



2020 Lenten Newsletter

God is Spoken of Here!

Bethany Retreat Center | Life Line | Direct Services | Anawim Community | Youth Programs | Prison Ministry

~ You're Invited ~

Save the date: On **(NEW DATE TBD)** we will celebrate a commemorative Mass and dinner at Bethany Retreat Center. We hope you can join us to commemorate the 5-year anniversary of Sr. Therese's passing into eternal and everlasting life.

Please plan to arrive at 1pm for some time of community, fellowship and light refreshments. This will be followed by brief remembrances and remarks from friends of Sr. Therese.

Mass will begin promptly at 2:30 pm. After Mass there will be a variety of open activities remembering and continuing to build on the vision of our foundress – of having a simple, welcoming center where a diversity of people come together to grow in prayer, hospitality, simplicity and service; a place where God is spoken of often; where we are filled with praise and gratitude; where love of one another and love of the Lord permeates all we do, everything we offer and say; and where we speak God's love in silence, in deed and in word.

We will end our day with dinner (available to purchase \$20 per person in advance, \$24 per person at the door). Call us at (814) 263-4855 by April 3rd if you would like to arrange for over-night accommodations on Saturday April 25 or Sunday April 26.

News & Information

PG 2 .

- ~ Thoughts from Doug and Kay Laplante, our new director and new volunteer staff
- ~ Thanks to our board members, past and present

PG. 3

- ~ The story behind our 5 precious words, "God is Spoken of Here"

Upcoming Events

The 7 Mansions of the Interior Castle Contemplative Prayer Retreat, July 12-16

Welcoming Prayer Retreat
September 25-27

Neuroscience & Well Being:
Spirituality, Health and DNA
October 9-11

Bringing Chant into the Heart of
Prayer, November 13-15

Looking Forward . . .

This is an exciting time at Young People Who Care, Bethany Retreat Center, and all our related ministries. As Advent has turned to winter, and winter turns to Lent and Easter, we are all reminded of what is constant and what things are constantly changing.

I have wrapped up a 25-year career at New Pig Corp in Blair County. My profession and my vocation have been to work on innovation and strategy, helping to lead growth initiatives and projects requiring an injection of inspiration. My professional calling has been to create and offer important programs that do not yet exist and to do this alongside a team of energized, enthusiastic people. My work with Sr. Therese over 20 years kept me desiring to listen to and heed God's call. At YPWC I will continue my life-long call to create, now with an eye toward "building the kingdom" right here on this mountain as well as in the hearts of those who visit us. I look forward to co-creating with many of you in the near future. It is with an enormous sense of responsibility, honor, and hope that I take over as the new director.

- Doug

Friends old and new . . .

We have met so many of you over the last 20-plus years sharing in the blessing of coming up to God's holy mountain to both retreat and grow. Today continues to be a time of stretching and growing – more retreatants, more service projects, and more clients at Life Line than ever before in YPWC's 44-year history.

Doug and I have been married for 32 years. With 4 children we often retreated to Bethany separately. Now we are able to share in this spiritual vocation and work together to build on Sr. Therese's strong foundation of love, prayer and service. For those friends we have not seen in a while we look forward to sharing time together again. For those we have not yet met, we can't wait to make your acquaintance! Please stop by to share a cup of coffee soon!

-Mary Kay



From a Recent Retreat

"I just have to write to you in Thanksgiving for such a wonderful week of training. What a fantastic facility you have. But more so, what a wonderful staff - they are tops and you can take pride in it. It is mission effectiveness in action!"

- Jim C.



YPWC Governing Board

Tremendous thanks goes out to our departing board members, Jim Collins, Shari Collins, Sherrie Surkovich, Deacon Jerry Nevling, Carol Baker, and Janice Aleskivich. Words can not express our deep gratitude for your stewardship and prayerful guidance over many years of service to YPWC. We are equally thankful for incoming board members Lisa Kovalick, Tish Donze, Tim Maida and Jim Maund who have responded to the call to guide and grow our efforts into the future. And of course, we thank continuing board members Sr. Suzanne, Sr. Ruth Ann, Becky Snyder, Nancy Lombardo, Izzy Cunkelman, and Ryan Sayers for their continued service and leadership. Heartfelt thanks to all!!

“God Is Spoken of Here”

Two women of great faith and vision came together for a brief encounter, and we at Young People Who Care live out the fruits of that meeting.

Prior to establishing YPWC in Frenchville, PA, Sr. Therese Dush met with Catherine Doherty, foundress of Madonna House Lay Apostolate in Combermere, Ontario, Canada. Catherine was a pioneer among North American Catholic laity in implementing the Church’s social doctrine. She insisted that those engaged in social action be rooted in prayer and that they incarnate their faith into every aspect of ordinary life. Sr. Therese received a distinct inner call to serve the needs of the poor and disenfranchised of Appalachia.

Sr. Therese asked Catherine to meet to discern how to live out this inner call. During their time together Catherine encouraged Therese, saying, “If it were me, I would get a little house and put up a sign that says, ‘God is spoken of here’ and when people ask what the meaning of those words are, you should reply, ‘Are you interested or are you just curious?’ If they say they are just curious you can tell them to get the hell off your porch. But if they say they are interested you should invite them in and break bread with them.” With this Catherine reached for bread and shared it with Sr. Therese. Thus, YPWC has one of its founding inspirations, “God is Spoken of Here.”

In the summer of 1977, our small community of volunteers studied Catherine’s book, *The Gospel Without Compromise*. It proved to be a wonderful foundation for us as we read **“We need to beg the Holy Spirit to lead us in the right direction. If we look for the paths that God is already laying out for us, a new awareness, a new vitality and a new sense of challenge and adventure will come into our hearts. We need to be ready to follow Christ wherever he goes, for Christ has a way of going into unexpected places. He often directs us toward an end that we don’t yet perceive but that is just around the corner.”**

Sr. Therese inspired us to live this clear and compelling Gospel call at YPWC without compromise, to live it with a passionate love for God and for our neighbor through prayer, hospitality, simplicity and service. We continue, especially this Lent and into Easter, to follow the example of these two women of deep faith who put their profound love for Jesus into action.

Young People Who Care provides a wide ecumenical circle of care among those who give and those who receive. Its members are committed to creating a holistic and non-judgmental environment where the exchange of culture, education and training empower individuals and groups.

While adapting to changing needs and times, prayer, hospitality, simplicity and service remain constant characteristics of Young People Who Care, Inc.



Catherine Doherty



Sr. Therese Dush

Prayer is one of the core characteristics of YPWC. We lift up the intentions of our benefactors at daily morning Mass. What prayer intention would you have? _____

RSVP: I plan on attending Sr. Therese's 5-year Memorial Commemorative Service, Celebration and Dinner being held on (new date TBD) at Bethany Retreat and Prayer Center.

Yes, I am able to attend _____

No, I am unable to attend _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

I would like my donation to go towards:

- Where it is needed most
- Life Line Pregnancy and Infant Services
- Direct Services to those in need
- Bethany Adult Retreat Scholarships
- Prison Ministry
- Anawim Religious Community
- Youth Programs

Young People Who Care, PO Box 129, Frenchville, PA 16836, 814-263-4855
www.ypwcministries.org www.bethanyretreatcenter.org