sarah Tracy recognized that many women and children had no place to go during the day. They spent their time at the library or local downtown fast food restaurants. Some were homeless, others lived in substandard housing. As a joint ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana and the Cathedral Church of St. James, Sarah and her team transformed a building that was once a printing plant into a day center for women and children struggling with poverty. St. Margaret's House opened its doors in June of 1990 as a place where women and their children could come out of the weather to eat, shower, wash their clothes, rest and socialize. In August of that same year, St. Margaret's House began to serve a noonday meal. For the first several years, a part-time director and a staff of 30 volunteers served the 25-35 women and children guests who came each day. . . . St. Margaret's House continued to grow until it needed more space to meet the needs of the guests. In 2002, St. Margaret's House broke ground on a capital project that was designed to upgrade the life safety aspects of the structure, provide handicapped accessibility to all areas of the building and to double programming space. In November of 2003, this renovated building was rededicated and the community room on the second floor was dedicated to our founder Sarah Tracy. Over the years, St. Margaret's House has grown in numbers of women and children served as well as the scope of services and programs offered. Today, St. Margaret's House's professional staff of eight and volunteer staff of over 100 serve 90-100 women and children a day.

It has been a great gift to me that St. Margaret's House is located on the grounds of our cathedral. Every day, as I arrive at work, I see the people whose lives are enriched by its ministry – an outward and visible sign of Jesus' transforming work.

Every February, St. Margaret's sponsors a walk – to raise funds, and to raise awareness in the community about this

amazing ministry. Many of St. Margaret's guests have no means of transportation except their own feet; and so the annual walk reminds us that we're reaching out to real people with real and pressing needs. Aching feet symbolize the aching of hearts that seek to be made whole.

As I walked in the midst of hundreds of people, I found myself thinking about the call of Jesus himself. "Follow me," he says (Matthew 4:19), and invites us to take a journey with him: yes, the inward journey of growing in our relationship with the Lord of the universe, through prayer and study and the disciplines of the spiritual life, but an outward journey as well. He asks us to make our hands and our feet available to him. Perhaps it's especially appropriate that the St. Margaret's House Winter Walk usually falls during Lent. Our eyes are fixed on Jerusalem. "[Jesus and his disciples] were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid" (Mark 10:32). But Jesus bids us, despite our fears, to continue the journey with him – to share a last meal with him, to accompany him to Calvary, to await the glorious news of his resurrection, and to say Yes when he calls us. This Lent, how is Jesus asking you and me to walk with him? Where is he leading us? What new ventures and adventures for the sake of the Kingdom?

Yours in Christ,

+Ed

10th Anniversary Celebration for Bishop Little

The Cathedral of St. James cordially invites you to attend a Eucharist and reception to honor Bishop Little on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his consecration. The Eucharist will begin at 7:00 PM (EST) on Friday, March 5th with the reception to follow. RSVP by contacting the Cathedral office at stjames@michiana.org or (574) 232-4837. Please do come and share in this joyous event!

Prayers for Mission Team

The Companeros en Cristo Committee is sending a mission team to Honduras from March 6th to March 18th. They will be installing a water treatment plant and continuing the health infrastructure project began last year. Please keep the following team members in your prayers: The Rev. Canon John Schramm (St. Thomas, Plymouth), Jim Guzikowski (St. Barnabas-in-the-Dunes, Gary), Melissa Goodwin, David Silva, Stella Silva, and Tim Skimina (St. Timothy's, Griffith).

Installation

The Rev. Roger A. Bower will be formally installed as the new rector of St. Andrew's, Valparaiso on Sunday, March 14th at 5:00 PM (CDT).

A Workshop: Congregations Feeding Indiana

The Indiana Partners for Christian Unity & Mission are holding a workshop entitled "Congregations Feeding Indiana: People, Pantries, and Participation" on Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM (CDT) at the Shpshewana Town Center. The cost is \$25. A variety of topics will be covered including community gardens and new models for feeding programs. For more information, please visit www.ipcum.org.

Bishop & Diocesan Calendar for March 2010

March 2, 2010

10:00 AM (EST) Fresh Start

March 5, 2010

7:00 PM (EST) Holy Eucharist and 10th Anniversary Celebration of Bishop Little's consecration

March 7, 2010

Visitation to the St. John the Evangelist, Elkhart

March 9, 2010

12:00 PM (EST) Deans' Meeting

March 10, 2010

12:05 PM (EST) Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral

March 14, 2010

Visitation to St. Mark's, Howe

Note: Savings Time starts overnight

March 14, 2010

5:00 PM (CDT) Installation of the Rev. Roger Bower as Rector of St. Andrew's, Valparaiso

March 18 – 26, 2010

House of Bishops

March 27, 2010

10:00 AM (EDT) Chrism Mass

March 27, 2010

Commission on Ministry at Cathedral

March 28, 2010

Visitation to St. Timothy's, Griffith

Around Our Diocese is published monthly. Please send stories, articles, and images by the 15th of each month to:

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The editor reserves the right to edit all articles. Please visit www.ednin.org for regular updates and more news from around our diocese.