



this is *Whispering Winds*

WHISPERING WINDS CATHOLIC CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

SUMMER / FALL 2008

Celebrating 30 Years 1978 - 2008 Building on a Legacy

by Anne Tisi Denbow

I've just returned from Whispering Winds – we went there for the dedication of the beautiful statue of Mary. Being at Whispering Winds stirred up so many memories of the early days of the camp: it made me remember why there is a Whispering Winds at all.

Thirty years ago, Jerry and I took our three children to Forest Home – our kids went complaining that this was not the kind of vacation they would choose. Coming home was a different story. They'd had such a good experience of family, of community, and of God. We agreed it was sad that we didn't have a camp like this for our Southern California Catholic community. I said, "Why doesn't someone start a place like this?" The next few days Jerry and I talked about "Why?" and "Who?" until Jerry finally said, "I think we should build a camp."

He called Don Kojis and Fr. Mike Smith and, sitting in our backyard, they all committed to the vision. The next question was where to put this camp. We knew we wanted a place that had four seasons. Jerry and Don went out to East County with a realtor friend and were shown properties that were for sale, but nothing felt right. They then went to see a large piece of land that wasn't on the market. As soon as they saw it they knew that this was where God wanted the camp. Jerry heard the sound of running water and was looking for a creek until he realized that it wasn't running water at all. It was the breeze whispering through the trees.

They went to see the owner of the land, Mr. Charles Woods. This was a man who had been truly tested by fire – he was a World War II pilot who had been horribly burned when his airplane crashed in the Himalayas. Despite, or maybe because of, how he had been so severely injured, he had risen from poverty to build a multi-million dollar empire. When Jerry asked the price of the land, they were floored to find that the asking price was \$1.5 million. Mr. Woods asked how much money they had to buy the land with, and Jerry replied, "Twenty-five dollars."

The real estate brokers started talking money, but Jerry kept bringing the conversation back to their reason for wanting to buy the land. Over and over he talked about their vision of starting a Christian Conference Center where families could come closer to each other and to God. He and Don told Mr. Woods that they were willing to spend their time, talent and treasure doing this and that they felt that the land they had been shown was where God wanted the camp to be built. At their second meeting, Mr. Woods said, "I consider myself an ordinary man greatly blessed by God. I can't make money on this land. I'll sell it to you for what I paid for it – \$800,000." It was an unheard of deal, and Jerry and Don were quick to agree to it. Then came the question of "how."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



WHISPERING WINDS CALENDAR

Men's Retreat: Welcome Home	Nov. 21-23
Advent Evening Retreat	
at St. Gregory the Great	Dec. 2
Diocesan Confirmation Retreat	Dec. 12-14
Staff Day of Fasting & Prayer	Jan. 6, 2009
Diocesan Confirmation Retreat	Mar. 6-8
CCCA Sectional Conference	Mar. 9-12
WWWA General Meeting	
at the Dana, Mission Bay	Mar. 28
WWWA Retreat	May 1-3
27th Annual Dinner Dance	
at the Mission Valley Marriott	May 16
Swimming Pool Grand Opening	Summer 2009
Summer Programs	Summer 2009

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...Celebrating 30 Years

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Jerry was a doctor, a professor of medicine at UCSD, Don was a retired professional basketball player, Mo & I were homemakers, and Fr. Mike a parish priest. What did we know about starting and running a camp? Jerry was a great speaker. He had given talks at conferences all around the world, but the hardest talk he ever had to give was at our church asking for donations for the Diocesan Stewardship Fund. How would he be able to ask other people for enough money to start a camp? But he and Don did. They called their early talks "dog and pony shows." They spoke to groups in our home, they spoke to priests, and they spoke to Bishop Maher – who gave them his blessing but no money! Years later, after Jerry died, Bishop Maher told me that after Jerry and Don met with him he confided in some priests that he thought they'd never make it. "I'm glad I was wrong," the Bishop told me. We did a lot of worrying in those early days. And a lot of praying. Where were we going to get the money to pay for the monthly mortgage? We knew that God was truly in charge because some months just enough money would

come in to make that one payment. It reminded me of manna in the desert – just enough for one day! I must confess that I didn't always have the confidence in God that Jerry and Don did – I was much more afraid than they that we wouldn't be able to keep going, but somehow we did it. Month after month we trusted in God, and He never let us down. Jerry died suddenly on February 18, 1988 at the age of 52, long before he should have. I'm so glad that he got to take part in the first few weekend conferences, enjoy the first few dinner dances, see the first permanent building erected on the land, and know that Whispering Winds would be a success. Today, when we sang the "Our

Father" during the dedication Mass, I held my hand out and I knew Jerry was holding it. He, Marge O'Neill, Don & Shirley Constantino, Bridie & John Juanico, Harold Broding, and so many others... They were all there, the early visionaries, holding hands with us and praising God. Thanking Jesus for bringing us to this day where we can honor His mother. Thanking Jesus for the lives that have been changed at the Cursillos held there, for the youth that have had an awakening of faith, for the families that have grown closer together. Thanking Jesus for the gifts yet to come. They're still watching over us, praying for us and trusting that God will continue to bless Whispering Winds.



Pool Project Update

After months of working with the County of San Diego for approval of our plans, the swimming pool project is underway! We are thankful for all of your prayer and support in this project. As we continue through construction in the next few months, you might be wondering, "How does this affect me?" If your group is holding a retreat at Whispering Winds this winter, you may see some construction. We are doing our best to schedule the noisiest parts of the project around our guests, so much of the work will happen when no one is at the camp. If you are planning to come to Family Camp, Single-parent Family Camp, Kids Camp, or our new High School Youth Camp in 2009, pack your swimsuit! The pool will be open with the start of summer programs. See below for an outline of what the project entails.



PHASE 1: target completion date – June 2009

- Swimming Pool** – 75' long by 33' wide (the equivalent of four racing lanes) – 3' deep at both ends, 5' deep at the center – Capacity 165 people
- Wading Pool** – 9' by 21' – Capacity 6-8 people
- Main Pool Deck** – 8,600 sq. ft concrete deck
- Solar Heating**

PHASE 2: The Next Step (pending)

- Additional 2,100 sq. ft of concrete decking**
- Brick seating wall** – 18" high along the outside of the deck
- Landscaping and lighting**
- Patio Furniture** – chairs, chaise lounges, and tables with umbrellas

PHASE 3: Final Details (pending)

- Restroom and Shower Building**
- Additional paving, landscaping, and lighting**

Mary, from Cana to Calvary



For all of us who have come to the camp, Mary's Grotto has been a remarkable place. Thanks to the gift of the English Cursillo community, Mary's Grotto will continue to bless people in a very special way. On August 16, 2008, the Cursillo community gifted and dedicated a new statue of Mary, from Cana to Calvary, in the Grotto.

George Anderson was inspired to present Whispering Winds with a new Mary statue when he was the rector of Cursillo 240 in October 2005. He and his wife, Peggy, searched to find the perfect statue, made of all-weather materials and accurately representing our Blessed Mother. After a year of little progress, the Andersons happened to meet sculptor Beverly Paddleford at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. George and Peggy shared with Beverly about Whispering Winds, Mary's Grotto, and their hope to replace the statue. The Andersons remember the moment clearly: *"Beverly looked a little startled and said she had been sculpting a Mary. She said she had a rather grainy black and white photo of her clay model. As soon as we saw it, we knew we had found our artist. The image was of an earthly Mary, seated and holding the crown of thorns to her breast with one hand and reaching out to us with the other hand. Next to her were three water jars symbolic of the water jars at Cana. Everything we had hoped for, but had been unable to visualize or express, was in her concept for this statue. Then the four of us linked hands and prayed, if this be His will, somehow this work of sacred art would soon grace Mary's Grotto."* Shortly thereafter, with the encouragement of Fr. Walt Vogel, OSA, and Paul and Betty Vogel, the Andersons requested approval from the English Cursillo Community Secretariat to solicit funds from the Cursillo community at large.

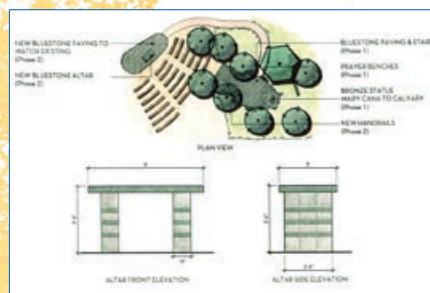
The fundraising effort was expected to take eighteen months; however, because of the faithful enthusiasm of the community, the goal was met in fewer than nine months. In the Cursillo community's desire to honor Mary, nearly 200 couples and individuals contributed towards the statue, matching the \$9,500 challenge pledge from Terrence and Barbara Caster (Serving Hands International Foundation). Along with gifts of treasure, the Cursillo community extended its generosity in many ways to enhance Mary's Grotto beyond the statue:

- Overall site design (Larry Sheehan, Integration Design Studio)
- The addition of a large rough-hewn wooden cross behind the statue (Larry & Ginger Schimpf)
- The installation of low voltage lighting for use in evening liturgies and prayer (Matt & Maria Sedlock, Western Light Source)
- Extension of electrical service lines (Kevin & Yvette Helfers, Helfers Electric Company)
- The installation of a stone pedestal at the foot of the altar holding a tablet inscribed with the Magnificat and four prayer benches at the foot of the statue (Robert & Susan Sullivan, in memory of their son, Stephen)
- Newly planted indigenous plants and an irrigation system to care for them (Glenn & Susann Wilhite, The Brickman Group)
- The use of a boom forklift and crew to move the statue into the Grotto, along with greatly discounted work on the site hardscape (Todd Williams, Williams & Sons Masonry)

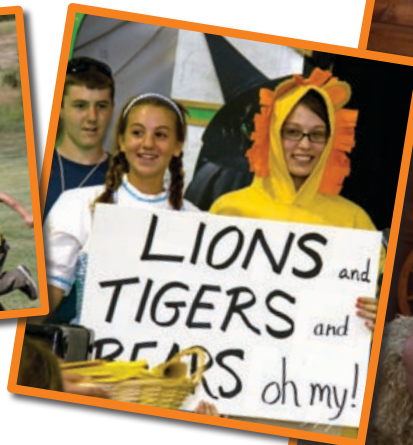
From the statue's arrival in June to the August dedication, while the final landscaping and renovations to the Grotto took place, we at Whispering Winds began to feel the impact of God's hand of blessing. Our Kids Campers were given the opportunity to give wildflowers and prayer intentions to the Blessed Mother during a prayer service. Guest groups have taken advantage of the prayerful quiet, experiencing the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the foot of the statue and Mass in her Grotto.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who contributed to bringing Mary, From Cana to Calvary, to Whispering Winds. She will be a treasure to many people for many years to come.

The complete project includes a second phase, pictured at right, adding a new blue-stone altar with blue-stone paving.



FAMILY CAMP



SINGLE PARENT FAMILY CAMP



MY FIRST SUMMER AT WHISPERING WINDS by Terry Henberger, Director of Programs

When I responded to an eUpdate announcing that Whispering Winds was hiring, I wasn't expecting to go down a zip line, ride a horse, square dance, get massaged or experience the people, ministry and magic of this beautiful camp. The best part of my job is the amazing staff I've inherited as team members and friends. Creating and executing our Family and Kids Camps blessed me with the honor of meeting very creative and spiritual leaders. Paula Bott and Joni Deiters, thank you for the opportunity to work with you in planning Family Camp. Your work is absolutely a testament to your faith and a huge inspiration. A special thank you to Diane Halfman for taking the lead with our first Single-parent Family Camp (my personal favorite). To my dear Kids Camp leaders – Jane Alfano, Rebecca Krawczak, Joyce Mendez and Roger Brault – thank you for continued faith in me by your supportive, positive attitudes!

Our Wizard of Oz theme, inspired by the book *The Yellow Brick Road* by Fr. William J. Bausch, resulted in the transformation of ordinary camp buildings into Munchkin Land, the Emerald City and Dorothy's House! St. Augustine High School's

beautiful props and decorations made it possible – thank you! All of our Oz character costumes were well used during the summer. I was particularly pleased to be able to choose being the Wicked Witch or Glinda the Good Witch depending on my mood.

Each Family Camp and Kids Camp featured a 1940's-style Country Fair complete with a beanbag toss, apple bobbing and temporary tattoos. Our campers had the opportunity to dress up in Wizard of Oz costumes or farmer attire – we had overalls and gingham dresses all over the meadow. We were blessed to have Jimmy Akin, square dance caller extraordinaire, at most fairs to teach square- and line-dancing. I have not allemanded my partner so much since 7th grade! I'm still not sure how we packed so much into each weekend of our Family Camps.

Parents listening to amazing speakers, while kids created scarecrows out of old ties made a perfect balance! I have a few of the scarecrows up in my yard; I can't decide if they are working or if they are as effective as the Oz character, but I haven't seen many crows!

I had so much fun with our Kids Campers! These kids show up at camp with high expectations of fun. We had rotations of activities including bible study, archery, miniature golf and a "ruby slipper" craft. These decorated shoes adorned the altar during each Mass on the last day of camp. The newly-formed mud pit was a favorite for the kids as well; however, next year I intend to be on the winning side of mud pit tug-of-war.

Our Single-Parent Family Camp was a new ministry for us thanks to the grant from the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary. As a Catholic and a single parent, I was proud to offer this weekend and bless these families. It was a reminder to them that, however they became single parents, they remain important members of God's family and our Catholic community. We were able to honor them with hospitality baskets in their rooms and massages for everyone! Every family was also given a tree to plant as a way of commemorating their weekend.

I am honored to have been entrusted with a part of the Whispering Winds legacy. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve Him with you.

KIDS CAMP



Thanks to our 2008 Program Leaders and their teams!



Terry Henberger
Director of Programs



Allison Wilhite
Assistant Director

Family Camp



Joni Deiters
St. Gregory the Great



Paula Bott
Santa Sophia

Kids Camp



Jane Alfano
St. Luke



Joyce Mendez
Most Precious Blood



Rebecca Krawczak
Holy Trinity



Roger Brault
Our Lady of Grace

Single-Parent Family Camp



Diane Halfman

2009 PROGRAMS

We want to hear from you...

As we plan for 2009 summer programs, we want to hear from you! Whether your parish is interested in hosting a Family Camp, your youth group is interested in hosting a Kids Camp, or you are just interested in being a part of the summer programs team in general, contact Terry Henberger, Director of Programs at terry@whisperingwinds.org or (619) 573-0740.

WHISPERING WINDS PROGRAM MINISTRY TEAM

Your group deserves an awesome retreat!

Are you interested in taking your group on retreat but unsure about how to provide that kind of ministry? We can help you! Whispering Winds' Program Ministry team is made up of individuals with extensive experience in ministry to groups of all types – children, middle school, youth, young adults, singles, couples, families, and more. Let us help you plan and facilitate your retreat! For more information or to schedule your retreat dates, contact our Registrar at (619) 464-1479 x10.

Welcome Center Grand Opening

This June saw the Grand Opening of our new Welcome Center. The Welcome Center includes the newly renovated Camp Store, private VIP Lodging for up to two guests, a centralized First Aid station, and on-site offices. The Welcome Center is in the heart of the camp, making it the perfect place to check in with your group or congregate over a cup of coffee.

One of the highlights of the Welcome Center is the Camp Store, which is now available to all of our guests! The Camp Store contains toiletries and

other items you may have forgotten to pack for your stay, a snack bar with seasonal snacks and fresh brewed coffee, and your favorite Whispering Winds souvenirs – including travel mugs and water bottles, t-shirts and sweatshirts, and religious articles. Our thanks to the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary for their on-going support of this project!

VIP Lodging can be reserved on a first-come first-served basis through our Registrar. This hotel-style lodging includes comfortable beds with full

bedding, a private bathroom and shower, and a private entrance. We are very grateful to Jerome's Furniture for fully furnishing VIP Lodging!

Just outside of the Welcome Center, under final construction, is our new Serenity Garden. This shady spot has an arbor and seating for journaling or reading, a winding path through the trees to walk as you pray, and plenty of greenery. The Serenity Garden was made possible by Roy and Clair Hughes – thank you for enhancing ministry at Whispering Winds!



"Thanks" to Our Summer Support Staff



If you attended any of our events this summer, you may have noticed some young adults in red shirts who were eager to help in any way possible. They would have been our first ever Summer Support Staff ministry team. This team spent their summer rotating through the kitchen, the



Challenge Course, and the new Camp Store, along with supporting our facilities and programs staff. Their enthusiasm brought a whole new level of joy to the camp this summer, and their support encouraged our staff and guests. During their summer with us, these young people spent time in personal edification together, praying through a "Daily Strength" devotional book specifically for Camp Staff. One of the things these young people learned in a more real way this summer was how the consistency of their humble service was determined by the time they spent with the Lord. He gave them all they needed for every situation. On behalf of all of our guests this summer, please join us in thanking and continuing to pray for our 2008 Summer Support Staff: Alicia Johnson, Jack Brault, Paige Elizarraras, Phil Brault, and Rebecca Newby.

INTEGRITY STABLES & LAKE CUYAMACA

On behalf of all our guests this summer, thank you to Integrity Stables and Lake Cuyamaca for adding so much to our programs!

Integrity Stables offers the absolute best in horseback riding experiences. For information or to book your trail-ride at Whispering Winds, contact Jennifer Smith at (760) 484-2929. Advanced booking required.

Just south of the camp, Lake Cuyamaca is ideal for fishing, boating, picnicking, hiking, and nature walks. Call (877) 581-9904 for more information or to schedule your visit. Advanced booking required. www.lakecuyamaca.org

Building This Camp Together

by Don Kojis, Co-Founder and Director of Community Relations



In the summer of our 30th Anniversary year, I have been reminded of the variety of ways the things that happen at the camp are rooted in the foundation for which Whispering Winds was established. Years ago, the Phone-a-Thon began out of a desperate need for support as we struggled to make our payments and keep the dream alive. This year, we were able to celebrate the relationship we have with our

greater Whispering Winds family, communicating the positive impact each of you have on our ministry. It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to work with different partners who contribute to support the heartbeat of Whispering Winds, especially all Fund-an-Item donors, Brundy Hay Farms, Horizon Painting, Interior Remodeling & Woodworking Inc, RCP Block & Brick, and the WWWA. We are doing what we set out to do!

As I drove the fire truck around the camp taking families on tours this summer, the impact of our community really hit me. Whispering Winds has

not become what it is because of one, two, or a dozen or more people – we have built this camp together. The beauty of Whispering Winds lies in the spirit with which people give, which in turn ministers to all who come to the camp.

On behalf of the Whispering Winds Staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank each and every one of you for making Whispering Winds what it is today. The donations of your time, talent, and treasure have given hours of fun and great blessings to the families and kids that attended our summer camps this year, in the past, and for years to come.

How Great Thou Art!

by Martin Rosales, Executive Director



Recently, many members of the Whispering Winds family gathered at a special Mass to dedicate the new Mary's Statue given to the camp by the English-speaking Cursillo community. One of the special guests in attendance was Anne Tisi-Denbow, widow of Dr. Jerry Tisi, co-founder of Whispering Winds. In our brief encounter, my eyes were opened to yet another piece of our rich heritage. Anne took my hand and held it tight, sharing with me her conviction that Dr.

Tisi and others who have gone home to the Lord remained present to Whispering Winds in order to celebrate with us. In that moment, I became more aware of the Communion of Saints present among us. In the scriptures, Paul tells us, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept everything growing... The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor. 3: 6, 8-9)." This is a scripture I see alive among us every day. In our 30 years, Whispering Winds has had many of God's co-workers tending field and building. We are blessed today to join our efforts to theirs, from

prayer to volunteer parties to gifts to leadership and onward, for the greater glory of God. I am constantly humbled by the ways the Body of Christ has worked together to keep the vision of Whispering Winds alive. As we celebrate our Founders planting seeds even when there was no sign of life, we must also recognize many others who aided them in leading Whispering Winds to where it is today. To the founding families, past and current board members, previous leaders, donors, prayer partners and all others who have poured into this labor of love, we are grateful for the seeds you have planted and watered. Our Heavenly Father continues to keep it growing, for which we praise: how great Thou art!

Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary

by Val Spooner, WWWA President



I hold this scripture verse closely in my heart – joy, true joy, begins in God and grows from living in a close relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. We have constant access to this joy thanks to God's gift of the Holy Spirit, and we find our strength by fixing our eyes on the One who loves us. I choose this scripture passage as the theme for the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary this year, and I ask you to enter into His joy with me, finding strength to celebrate our service of prayer – supporting the ministry that is Whispering Winds.

You are invited to join the members of the WWWA in prayer for Whispering Winds at 10AM and 7PM every day! Please also consider joining us for our **Advent Evening Retreat at St. Gregory the Great on December 2** (men, women, and teens welcome). We look forward to seeing you there!

RESERVATIONS

Whispering Winds is the Perfect Place for Your Group

The 2009 calendar is open and filling quickly! To check availability or schedule your dates, contact our Registrar at (619) 464-1479.

- Deluxe Lodge Room (up to 4 guest) \$138 per night
- Deluxe Lodge Room (additional guests) \$32 per night
- Economy Lodging (per person) \$32 per night
- Meals (per person) \$7.25 per meal

Take advantage of our special Off-Season Rates, Monday evenings through Friday mornings between Labor Day and Memorial Day – a perfect opportunity for Elementary, Middle, and High Schools!

- Deluxe Lodge Room (up to 4 guest) \$115 per night
- Deluxe Lodge Room (additional guests) \$25 per night
- Economy Lodging (per person) \$25 per night
- Meals (per person) \$6 per meal

WHISPERING WINDS 2008 MEN'S RETREAT

Welcome Home: The Return of the Prodigal Son



November 21 - 23, 2008

(Friday night through midday Sunday)

Men's Retreat Includes:

Time for personal reflection
Reconciliation Service
Speakers
Mass
Benediction & Reflection
Friday Dinner, all meals
Saturday, and Sunday Lunch

Presentations based on
 "The Return of the Prodigal Son"
 by Rev. Henri Nouwen

Spiritual Director: Rev. Charles Fuld
 Assisted by: Deacon Mitch Rennix
 Deacon Rick Melrose

All men are welcome, but space is limited!

For more information and a registration form, visit us online:

www.whisperingwinds.org

Save the date...



Please join us in honoring our 2009 Person of the Year, Charles S. LiMandri, at **Whispering Winds' 27th Annual Dinner Dance – May 16, 2009** at the Mission Valley Marriott.

Mr. LiMandri is a local Catholic attorney in the vein of St. Thomas More – approaching the law of the land through the values of faith.

Mr. LiMandri was a vital part of Whispering Winds' Cedar Fire recovery, facilitating a just settlement with our insurance company. He stands up to injustice and perseveres in the Spirit. He is a blessing to the Body of Christ and an example of how each Christian is called to bring Christ's light to the world. For more information about Mr. LiMandri's work, visit www.limandriaw.com.

The Dinner Dance is Whispering Winds' largest annual fundraiser. From this event, we are able to provide the ministry to which God has called us to more people and in greater ways. Your support is invaluable! For information on how you or your business might sponsor this event, contact our main office. Sponsorship information will be available online in the coming months – www.whisperingwinds.org.



WHISPERING WINDS
 CATHOLIC CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

30th Anniversary
 1978 - 2008

Whispering Winds Camp

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