



this is **Whispering Winds**

WHISPERING WINDS CATHOLIC CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

SUMMER / FALL 2009

"God was present..."

...in the Saturday night Praise & Worship

– "It was a heart-opening experience for my wife and me. I need to have God in every aspect of my life in order to maintain a relationship with God. This trip reinforced that idea."

"I had no idea that Catholics could ever worship in this fashion."

– "The teens loved Adoration and special time with Fr. Mike."

...in Chapel Time every night

– "Overall, this experience helped my son see how many kids there are just like him, who share his faith."

– "My son told me he had the most unusual feelings overcome him and began to cry inexplicably. This was a very "Holy Spirit" moment for him. Thank you for creating a safe environment for him to experience God's love in this way."

– "The singing brought my daughter a sense of unity and divine presence. She enjoyed that fellowship."

...in each other

– "My daughter's counselor provided a good example of Christian life through her actions and the stories of her personal journey with God."

– "My son, who has been a challenge, let me put my arm around him. He apologized to me, I looked into his eyes, and we really connected. Thanks to all at Whispering Winds who make this all possible."

– "God helped my son make new friends."

– "My camper felt God in the peacefulness of the setting and in the love he felt from his counselors and the staff."

– "Being with other Catholic families, hearing a Catholic speaker and music, and participating in an outdoor Mass were uplifting."

– "I noticed the gentle touches of couples and families: kids laughing, parents hugging, tears flowing."

– "I felt God most when I watched other fathers (who I do not often see at Mass) singing songs and being with their kids in a place of God."

– "I loved the culminating experience with the life preserver at Family Camp. I was touched and humbled by the prayers of my family as we tied the knots. Our sons had a very difficult year, and it was such a blessing to see their joy and healing."

– "The staff was very truthful and sensible to single-parent issues, showing kindness, reminding us how close our Lord is to us in the hard moments. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to enjoy God's creation."

...in His Creation

– "When we were watching the stars."

– "The night sky opens ones heart and mind to the wonderful nature that God has given to us."

– "One can't help but think that God has his hand in creation and in everything."

– "After the evening prayer service and special family blessing, we watched the stars from the meadow. Both "activities" brought us closer to God and reminded us of His presence."

...in our new experiences

– "One night my daughter's group was walking to the cabin, but nobody brought flashlights. She felt God led the way."

– "When it was time to go on the zip line I remembered learning about trust and suddenly did not feel scared to go!"

– "My camper felt God's presence when he was waiting nervously to go on the zip line for the first time and was praying to God for the courage to do it. He made it!"

– "For me, it was when my 10 year old did the zip line. She has always been a timid child. I had hoped she would be able to conquer her fears, and we had talked about putting her trust in God and going for it. It was wonderful watching her grow."

– "My daughter had a wonderful experience for her first camp away from home. She can't wait to go back next year. It was more than she expected and, even though at first she felt nervous, right away she began to feel the love of Jesus from the counselors! Thank you for blessing her with a great experience."

...throughout Family Camp & Kids Camp!

– "Just sitting outside in the early morning looking around, during Mass in the meadow, and in the moments my daughter would hug me and tell me that she loved me."

– "He was truly speaking and working with me. My family is so important to me that I wanted to share God's love with them and give them an experience that they'll never forget. My kids enjoyed learning more about our Catholic faith and God!"

– "I felt God's presence from the beginning to the end. I didn't want to leave!"

– "I sensed God's presence the whole weekend. I felt totally relaxed without a care in the world! I was truly able to let go of the hectic day-to-day stuff and relax with my family for the whole weekend. Better than a spa, massage, etc... This allowed uninterrupted time for me to connect with God freely."

– "God was present in everything we did, thought, and saw in this beautiful place."

– "When it is time to go to sleep at Kids Camp, God is watching over you because you have talked to Him so much in one day and been so thankful."



...in the Sacraments

– "Spending this time with God and my kids has shown me how far I have grown in my relationship with Him, to once again attend Mass regularly with my kids. It was just what I needed to renew my relationship and dedication to God."

– "The homily incorporated the water theme of the week, and when Father said "totally soaked" they felt God was there."

– "The priest was talking about how God would talk to us through winds that would sound like a whisper, and a strong wind came. I really felt God there."

– "I loved that I was able to go to Confession after Mass. My children feel God's grace on the mountain and that is a gift to me."

– "Rosary in the Grotto was magical and there were a good number of people present. Confession was an added gift. Mealtimes and blessings with families were great."

– "The large cross brought the reality of Calvary to me and how we would have looked up at Jesus on that Cross."

– "When Fr. Matt did the Mass, I got a lot out of his homily. I really sensed God's presence when I opened up my Bible and read the words there before Mass. Also hearing people talk about Jesus pours out the spirit into me."



Photos courtesy of Bob Forrest Photography, www.your-precious-moments.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

page #

Founders Hall & Prayer Chapel Update	2
Executive Director's Update	2
Happy Birthday, Don!	3
Summer Recap	3
Save the Date - Dinner Dance 2010	3
WW Women's Auxiliary Update	4
Camp Rental Information	4



“Just let Him do it!”

by Martin Rosales, Executive Director

We dedicated our year to the theme “Believe” and the scripture in James 1: 5-6 about belief and doubt. As the year unfolded, it became clear that God’s message to Whispering Winds was to believe and to trust in Him. I recall a line from “Tales of the Vine” by Wayne Jacobson that said, “We are not to judge God according to our circumstances but to judge our circumstances according to God’s character.” We held on to this truth as we braced for a tough economy, while opening our new swimming pool and launching our Founders Hall project. With each of these projects, and many others too long to list, the choice is always before us: are we going to do this in our strength, or will we step aside in faith and let God do it?

Sitting on my desk is one of my favorite pictures from my time as a missionary. At first glance, it may seem that the picture of me shaking Mother Teresa’s hand while visiting the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta is a trophy, but the daily reminder of the lifelong lesson learned from this experience penetrates my heart deeply every time I see it. We spent the day before ministering with the Missionaries of Charity in a leprosy colony. As we prepared to visit, Mother Teresa shared with us some of the challenges that we would face by serving lepers. Unless we allowed Christ to go before us, we would not make it through the day. She told us that the answer was in our hand. Asking each of us to hold up our hand in a fist, she opened each finger saying, “Just let Him do it.” When our hands were opened, she challenged us to, “allow God to love the unlovable with open hands and open hearts.”

I vividly remember walking into the bare room filled with bed-ridden people who had been struck by this disease and outcast from society. The pain in their eyes was clear, and I could feel something inside of me break as I looked at them with God’s eyes. All of my fear was replaced by compassion, as I embraced each with the desire to share God’s love for them. The power of God’s character and promise consumed me, and He became tangible to these hurting people.

Looking at my picture with Mother Teresa and reflecting on the day spent with the lepers has led me to believe that God has a similar message for the Whispering Winds community. Week after week, God’s love penetrates the hearts of those who come to the mountain and receive His unconditional love. Week after week, we “let Him do it.”

During this summer’s Family Camps, children attended a poolside Bible Study where staff members reenacted the story of Peter walking on water. The lesson for the children is one that each of us can take to heart: take that step of faith, trusting in Him without doubt. Jerry Tisi and Don Kojis took a step of faith or two in bringing Whispering Winds to life. As we continue to grow, I am grateful for the many who have shared that same vision. I truly believe that great things are in store for this camp as we “just let Him do it!” God will break through our circumstances and move in amazing ways according to His character for His glory.

Founders Hall & Prayer Chapel

Whispering Winds has signed a contract with Starrett Construction, and our Founders Hall & Prayer Chapel project is underway! The County of San Diego is currently reviewing our plans, and we anticipate a 2010 Grand Opening!



Founders Hall

- Estimated capacity of 200+
- Sound-proof, with heat and AC
- Foyer/lounge entrance honoring the foundation of Whispering Winds
- Ministry-minded and Julianesque
- Fireplace and restrooms

Prayer Chapel

- Estimated capacity of 50
- Private prayer chapel
- Also useable for Adoration, small Masses, prayer services
- Centralized and open to all
- Serene and prayerful



WHISPERING WINDS CALENDAR

<i>Men’s Retreat: I Am the Vine</i>	<i>Nov. 13-15</i>
<i>WWWA Advent Tea at St. Gregory the Great, Scripps Ranch</i>	<i>Nov. 30</i>
<i>Diocesan Confirmation Retreat</i>	<i>Dec. 11-13</i>
<i>Staff Day of Fasting & Prayer</i>	<i>Jan. 5, 2010</i>
<i>Diocesan Confirmation Retreat</i>	<i>Mar. 5-7</i>
<i>WWWA General Meeting at MCRD</i>	<i>Feb. 20</i>
<i>28th Annual Dinner Dance at the Mission Valley Marriott</i>	<i>Apr. 24</i>
<i>WWWA Women’s Retreat</i>	<i>Apr. 30 – May 2</i>
<i>Summer Programs</i>	<i>Summer 2010</i>

Happy Birthday, Don!

Co-founder, Don Kojis, turned 70 on July 15th! We celebrated his life in style with Mass, a party and a roast at St. Gregory the Great. Barbara Noerenberg and her committee of volunteers kept Don and all of the guests laughing in their seats with tricks, partial-truths, messages from former NBA teammates, and more. Don is very thankful to the committee and all those who attended this event for their support. He will be sending you the bill for his therapy sessions!

Don shared that the true highlight of the evening was the Mass, celebrated by Fr. Jim Poulsen. As with every celebration of Eucharist, it was a Mass of thanksgiving that well reflected Don's gratitude. As a Co-Founder of Whispering Winds and current Director of Community Relations, Don is frequently collaborating with numerous (and generous) volunteers and donors, all of whom join in Don's mission to perpetuate Whispering Winds for all generations. This Mass, Don shared, heightened his awareness of God's goodness as seen through the Body of Christ in action.

Thank you for being a part of bringing Whispering Winds' mission to life.



Save the Date: April 24, 2010 Dinner Dance Gala & Auction

In this Year of the Priest, we invite you to join us in honoring Rev. Gilbert J. Gentile, SJ, LCSW as Whispering Winds' Person of the Year at the 2010 Dinner Dance Gala & Auction at the Mission Valley Marriott!

Fr. Gil has worked with the St. Vincent de Paul Village for over 20 years, and he assists at St. Joseph Cathedral, Queen of Angels, and the Immaculata, as well as serving on a number of local boards. The heart of his ministry is in the Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana. Fr. Gil is also very involved in the Cursillo movement and frequently can be found celebrating Mass "on the mountain" at Whispering Winds.

Save the date, look for a more detailed biography in our Spring Newsletter, and help us celebrate Fr. Gil!



Summer Recap

by Terry Henberger, Director of Programs

"Come! Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Rev.22:17. Inspired by the completion of our new pool, families were invited to "Come to the Water!" this summer to celebrate our faith and our Lord. Thank you, Paula Bott for creating such a rich program—you are a gifted writer and leader who brings the spirit of the Lord to each of us. Thank you Laurie Mikolaycik and Diane Halfman for each leading a weekend and sharing your heart and faith with our families! Thank you to the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary for your generous support of our Single-parent Family Camp.

The weekends featured fantastic speakers for the adults while teens went down the zip line and kids made beach-scene gel candles. Every Saturday night was spent hoola-hooping to Hawaiian music at our Luau in the meadow. Parents and kids wore Hawaiian attire, had their faces painted, joined the limbo contest, and enjoyed thoroughly the evening!

Thank you to our wonderful host families for volunteering to help bring this family camp experience to your parishes! Anyone who is interested in having their parish host a weekend next summer may contact me about doing so!

Kids Campers were "Totally Soaked!" in God's love this summer, adapted from the concept that we live in the 'cloudburst' of the Holy Spirit's gifts. Thank you Jane Alfano, Rebecca Krawczak, and Joyce Mendez for creating and leading a FANTASTIC Kids Camp program highlighting the rich water symbolism found in the Bible. The kids were blessed that you each shared of yourselves and your spiritual gifts. It was an action-packed week of candle and frame making, Challenge Course, swimming, mud pit games, and Bible study, with each day ending in music and prayer in Chapel.

It is my pleasure and privilege to be a part of these programs, serving alongside staff, leaders, hosts, and volunteers with a desire to serve the Lord!

Special thanks to...

- Mark Price Ministries, the wonderful portrayal of Peter and eye-opening Q&A during Family Camp. To learn more about Mark Price Ministries or schedule your event, visit www.markpriceministries.com
- John & Cathy Sperrazzo, Family Camp guest speakers
- Kimberly Joyce, Single-parent Family Camp guest speaker
- Bob Forrest Photography
- Sentinels of Dawn, worship leaders for Kids & Family Camps
- The 2009 Summer Support Staff: Jack Brault, Phil Brault, Jayme Jarvis, Alicia Johnson, Zach La Jeunesse, Nick Pompliano, Brandon Scheibenpflug, Allison Wilhite, and Deanna Wolf

CAMP RENTAL INFORMATION

In order to better serve you, Whispering Winds is moving to per person "package" rates through May 31, 2010.


We know that many businesses and organizations are struggling right now, so we have striven to ensure that these rates reflect no increase over our 2009 rates.

These package rates vary based on the number of nights of your stay, the number of meals desired, and the number of people per room.

For a two-night, five-meal stay, through May 31, 2010 you can reserve...

- Up to 56 people in the WW Village Bunkhouse (economy lodging) at \$96.25 per person
- 5-6 persons per room in Milner or Juanico Lodges (deluxe lodging) at \$102.75 per person
- 3-4 persons per room in Milner or Juanico Lodges (deluxe lodging) at \$105.25 per person
- 1-2 persons per room in Milner or Juanico Lodges (deluxe lodging) at \$174.25 per person

For more information or other package options, call us! (619) 464-1479 x10



Making a Difference For All Generations!

Our heartfelt gratitude to all who have joined the For All Generations Monthly Giving Program. Your monthly contributions support the ministry of Whispering Winds, allowing more lives to be impacted by the person of Christ.

For more information about the For All Generations Monthly Giving Program, or to set up your monthly gift in any amount, contact our Main Office!
(619) 464-1479

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY UPDATE

Terry Poletto, WWWA President www.whisperingwinds.org/wwwa

During this time of economic uncertainty, it is easy to focus on the negative, especially when the media is so intent on bombarding us with bad news. I call upon the Women's Auxiliary to focus on all the wonderful gifts God has bestowed on us. Our theme for this year, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord," reminds us to give thanks and focus on the positive.

The Women's Auxiliary invites you to join us in prayer for Whispering Winds at 10AM and 7 PM every day. Please consider joining us at our Advent Tea on 11/30. Come and enjoy all the wonderful table decorations and entertainment.



Whispering Winds Camp
17606 Harrison Park Road, Julian, California 92036
Phone: (760) 765-1600 Fax: (760) 765-3227

Whispering Winds Office
8186 Commercial Street, La Mesa, California 91942
Phone: (619) 464-1479 Fax: (619) 464-4491

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 501
San Diego, CA