

Presentation Ministries Newsletter

"Encourage one another daily while it is still 'today'..." Hebrews 3:13

www.presentationministries.com

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A HISTORY OF FAITH, PROPHECY, AND GOD'S PROVIDENCE A HISTORY OF PRESENTATION MINISTRIES - PART 5 "GO MAKE DISCIPLES"

(continued from the Fall 2020 issue)

In 2010 the Word Gifts Ministry and Directors discerned that the Discipleship Team and Our Lady's Holy Mountain Community [located in Peebles, Ohio] should take a sabbatical year and have no retreats during that time. It was a time of prayer and listening. Our prayers were answered.

"BY WAITING AND BY CALM YOU SHALL BE SAVED. IN QUIET AND TRUST YOUR STRENGTH LIES"

(Isaiah 30:15)

In January 2012 the story of St. Andre Bessette's trust in St. Joseph's intercession inspired Betty Orlando (Discipleship Ministry and HBC leader since 2007). St. Andre was a member of the Holy Cross Congregation which was trying to build an oratory on Mt. Royal (Montreal, Canada) when they ran out of money. He told his superiors to put a statue of St. Joseph in the Oratory and said "If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." So, Betty Orlando and Carl Fox, (resident member of the Holy Mountain Community since 1995), carried a damaged statue of St. Joseph to the empty shell of the chapel and prayed for St. Joseph's intercession to complete the chapel and guest rooms.

In October of 2013, during the Annual PM Communities' Retreat, Betty discussed the next move with Mark Hennessey, leader of construction at the discipleship center. Realization came that PM could complete one unit of guest housing since water lines had been put in a year earlier and \$150,000 was already earmarked for the project. Mark gave the go-ahead to begin construction. After years of waiting and prayer, the permits were granted. Early in 2014, an Amish contractor was engaged to complete the first unit. We could see St. Joseph's intercession working.



"FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD"

(Luke 1:37)

"Mine is the silver; mine is the gold says the lord of hosts. Greater will be the future glory of this house than the former says the lord of hosts; and in this place I will give you peace..." (Haggai 2:8-9)



A certified copy of the miraculous vision of Our Lady donation we were able to complete the whole project in April of 2015!

Betty at the shrine in Mexico City and placed above the side altar.

"FROM THIS DAY I WILL BLESS!"

(Haggai 2:19b)

ON JUNE 6, 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI ARCHBISHOP DENNIS SCHNURR DEDICATED THE ALTAR AND CHAPEL OF THE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE RETREAT CENTER

During the opening rites Archbishop Dennis Schnurr received the blueprints and key to the chapel. Father Jason Bedel, pastor of the Adams County Catholic Parishes, opened the door. On entering the narthex Archbishop Schnurr blessed the water and the Baptismal Font and Deacons George Schmidl (PM's Chaplain for Presentation Ministries) and Deacon Ken Meade (PM Liaison for Archdiocese of Cleveland), sprinkled the people, the interior walls, and the altar with the blessed water.

Following the procession into the chapel Archbishop Dennis Schnurr lavishly anointed the altar and walls of the chapel. Then the altar, walls and people were blessed with incense. The chapel lights were turned on and candles lit as the choir and congregation sang "The Light of Christ" in honor of Christ, the Light of the world.

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PAUL EGAN, CHIEF EDITOR OF THE ONE BREAD, ONE BODY PRE-PRESS MINISTRY

Paul Egan: I am, for the last 28 years, the Chief Editor of the *One Bread, One Body* Pre-press Ministry. I deal with writing, editing, and submitting it to the chancery [for the *Imprimatur* review] and finally to press. An important step has always been to get official approval from the Church. Currently, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, grants a *Nihil Obstat*, which means "nothing hinders".

THE FOUNDING, EARLY YEARS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF OBOB

Interviewer: Tell us the story of the founding of *One Bread, One Body*.

Paul: Fr. Al Lauer had an understanding that the average Catholic profoundly lacked familiarity with the Scriptures. As a priest preparing for his parish Mass, it seemed to him a good set of Scriptures with which to start teaching. He wrote brief reflections on the daily readings. The first issue began with Advent of 1984. During the next ten years his purpose shifted to one of encouraging Catholics to attend daily Mass where they would not only receive the Word of God, but also receive Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist.

Not having the wherewithal to publish: neither workers, office space, computerized subscription lists, typesetting, nor the means to pay for printing, Father relied on volunteers and whatever they could do to help. He used to joke about how the ministry was organized from the trunks of a few people's cars, and their dining room tables. The first publishing in 1984 totaled about 2,000 to 4,000.

Little by little, and by word of mouth readership built up from a few thousand to 100,000 in October of 1996. Our peak numbers totaled 141,000 in August of 2008. Advertising could not be afforded. Growth came about through the Holy Spirit putting this book into people's hands. Amazing! Between 2008 and 2016 the printing averaged 120,000 every two months. Currently, the numbers are a little under 100,000. Many more opt to read on-line these days.

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NEW RETREAT FACETS

February 2021 Discipleship Retreat

The annual PM Discipleship retreat held locally in Cincinnati bore a theme relevant to all: living the Beatitudes in this pandemic. Jeff and Nancy Kenny's Home Based Community, Gone Fishing, hosted the day-and-a-half retreat at our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center on February 18 and 19th 2021, at the tail end of a huge winter storm that had hit the US. Despite the cold, a sizable group gathered for the day.

A music team composed of people from Gone Fishing HBC opened the sessions with lively worship led by Paul Egan; attendees celebrated Mass with Father Ben, and Nancy moderated the five sessions of the retreat.



Fr Ethan Moore

At least two exciting new things happened: social media expansion and younger teachers! For the first time the retreat was broadcast on Facebook Live in addition to being streamed on Zoom. PM member, Susan Giuliano, initiated a watch party on Facebook

and invited viewers, while a number of

people who had no individual invitation but simply saw the retreat video, watched on and off. The potential is there on Facebook to reach the 2000-plus fans from all over the world. Marybeth and Felicity Kenny, Nathanael Egan, and Father Ethan Moore followed up Nancy's opening talk with their youthful perspectives on the Beatitudes.

People gathered in small groups after each talk to share and pray together. Participants engaged in discussion very actively. In this way they were able to solidify and make practical the teachings immediately following hearing of the Word of God. They continued to participate by answering a questionnaire Nancy emailed the participants.



Marybeth & Felicity Kenny



Nathanael Egan

Seventeen people responded to the survey. In Nancy's words these are the shining results, "Almost everyone who filled out the survey wants to come to more retreats, and quite a few people want to become more involved in PM!" So personal follow-up is something vital to PM and Gone Fishing HBC lives up to its name for sure!

Paul and Julie Van Hoose and The Disciples of His Love Home Based Community

History:

Paul and I belonged to St. Mary's Church of the Annunciation in Portsmouth, Ohio and all of our family was born and raised, across the river, in South Shore, Kentucky, a Protestant based community in the Bible belt. Sharing community is something we can learn from the protestant faith. When our marriage was young we desired community and started a home based community (HBC) in our home inviting friends from St Mary's Church who likewise desired to grow in faith. When we relocated to Cincinnati area five years ago we had "small home-based community" experience but no connections. Eventually we met Tom and Charlene Kieffer who were at one time a part of Renewal Ministries in Steubenville, Ohio.

Our mutual desire to bring this spiritual element into our lives first brought the Kieffers and us together. One more couple known to the Kieffers joined and we began to pray and worship together. At St Mary's I began to pay attention to daily communicants and those who prayed the rosary or attended other events at church besides the Mass. The Holy Spirit prompted me to approach various folks to invite them to our HBC meetings, and one by one they answered God's call.

Currently we have ten covenanted members and a few others that join us. We are the first Presentation Ministries HBC on the East side of Cincinnati. It is our hope that we will birth other groups of young families. We have learned from the last three popes that this is how the church will be rebuilt: from within.

PM Connection:

We already knew of PM through receiving the *One Bread, One Body* booklet and listening to Fr. Al's "Classic Editions" on Sacred Heart Radio. We attended the summer Bible Institute and other PM retreats. The more we attended the more we knew we wanted what the PM family had. Living their lives for the Lord, they seemed always so joyful. We wanted to connect to this "Holy Spirit energy".

In Nancy's Follow-up Letter To Retreat Attendees, She Encourages Them to Consider the Small Home Based Community Model

Dear retreat friends,

One of the best ways to grow more deeply in living out your faith is to join a homebased community.

Here's a video about HBCs:

<https://youtu.be/WX6BZhehAMs?list=PLchRo48ba5wdm-msS4aU4xZXZNjERB-Y>

You are welcome to visit several of the communities we have in order to see which one might be a best fit for you, or you can even start your own Presentation Ministries homebased community with one or two other friends! The best thing about making yourself and your community part of Presentation Ministries is that the other PM members pray for you on a daily basis!

Here's the link to find out more about nearby homebased communities and to contact homebased community leaders to arrange your visit to their next meeting or to find instructions to start your own community -

<https://www.presentationministries.com/view/small-christian-communities>

There is a Mass on the last Friday of each month where most of the nearby communities attend together and have some fellowship in the lobby afterwards. Attending this Mass is a great way to meet more people who are part of PM and to get more connected and involved by introducing yourself as a new person and by asking questions!

The PM calendar on the website shows the Home Based Communities Mass starts at 7:30pm on Friday Feb 26 at St. Antoninus Church ([1500 Linneman Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45238](https://www.presentationministries.com/docs/video/pm_cc.mp4)) The sponsoring community: Disciples of Christ HBC.

Here is a video of Fr Al Lauer talking about the importance of community:

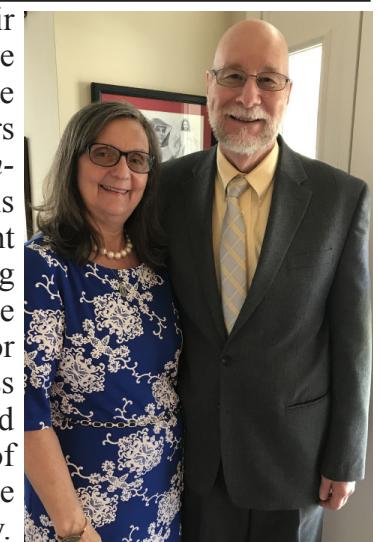
https://www.presentationministries.com/docs/video/pm_cc.mp4

Thank you, and may God bless this Lent with an abiding Beatitudes lifestyle, where we each might more fully reflect the face of Jesus,

Nancy Kenny

Coworker for Presentation Ministries

All Catholics are called to live out their baptisms whether one belongs to a home based community or not. We commit to love the Lord *totally*, and our brothers and sisters in Christ *especially*, and all people *unconditionally*. The name of our community is "The Disciples of His Love." We covenant with Presentation Ministries according to their guidelines. We pray daily for the other members of our community, and for the work of PM. We commit to daily Mass and each Wednesday we specifically attend together at St. Thomas. The sacrament of reconciliation is celebrated monthly, we fast each week, and pray the rosary daily.



Julie and Paul Van Hoose, Leaders of the Disciples of His Love HBC

At our HBC meetings we can speak about the personal parts of our spiritual lives, ask for prayer, and trust each other with confidentiality. We gather for communal meals at least once a month. In the Gospels, Jesus was always eating with everybody. It is very important to include this family aspect. The charism/mission/outreach of our community is praying for priests and for new vocations to the priesthood and those called to consecrated religious life. We pray for young people to listen to the Lord to discover their own vocations and know where they're called to serve. Of course, we have our own grandchildren in mind when we say these prayers.

The Need for HBCs:

I don't think I have to tell anyone that we are living in tumultuous times. Having like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ truly bolsters one's own faith. HBCs make us accountable to stick with the Lord's plan. We share important aspects of our lives and find needed supported to do what is right. The Devil is running rampant, constantly tugging you one way or the other. Knowing that you have brothers and sisters in Christ who pray for and affirm—wanting the best for you—makes it so much easier to live the Catholic life than trying to do it on your

(Continued on page 4)

(Paul Egan...Continued from page 1)

Paul continues: I was not here when *One Bread, One Body* started but six years later, in 1990, I specifically brought my family to Cincinnati to join Presentation Ministries. In 1992 Presentation Ministries prayed a novena leading up to the feast of Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. One of the questions on the novena for *One Bread, One Body* ministry was "Should we have new writers for *One Bread, One Body* to write teachings?" **When I read that my heart just started pounding.** Even though it had never occurred to me before, I thought, "Gee, I better talk to Fr. Al, if he's asking for new writers." I didn't expect to have that kind of physical reaction! When I approached him He and I met together for about an hour and a half. He explained in great depth what is involved in composing a *One Bread, One Body* teaching. Six months later, the main editor got married and moved to Indiana and I somehow was the only one in line to take her place. With only six months of editing and two issues under my belt, I began the 28-year journey of being Chief Editor. Working closely with Father over the next ten years, I have gleaned much instruction from him.

It came in little bits and pieces as we regularly handed off issues to each other during the editing process. Eleven or twelve issues would be juggled at one time. Every couple of weeks I would be handing him another issue and there would be five minutes here or half an hour there to gain insights and wisdom from him.

PAUL'S WITNESS TO OBOB EVANGELIZATION SUCCESS STORIES!

Interviewer: Can you give us some stories from the readers of OBOB?

Paul: There are many, but two really stick in my mind. One is a letter that we got from a prisoner in Oregon. A nun brought copies of *One Bread, One Body* into the prisons and she gave one to a hardened, bitter man on death row. She also spent time talking with him. This man read OBOB every day, faithfully. Gradually God's Word touched his heart. While on death row he prepared through RCIA, was baptized Catholic, and wrote PM a letter revealing *One Bread, One Body*'s role in that. Praise be to God! This man probably is not alive now, but I'm sure he died in the presence of the Lord and strong in the faith. His testimony is beautiful and touching.

The second story concerns a woman in Connecticut. Letters like this help me to carry on during difficult times. She was a *One Bread, One Body* reader. She had decided to approach her husband that evening to ask for a divorce, but beforehand in the morning during her prayer time she read the OBOB teaching about marital chastity. The reflection on God's Word convicted her that she hadn't always been the good wife she thought. It was a challenging teaching about "throwing yourself" into your marriage and being holy and loving to your spouse.

She *did* approach her husband that evening but *not to* tell him she wanted a divorce. Instead, she apologized, asked for his forgiveness, and confessed that she hadn't been the best wife she could be. He responded and they had a long conversation. After reconciling they decided to start anew and be the best married couple they could be.

When I read something like that I think of the power of God and His holy Word to change people's lives. All praise be to God! There are many other stories and letters like that. The Word of God is living and effective.

FATHER AL LAUER'S IMPACT ON LIFE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR OF OBOB

Interviewer: Can you tell how knowing Fr. Al impacted your life?

Paul: What struck me about Father Al, was his faithfulness and discipline. If all he had was just five minutes in a gas station (on the road to give a parish mission) he would jot down a *One Bread, One Body* teaching. Or in an airport he might use the wait time to write, confident that God would take the little he had and do a wonderful



*Paul Egan,
Chief Editor of the
One Bread, One Body
Pre-Press Ministry*

work in people's lives. He regularly prayed in front of the tabernacle in church as he wrote. The Holy Spirit never failed him. Even in his last stages of cancer, he continued writing the *One Bread One Body*, literally from his deathbed, until he died in 2002.

Since that time, besides continuing my role as chief editor, I've taken over the leadership that Father did. The PM directors and I believe his writings still have impact and are timely. So, in each issue, I plan to include at least 50% of his teachings from the archives.

Presentation Ministries has a Words Gift Ministry. Any new teachings written by the editors are submitted to them. They look for the caliber of teaching which Father Al would have written. He was a very special man of God who had a wonderful way of looking at things. Very big hearted, big minded man. I think he's a saint.

Sue Weber, committed to Growing the Catholic Faith, Generously Served Presentation Ministries

(Excerpts Taken from the Eulogy for Sue, presented by her daughter, Nickie Dinkelacker, at the Funeral Mass)

Sue was a generous soul, a lover of people, had a great sense of humor and was a faith magnet to many.

You didn't have to be around Sue very long, and she would either be laughing or sharing a funny observation, usually as a side comment. Even in the last two years as she struggled with a very rare form of Parkinsons Disease, her health challenges and pain never slowed her sense of humor.

Sue had a rock-solid faith and wanted to tell the world about the love of Jesus. Sue committed to Growing in the Faith, Serving the Faith and Defending the Faith.

Gathering the family of four children, five stepchildren, their spouses, fourteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren was important to Sue. Whether it was Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving or a summertime picnic at Sharon Woods, she loved sharing laughter, food and family time together.

For thirty years she attended daily Mass and also prayed the rosary everyday, and made use of the Sacrament of Confession every month.

She was blessed to take pilgrimages to holy sites around the world including Fatima, Lourdes, Rome, Guadalupe, Poland and the Holy Land — so she could walk where Jesus walked.

As Sue's faith grew, so did her desire to serve others. She had an energized work ethic that was comfortable operating behind the scenes, rarely in the spotlight. When the Holy Spirit Center opened she launched the Center's Gift Shop. Sue served the faith through many ministries. Most of her roles leveraged her back-office skills that allowed her to have impact on front line evangelism. Father Lauer, who had a nationwide preaching and teaching ministry, asked Sue to lead the audio and video portions of this effort. She served in a similar fashion at the Presentation Ministries Bible Institute for fifteen years. And for ten years, conducted the audio recording of Catholic Women's Event in Cincinnati. The connection with Father Lauer led to the start of Sacred Heart Radio in Cincinnati, a Catholic radio station. Together, Sue and Dean advised others for twenty years and have had a hand in launching fifty Catholic radio stations.

In 1998, Sue and Dean joined a Pro-Life prayer vigil called "Helpers of God's Precious Infants" which prayed for Mother's and unborn babies at the abortion clinic in Cincinnati.

We thank God for the gift of Sue for 79 years. Please continue to pray to God that she will receive from Him the eternal reward she desired very much...to be with Him, forever, in heaven.



*Pictured: Sue & Dean Weber celebrate a family event.
(Sue passed away March 13, 2021)*

(Continued from page 1)

Then the celebrants and congregation joined in the glorious celebration of the Eucharist. The chapel was filled with the sweet aromas of chrism and incense as the angelic voices of the choir sang God's praises.

"Let my prayer come like incense before You" (Psalm 141:2).

THE ANNUAL 40 HOUR DEVOTION AND FAMILY CAMP
"MY HOUSE IS MEANT FOR A HOUSE OF PRAYER" (Lk 19:46)



Forty Hours Devotion and Family Camp has been a tradition from the time initial construction began. In early days families and guests often had to pitch tents or bring a camper. Some years God blessed us with abundant rain. Then the additional discomfort became an opportunity to "offer it up" for the salvation of souls, for holy, sanctified marriages, and

an end to abortion. Nevertheless, the community truly rejoiced when the chapel and dorms were finished. The facilities filled to overflowing with guests and families who wanted to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and fellowship with friends and community. In 2019, Father Mark Breddestegge led the Eucharistic procession around the courtyard finally returning to the chapel to close with Benediction.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for Your Mother Mary, St. Joseph and St. Andre Bessette. Through their intercession You are continuing Your wonderful work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center!

The acquisition of this house in 2019 is another of the many "Miracles" PM experienced throughout the years. Through God's gracious providence and the generosity of many donors, including the significant gift of one generous brother, we were able to purchase the beautiful *Matson House* and eight acres adjacent to the retreat property. The additional housing and acreage will provide for further growth in the residential community which is the backbone of the Discipleship Ministry which Father Al had started in 1990 in the "old farmhouse".



The Matson House situated on eight acres was recently acquired to provide more community housing.



Pictured above is one of God's many "miracles". After 15 years of sacrificial generosity and hard work, Jesus is present (par excellence) in the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Word of God is proclaimed in PM's beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel and Discipleship Center which stands in what was formerly a large cornfield.

(Van Hoose...Continued from page 2)

own. We are there for each other. We can call at any time, not only for the spiritual needs but also the physical needs and in times of suffering. Practical needs of dropping off a meal during illness, or babysitting if need be—whatever is called for. We support and love each other.

Set the World on Fire!

Members of "The Disciples of His Love" HBC take it very seriously. Some have found gifts of the Holy Spirit which they didn't realize they had. They put their gifts at the service of our community. There are leadership gifts, Bible teaching, the gift of encouragement, prayer warriors, speaking in tongues. The attitude is one of: "I can't wait to get there!"

St. Catherine of Siena said: "If you would live how you were meant to live you'd set the world on fire." Just be that person that God created you to be. Finding out what that is and supporting those people in your community, all using their specific gifts. There is power in numbers. What a force we could be if we had lots of home-based communities throughout our country.

Dear PM:

I listen to Father Lauer on my phone (Laudate) in the mornings and he is so inspirational. I know he has passed but... his joy is just overflowing and it energizes me, making me want to proclaim God's message. I don't do it as well as he, but he is an inspiration. Keep up the good fight.
~Ann

Dear PM,

Hello, my name is Michael. I am incarcerated. I have been receiving OBOB and My People Newspaper for maybe 5 years now.

I want to thank you for helping me to grow in love of the Lord Jesus thru knowledge of His Word.

Reading the Holy Father's messages in "My People" helps me to feel especially united to the Church.

OBOB has been my calendar for the liturgy for this time as well. I truly love how PM teaches primarily from the Bible, supported with the Church's documents.

Be assured of my prayers ...May the love of Christ bring us all together to everlasting Life. Amen. Truly, ~Michael



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Spring 2021 PM NEWSLETTER

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Thank you for being there. I start my day with *One Bread, One Body*. It is especially helping right now as my husband left the bounds of earth into our Father's arms this past Monday due to covid.
~Nancy from Palm Springs, CA

Note: Thank you! I need you every day, I NEED YOU. ~Robin from York, PA

Good afternoon from New Zealand!

Thank you for all you do to keep us uplifted and to keep our faith alive. I love the Classic Daily Bread sessions and listen to it on my way to work. Fr. Al's message are just as relevant now as they were when he recorded these sessions so many years ago. God bless you all.

~Sylvester & Anita, New Zealand

God bless you and your ministry. Such a blessing to hear Fr Al daily to encourage us to persevere, especially during this challenging COVID 19 infested year.

~Florante, from Switzerland